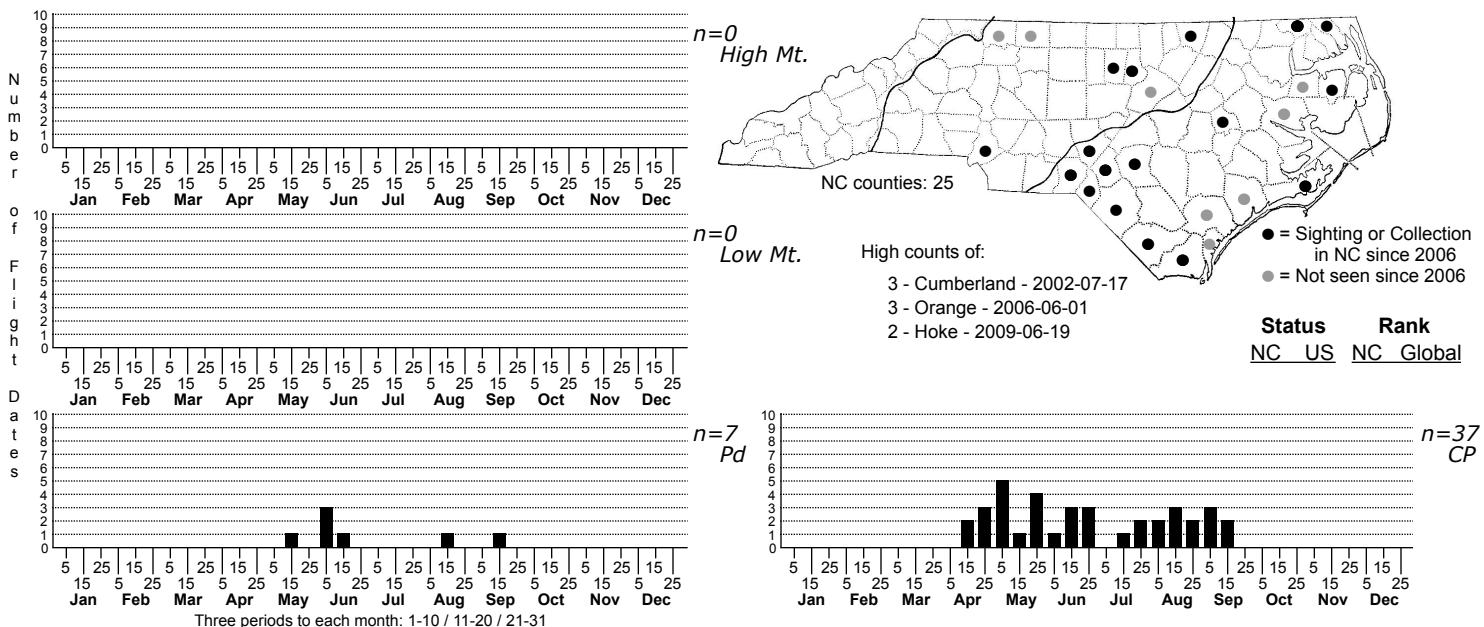


Eudryas unio Pearly Wood-nymph



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: Larvae reportedly feed on a wide range of plants. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list Swamp Loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), willowherb (*Epilobium*), rosemallow (*Hibiscus*), seedbox (*Ludwigia*), loosestrife (*Lythrum*), evening-primrose (*Oenothera*), and grape (*Vitis*). In North Carolina, there is a record (iNaturalist, White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area) for a larva on Bushy Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*).

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [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.