

**Date and time:** Thursday October 3

**Weather:** Pr 0mm; RH 64%; BP 101.9 kPa; calm; clear; T 25° C

**Activity:** Sweeping all the trails

Another fine day in early Fall greeted me as I drove into the site, took the weather and planned the day's activities. Feeling in fine fettle, I decided to walk every trail, sampling with the net as I went. How much longer will this weather last?

I swept in the Lower Meadow, visited the creek where I found a Short-winged Meadow Katydid, then set out on the main trail, stopping at the river bluffs for the captivating view shown here. Having set out at 3:00, it wasn't until 5:30 that I



got back to camp, my legs aching, but my camera full of images, and my notebook full of notes. During the walk the sky had become heavily overcast and a light rain came and went. Short perhaps, but good for fungi!

The Lower Meadow provided most of today's sample, including a rather small orb weaver that I have been seeing frequently, but have shied away from trying to identify. However, it turned out to be easier than I thought, thanks to a "taxonomically challenged" family. Then a new species of the Stink Bug *Euschistus* alighted on my arm (see below), as if eager to join the database.

The Thames River Trail, some 1.64 km long, provided very little in the way of arthropods, most forest species being on the ground or in trees and bushes. In the middle of the Riverside Forest, I took a "spur line" to the Sandbar, a place we have visited very little this year. Everything seems different there, open areas of recently deposited sand, the remainder a riot of vegetation dominated by Giant Ragweed and draped with several species of vine.

As I left the Sand Bar trail to rejoin the main trail, a tremendous squawking and gobbling set up deeper in the Riverside Forest ahead of me. It sounded like perhaps a half-dozen Wild Turkeys, taking flight to roost in overhead trees, out of harm's way from this dangerous human.

After a few more sweeps, I found myself at the foot of the Hogsback and had just begun to make my way upward, when squawkings and crashing noises overhead startled me. I had forgotten about the turkeys, now taking off in a shower of broken branches. Their wings must be extraordinarily strong! Coming down the other side of the Hogsback, I lost my focus for a while, wondering when the diversion of Blind Creek occurred. The vernal ponds appear to be nothing less than ancient pools and riffles, filling only during heavy rains or in the spring snow melt. I imagine a native village to have lined its banks once. I am haunted.

A furtive shape scurrying through the leaf litter snapped me out of the reverie. Mouse? No, a large wolf spider. It was a bugger to get still, constantly scurrying, with me taking pictures as fast as they would load into the sd card. I ended with one useable image. Further along I was impressed by a huge cluster of Pear-shaped Puffballs (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*) growing on a liner log by the trail. Still further, I was greeted by several False Turkeytail fungi (*Stereum ostrea*). Moments later, I began to feel patters of rain. These turned into a light drizzle, so I picked up the pace to get back to camp before the heavens opened. The heavens never did open and the rain ceased about 15 minutes later.

An informal list of the day's take, besides the arthropods already mentioned, would include:

- a green Stinkbug (?) nymph in the Lower Meadow
- a possible Nerienne spider

and a Black-horned Meadow Katydid  
an Alder Spittlebug, one of the “cutest” insects I know

I have learned to check the trailer for insects, whether hugging the warm metal surface, trying to get outside through the window screens, or crawling over the floor. The *Polistes* paper wasp *P. fuscatus* is always found indoors these days, while the Boxelder bug crawls around the outside with no clear purpose. I spotted a long black beetle crawling across the trailer door mat. Getting in close for a few images, I quickly discovered that it was a click beetle the colour of brown shoe polish. It was new, illustrating once again the value of these trailer surveys.

Less than an hour from sundown, I drove out. As I passed a row of bushes in the Upper Meadow, I noticed many small birds flying back and forth, possibly migrating warblers.

**Birds: (9)**

American Crow (TR); American Robin (BCF); Blue Jay (GF); Common Flicker (GF); Common Grackle (GF); Gray Catbird (Nk); Northern Cardinal (TR); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Wild Turkey (RSF)

**Phenology:** Goldenrod bloom finished, still some Many-flowered and New England Asters in bloom.

**New Species:**

Large Wolf Spider	<i>Schizocosa [avida]</i>	BCF KD Oc03/13
‘Brown-backed Orb weaver’	<i>Tetragnatha [caudata]</i>	LM KD Oc03/13
Ray Spider	<i>Theridiosoma gemmosum</i>	LM KD Oc03/13
Brown Stinkbug	<i>Euschistus servus</i>	LM KD Oc03/13
‘Shoebrown Click Beetle’	<i>Limenius [agonus]</i>	Tr KD Oc03/13

**Note 1:** the large Wolf Spider may well be new, but the count will not go up, as we already have a database entry for “*Schizocosa* sp.”, with no species given. By the rules of our record-keeping, the new entry merely replaces the old one. If another species that is clearly different from *S. avida* should be found, a new entry will then be made. As far as the genus *Tetragnathus* goes, there are approximately 230 species named! The spider family Theridiosomatidae has only one genus in our area and only two species.

**Note 2:** Entomologists Steve Palero and Jeff Skevington kindly supplied the following information about three specimen images (one rather blurry) that I recently sent out for comment, including images for the following log entries:

‘White-lined Rhopalid’	<i>Stictopleurus</i> sp	LM KD Sp26/13
‘Five-banded Mason Wasp’	<i>Eudynerus</i> [foraminatus]	LM KD Sp28/13

“[The bug image] looks to be a *Stictopleurus*, and there is only one species known in Ontario (*S. punctiventris*). Your second *Stictopleurus* looks like a Miridae (Probably *Lygus* but the image is quite blurry) Not familiar enough with the Eumeninae to make a fair assessment of the photos. Have you looked at Matt Buck’s Atlas of Northeastern Vespidae on CJAI?” Steve Palero

“I agree with Steve that the second image looks like the Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*). Buck or Cumming should be able to ID the eumemine wasp, but try Matt Buck's key first.”

<[http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/bmc\\_05/bmc\\_05.html](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/bmc_05/bmc_05.html)>.

Jeff Skevington

Thanks to the Entomology Brains Trust, we can now put a species to *Stictopleurus* and visit the suggested website for another go at the Mason Wasp.

### **Announcement**

#### **SECOND ANNUAL FALL FUNGUS BIOBLITZ**

On Sunday October 27, starting at one pm, mycologist GregThorn will conduct a fungus workshop on site. The event will consist of a walk in which Greg will point out fungi encountered along the main trail and, possibly, beyond. Specimens will be collected then taken back to camp to analyse and identify. Here is a golden opportunity to watch a mycologist in the field. Who knows? If you’re young, this may be your *field* some day!

Because of the popularity of this event, we ask that those who wish to attend the workshop pre-register with Erin Carroll: <[erin.carroll@gmail.com](mailto:erin.carroll@gmail.com)> Directions for Newport Forest will be included in the next, more detailed announcement, to be distributed soon.

**IMAGES:**



Best image of the day shows this stink bug, *Euschistus servus*, aka the Brown Stinkbug, exploring the lunar terrain of my wrist.



Newport Forest is gaining land at the expense of the property across the river. (Don't tell anyone!) During floods, turbulence removes soil from the bank it is currently cutting across the river and deposits it downriver on this side, thanks to cross currents. In the vicinity of the image shown here, the currents would slow and sand would rain out of the suspended load. (The camera, of course, would be under water.)

We have been monitoring the Sandbar (as we call it) for a good ten years. It is now about 40 m long and a good 10 m wide.