

## luna moth *Actias luna*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/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.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitats

**bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**none**

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