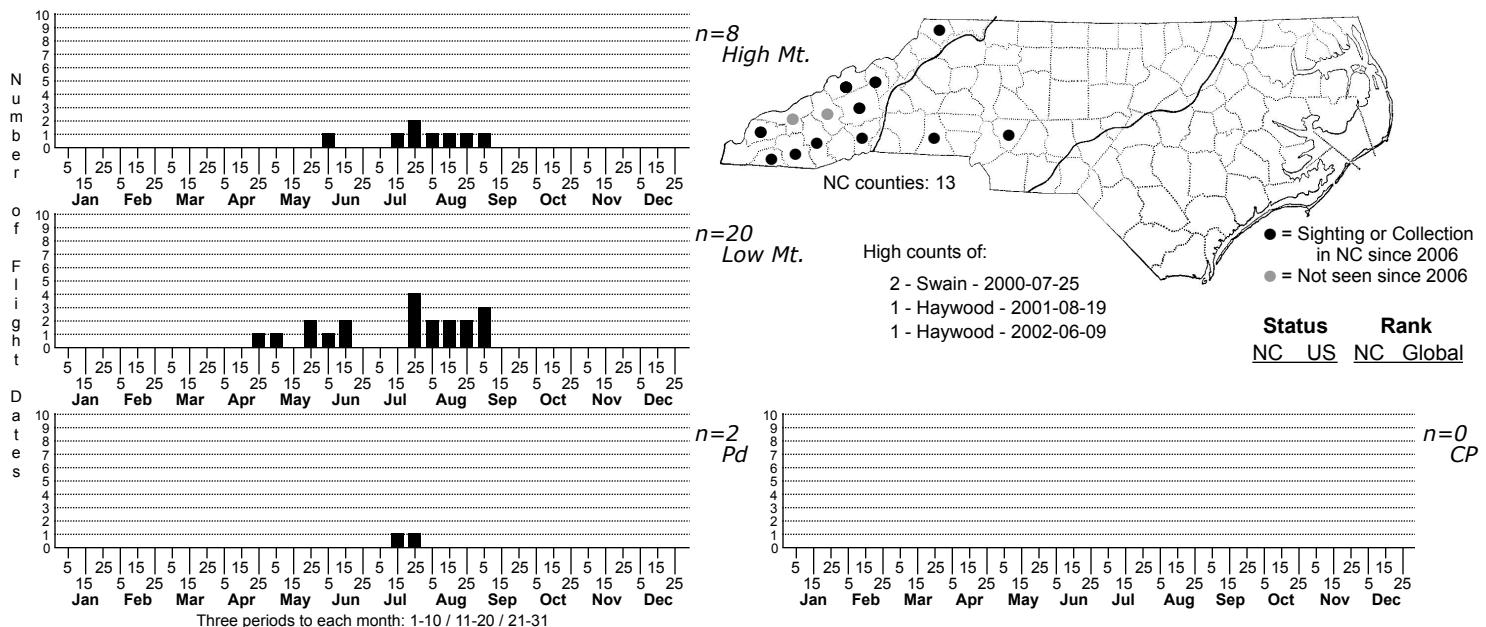


Pyrausta niveicilialis White-fringed Pyrausta



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: Despite its simplistic patterning this is a distinctive moth. The forewing and hindwing are both uniformly blackish fuscous with prominent white fringes. The forewing has a trace of a buff postmedial line that is more prominent on the costa, where it appears as a diffuse subapical spot.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Pyrausta niveicilialis</i> is found in eastern North America, including Ontario and Quebec, and in the eastern U.S. from eastern New York and Connecticut southwestward through the Appalachian region to central Alabama, and westward to Arkansas, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. As of 2023 all of our records are from the Blue Ridge, with the exception of one record from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through November in different areas of the range, with the the most active months from May through August. As of 2023, our records extend from late-April through early-September.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from mesic hardwood forests or forest edges.

FOOD: Charley Eiseman (BugTracks: Dec. 23, 2013) reared an adult from Canada Horsebalm (<i>Collinsonia canadensis</i>). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen nectaring on flowers or resting on vegetation in the open.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: <i>Pyrausta niveicilialis</i> is largely restricted to the Blue Ridge and is at the eastern limit of the range at this latitude. We need additional information on its host use and habitat requirements before we can accurately assess its conservation status.