

**Date and time:** Thursday June 19 2014

**Weather:** Pr 16mm; RH 67%; BP 102.1 kPa; calm; cloud/sun; T 26° C

**Activity:** Animal ATBI and mounting of memorial plaque

Steve and I spent an hour mixing cement and then pouring a base for the stake that will hold Jane Bowles' memorial plaque. Once the pour was complete, Steve made up a jig from scrap boards to hold the plaque in place until the cement had set. Everything is now ready for the dedication ceremony this Saturday.



Trail Cam #1 caught two fawns over the last week. This one showed up last Saturday morning at 9:55 am. The other fawn was slightly larger and a lighter brown, with fewer and larger spots.

Just before we got started on the plaque I noticed a tiny spider crawling on a leaf near Jane's Sassafras. It was a nimble little bugger and led us on a merry chase, with me taking 50 images trying to get one good one. (See new species.)

While the concrete was setting, Steve came down to Fleming Creek with me to assist in the collection of more aquatic insects. I swept up a Water Strider and had to put it in a baggie to keep it from jumping around while I took an ID image or ten. I was sweeping along the bank where I caught the Water Boatmen a week ago,

when I noticed what looked like a baby eel at the bottom of the net — and only an inch long. I have since concluded that it's the fry of a Gar that spawned upstream in the creek. (See IMAGES.) If it's a Longnose Gar, it would not be a new species. On June 6 back in 2002, Darren and I stood at the edge of the river to watch the passage of several Longnose Gar forming a sort of train right next to the shore and downstream from the mouth of Fleming Creek. "Longnoses migrating," announced Darren. The snouts of the fish took up half their body length!

I caught a few small Water Boatmen, but not the species I was looking for. Then we left the creek to clamber up the bluffs and over to the plaque to check the cement. Good to go. And so was Steve, off to pick up wife Karen from the train.

I was alone. The appearance of a Virginia Ctenuchid moth in the Nook reminded me of the day's next mission: arthropods. More Virginia Ctenuchids appeared as I followed the old watering trail through the Regen Zone of the Lower Meadow. I also found some old friends such as the Clearwing Scorpionfly (*Panorpa clari-pennis*) and a Green Lacewing (*Chrysopa* sp). More Leps: a Monarch (our first of the year) an Anglewing of unknown punctuation, a Meadow Fritillary, a Spring Azure, and a Giant Swallowtail.

After a break in the Nook, I decided to walk along the Gallery Forest beside the road, edge habitats often being richer than uniform ones. I was glad I did. An unusual *Phylloxera* gall in the shape of a doughnut decorated a Hickory leaf nearby. Then came the disgusting sight of a naked green Cercopid spitting up a mass of bubbles and leaving a long string of drool hanging from a twig in front of me. Next came a dwarf jumping spider that turned out to be new. The general technique involves frequent stop-and-scan moves. At the next stop I was startled by the sight of not one but *two pairs* of Robber Flies mating on adjacent leaves.

On the way out I stopped to check the memorial plaque and looked up at the increasingly cloudy sky. The weather has been peculiar since last fall, with new cloud often forming *in situ* as a diffuse haze in the middle of a blue sky, then thickening into a layer of new cloud, not clouds. Weather is a great mystery.

**Phenology:** First sightings of Virginia Ctenuchid and Monarch butterfly

**New Species:**

'Yellow-backed Cobweb Spider'	<i>Theridion albidum</i>	GF KD Je19/14
'Miniature Jumping Spider'	<i>Pelegrina proturva</i>	GF KD Je19/14

‘Bumblebee Robber Fly’**	<i>Laphria flavicollis</i>	LM/GF KD Je19/14
‘Double-vee Water Strider’	<i>Aquarius remiges</i>	FC KD Je19/14

**Species Notes:** the tiny Cobweb spider also led us on a merry taxonomic chase, as we began with the assumption that it was a Linyphiid. Not. The image I took of the small jumper exactly matched the image in Tom Murray’s excellent arthropod website, right down to not only markings, but angle of the shot and torsion of the body! The Robber Fly was our fourth species of Asilid on site.

**Readers Write:** What I thought might be a slug moth larva may not be, after all, witness the first two messages:

Allen Woodliffe: “Another informative and enjoyable bulletin. I hope that your wildlife cam captures a cougar one of these days! I’m not a lepidopterist, but I try sometimes : My first inclination on the larva was a slug moth as well, but in perusing my *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, I am more inclined to go with a larva of the American Copper. It will be interesting to see what others come up with, but that is my nickel's worth.”

Steve Palero: “[The] moth might be a hairstreak of some denomination (e.g. Gray Hairstreak)”

Steve Marshall: On the Water Boatman ID of the previous *Bulletin*, he writes, ”Don’t go to the bother of mailing the specimens to satisfy my curiosity, this will wait. I think you are correct though, and the specimens will be the first Ontario *Corisella* I have seen.”

**Readership Note:** The *Newport Forest Bulletin* now goes to about 250 readers divided roughly into thirds: biologists and ecologists; naturalists of various kinds; and “nature lovers.” The big challenge is to make everyone happy.

**Current ATBI Counts:** The current total species count stands at **1959**, rapidly nearing the 2000 mark. The breakdown by kingdom looks like this:

Plantae	483
Animalia	1019
Protista	199
Fungi & Lichens	236
Eubacteria	22

**IMAGES:**



Readers may recall the image of mating Coreid bugs in the previous *Bulletin*. The next instalment in a continuing entopornographic series involves this pair of Robber Flies (see New Species) caught *in flagro delecti* on a Hawthorn leaf at the edge of the Gallery Forest. When the camera loomed, the pair took off, flying United one could say.





**Calling all ichthyologists:** What appears to be the fry (“larva”) of a Long-nose Gar was caught while I was trying to scoop up some more Water Boatmen. Interestingly, it’s closer match to fry of the Shortnose Gar, but we’re just outside the distribution map for that species. Is it the young of a Spotted Gar? Here’s a fine mystery, not only for ichthyologists but anyone with an interest in fishes. (I should have spent more time getting images.)

Note the eye that sees you before you see it. The nose is long and on its way to getting longer. Next, the long dark stripe running down the side, a typical character of baby gars, according to imagery on the web. I was unable to find any examples of Gar fry with a row of reddish marks along their sides. The caudal fin may be folded over inside the containing baggie. The spine seems to end along one side of the caudal fin in early development.