What is a Giant Silkmoth?

Many of our largest-sized moths belong to the family Saturniidae, known as the Giant Silkmoths. The entire life cycle of these moths is one year or less and they live most of their lives as caterpillars or pupae. As adults, the moths do not feed and most species are nocturnal. Adult females use chemical signals (pheromones) to attract males for mating. Adult silkmoths usually live less than a week.

The Cecropia Moth (actual size). This is the second largest moth in North America.

Why conduct this survey?

Silkmoths are thought to be declining in the northeastern U.S. because of habitat destruction and the introduction of a parasitic fly used to control Gypsy Moths. Sightings will become part of the Adirondack All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) database and will be used to construct occurrence maps for each silkmoth species.

Project Silkmoth Sponsors

Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation
Northern New York Audubon (nnya.org)
Paul Smith's College (www.paulsmiths.edu)
Adirondack All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)

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Project Silkmoth:

A Survey of the Giant Silkmoths of Northern New York State

www.projectsilkmoth.net

Participate!

Project Silkmoth

Survey period
May 15-July 31

Sightings forms from the survey period will be accepted through September each year.

Target geographic area
All of northern New York State, defined as north of a line from Syracuse to Utica to Albany.

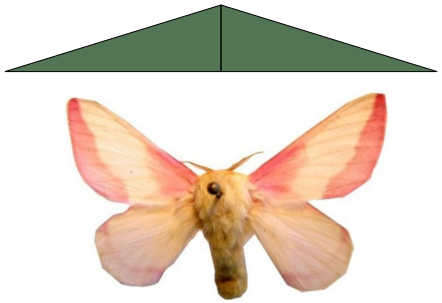
Target species
The following 12 species are silkmoths that should or may occur in northern New York.

1. Regal Moth (*Citheronia regalis*)
2. Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*)
3. Rosy Maple Moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*)
4. Pink-striped Oakworm (*Anisota virginiensis*)
5. Orange-striped Oakworm (*Anisota senatoria*)
6. Io Moth (*Automeris io*)
7. Polyphemus Moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*)
8. Luna Moth (*Actias luna*)
9. Promethea Moth (*Callosamia promethea)*
10. Tuliptree Moth (*Callosamia angulifera*)
11. Cecropia Moth (*Hyalophora cecropia)*

Project Silkmoth

How do I participate?

- Go to the project website: **www.projectsilkmoth.net**
- Familiarize yourself with silkmoth coloration patterns, wingspan, flight period and host plants
- Print or view the sightings form so you understand what information is needed with each sighting
- Locate potential light sources that might attract silkmoths or provide your own light source (see "Where to look" section)
- Check for silkmoths early in the morning (take a camera and a net if you have one)
- Report your sightings in 1 of 4 ways: online form, using the EpiCollect app, emailing or snail mailing the sightings form (a photo must also be submitted for certain species). See the website for more details.



The Rosy Maple moth (actual size) is small in size compared to other silkmoths but shows wide color variation. Some individuals have dark pink markings while others have faint pink markings.

For more information about each silkmoth species, check the website

www.projectsilkmoth.net

Where to look for silkmoths

Nocturnal silkmoths like ultraviolet light and are most attracted to:

- <u>clear</u> mercury vapor lights (found in streetlights)
- blue or white 'blacklights'
- bright lights in remote areas

A moth that settles near a light will often stay there through the day if not disturbed. Birds readily eat these moths, so visit established light sources early in the morning.

Day-flying silkmoths may be found near their host plant species, which are listed on the website.