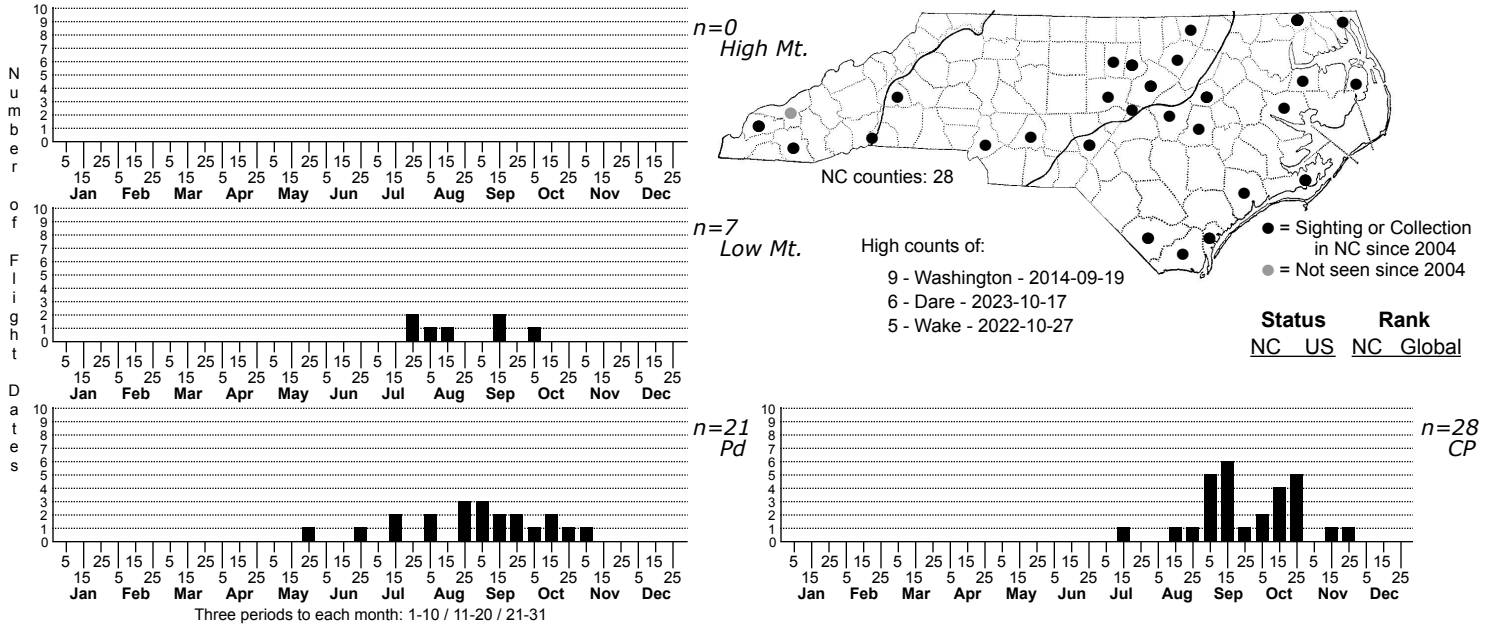


Neoscona domiciliorum a spotted orbweaver



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae
 FAMILY:Araneidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This species was originally described in 1847 by Hentz as *Epeira domiciliorum*, retaining that name until 1892, when Keyserling described it as *E. benjamini*. Ultimately, *benjamini* was sunk as a synonym and became *Neoscona crucifera*, while the entire family Epeiridae was sunk as being but a part of the Araneidae and the genus *Epeira* declared to be a junior synonym of *Araneus*, the species ended up as *N. domiciliorum*! (Yeah, it's complicated.)

FLD_GUIDE_DESCRIPTIONS: The prosoma is orange to brown and often covered with white hairs. The opisthosoma is boldly marked with a pale cross shape surrounded by dark brown, and it is tan to cream on the lateral edges. The ventral opisthosoma is black, with horizontal yellow dashes at the epigastric furrow and paired longitudinal yellow dashes toward the spinnerets. The legs have red to orange femurs, and the distal segments are banded. These spiders can be difficult to distinguish from other *Neoscona* species. (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Eastern states, increasingly common to its southern range, and thence west to Texas.

HABITAT: forest, shrubby areas, frequently on man-made structures.