



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.

snowy tree cricket

Oecanthus fultoni

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Orthoptera
Family: Gryllidae

FEATURES

The snowy tree cricket grows to about one-half to five-eighths inch in length. Its thin, pale green body has a yellow head and long antennae. The female has a needle-like ovipositor for laying eggs. This insect undergoes simple metamorphosis (egg, nymph, adult).

BEHAVIORS

The snowy tree cricket may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in shrubs and trees. The female lays eggs in bark or on stems, and the eggs overwinter. The adult and nymph eat aphids. The snowy tree cricket makes a chirping, high-pitched “treet-treet-treet” noise at night that varies with the air temperature. If you count the number of chirps in 13 seconds, then add 40, you will get a good idea of the current air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest