



# The Ferrum Nature Society Bulletin

Dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of our natural world

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## Snaking around

Black rat snake climbing a tree near Ferrum



Northern copperhead on trail near the Ferrum golf course



## Last bloom of the lady's-slipper

Pink-lady's-slipper on the Ferrum nature trail near Chapman Pond



## Sky calendar:

Full moon - June 18

Summer solstice - June 20 at 6:59 p.m.

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## The Megamoths of Summer

Todd Fredericksen

Along with the many small and medium-sized moths fluttering around porchlights and screens this summer, some larger night-fliers can also be observed. These are large silkworms belonging to the Family Saturniidae. This family includes approximately 70 species in North America named for the silk produced by their larvae. Aside from their large, fuzzy appearance, the family is also interesting in that the adult moths do not feed and live only long enough to mate, which may be only a few days. Below, I feature three of these moth species.

Among the most majestic of the giant silkworms, the luna moth (*Actias luna*) occurs throughout the eastern United States and is particularly associated with hardwood forests. In our area, larvae commonly feed on leaves of hickories and walnut. This moth has powdery



Luna moth

Ohio University

green colored wings spanning up to 5 inches with a long tail. Female wings are more translucent than those of males. Like most silkworms, caterpillars are green and chunky with dorso-lateral projections. Several broods are produced during the summer.



Polyphemus moth

npr.org

Perhaps the most common giant silkworm moth in our area is the polyphemus moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*). The moth has a varied reddish-brown coloration with two large "eyespot" on the underwings, which they flash when startled.



Cecropia moth

Bugguide.net

The cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) is the largest of the giant silkworms with wing spans up to 6 inches. Like the polyphemus moth, its caterpillars feed on the foliage of a wide variety of shrubs and hardwood trees.

# Ferrum Nature Society Spring Bird Count Results

May 10, 2008

87 species, 866 individuals

Black Vulture	5	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15
Turkey Vulture	14	Eastern Bluebird	24
Canada Goose	2	Wood Thrush	14
Mallard	10	American Robin	22
Osprey	2	Northern Mockingbird	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Gray Catbird	6
Broad-winged Hawk	7	Brown Thrasher	10
Red-tailed Hawk	4	Starling	43
Wild Turkey	6	Black-throated Green	1
Northern Bobwhite	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Northern Parula Warbler	2
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Cerulean Warbler	7
Herring Gull	1	Worm-eating Warbler	3
Rock Pigeon	4	Pine Warbler	1
Barred Owl	1	Black-and-White Warbler	5
Mourning Dove	22	Worm-eating Warbler	2
Chimney Swift	4	Wilson's Warbler	1
Cedar Waxwing	3	American Redstart	16
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	Ovenbird	28
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	Louisiana Waterthrush	6
Downy Woodpecker	10	Kentucky Warbler	3
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Hooded Warbler	22
Northern Flicker	1	Common Yellowthroat	1
Pileated Woodpecker	5	Scarlet Tanager	18
Eastern Phoebe	15	Rufous-sided Towhee	33
Eastern Kingbird	1	Chipping Sparrow	43
Great-crested Flycatcher	1	Field Sparrow	9
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Savannah Sparrow	2
Eastern Wood Pewee	19	Song Sparrow	18
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	Tree Sparrow	2
Blue-headed Vireo	12	White-throated Sparrow	2
Red-eyed Vireo	37	Northern Cardinal	36
Blue Jay	14	Indigo Bunting	33
American Crow	43	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4
Common Raven	4	Red-winged Blackbird	23
Tree Swallow	7	Orchard Oriole	1
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4	Rusty Blackbird	7
Barn Swallow	43	Eastern Meadowlark	7
Carolina Chickadee	24	Common Grackle	21
Tufted Titmouse	43	Brown-headed Cowbird	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	House Finch	7
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1	Purple Finch	2
Carolina Wren	22	American Goldfinch	87
		House Sparrow	2