

**Date and time:** Saturday November 8 2014 3:00 - 4:25 pm

**Weather:** Pr 18 mm; RH 82%; BP 100.9 kPa; calm; light rain, T 6° C

**Activity:** Trail cams and aerial drone cam - flight practice

We stopped off at Newport Forest on our way to a dinner with Steward Darren Jacobs in Bothwell. With barely an hour and a half on site, we had time only to check the creek trail, organize the trailer for winter storage, refurbish the trail cams and have another practice session with our camera drone — which still refuses to take pictures! The image below by Pat shows Kee flying the (quadcopter) drone.



We changed the sd cards on the trail cams, finding a plethora of fascinating animal images on them when we got home. I checked the trail down to the creek and took a monitoring image of Fleming Creek Forest (with no leaves) to illustrate the relative youth of the wood and its dominance by thorn trees. The latter had been planted or encouraged many decades ago by the Ontario Power Generation to suppress the growth of larger trees below the power lines that stretch across the property. Beyond these activities there was little to see or do in the grey, oppressive overcast. Birds? One Dark-eyed Junco. Mammals: One (black phase) Eastern Grey Squirrel.

Speaking of mammals, we searched the trailer for signs that Wendy the Trailer Weasel was still around. No scat, no Meadow Vole remains. She seems to be gone, but this has happened before.

At the end of our stay, we tried two short flights of the drone. Both ended in mild crashes because I don't have much facility with the throttle yet. Later, just to get off the property, we had to go some. The soil was wet enough to activate the clay/loam surface. Slippery. Starting slowly and gaining speed, we had to rocket out of the lower meadow just to get to the Upper Meadow. And so, on to Bothwell!

This visit marks what could be the the last instalment of *The Bulletin* with an ATBI component. We are very happy to have met our objectives with the ATBI project, with a new total of about 2100 species. We expect snow on site sooner rather than later and visiting frequency will decline to one or two visits a month over winter.

### **New Species:**

'Red-marked Lygaeid'	<i>Neortholomus scolopax</i>	LM KD Je26/14
'Clown Wig Gall Wasp'	<i>Callirhytis furva</i>	GF KD JI29/13

**Notes on species:** The Lygaeid bug had been giving me trouble since last June. I only made progress when I finally realized from morphological clues, that it wasn't a Mirid bug. The gall wasp was identified from its gall. Many galls are unique to their makers, as with this species.

### **Trail Cam Report:**

**Cam #1:** Nv03 Doe/night; Nv04 3 Wild Turkeys/day; Nv04 Raccoon/night

**Cam #2:** Oc29 Raccoon/night; Oc31 Eastern Grey Squirrel/day; Oc31 Raccoon/night; Nv01 3 young Raccoons/night; Nv01 Eastern Grey Squirrel/day; Nv05 3 young Raccoons/night&dawn; Nv05 Eastern Grey Squirrel/day & young Raccoon.

### **IMAGES:**



These two late-litter Raccoons were out during the full moon last week. They are still subadult and one wonders whether they can bulk up enough in time to survive the coming winter. There are actually three siblings in this particular group. Tilted structure is a bird feeder. (Trail cam #2.)



By sheer coincidence these two Wild Turkeys were also part of a larger group of three. They may be headed to the Oak trees in the GalleryForest to forage in the leaf litter for acorns and other edibles. (Trail cam #1.)