

Nature at Night~Moths

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There are about 2,000 different species of moths in New Jersey waiting to be discovered by you. Moths are an amazingly diverse group of insects coming in surprising color, shapes and sizes; they are not all the stereo-typical small white wings creatures fluttering around your porch light. The silk moth's size and colors may take your breath away and the alien structures of the plume moths may keep you in awe of nature's wonders.



Cecropia Moth. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Sellar

Follow the instructions below and see what we can find:

1. Hang a light-colored sheet away from any artificial light on a warm, dry, windless night. Weight down the bottom of the sheet to make it taut.



Credit: John and Jane Balaban



2. Get a light source, any type of light helps to attract moths but brighter lights like UV lights or black lights will attract a more types of moths. Try to have the light illuminate as much of the sheet as possible.
3. Light the sheet up and wait till dark. Different species of moths will show up during different times of the night. Moth numbers peak around 1:00 a.m. You can just enjoy watching all the different variety of moths coming to visit or if you like, try to identify them by using field guides or the following websites: BugGuide.net, [Project Noah](http://ProjectNoah), and What's That Bug,



Morning Glory Plume Moth. Photo Credit: Anita Gould