

**Date and time:** Thursday July 17 2014 2:10 - 8:30 pm

**Weather:** Pr 4mm: RH 38%; BP 102.0 kPa; NE 5-10 kmh; sun/cld; T 26° C

**Activity:** ATBI in the Power Line Meadow

We stopped at the gate to check a large patch of Milkweed growing there. Were any Monarch butterflies about? One fluttered by. Later in the day, as we drove out, we stopped again. I found a Milkweed Beetle on one of the plants, as below. If you search long enough in any patch of Milkweed, you are almost certain to encounter this colourful beetle. The plant gets its name from the “milk” exuded by the leaves, seen below in the row of white droplets on the stem.



Arriving at the trailer we wasted little time getting started, spotting two more Monarchs in the Lower Meadow, bringing our total count for the day to just three!

While Pat prepared for the short trek to the power lines, I did a quick search of the foliage nearby, turning up several Japanese Beetles. a species that we had not seen on the property until now. Does that mean that Newport Forest is ecologically “healthy” in respect of this invasive beetle or are we simply blind?

In the trailer, we found signs that our Long-tailed Weasel resident, “Wendy” had returned. Two little presents adorned her scat station on one of the trailer seats.

In the Power Line Meadow, things went well at first, with new-looking species appearing in the net. But things deteriorated as soon as we went separate ways. Pat wanted to inspect a patch of Swamp Milkweed that grew by the edge of the forest and I suddenly “realized” that my field pack was missing. I spent an hour searching the hawthorn scrub under the power lines in the mistaken belief that I had brought the pack with me. (Senior Moment # 1) Pat, meanwhile, could not seem to locate the Swamp Milkweed that she had seen there several years ago. (Senior Moment #2) In spite of these setbacks, the ATBI haul was pretty good for three hours. As can be seen below, we netted seven new species. As well, two more species remain problematic while five others were already “old.”

Steve and Karen Logan dropped by for a supper of hot dogs and chocolate cake in celebration of Karen’s recent birthday. Toward the end of our humble party, Common Grackles could be heard croaking everywhere, a large scattered flock of the birds flying over the Nook to alight in the woods. “Don’t they normally do this in the fall,” I asked. “Maybe they know something we don’t,” said Steve.

**Birds:** (14)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (PL); American Robin (FC); Blue Jay (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Eastern Kingbird (LM); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (BCF); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (HBF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (LM)

**Phenology:** Vernal ponds completely dried up.

**New Species:**

Sixspotted Orbweaver	<i>Araniella displicata</i>	PL KD J117/14
‘Half-green Crab Spider’	<i>Diaea [dorsata]</i>	PL KD J117/14
‘Stilt-legged Plant Bug’	<i>Collaria meilieurii</i>	PL KD J117/14
Orange-spotted Polymerus	<i>Polymerus venaticus</i>	PL KD J117/14
Japanese Beetle	<i>Popilla japonica</i>	LM/HBF KD J117/14
Black-beaked Green Weevil	<i>Hypera nigrirostris</i>	PL KD J117/14
Thick-headed Fly	<i>Physocephala tibialis</i>	PL KD J117/14

**Readers Write:** (reactions to Bulletin # 941 describing a “predated rabbit” as well as an overnight stay on July 5 last)

Peter Dewdney: “Seems to me that the rabbit was postdated rather than predated.”

Jessie Amery: “What an overnight adventure you managed so well. Pictures are great. That's the first time I've seen a Michigan Lily. Thanks!”

**IMAGES:**



Fringed Loosestrife is sometimes called Nodding Loosestrife; for this image we had to bend the plant backwards just to catch the face of the otherwise drooping flowers. Fringed Loosestrife is a native plant that grows in wet meadows and along stream banks.



We are suckers for sunsets and so include this image (taken as we left) instead of something more educational or informative. The sky had grown increasingly cloudy through the day, leaving few sunny breaks later on. We stayed late on site hoping to record the mysterious wheezy calls that we thought might be those of a Barn Owl.