



## **Connecticut Entomological Society Minutes from the 578<sup>th</sup> Meeting 15 September 2023**

Jones Auditorium,  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
123 Huntington Ave., New Haven, CT 06511

Members met for a pre-meeting social at the Experiment Station approx. 6:30pm.

### **Business meeting:**

President Richard Cowles called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30pm.

### **Reports:**

Last year fees exceeded dues paid; donations are very important.

### **New Business:**

- Should we increase membership fees? (i. e., Regular membership, change from \$15 to \$20 per year; student, change from \$7 to \$10 per year)
- Alternatively, we have enough in reserve to carry us forward for a while.
- Consideration: in person meetings are more costly due to refreshments expenses.

### **Announcements:**

2023 further field outings: Opportunity for assistance in the field - grad student at the School of the Environment at Yale University wants to organize Yale students to volunteer with wildlife-related field work.

### **Attendees:**

- In person attendees, 13 members and 5 guests = 18
- Zoom : 9 members and 3 guests +12
- TOTAL = 30 attendees

### **Exhibits:**

- Matthew Nochisaki brought various sphingid caterpillars and some Limacodiids, including a larva of an *Acharia stimulea* (saddleback caterpillar) and a *Phobetron pithecium* (monkey slug).
- Ray Simpson brought two drawers of pinned lepidoptera collected during the 2023 season
- Chris Maier brought Steve Marshall's new book on Hymenoptera: *The Natural History and Diversity of Wasps, Bees and Ants*, and showed some specimens of northeastern species of *Spilomyia* (Dipera: Syrphidae), Batesian mimics of stinging wasps

### **Evening Presentation:**

John Himmelman, co-founder and president of the CT Butterfly Association, past president of the New Haven Bird Club, past president of The Nature Connection and past president of the Killingworth Land Trust, presented on moths in his backyard. He began the talk with a discussion about silk trade and production, and how the Spongy Moth escaped in Massachusetts. Different methods of spongy moth control were discussed, and how these led to the decline of native moths. The spongy moth discussion was concluded mentioning a fungus which has rebounded and has been controlling the gypsy moth this year. John Himmelman then explained about what got him interested in moths, talked about native moths, and about finding them in his yard. He showed pictures of some of the nicest ones. The talk concluded with tips on how to attract moths in one's own yard and an example of a light rig for attraction. John Himmelman also introduced his latest book, a second edition of *Discovering Moths*.

**Respectfully submitted, Secretary Lukas Keras, 15 September, 2023.**