Minutes from the 577th Meeting of the Connecticut Entomology Society

April 21st, 2023

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Total Participants:

Guests:

Members:

Social pre-meeting began at approximately 18:30.

**Business Meeting:**

-Meeting called to order at 19:31 by president Ray Simpson.

**Reports:**

-Small change in balance from last month to this month. New members have joined.

**New Business:**

-The board is getting their 2023 officer nominations ready, as well as the nominations for the governing board.

-There are some field outings planned! On April 29th and with a rain date of the 30th, there’s a butterfly hike. On May 19th or the 26th weather pending is the official CAES spring field outing. There will also be an insect hike at Sleeping Giant on June 11th.

-The Rhode Island Bioblitz is on June 9th and 10th.

-The only determined meeting for Fall 2023 is on September 15th, featuring John Himmelman.

-There’s a lobbying against a pesticide that’s killing insects in the state.

**Guests:**

-Julia, David Rubin’s girlfriend, attended.

-Lukas’ dad attended as well.

-Rob Naczi, New York Botanical Garden, friend of Harry Zirlin.

**Exhibits:**

-The moths captured on a net were shown – seemed to be an unusually large amount.

-More moths, from Sessions Woods, were shown captured on a sheet, with a very wide variety of moth species found. Could a heat wave be behind a mass emergence?

**Evening Presentation:**

-Harry Zirlin spoke about the insect diversity surveys going on at the Ward Pound Ridge reserve in New York state. Located about 45mins southwest of New Haven, the reserve is in the northeast corner of Westchester County. It’s the largest park in the county, too, with a variety of biomes such as dry and wet meadows, plus riparian wetlands. 97 butterfly species have been recorded in the reserve, including *Euphydryas phaeton* and *Chlosyne harrisii*, which are species that are in decline within the reserve. There are also seven hairstreak species observed within the WPRR, within the genus *Satryium.*

-In addition, there’ve been 22 species of *Sphyngidae* moths found, including some uncommon species within Westchester, like *Eumorpha pandorus*. There also have been numerous *Catocala* moth species found, too. It turns out that for the *Catocala* moths, there’s a lot of overlap between the species found at Pound Ridge and at Sleeping Giant park; of a total of 42 species, 32 are found at both sites, with six only being found at Pound Ridge and four at Sleeping Giant. According to iNaturalist, there are 743 species of moths not within *Sphyngidae* nor *Catocala*, including at least some species within *Saturniidae*. Cecropia moths have even been found in the Bronx!

-102 species of *Cerambycidae* beetles have been recorded in Pound Ridge, typically using a variety of sampling methods. It’s also hypothesized that well over 200 species of *Carabidae* beetles could be within Pound Ridge, seeing how there are 520 species within the state of NY. And so far, 43 species of *Mordellidae* beetles have been recorded.

-84 species of *Odonata* species have been recorded – 57 dragonflies and 27 damselflies.

-A wasp species known as *Cerceris fumipennis*, which collect beetles as prey, has also been recorded. The emerald ash-borer has also been recorded.

Meeting adjourned at 21:03.

**Note: corrections and additions to the minutes are welcomed. Please email** [**maxengel1@gmail.com**](mailto:maxengel1@gmail.com)**.**