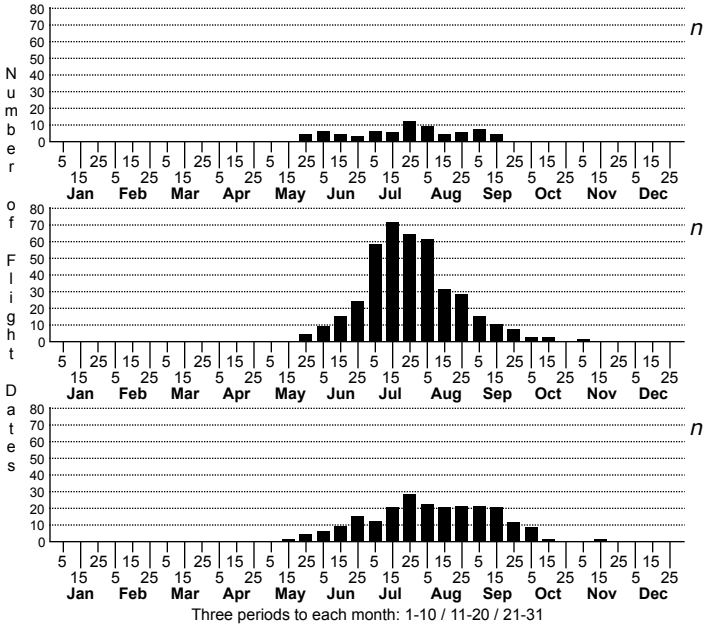
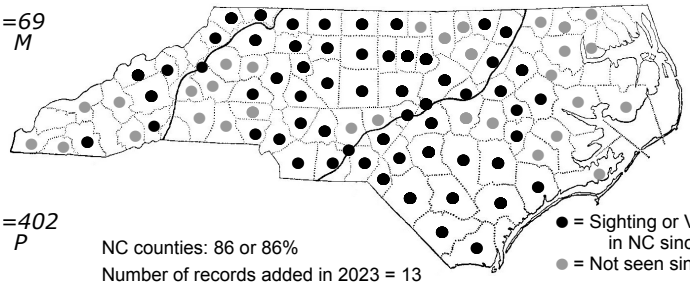
Macromia illinoiensis Swift River Cruiser





NC counties: 86 or 86%
Number of records added in 2023 = 13

High counts of:
20 - Surry - 2017-08-22
20 - Ashe - 2018-06-10
18 - Macon - 1981-08-07

Earliest date: Bladen 2017-05-20
Latest date: Pender 1994-11-14

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

Other Name: Illinois River Cruiser, Georgia River Cruiser

DISTRIBUTION: Essentially statewide, but as with nearly all such species, it is absent (or essentially so) from the extreme northeastern counties. No records east of Gates, Chowan, or Beaufort counties (except for Hyde County).

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common and widespread in most of the Piedmont and upper Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills. Uncommon to locally fairly common in the mountains and foothills, as well as the lower Coastal Plain. Certainly the most numerous river cruiser in the mountains, Piedmont, and upper Coastal Plain (though it can be outnumbered in the Coastal Plain by the Royal River Cruiser).

FLIGHT: A fairly wide flight period, from late May to mid-October downstate, and at least from late May to mid-September in the mountains. One very late record for 14 November.

HABITAT: Rivers and creeks, preferably in smaller rivers as compared with large ones.

BEHAVIOR: Very similar to other river cruisers, it can usually be seen when adults are cruising back and forth on long patrols along dirt roads or wide trails through forests, often well away from water. Males patrol along the length of a creek or small river.

COMMENTS: There are two subspecies found in NC and other Southeastern states. The subspecies M. i. georgina ("Georgia River Cruiser") is found across most of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, whereas the nominate subspecies (often called "Illinois River Cruiser") is more northern and is found in the mountains. Most sightings of river cruisers in NC refer to "Georgia", as this form is not uncommonly seen in mid- and late summer along wide trails and dirt roads through forests in the Piedmont. It has more obvious dorsal yellow spots on most abdominal segments than does the nominate subspecies and the Allegheny River Cruiser (which have a large dorsal spot on abdominal segment 7 but fewer spots otherwise on the abdomen).