Minutes from the 573rd Meeting of the Connecticut Entomology Society

November 18th, 2022

Zoom

Members: 17 (Mark Stukel, Ray Simpson, Lucas Keras, Marta Wells, Matt Nochisaki, Raul Ferreira, Victor DeMaisi, Warren Bacchus, William Krinski, Laura Monte, Leo Dutkewych, Glenn Morrell, Daniel Cole, Cole Edwards +3 others)

Guests: 6

Social pre-meeting began at approximately 18:30.

**Business Meeting:**

-Meeting called to order at 19:30

**Reports:**

- No treasurer’s report this month.

- CES has a Zoom account for meetings (as mentioned in the previous meeting).

**New Business:**

- Bridget Zacharczenko has two summer teaching opportunities at Talcott Mountain Science Center, in Avon CT where she currently teaches, but will be taking leave. Bridget has an announcement on the Google Group giving the details, and anyone interested should contact her for additional information.

- No meeting for December. On January 20, 2023, Jillian Cowles will be the speaker. February’s speaker is TBD, March is the student symposium, and April is TBD. Ray hopes that we can go back to hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings again in the spring, like the April 2022 meeting.

**Evening Presentation:**

- The evening’s presentation was by CES President Ray Simpson, giving a talk titled: iNaturalist & Entomology: surveying Sleeping Giant State Park. Ray began by giving an outline of how iNaturalist works, and how one might upload an observation. iNaturalist observations include a picture and a location, and it has an AI system that assists with giving an ID. Other iNaturalist users can provide IDs for observations or to confirm suggested observations. If two people agree on an ID for an observation without any disagreement, the observation becomes “research grade”.

Ray went over several weaknesses of using iNaturalist for insect surveys. These include difficulty of identification from photographs, unreliable identification, overrepresentation of charismatic species and underrepresentation of cryptic or rare species, and geographic bias. However, iNaturalist observations have been able to produce fairly accurate maps of species distributions.

Ray talked about his iNaturalist biodiversity project in Sleeping Giant State Park, which is a forest park in suburban New Haven. Ray and collaborators set up a project on iNaturalist to collect observations and chose nocturnal sites for surveying within the park. Surveys were conducted using UV/MV light setups and bait applied to trees. Specimens were photographed for iNaturalist, and some were vouchered for identification in the lab. Surveys were conducted from 2018-2022, for a total of 92 outings.

The project has over 17,000 observations of all organisms to date, with 2,646 identified species, 2,078 insects. There were a total of 231 iNaturalist observers, meaning far more than Ray and his collaborators doing the surveying were involved. Ray presented an overview of different groups of insects observed, including Collembola, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Dermaptera, Plecoptera, Orthoptera, Phasmida, Mantodea, Blattodea, Hemiptera, Psocodea, Megaloptera, Neuroptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, and Lepidoptera. Many iNaturalist records were for common species, but there were many other records were of species that have very few iNaturalist records in CT or were the only record in CT for the species. Ray gave special emphasis on the moth genus *Catocala*, a genus that he is particularly interested in. Ray highlighted future work for surveying biodiversity at Sleeping Giant State Park: working on difficult identifications, continuing surveys at productive locations and at new locations, new sampling techniques (including daytime sampling), and outreach work.

Meeting adjourned at 20:57.

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