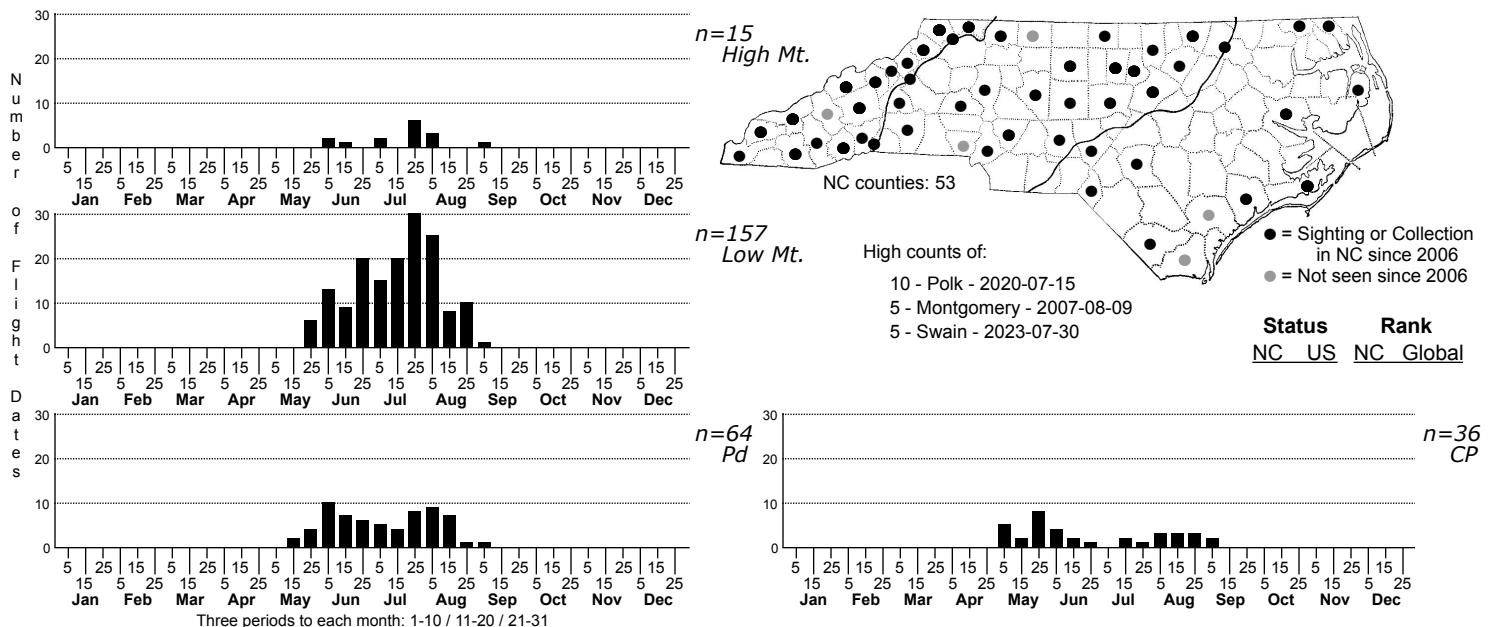


Eudryas grata Beautiful Wood-nymph



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 whereas most Agaristids are diurnal, and the tympanum lacks the enlarged bulla characteristic of Agaristids. The adult and larval patterns, however, 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. Very unlike anything else in our fauna except its congener, *E. unio*. Both have mostly white forewings edged in purple and orange hindwings. The greenish postmedian line distinguishes the two, smooth in this species and inwardly almost serrate in *E. unio*, a much smaller species. Adults have a very characteristic perching behavior with outstretched, fuzzy forelegs. When disturbed they feign death and curl their abdomen underneath them and fall to the ground.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the state even above 4000 feet

FLIGHT COMMENT: In the Coastal Plain there appear to be two broods but in the western part of the state there appears to be a single brood but over a broader period of time. Occasionally there are late emerging adults.

HABITAT: Found in a wide variety of habitats -- everywhere that grapes and related species occur. These include maritime scrub on the barrier islands; riparian and mesic forests; and dry ridge tops. We have no records, however, from peatlands or Longleaf Pine habitats

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on members of the Vitaceae. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list *Ampelopsis*, Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and grape (*Vitis*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on grape.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Seems to come readily to lights but unlikely to be attracted to bait or visit flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: With its wide distribution and broad habitat range, this species appears to be secure within the state. We are fortunate to have this common, lovely moth. It is certainly worth of additional study of the behavior and palatability of both larvae and adults.