

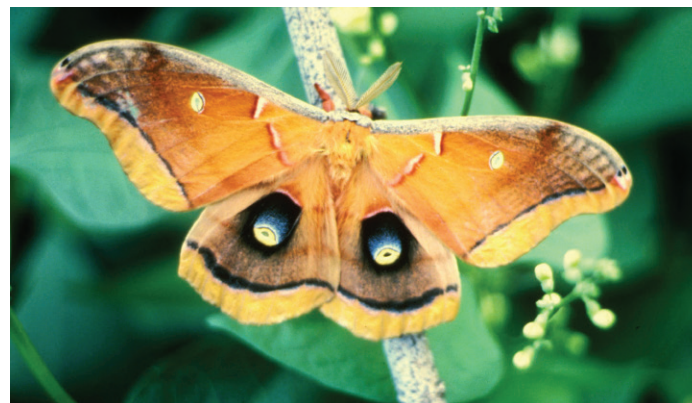


# MOTHS of the Night

**STAY UP LATE ONE NIGHT THIS SUMMER** and discover the fascinating world of MOTHS. There are about 13,000 species in North America alone! Some cool species to be on the lookout for are Luna moths, Polyphemus moths, Cecropia moths, and Isabella Tiger moths.

Butterflies and moths have a lot in common, but there are three major differences to look for:

- Most butterflies have club-shaped antennae while a moth's antennae are featherlike or taper to a point.
- Butterflies are often more colorful than moths because butterflies are active during the day. Moths, mostly nocturnal and active at night, have earthy colors to keep them camouflaged while they sleep during the day.
- Moths have a thicker coating of scales than butterflies, giving them a furry appearance.



*Polyphemus moth*

## FUN FACTS

The **Luna moth** is born without a mouth ... it never eats or drinks.

The **Woolly Bear caterpillar** we are all familiar with turns into ... the Isabella Tiger Moth.

The **Hawk moth** (Sphinx) is the world's fastest flying insect attaining speed of over 50 kph.

The **Cecropia moth** is North America's largest insect. **Hummingbird moth** wings beat 70 times per second.

## TRY THIS!

**Attracting moths can be a fun nighttime activity. There are two ways you can do this.**

**For the first method** you'll need a white sheet, a lamp and electricity. Hang the sheet in your backyard and point the white light from the lamp onto the sheet. Moths are attracted to bright lights land on the sheet for your viewing pleasure. Identify these creatures using a field guide.

**Next try a sugary recipe.** Before it gets dark, mix together 1 ripe banana mashed, ½ cup brown sugar, and ½ can of beer (or soda). Go outside with a paint brush and apply the sugary mixture to the bark of a few trees along the edge of your yard. After a few hours of darkness, head out with a flashlight to see what type of moths have come to feed.



*Luna moth*



*Cecropia moth*

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Happy Birthday