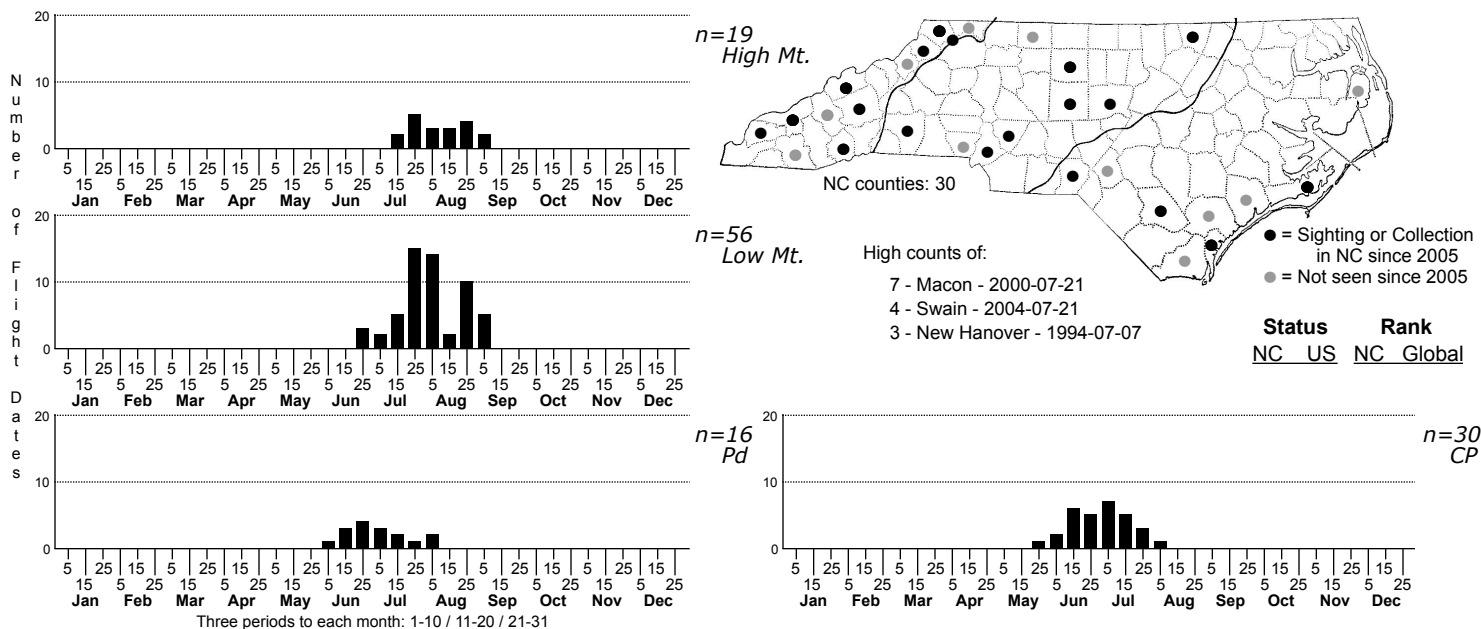


Catocala amica Girlfriend Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. *Amica* was included by Barnes and McDunnough (1918) in their Group XX (also adopted by Forbes, 1954), which feed on Oaks. This group originally also included *jair*, with *lineella* now added as a separate species. At least one undescribed species may eventually be added.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A relatively small, pale gray *Catocala*, with a conspicuous dark curvifascia line running from the middle of the costa to the outer margin below the apex. The ground color is pale gray and variably shaded with brown. The orbicular is a pale pear-shaped spot and the reniform is typically shaded with red brown. The hindwing is yellow and has only a single dark band running along the outer margin with a separated black dot located at the anal angle.

Catocala lineella has a similar hindwing pattern but has a more mottled bluish-gray forewing pattern that lacks a curvifascia band. *Catocala jair* also has a similar hindwing but has a blackish forewing, a less dentate postmedian, and a brown subterminal area (Sargent, 1976). A third, currently undescribed species also appears to exist with a pattern more similar to *jair* but more brownish than blackish.

DISTRIBUTION: Found over most of the state, from the mountains to the barrier islands.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Found mainly in xeric sites in the Coastal Plain, including maritime forests and sand ridges. In the Piedmont and Mountains, however, it is associated with wet-to-mesic habitats, including alluvial forests, cove forests, and high elevation forests.

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks, including White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*), Bear Oak (*Q. ilicifolia*) and others (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: