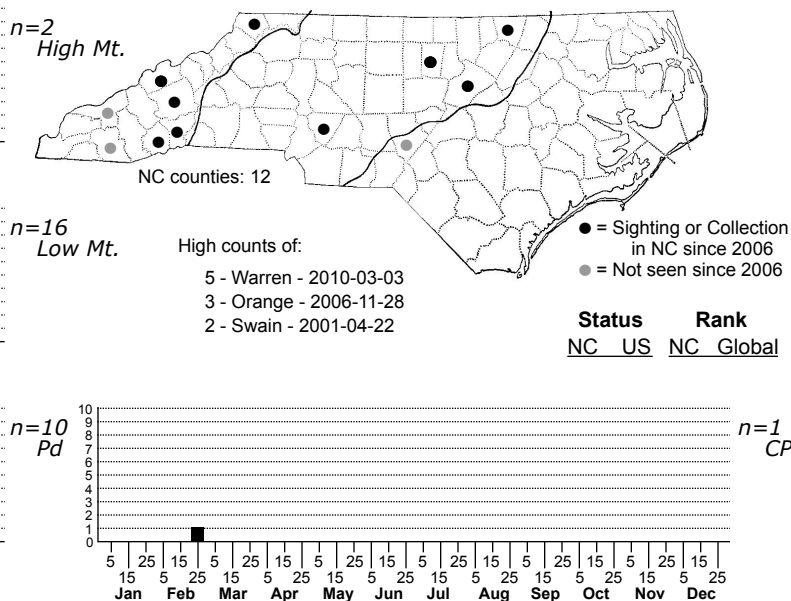
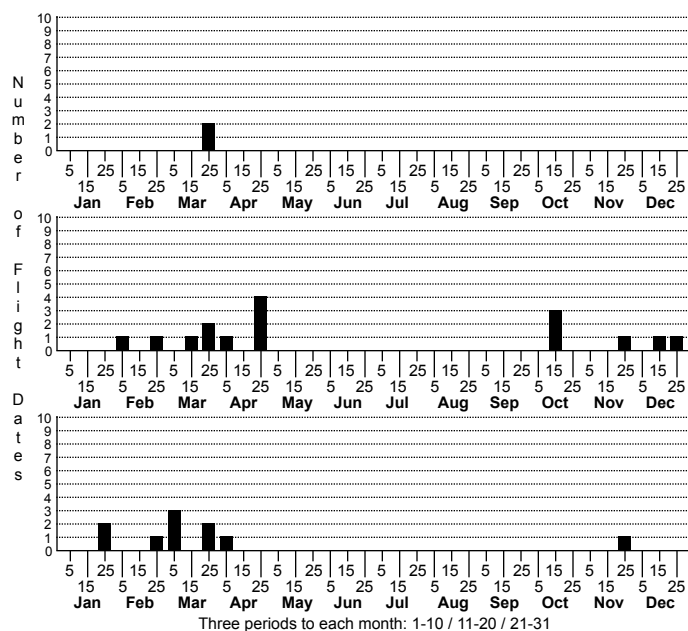


## *Eupsilia cirripalea* Franclemont's Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A genus of the Northern Hemisphere with some 17 described species, including 8 in North America, with several more about to be described. North Carolina has 6 described and 1 undescribed species, some of which are extremely similar in wing pattern.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: This species and *E. sidus* can usually be distinguished from the remaining species because their pattern is plain, with many of the cross wing lines obscure compared to the other species, but differentiating them from each other is an art at best. Both have curled scale tips on the forewing (see structural photos below) and at the wing terminus the crenulations are stronger in fresh *E. cirripalea*. The reniform can be concolorous, yellowish or white and seems to be slightly larger than in *E. sidus*. Best determined by barcodes or dissections. Descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at: <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the Piedmont and Mountain areas in wooded habitats.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults begin to fly in the fall in October and November. They overwinter as adults and show up again in the spring, flying as late as April.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list woodlands, especially those with an abundance of oaks and hickories, as the habitats used by this species. North Carolina records come mainly from upland stands of hardwoods, although there are also a few records from riparian and mesic forests.

FOOD: The larvae have been reported to eat a wide array of plants but confirmed larvae are known only from blackberry (*Rubus*), oak (*Quercus*), cherry (*Prunus*), and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) (Wagner et al., 2011). Larvae are probably indistinguishable from other members of the genus. Knowledge of foodplants in North Carolina is lacking and in need of study.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults readily come to bait and have been collected in light traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR 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 fairly widespread in both the Mountains and Piedmont of North Carolina, occurring in at least some residential neighborhoods as well as natural habitats. While more surveys need to be conducted in the late fall and early spring to more exactly determine its distribution, abundance, host plants, and habitat affinities, it appears to be fairly secure within the state.