

luna moth

Actias luna

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Saturniidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The luna moth has large, light-green wings with brown and white markings. One long tail is present on each hind wing. The wingspan is four to five inches. Each wing also shows one eyespot. The body is white, and the antennae are feathery. The larva is a spiny caterpillar that pupates in a silk cocoon.

BEHAVIORS

The luna moth may be found throughout Illinois. The adult does not feed. The larva eats the leaves of trees and shrubs. The cocoon is spun on the ground in leaf litter.



larva

ILLINOIS RANGE





adult

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Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none