

**Date & time:** Thursday June 27 2013 2:10 - 6:05 pm

**Weather:** Pr 14 mm; RH 75%; BP 100.8 kPa; calm; clear; T 31° C

**Activities:** The All Taxa Biological Inventory continues.

I was greeted in the Nook by this rough-fruited Cinquefoil (at a guess) growing nearby. The weather predictions for the day turned out to be completely wrong. Far from being rainy, the sky had cleared and the heat was fierce out in the open.



But tree-shaded areas held their own perils, with swarms of newly minted mosquitoes out for blood. What to do? What else? Nothing but ATBI.

On my way to the first of several heat-limited forays, net & jar in hand, I noticed a Honeybee on a clover flower. Along the edge of the grassy access road I found a Brown Stink Bug that I was about to photograph when it flew off making a noise rather like a prolonged f\*\*t. (Is that why they call them “stink bugs”?) The next insect resembled a dark, baby preying mantis. Luckily the photos were quite

sharp and I could later identify it not as a mantis nymph, but as an Assassin bug. Visiting a milkweed plant across the road, I found the developing flowers full of Earwigs. A lone Milkweed Stem Weevil prowled further down and an Amber Snail sat on one of the leaves, with no obvious plans for the day.

Further into the Regen zone I hit paydirt with a new-looking *Xysticus* crab spider, dark red in colour. Another example of last week's new orange-sided Mirid, *Lopidea media* showed up in the net; along with a green Praying Mantis nymph about an inch long. As well, I finally decided to examine one of the bottle-shaped black "beetles" only to discover that they had been bugs all along, judging by the distinctly buglike antenna. Later it turned out to be one of the few (if not the only) all-black Damsel Bug species. I found a Seven-spotted Lady Beetle and, finally, a green-eyed Mayfly, apparently the same species as the one caught two weeks ago.

Taking a break by the trailer, I was staring vacantly into the Gallery Forest, riding a train of thought, when a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew into my field of view, hovering there long enough to derail the train. It darted from bush to bush, working its way back up the road and out of sight. Always a delight.

Down by Fleming Creek I found a Red Harvestman (*Leiobunum*, sp. not new). A small brownish weevil showed up -- See new species -- and the net always had nymphal grasshoppers in it. On my way back up to the camp, I passed a troop of tiny white mushrooms with black pin-like stems, *Marasmius rotula*, at a guess.

One more trip, I thought, should do it. How about the River Landing? Bad idea! The mosquitoes were as thick as I had ever experienced them and the Jewelwings that accompanied me were no help. Don't they eat mosquitoes? After a few unproductive sweeps a bug showed up but my Lumix refused to take any more pictures, complaining about a drained battery. I took that as a sign to return to camp.

The sky was growing ominously overcast to the west, signaling the advent of a large system. The temperature began to drop, insects vanished and birds grew silent, so I silently pulled my own vanishing act.

### **Birds: (12)**

Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Flicker (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (BCF/LM); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (LM/GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (Rd); Turkey Vulture (LM)

**Phenology:** first Honeybees, fireflies, earwigs; Black-caps in red berry stage

**New Species:**

‘Brick red Crab Spider’	<i>Xysticus [luctans]</i>	LM KD Je27/13
Black Damsel Bug	<i>Nabis subcoleoptrata</i>	LM KD Je27/13
Spined Assassin Bug	<i>Sinea [diadema]</i>	LM KD Je27/13
‘Bordered Stink Bug’	<i>Normidea lugens</i>	LM KD Je27/13
‘Arrowhead Bug’	[ <i>Metriorrhynchomiris dislocatus</i> ]	FCL KD Je19/13
‘Brown-necked Weevil’	<i>Hypera rumicis</i>	FCL KD Je27/13
metallic green Dolichopodid	<i>Condylostylus</i> sp.	LM KD Je27/13

**Notes:**

1. Steve Palero, a grad student of Steve Marshall, has tentatively identified a mystery bug found on grasses near Fleming Creek on the June 19th visit as (wait for it) *Metriorrhynchomiris dislocatus*, but an unusual color/pattern variant of that species. The grasshopper we had square-bracketed as [*Atlanticus monticola*] on June 5th turned out to be the already-observed *Metrioptera roesellii*. The former species therefore goes into the list with square brackets, while the latter comes off.

2. Greg Thorn, our consulting mycologist, could not confirm (or deny) the Wood Collybia (*Collybia ectypoides*) reported on June 22 owing to the presence of other species of Collybia that grow on wood. However, we *may* once again have been blind-sided by incomplete guides (books and websites) which, to save space, often omit species that turn out to be lookalikes of ones already in the guides. The entry now gets square brackets.

3. The ATBI count was recently redone and we were surprised to find that, over the years, I had overcounted by nearly 100 species!. The accurate counts, with the today’s finds included, now stand as follows:

Plantae	474
Animalia	940
Protista	194
Fungi and Lichens	221
Eubacteria (incl. blue-greens)	22
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Current total species:	1851

**IMAGES:**



The Black Damsel Bug is common on the property. We could have collected it years ago, but I always assumed (without examining it closely) that it was a beetle. The resemblance is even acknowledged in the species name, *subcoleoptrata* or “almost beetlelike”.



This nymphal stage of a spined Assassin Bug has yet to develop wings. The genus *Sinea* has 11 species in North America and southern Canada, all of them with spines on the forelegs, some species looking like miniature thorn-bushes! The white dots on this specimen are evidently small whitish spines. Larger blunt spines can be seen along the femora of the front legs. In our sources I found a few other genera of Assassin Bugs with some minutely spiny species, but nothing to compare with *Sinea*. Comments on our specimen are welcome, images available on request.