

Newport Forest

Sunday June 19 2011

Weather: prec.0 mm; RH 56%; BP 101.2 kPa; haze/sun; calm; T 31° C

Purpose: finish trails & collect specimens

Participants: Kee, Steve (& Co.)

Steve was already busy with the weed-eater in the Blind Creek Forest when I arrived. He wanted to quit early, owing to an arrangement to take a friend and his girls downriver to Moraviantown by canoe. A leisurely stroke will get you there in about two hours, a hard paddle in one. Unknown to me, Steve's wife Karen and their friend Jim from Windsor were already down on the beach (now exposed for the first time this year). They returned to the trailer to meet with Steve and me, so we could all go to the river together. I saw them off without incident*, while Karen drove the truck back to Moraviantown.

Before departing, Steve reported that they had seen a Longnose Gar making its way upstream along the bank during an earlier gathering at the river. This recalled the gar migration I witnessed with Darren one spring several years ago.

Prowling the bluffs for new plants, I encountered a beautiful Brown Snake prowling for insects. I watched birds a while, seeing only Tree Swallows and Cedar Waxwings prowling the air over the river for insects. Returning to camp, I made a concerted search for butterflies and moths, thinking to make a list. Few of our common "leps" were about on this overcast day. As if to compensate for that, I spotted what I thought was a Dart (moth) and photographed it. At home I discovered that it was a Eusarca Moth, new to our records.

*I'm not sure if any liability issues are involved in this operation. I simply made sure that everyone had life jackets before departing.

Leps: (5)

European Skipper (ER/HBF); Eusarca Moth (RZ); Inornate Ringlet (ER/HBF); Red Admiral (GF/ER); Red-spotted Purple (Nk)

Birds: (15)

American Robin (BCF); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Field Sparrow (LM); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Oriole (BCF/LM); Red-

bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Tree Swallow (TR); Turkey Vulture (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Wood Thrush (EW)

Phenology:

Mussel Beach exposed; Basswood in fruit; Hop Tree in full bloom -- very aromatic!

New Species:

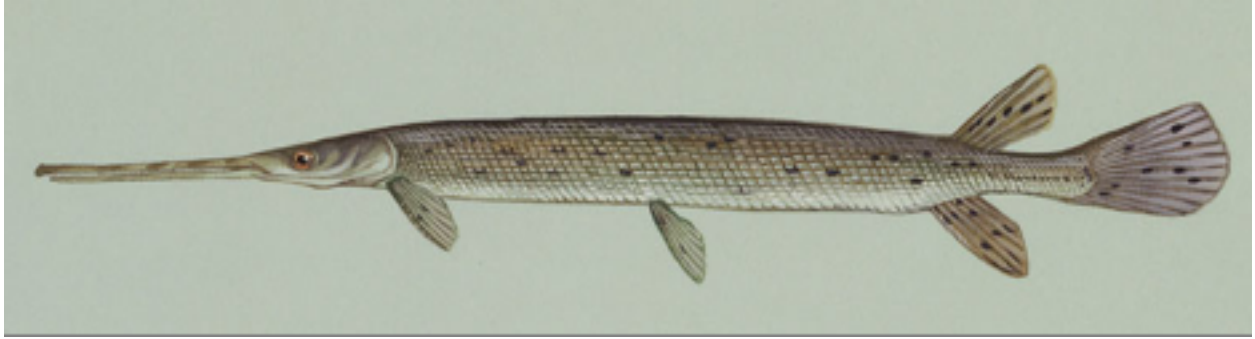
Confused Eusarca Moth** *Eusarca confusaria* LM KD Je19/11

**Fam. Geometridae

IMAGES:



On Mussel Beach Steve helps Jim and his daughters prepare for the canoe run.



The Longnose Gar represents our most ancient fish lineage and may grow to a length of 1.3 m. Gars that size have been seen in Mitchell's Bay near the Thames mouth (Lighthouse Point) at Lake St Clair



The Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*) is one of our smaller snakes, easily identified by the twin rows of black dots along the back, ground colour brown, and half the size of the Eastern Garter (*ceteris paribus*).