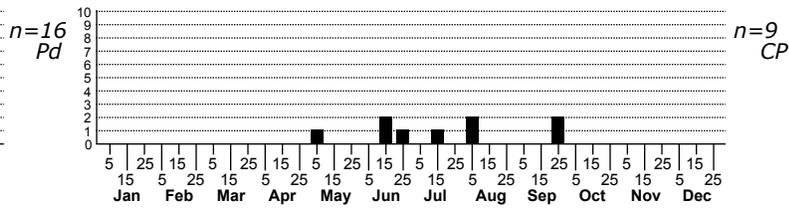
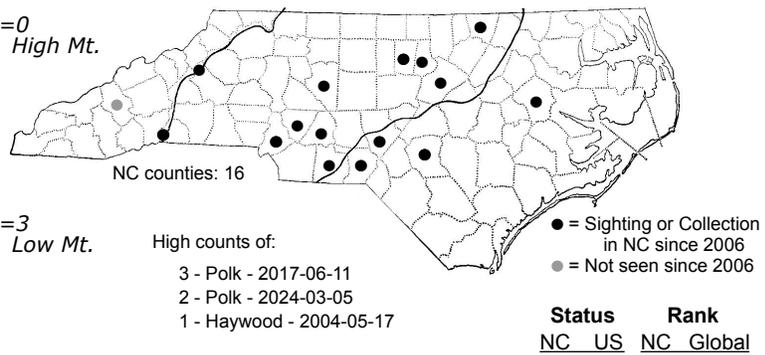
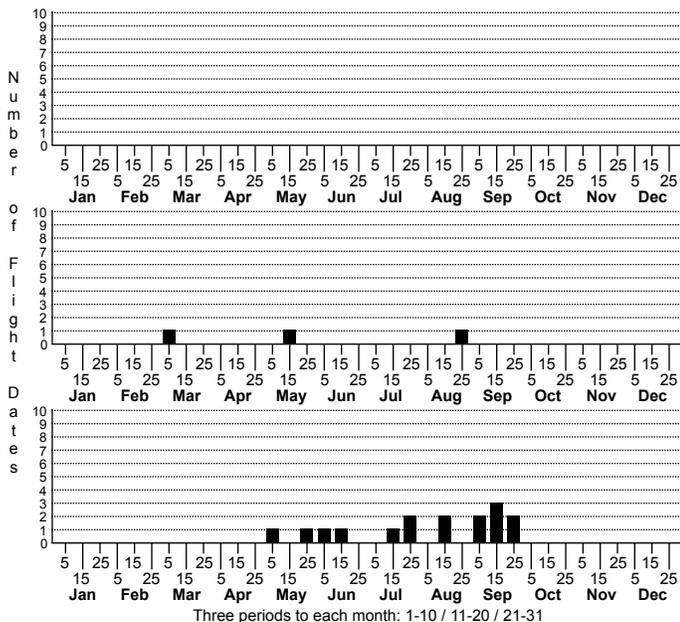


Pyrausta subsequalis Mottled Pyrausta



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This wide-ranging species exhibits substantial individually, seasonally, sexually and geographic variation. Munroe (1976) recognized four subspecies, with *Pyrausta s. subsequalis* occurring in the eastern U.S. The following description is based on those of Forbes (1923) and Monroe (1976) for the eastern subspecies. Female and males are sexually dimorphic with regards to coloration and clarity of patterning. For females, the forewing ground color ranges from ochreous-yellow to dull-orange. The antemedial line is wavy, while the postmedial line is sinuous. The orbicular and reniform spots are black and conspicuous, and the median area of the wing is often suffused with black. The subterminal region has a broad dark shade that either narrows or is interrupted in the middle. It is followed by a band of ground color and a thin terminal line at the base of the black fringe. The hindwing is bright orange, with a large black discal dot. There are two outer black bands that parallel the outer margin, and the fringe is black. In males, the forewing ground color is brown and often scaled with dull red. The hindwing is black, with short postmedial and terminal orange lines only. For both sexes, the most useful field traits are the conspicuous black orbicular and reniform spots, the broad, dark subterminal shade that either narrows or is interrupted in the middle, and the banded hindwings.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta subsequalis* is a very wide-ranging species that occurs in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, across most of southern Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, and in most of the U.S. from Maine westward to Washington and Oregon, and southward to Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico and southern California. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, with most of our records from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in southern localities such as California and Louisiana, and mostly from April through September at more northern latitudes. As of 2023, our records range from early-May through late-September.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The host plants are poorly documented, but include members of three families of flowering plants (Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Beadle and Leckie, 2018). The reported hosts include thistles (*Cirsium* and *Carduus* spp.), including Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), a mint (*Mentha* sp.), and Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are commonly seen in the open during the day either resting on vegetation or nectaring on low-growing plants. They also occasionally attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: