

tulip tree silkmoth

Callosamia angulifera

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The wingspan is about three and one-eighth to four and three-eighths inches. Although the patterns on their wings are basically the same, males are darker than females. They also show different coloration by time of year, with the second-generation males darker than those of the first generation. Males are brown. Females are yellow-brown or orange-brown. Both sets of wings have a wavy, white line about midway to the edge. An eyespot is present on each forewing. There is a T-shaped white mark on each wing. Larvae may reach two and three-fourths inches in length. They are light green with a white longitudinal stripe along the sides.

BEHAVIORS

The larvae of this species feed mainly on leaves of the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) so the tulip tree silkmoth is commonly found in areas where these trees are plentiful. In Illinois, that is in the southern one-fourth of the state and along the Wabash River. This species is active at night. There are two generations per year. The pupa overwinters. The pupa is found in a cocoon of silk within a folded leaf and falls to the ground when the leaf drops.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none