

Date and time: Sunday July 05 2015 12:50 - 6:05 pm

Weather: Pr 0 mm; RH 59%; BP 102.2; sun/cloud; calm; T 28°C

Activity: Annual Butterfly Count and continuing ATBI.

We brought our friend Heather Greenwood with us for the Annual Butterfly Count. She was keen to see how it was done and to learn more about butterflies. The counters arrived at 1:40 pm: Betsy Baldwin, Garth Casbourn, Dave and Winnie



The Giant Swallowtail proved elusive on today's visit by the butterfly counters.

Wake. After a brief chat, everyone went off to the river except me. I would stay to keep the ATBI project going. I swept the plants nearby, then retired to the Nook, where another of today's projects could be pursued. Birding. I'm not that good.

As I sat there, the birds cooperated. First I was serenaded by a Wood Thrush for several minutes. It was calling from the Fleming Creek Trail area just below the Nook, its melodious voice ringing through the forest. Eee-oh-lay! Not long after this, a greyish blob invaded my peripheral vision to the left. A Gray Catbird had landed on a bush just metres away. How often does that happen? Entertainment was provided by the Chippie Gang, Eastern Chipmunks that would chase Blue Jays, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Redbellied Woodpeckers away from the seed tray, only to be chased away themselves later by the very same birds!

I went out hand-picking and sweeping some more, finding only a few insects that looked as though they might be new. I made a foray down the Fleming Creek Trail, stopping at a promising old Elm snag that was losing its bark. I broke off a small

sheet, finding a funnel web beneath and, lurking under its silken tent, an Agelenid (Funnel) Spider. For once I had encountered a spider of reasonable size, taking multiple photographs after I had teased it out into the open.

When the counters returned, they reported some 14 species of butterflies, but no Giant Swallowtails. As keeper of the day's bird list, I asked them what birds that had seen or heard, doubling the size of my list by the time they had finished remembering them. (all good birders.) After a rest and a chat in the Nook, they left around 4:00 pm, leaving the three of us to get back into the great ATBI treasure hunt. Heather brought me net after net of insects and spiders to examine, while Pat discovered a troop of tiny mushrooms in the Nook. (We have sent the imagery to our mycology consultant, Greg Thorn.) Not surprisingly, none of the butterflies or birds logged today were new species.

Birds (24):

American Crow (WR); American Goldfinch (UM); American Robin (UM); Barn Swallow (UM); Blue Jay (GF); Chipping Sparrow (UM); Common Flicker (BCF); Common Grackle (UM); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Bluebird (UM); Eastern Towhee (UM); Field Sparrow (UM); Gray Catbird (GF); House Wren (UM); Indigo Bunting (GF); Northern Cardinal (LM/HBF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (UM); Tree Swallow (Rd); Turkey Vulture (LM); Veery (FCB); Wood Thrush (GF); Yellow Warbler (UM).

Butterflies: (14): (a partial list with no location codes)

Cabbage White; Clouded Sulphur; Common Wood Nymph; European Skipper; Great Spangled Fritillary; Hobomok Skipper; Little Wood Satyr; Pearl Crescent; Red Admiral; Silvery Checkerspot; Summer Azure; Tawny Emperor.

Phenology:

New Species:

'Green-legged Sheetweaver'	<i>Linyphia triangularis</i>	LM hgKD J105/15
'Dark Coras'	<i>Coras medicinalis</i>	FCB KD J105/15
'Lime Green Plant Bug'	<i>Ilnacora stalli</i>	LM hgKD J105/15
'Red-legged Ichneumon'	<i>Cylloceria</i> sp/	LM hgKD J105/15

Species Notes:

Several of today's spiders were already listed, including *Pelegrina galathea*, a Jumping Spider, and *Neoscona arabesca*, an orb weaver. The *Coras* spider was the Agelenid that I found under the elm bark. I realize that some other Ichneumon spp. have red or reddish legs, but this "common name" will serve for now. Roesel's Katydid, *Metrioptera roeseli*, also put in an appearance.

Catching up:

Readers who would like to read past issues of the *Bulletin* are welcome to visit the archive at <http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/> Scroll to the bottom.

IMAGES:



In this image, the *Coras* spider has just been shooed out of its protective cover, yet remains perfectly still for this photograph. Other photographs show the pattern on the abdomen more clearly.



Roesel's Katydid originated in Europe and was first recorded in Canada in Montreal in the 1950s. Since then it has spread outside range maps consistently as it expands westward. This insect has an electric buzzing/crackling song.