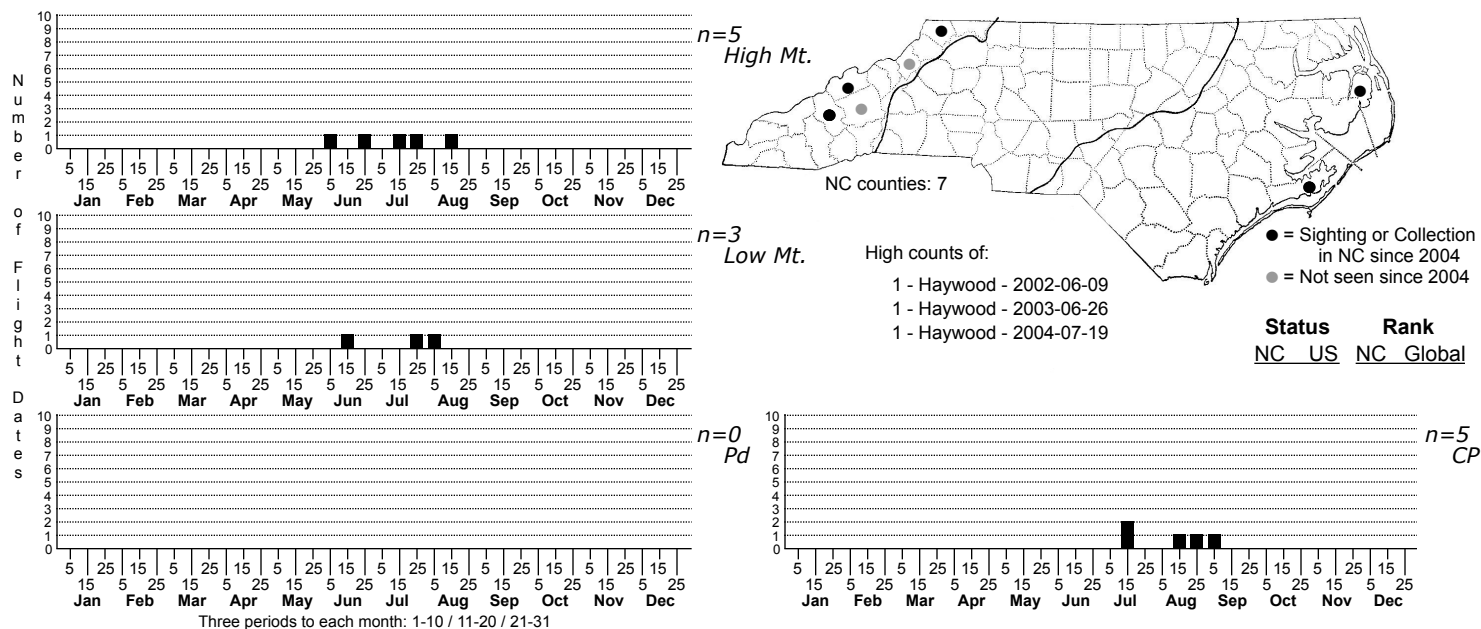


Pyrausta signatalis Raspberry Pyrausta Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Pyrausta signatalis* is a very wide-ranging species and BOLD has three BINs that represent genetically distinct lineages within the overall range. In North Carolina, this species occurs in both the Blue Ridge and in coastal communities, with members of the two groups belonging to separate BINs. Much more work is needed to determine patterns of genetic variation in this species and the extent to which it may potentially reflect a complex of cryptic species.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Forbes (1923) and Munroe (1976). The head and thorax are yellowish buff. The forewing ground color varies from purplish to rose pink or bright pink and is overlain with yellowish marks, including a small discocellular spot. The antemedial line is dentate and widest on the dorsal half; it typically narrows and terminates before reaching the costa. The postmedial line is also dentate and is widest near the dorsal and costal fourths. The middle section is narrower and often reduced to a line of 3-4 dots. The fringe varies from yellowish-buff to grayish-buff. The hindwing is brown to brownish-gray with a weak, pale, postmedial line that terminates well before the costa. The fringe is pale grayish buff.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta signatalis* is found across much of the U.S. from the New England states westward to Montana, and southward to Arizona, Texas, the Gulf Coast states and Florida. It is also found across much of southern Canada from British Columbia to New Brunswick. As of 2023, all of our records are from either the Blue Ridge or the eastern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from March through December in Florida and mostly from May through September elsewhere. As of 2023, our records are from early-June through early-September.

HABITAT: The adults are commonly found in mesic hardwood forests in the mountains and in more open and xeric communities along the coast.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize of several species of *Monarda* (Forbes, 1923; Schaffner, 1959; Covell, 1984; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). The known hosts include Scarlet Beebalm (*M. didyma*) and Wild Bergamot (*M. fistulosa*), but other species are likely used.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. We encourage others to search for the larvae in the flower heads of mints.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: