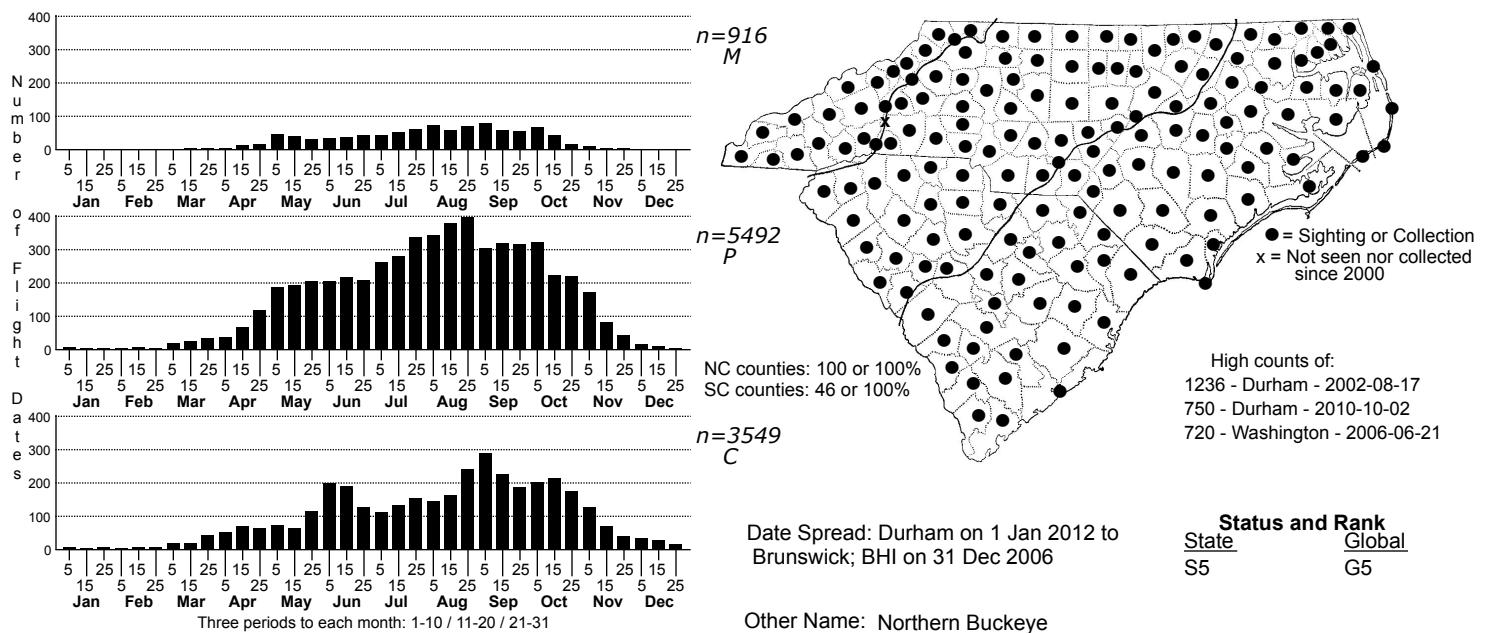


Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia*



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide, occurring in every county. Ranges onto the Outer Banks, and probably to the higher Mountains (though perhaps not a breeder at high elevations).

ABUNDANCE: Very common in the Coastal Plain; common to very common in the eastern and southern Piedmont; fairly common to common in the upper Piedmont; fairly common in the Mountains. The species appears to be partly migratory, with an increase in butterflies from August to October. Over 50 individuals can be seen in a day in Coastal Plain and Piedmont counties in the fall.

FLIGHT PERIOD: Several broods (at least three); the species has a continuous presence in NC from mid-March to mid-December. Abundance increases in August, remaining very numerous well into October; a few can be seen on warm winter days.

HABITAT: Open country; very widespread in fields, roadsides, lawns, gardens, vacant lots, dunes, savannas, and other places with low growth. It is not typically found near woodlands, but it is often common in powerline clearings through forests.

FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS: A wide variety of herbaceous plantains (*Plantago* spp.) and "scrophs" (*Scrophulariaceae*); probably also species in the *Ruellia* family (*Acanthaceae*). Species of *gerardias* (*Agalinis* spp.) are commonly used, and caterpillars are conspicuous and easily found on these plants in the fall season. Nectar plants are very widespread, but the species typically nectars on low-growing herbs such as clovers (*Trifolium* spp.); adults also sip moisture and minerals along bare ground.

COMMENTS: This species typically keeps low to the ground, and frequently perches on bare ground, sand, and dirt. It also nectars on clovers, frogfruits (*Phyla* spp.), and other flowers within a few inches of the ground. It is perhaps the most common "large" butterfly around lawns and roadsides, thereby making it one of the most familiar butterflies to North Carolinians.