



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

luna moth

Actias luna

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

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.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest