

Date and time: Tuesday June 09 2015 1:55 - 5:40 pm.

Weather: Pr 35 mm; RH 89%; BP 100.9 kPa ; sun/cloud; NW 5 kmh; T 24°C

Activity: Nature comes up close and personal with a macro lens.

We were accompanied in today's visit by Heather Greenwood and her two daughters, Laila and Aisha. The latter is studying photography at Fanshawe College. She brought her camera and macro lens for a first go at close-up photography. Shown below is a native snail, *Discus rotundas*, at a guess, taken by Aisha.



Pat and Heather descended the bluffs to Fleming Creek (below the Nook) while the daughters accompanied me on a foray to the river. The creek was so high, thanks to the recent rains, that Pat and Heather had to cancel plans to wade it. They were compensated a little later, however, by the discovery of a Green Dragon, as below.

Meanwhile, before the rest of us even got as far as the Blind Creek Forest, we were sweeping the Lower Meadow along the trail, getting many *Leptoterna* nymphs, a Scarlet Plant Bug (*Lepodea*), the nymph of another Plant bug, known only to the genus *Lygus*, a new Pirate Spider and several small jumping spiders, including new species of *Eris* and *Gheina*, as below.

On the trail to the river we found not only the snail above, but a large *Xysticus* crab spider lurking in some foliage by the trail, an Ebony Jewelwing eating a mosquito,

a beautiful white Virginian Tiger Moth, an even more beautiful *Metarranthis* moth, a Broad-nosed Weevil, and a new Dragon-fly, a Horned Clubtail.

Climbing the River Bluffs, we sat on the rest bench to watch the big muddy roll by. Presently, a floating island of sticks came around the bend and past our view. Some dozen duckings crowded the available perching space. Was it a riverbank nest washed out by the recent flood? Judging from our photo, Dave Martin thinks they were probably Wood Ducks. So where's the mother?

Just then, Pat called us on the walkie-talkie. She and Heather had decided to meet us on the river trail. At the Elbow, Pat showed us the second Green Dragon of the day, growing right there and found just moments earlier by Heather. Then we all retired to the Nook for refreshments. At the end, Heather drove us out through the wet spots and on to the gate, a tricky affair that involved a concentration of weight in the front of the van.

New Species:

'Two-eyed Pirate Spider'	<i>Mimetus puritanus</i>	LM KD Je09/15
'White-bordered Jumper'	<i>Eris flava</i>	LM KD Je09/15
'Plain Jumper'	<i>Gheina [canadensis]</i>	LM KD Je09/15
Horned Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus cornutus</i>	BCF aaKD Je09/15
<i>Metarranthis</i> Moth	<i>Metarranthis refractaria</i>	BCF aaKD Je09/15

Species Notes: *Mimetus* is our first Pirate Spider. (family Mimetidae)

Readers Write:

Dan Bickel, an entomologist with the Australian National Museum writes, "The dieback in trees shown in the photo is dramatic. Could it be just a very hard winter, which might knock back some of the Carolinian species at their northern limits? BTW, I have been reading an excellent book: *The Once and Future Great Lakes Country*, by John Riley <http://www.amazon.ca/Once-Future-Great-Lakes-Country/dp/0773541772>. [... it gives a portrait of the remarkable fecundity of the land in the early days (wildlife abundance, etc.), of which we have now but a pitiful remnant.

Bulletin Archives: Archives of the Newport Forest Bulletin will be found at the following link: <<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/>> Scroll to the very bottom to find nearly 1000 site visits archived.

IMAGES:



Aisha captures a Scarlet Plant Bug (*Lopidea media*) above, and an Ebony Jewelwing (below) dining on a mosquito. (Gotta love those Jewelwings!) We thought these were pretty decent images for Aisha's first time out with a macro lens.





Photo: Kee Dewdney

One of the two Green Dragon plants found today grows in the elbow of the trail to the river, the other one was found down by Fleming Creek. The Green Dragon (*Arisema dracontium*) is a “rare to uncommon” plant in southern Ontario, according to the provincial ranking of S3.

The long yellow “tongue” of the dragon, called a spadix, emerges from its “spathe” on the right. At maturity, this strange flower will produce over 100 bright red berries. The Green Dragon has few relatives in North America, the Jack-in-the-Pulpit plant being its only relative in Newport Forest.