

Date and time: Thursday October 2 2014 2:30 - 8:00 pm

Weather: Pr 14 mm; RH 79%; BP 101.8 kPa; haze/sun; SE 5-10 kmh; T 23° C

Activity: We build a light trap of dreams and nobody comes.

I must admit right off the bat that our attempt at a light trap was a dismal failure. The principle is simple enough: shine a bright light on a white sheet in a wooded area at night and simply wait for all the night-flying insects to flock in. One of the moths I hoped to see was the Gold Moth. The adult and its larva appear below. The adult was discovered in a light trap on site operated by entomologist Stan Caveney on August 13 of 2002. The larva was found a mere three weeks ago by Sama Abid,



today's assistant, as well. The image of the larva was sent out to our entomology brains trust. No one replied until Hugh Casbourn, an expert naturalist, finally identified the larva as belonging to *Basiloides pepita*, the Gold Moth. Well done Hugh! (Gold moth photo credit: Brent Steury of Moth Photographers.)

Waiting for sunset, we filled in the time by sweeping the Lower Meadow with a net and walking down to the creek. The sweeping brought out several species, none of them new, but worth recording nevertheless: Banded Argiope (*Argiope trifasciata*); Brown Stink Bug (*Euschistus servus*); Eleven-spotted Potato Beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*); Impatient Bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*); Bald-faced Hornet (*Dolichovespula maculata*); Great Black Wasp (*Sphex pensylvanica*); 'Speckled Beefly' (*Anthrax irroratus*), not to mention a few species requiring more work. At one point we made a foray through the Regen Zone, following the old watering trail (also used for the Bee Protocol). We passed a young planted tree, now about 3

m high, that resembled a Black Walnut — but not quite. Then it came to me. It was a Yellowwood that we had planted as an experiment around the year 2005. We had evidently failed to place it on the ATBI list, so we have added it below as a “new” species. About 50 m beyond this (re-) discovery, Sama found two Walkingsticks copulating. (See IMAGES below.) I was surprised at the small size and strange colours of the male. One would have thought it a different species!

When it came time to set up the light trap, we discovered that the van’s headlights would illuminate only the bottom of a white sheet hung carefully in the Nook. We built a one-wheel ramp out of scrap lumber. Driving the van forward brought the right headlight up into the middle of the sheet. Interestingly, one of the old boards that we used for the ramp proved to have a beautiful reddish centipede under it, and a different species from one found over a month ago in leaf litter on the bluffs.

Just before sunset a light rain started, ending at sunset and leaving a temperature of 17° C. Later, when it grew dark enough, I drove the van forward until the sheet glowed brilliantly. How could we fail? I put the van in park and strolled nonchalantly into the Nook. “How does it look?” Sama was unhappy. “They fly to the sheet, then they realize the headlights are even brighter, so they go there.” These were mostly small flies and they didn’t linger at the headlights, either. We waited another 15 minutes then moved the sheet closer to the headlights. A few more flies and a Two-spotted Meadow Katydid flew in, even as the air grew colder.

We cleaned up and drove away into the gathering night. What had we done wrong? Had the rain discouraged the night flyers? Was the temperature too low? At home I complained. “You should have used ultraviolet,” said Pat. “That’s what Stan used.”

New Species:

American Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	RZ KD Oc02/14
‘Double-striped Centipede’	<i>Geophilus vittatus</i>	GF KD Oc02/14
‘Pale Damsel Bug’	<i>Hoplistocelis palescens</i>	LM KD Oc02/14

The Fungus Workshop scheduled for October 19 is now fully registered.

Readers Write: New reader Heather Greenwood was fooled by the Walkingstick that appeared in the previous issue: “I really enjoyed the Newport Forest Bulletin this morning. I could’t find the walking stick for such a long time. I kept looking and looking *on* the branch, then I realized it *was* the branch.”

IMAGES:



Mating Walkingsticks are difficult to disentangle, visually speaking. The female is larger and resembles a thick, dark brown branch, while the male looks like a small, light brown twig. Its green legs resemble fresh shoots. We will leave the technical details for readers to figure out. We're not sure we want to know!



This image appeared on Trail Cam #1 on February 8, 2010. At the time I thought it was a big cat, its head nearly a metre above ground. Then I “realized” that the projecting ear was actually the muzzle of a reddish Coyote looking up the trail. Case closed. The other day I chanced upon the same image while cleaning up files. “Wait a minute.” There are no Coyotes with a uniform rufous coat. Moreover, they don’t have a black stipe running down their nose.

It is, indeed, an ear. Not that of a deer, either. This leaves only one alternative one can think of; this could well be the first visual record of a Cougar on site — supplemented by two eyewitness sightings at other times, not to mention records of three large cougar-sized droppings on trails and two very loud screaming roars on other occasions.

Other suggestions are of course welcome. Naturally, the image is only partial and hard to make out.