

**Date and Time:** Thursday September 26 2013

**Weather:** Pr 77mm; RH 47%; BP 102.1 kPa; clear; calm; T 28° C

**Activity:** Short & Sweet ATBI on a beautiful day

I was overjoyed to find 77 mm in the rain gauge. We knew that it had rained heavily throughout southern Ontario five days ago and had been expecting such an amount to have fallen on site. But it wasn't until I visited the creek that I understood the extent of resulting flood, as shown in the accompanying image. The perfectly horizontal band of whitened vegetation on the far bank shows the high-



est extent of floodwater. It left a silvery silt/clay residue on every leaf it touched.

I would have little time on site today, as I was due to meet Darren Jacobs in Moraviatown at 4:30 pm. Consequently, except for a brief visit to the Blind Creek Forest, I decided to take advantage of the fine weather and nab as many arthro-

pods as I could. This time, however, instead of skipping insects that I thought were probably already on the ATBI list, I took images of everything I could find, sweeping the meadow and pausing to hand-search individual plants. I decided, as a one-time illustration of the effort, to list all of the seemingly non-new species, as well as the new ones. The result surprised me, especially the grasshopper *Chorthippus* which I thought we had already recorded!.

I did not bother to keep a bird list, although I heard two different Common Flickers calling often, one from the Gallery Forest and one from Blind Creek.

Down at Moraviantown, Darren introduced me to Sherry Huff, who is not only his chief trail assistant, but a professional lady with a CBC career going for her. After that I stopped by Steve Logan's place to drop off a present. Steve pointed out that the nine-day commemoration of the Battle of Moraviantown (where the great native leader Tecumseh lost his life), would start this weekend.

**Phenology:** Goldenrod dying back, Asters in peak bloom; Fleming Creek has 3m flood; 90% of trees still green, rest turning

### **New Species:**

Marsh Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus curtippennis</i>	LM KD Sp26/13
'Army Tree Hopper'	<i>Cyrtolobus tuberosus</i>	LM KD Sp26/13
'White-lined Rhopalid'	<i>Stictopleurus</i> sp	LM KD Sp26/13
'Long-horned Syrphid'	<i>Spilomyia longicornis</i>	LM KD Sp26/13
'Five-banded Digger Bee'	<i>Andrena [hirticineta]</i>	LM KD Sp26/13

### **Notes:**

The following species, although not new, were also found and photographed today: 'Black-striped Mangora' (*Mangora placida*), Northern Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa asperata*), Two-striped Plant Hopper (*Acanalonia bivittata*), Asian Lady Beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*), Eristaline fly (*Helophilus faciatus?*), European Earwig (*Forficula auricularia*), Common Meadow Katydid (*Orchelimum vulgare*) -- plus a damsel fly and a dingy plant hopper that I haven't identified yet.

**Readers Write:** (re: the deer in *Newport Forest Bulletin* Sept 19)

Allen Woodliffe (MNR) adds two reasons for the fall deer hunt: "I suspect part of the reason the hunt is in the fall, is indeed for trophy animals. However there are

also two other reasons: (1) the animals are fatter and in much better shape than they are in the spring or summer, so they provide more food to the successful hunter; (2) removing animals from the population in the fall means there is more food available for those animals trying to survive the harsher winter period.”

Donald Craig (St Clair CA) on the hunt: “I just got an article the other day that says the rut will begin late this year, with the seeking phase not starting until about the 8th of November [and] breeding not starting until the 20th. Most tree rubbing and scraping is during the seeking and chasing phases. You might want to note when you see the first of each and the heaviest activity -- or not.”

### IMAGES:



If you look closely at this Syrphid fly (*Spilomyia longicornis*), you will notice something strange about the eyes: They are striped, somewhat in the manner of certain Deer Flies in the genus *Chrysops*. To see the eyes to better advantage, simply enter the species name into the browser window in Google Images.



Who doesn't enjoy a good mystery? I had purchased a 1.8 kg bag of kibble to bait the trail cams (something I don't do often). I left it on a chair in the Nook while I went into the Blind Creek Forest to check the cams. On my return, I found the bag lying under the chair, with one corner ripped open. There were several prints on the seat, one of them clear enough to read. Whodunit? The right/rear print on the seat seemed too small to belong to a Raccoon, but turned out to be barely within the length range for that animal. **Guess:** a very hungry subadult Raccoon driven to forage by day, ripped the bag open and began to eat just before I returned. To get more, it will have to visit our outdoor photographic studio.