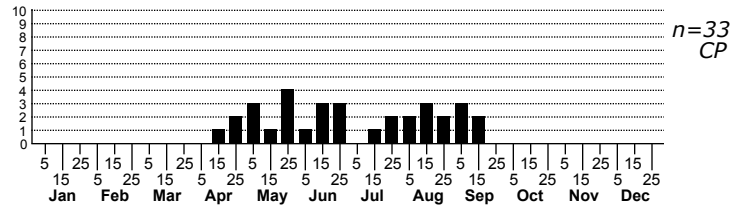
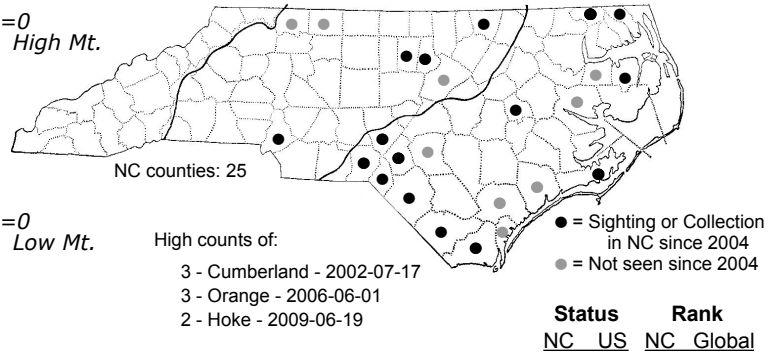
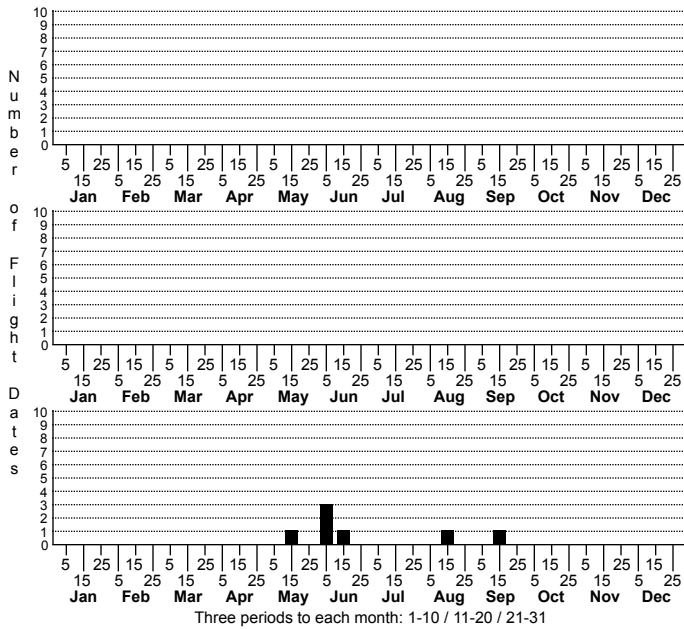


## *Eudryas unio* Pearly Wood-nymph Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Agaristinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: An American genus with one species named from California and two from Georgia. The latter two species also occur in North Carolina. As Forbes (1954) points out this is a genus somewhat intermediate between Acronyctines and Agaristids. It is nocturnal, most Agaristids are diurnal, and the tympanum lacks the enlarged bulla characteristic of Agaristids. The adult and larval patterns are clearly Agaristid.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al., (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, strikingly marked Noctuid. Maculation very unlike anything else in our fauna except its congener, *E. grata*. Both have mostly white forewings edged in purple and orange hindwings. The greenish postmedian line distinguishes the two, inwardly almost serrate in this species but smooth in *E. grata* which is also a much larger species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Apparently two broods in the Coastal Plain but too few observations elsewhere to know the brood status.

HABITAT: North Carolina records come almost entirely from open marshes and pond and lake shorelines

FOOD: Reported from a number of plants (Wagner et al, 2011) but apparently most common on *Ludwigia*, *Lythrum* and *Decodon*. Literature reports of caterpillars on evening primrose, gaura, hibiscus, grape and willow herb need to be confirmed and the preferred foodplants in North Carolina should be documented

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come to light but probably do not visit flowers or come to bait.

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: This species appears to be somewhat uncommon but is recorded in small numbers in most examples of its habitat that have been sampled. Although a habitat specialist, it occurs widely over the state and at least some of its habitats are fairly common. This species, consequently, appears to be secure within the state.