

Time: 2:15 - 7:20 pm August 26 2012

Weather: PC 0 mm; RH 65%; BP 102.2 kPa;

Activity: Kee hunts for new species with Erin Carroll and Jonathan Dewdney

Jonathan and I arrived a bit late on site, finding Erin already prowling the Upper Meadow for butterflies. She waved us along. "I'll see you down there." Once we were assembled in the Nook, Erin announced that she had found a Variegated Fritillary, as in her image below. The find would have to be confirmed, of course,



since this was not a common critter. For this good office she would use Blake Mann, a local butterfly expert. (later confirmed)

Planning the afternoon ahead, I wondered if we have time for an aquatic component to our search. Perhaps not. She would have to leave early. Erin then went off in search of more butterflies. Jonathan went to the river to check for Spinies

and I started sweeping the Lower Meadow. The only new species I netted in the first foray was a stink bug that I decided to call the “Two-tone Stink Bug” (See new Species, below) because of the sharp delineation of colour, a whitish pronotum, the rest of the dorsum (wing covers, etc.) being a darkish brown.

When Jonathan came back, he noticed a tiny orange mushroom growing in a grassy area near the Nook. This turned out to be a new species. He then showed me the image of what appeared to be a Green Frog that he had photographed down by the river. It was covered all over with tiny brown warts. A puzzler! Just then Erin came in, slightly out of breath. She had found what she thought was a Duskywing. Was it a Dreamy Duskywing? She slipped the new find into a plastic container for closer inspection.

Fired by her success, Erin went off again, while Jonathan and I continued to search the Lower Meadow, finding a Tetragnatha spider and a number of insects already known or of no particular interest. Then Erin came back, this time with what appeared to be a new skipper. We went through a number of possibilities, finally settling on the Fiery Skipper as the most likely culprit. We thought the Fiery was new to the list, but Dave Martin spotted one here two years ago. It’s a pity Erin had to leave then. Who knows what she may have come up with?

Jonathan and I decided to walk the Thames River Trail, as much to keep it exercised as for any other reason. It had rained a bit recently, enough to bring out some interesting fungi. We found some recent *Lactarius* mushrooms growing along the Bluffs section of the trail and, later on, Jonathan drew my attention to a bolete that I have seen several times over the years, always assuming that the strangely dimpled cap was an aging effect. Later I would discover that it was a character of a species of *Leccinum*, which is a new genus for us in any case. At the base of some trees we ran across what appeared to be a troop of gorgeous *Agaricus* mushrooms, most closely resembling *A. silvaticus*, but they had no rings and were not growing among pines. Such specimens are added to an ever-growing list of unidentified species. Later Jonathan discovered some fibre-head mushrooms growing on a log.

We took a break up on the Hogsback, sitting on the bench there and watching a rather torpid little spider make its way across the wooden seat. This was our next new species, a Uloborid that spins a partial orb web shaped like a pie-slice. this is not only a new species, but a new family for us. Given that Jonathan found three new species on the day, he and Erin both have reason to celebrate.

Leps: (14 -- Erin's list)

Black Swallowtail (UM); Cabbage White (UM); Clouded Sulphur (UM); Common Buckeye (UM); Eastern Tailed Blue (UM); Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (UM); Fiery Skipper (UM); Inornate Ringlet (UM); Monarch (UM); Northern Crescent (UM); Orange Sulphur (UM); Painted Lady (UM); Wild Indigo Dusky-wing (UM); Variegated Fritillary (UM)

New Species: [ID materials available]

'Two-tone Stink Bug'	<i>Banasa calva</i>	LM KD Sp26/12
Wild Indigo Duskywing	<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	UM EC Sp26/12
Variegated Fritillary	<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	UM EC Sp26/12
'Striped Longjaw'	<i>Tetragnatha straminea*</i>	LM KD Au26/12
Triangle Web Spider	<i>Hyptiotes</i> sp.	HB jd/KD Sp26/12
'Orange Hat-pin'	<i>Mycena [acicula]</i>	Nk jd/KD Sp26/12
'Dimpled Leccinum'	<i>Leccinum rugosiceps</i>	BRT jd/KD Sp26/12

Species Notes:

The Striped Longjaw is already on the list as *Tetragnatha [straminea]*, found in '08, the square brackets indicating uncertainty as to species. The new find enables us to strip the brackets and change the record to reflect the new date, locale, etc. (That's how the bracket notation is intended to work.)

The last species in this list, while almost certainly a *Mycena*, is a match in cap size and colour for *M. acicula*, but the stalk is too short and bright orange (as the cap), instead of longer and yellow. In fact, morphologically, the mushroom in question is a match for *M. viscidocruenta*, but it's not scarlet. There are over 2000 sibling species of *Mycena* extant, so we'll have to leave it there, with only about 200 or so species examined. Cap size of our specimens: 2-3 mm, height 1-2 cm. On soil and sparse woody debris among grass at forest edge. Gills slightly adnate.

Great website: Be sure to visit Erin's website "Nature in Ontario's Banana Belt". There you will find images of Erin's butterflies: <http://erintown.blogspot.ca/>

IMAGES:



Jonathan Dewdney

I hold the net for Erin while she attempts to bottle a specimen. We also used baggies (as below) to examine her finds.



Fiery Skipper

Source: Erin's website