

**Date and time:** Friday July 12 2013 3:50 - 9:55 pm

Weather: Pr 7 mm; RH 49%; BP 102.2 kPa; calm; clear; T 30° C

**Activity:** ATBI: Mosquitoes drive me from forest to field

As soon as I arrived in camp, I could hear Common Grackles everywhere. But within ten minutes or so, they had all cleared out! However, my attention was immediately caught by woolly aphids arranged along the stems of herbaceous plants and smaller branches of Hawthorn. Could they be Woolly Apple Aphids?



I had come to finish the forest survey project, counting trees along the main trail deep in the Riverside Forest. When I got there, however, the mosquitoes put the lie to the advertising claims of OFF and other repellants. In short, I became discouraged and quit, coward that I am. I had also intended to roll a few logs to look for non-insect arthropods. Not long after taking the image of a lone earthworm, I beetled up to the Hogsback, then down into the Blind Creek Forest. Walking the Blind Creek Trail, I flushed a White-tailed Deer from its daybed.

The rest of the time was spent more or less profitably in the lower Meadow, down by the lower rapids of Fleming Creek, and then up in the Copse, an arm of the Upper Meadow.

The Lower Meadow yielded one new species and one we found last year. The new species had a distinctive-looking white medial line running along its body, among other characters. The other species gave me a case of *deja vu*. It had the wing venation of a Plant Hopper, and a strange beak. (Google “*Scolops sulcipes*” and you’ll see something weird.) The Lower Rapids of the creek fooled me into thinking that a new species of water-strider had finally shown up. Nope. A nymph of *Gerris* sp. A Tarnished Plant Bug (not new) clung to a plant and a bright yellow little Lady Beetle with a cryptic black design on the elytra clung to a Yellow Loosestrife flower. (I wish they hadn’t translated “fourteen-spotted” into Latin!)

In the late evening I visited the Copse, a great spot for mushrooms, finding what looked like a Fawn Mushroom and a Bolete with blight yellow pores. I collected the fruiting bodies and have since sent imagery to Greg Thorn, our mycological consultant. Then I sat back to enjoy the sunset, as below.

### **Birds:** (13)

American Robin (BCF); Blue Jay (LM); Common Flicker (BCF); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Field Sparrow (HL); Gray Catbird (GF); Great Crested Flycatcher (PL); Mourning Dove (Nk); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

**Phenology:** Woolly Aphids appearing, bunch galls forming on goldenrod plants

### **New Species:**

Roesel’s Bush Cricket*	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	LM kdSP J112/13
‘White-lined Stinkbug’	<i>Neottiglossa undata</i>	LM KD J112/13
Fourteen-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	LM KD J112/13
Woolly Aphid	subfamily Aphelininae**	Nk KD J112/13

\* with thanks to Steve Palero, U of Guelph \*\* Later, if we obtain a genus for these aphids, this entry will be replaced, It counts as a new species in any case.

### **IMAGES:**



Resembling more what we commonly call a grasshopper, Roesel's Bush Cricket is native to Europe and England. Appearing first in Quebec, it has since spread into Ontario and as far as the midwestern US. The individual shown here appears to be a female. (Check the ovipositor.)



A new moon peeking through the trees marks the mystic month of Ramadan, bathing forest and field in secondhand sunlight. As the crescent slowly descended into the gathering twilight, three ducks beat their way home from river to creek. A lone bat fluttered over the meadow for a while, then back into the Gallery forest. Somewhere off to the east, a coyote sang briefly, interrupted by a fierce snarl from the Nook where two Raccoons squabbled over some kibble. Meanwhile, fireflies lit tiny lamps, flashing secret love-messages to each other.