

SNOWY TREE CRICKET

Orthoptera: Oecanthidae

Oecanthus fultoni

Bug
of the
Month



Rhianna Truex (CC BY-NC)

The snowy tree cricket is a slender, pale-green cricket commonly found in shrubs, trees, and garden plants throughout Eastern North America. Typically about a half inch long, these delicate insects are easy to hear on a warm summer day or during early autumn evenings while they remain unseen within nearby vegetation.

Snowy tree crickets are sometimes called “thermometer crickets” because their chirp rate follows the temperature: Chirping is faster in warm temperature and slows in cooler temperatures. By counting the chirps for a short period, it is even possible to estimate the outdoor temperature—a small but fascinating example of nature’s patterns at work.

Across cultures, crickets are

associated with good luck and positive energy. Their cheerful nighttime songs are recognized as providing happiness and harmony to those who hear them.

By Natalie Boyle

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