

Date and time: Thursday July 16 2015 2:40 - 9:40 pm

Weather: Pr 3 mm; RH 59%; BP 102.1 kPa; sun/haze; calm; T 26°C

Activity: Maintenance, ATBI, and a failed light-trap.

Determined to remain on site until sunset, today's assistant, Sama Abid, and I found enough work to keep us busy until then. Our final project was to set up a light trap for insects using the headlights of the van. More of that later. Our longest excursion of the day was a walk to the river. Normally it seems like only a few hundred meters. Today it seemed like a few kilometres. Mosquitoes plagued us at every step. And at the river, the beach was not yet exposed enough to walk safely.



Besides the continuation of the ATBI project, there was maintenance: firming up the newly moved rain gauge, piling the remaining lumber, setting up the light trap, and dismantling the canoe rack. We are no longer quite nimble enough to use our canoe as in the past, so we have donated it to friends on the Rez at Moraviantown.

Between times we swept along the edge of the Lower Meadow to see what new species might emerge. The sky had turned cloudy, meanwhile, and the humid

warmth brought mosquitoes out of the woods. At one point a young biology student showed up. He had lost his wallet while cutting out Multiflora Rose on site with Donald Craig that morning. Sama went along to help with what turned out to be a fruitless search.

We went down to the creek, noting what appears to be a continuing overgrowth of vines and other vegetation mounding up on the bank. On the way back we gathered some leaf litter, but few arthropods turned up. The rest of the time we spent setting up a light trap (suspended sheet) in front of one of the van headlights. When darkness finally descended, we waited nearly an hour with nary a gnat showing up on the sheet. What were we doing wrong? Did we not wait long enough?

Phenology: Mosquitoes still very plentiful, especially in the wooded areas.

New Species:

‘Black and White Harvestman’	<i>Leiobunum vittatum</i>	RL saKD J116/15
Dogwood Spittlebug	<i>Clastoptera proteus</i>	LM saKD J116/15
‘Volkswagen Beetle’	[<i>Phaedon viridis</i>]	UM KD J111/15
‘Conetail Robber Fly’	<i>Machinus antimachus</i>	LM saKD J116/15

Species Notes:

We already have *Leiobunum vittatum* on the ATBI list, but the species name has square brackets. This entry replaces that one on the list and the count remains the same. There are several species of Robber Flies, albeit very few in relative terms, that have conical tails. But our applied “common name” will serve, nevertheless.

ATBI Report: The current total count stands at 2135 species.

By kingdom:	Plantae	484
	Animalia	1154
	Protista	200
	Fungi & Lichens	274
	Eubacteria	23

Readers Write:

Ann White, a local butterfly expert, summarizes the results of the overall count in the Newport Forest area on July 5: “Well, we made the 50+ species! We weren't sure at supper but when the dust settled we had 53, a very good total. Every group out there found something no one else saw it seems, and with a couple of rarities

like Snout and Aphrodite thrown in it became a done deal! Thanks to everyone for their hard work and to all those who contributed to the BBQ. Each year it surpasses the previous one! The full account will be in *The Cardinal* as usual, but I'll send the species list around shortly. It is already winging its way to NABA.”

Jessie Amery, a nature lover to whom we gave several young “Carolinian” trees many years ago, sends a note of encouragement: “You two are remarkable people. The photos are so clear and good. Enjoy reading your reports and am learning so much. I called the tree people . . . to look at the Kentucky Coffee Tree and the Wild American Plum. Both trees are really beautiful and we hope they're not sick, maybe just something minor.”

Marg Hulls, a West Elgin naturalist and Newporty Forest Steward, adds a second note of encouragement: “It is amazing that you continue to add new species to your list! So good that even following your surgery, you are able to get out to hunt out natural wonders at Newport Forest and so good to have avid helpers along who have many skills. Keep up the good work!”

Hugh Casbourn, the closest thing we have to a local moth expert, corrects a typo and comments on a recently posted moth: “One typo - the first moth is Leconte's Haploa Moth (not Laconte's). I think it is more likely than the similar and also variable Confused Haploa based on the host plants for each species. That Olethreute is a challenging one. The Basswood Leafroller, Raspberry Leafroller, and Lacuna Moth are so similar. The left wing of the subject moth is overlapping so far that it obscures the pattern a bit. I have so much fun with the Olethreutes here, it must be even more so at Newport.”

Suzanne Frank, local nature lover, reports on what looks like a *Euschistus* stink bug in her home. (Not a beetle.) “I’ve gone to Tom Murray’s excellent site and still not found this common beetle. Our friends sent us the picture because they have quite a few of these in their living room from the autumn to the springtime. They fly with a soft humming sound. I’ve seen a few of these in our house but they’ve never flown or hummed. I’ll keep on doing the research.”

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:



The most colourful species of spittlebug (fam. Cercopidae) that we have yet encountered is the Dogwood Spittlebug, as seen above. The head is to the left, with eyes situated at the sides of the banding. We had several in the net at first. But they began hopping away (a meter at one go) out of the net.



Is this the light-track of a firefly? A second track seems to start at the extreme right hand side of this trail cam image. One could readily accept a firefly as the origin of this charming display if it weren't for the drawing of a cat (or something) walking on faerie-ground. Seriously, what is going on here? We can't begin to explain it.