

# *Catocala messalina* in Louisiana

by

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The uncommon species *Catocala messalina* Guenee (Fig. 1) has been reported for Kansas, Virginia and Texas by Forbes, 1954. Sargent 1976, reported it from Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. Covell 1984, reported it from the same states and Louisiana (based on this authors records), (Fig. 2).

This author has taken *messalina* at ultraviolet light and at rest on tree trunks. The single brood appears to culminate at the end of May to early June. Based on time of capture records for 55 adults (Fig. 3), between 2130 and 0030 hours 10 specimens per hour arrived at the light trap, while approximately 5 specimens per hour arrived in the remaining 5 1/2 hours of the night (Fig 3).

Previous authors reported this species to be rare, very rare, and local. In Louisiana, *messalina* appears fairly common in the Kisatchie National Forest in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, but otherwise rarely encountered.

The upper forewing of *messalina* is nearly unremarkable and dull gray, with a hint of bluish tinting, the outer edge of the forewing is very dark gray, nearly black in color. The hindwing has no inner band, only a black outer band from apex to near anal angle. The remainder of the hindwing is dull yellow-orange.



Fig. 1. *Catocala messalina* male.

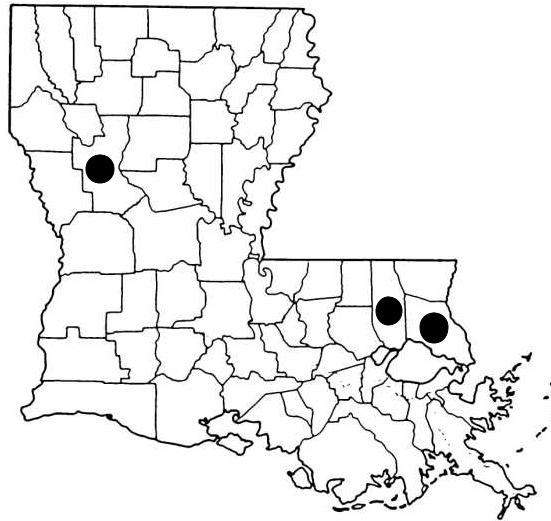


Fig. 2. Parishes in which *Catocala messalina* have been captured.

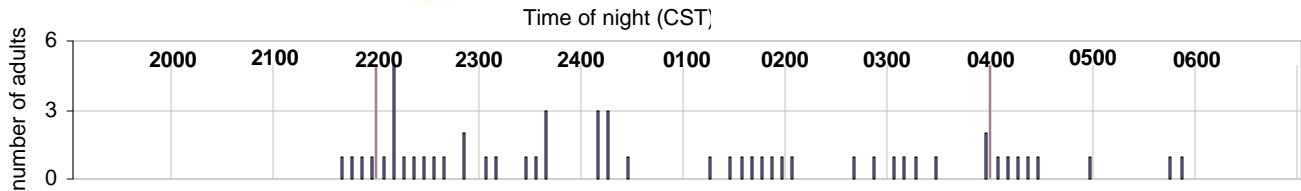


Fig.3. Adult flight activity at ultraviolet light trap at Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. n = 55.

### Literature Cited

- Covell, Jr., C.V.** 1984. A field guide to moths eastern North America. The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.
- Forbes, W.T.M.** 1954. Lepidoptera of New York and neighboring states, Noctuidae, Part III, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. St. Mem. 329.
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