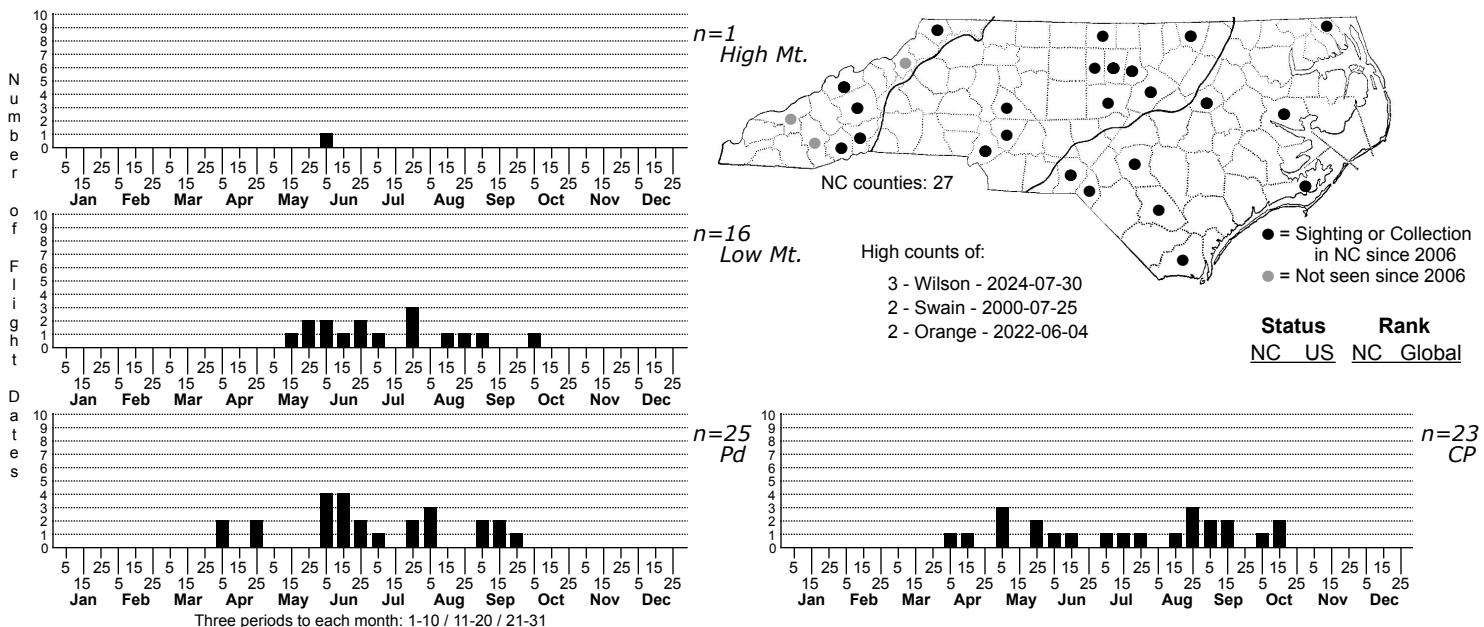


Pyrausta bicoloralis Bicolored Pyrausta



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is an easily recognizable species in which the forewing is orange except for the outer two-fifths that is brown or purplish-brown. The boundary between the two is marked by a sinuous darker brown postmedial line (Forbes, 1923). Both the sinuous antemedial line and the discal spots are usually evident, and the fringe is boldly marked with alternating dark purplish-brown and white patches. The hindwing is generally similar in coloration and patterning.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta bicoloralis* is found throughout much of the eastern U.S. and adjoining portions of Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia). In the U.S., the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, eastern Oklahoma, eastern Nebraska and Minnesota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from March through October in different areas of the range. The flight season is extensive in North Carolina, with two or more broods produced annually. As of 2023, our records extend from early April through mid-October.

HABITAT: This species commonly occurs in residential neighborhoods and gardens, as well as natural settings such as mesic forests and coastal pine forests.

FOOD: The native host plants are poorly documented, but presumably are members of the mint family (Lamiaceae). BugGuide has a record (Charley Eiseman, 2017) for Northern Bugleweed (*Lycopus uniflorus*), and Heppner (2007) reported a *Salvia* species as a host, but it is uncertain whether it was a native species. BugGuide also has rearing records for Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*). The latter is a southern European species that is commonly grown as an herb.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to both building lights and UV-lights, and are occasionally spotted nectaring on low-growing plants. More information is needed on the larval life history and native host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4-S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species occurs throughout the state and is commonly encountered in suburban neighborhoods; it appears to be secure within the state.