

Date and time: Saturday June 4 2016 2:15 - 6:15 pm

Weather: Pr 0 mm; RH44%; BP 101.4 kPa; cloud/sun; calm; T 29°C.

Activity: A full-court press on Arthropods.

We stopped in the Upper Meadow to see if the Thistles were hosting any new and interesting insects. When Pat spotted what looked like a large Lady Beetle, I wasn't too excited. Only later did I discover that this was our first new find of the day and only our second Tortoise Beetle species, as well. Down in the camp, it took us a while to get up gumption for our first foray, so we hunted around the camp and along the track. Pat noted that more insects were buzzing about on this visit.



I sensed it was going to be a great day for spiders when I found a new Furrow Spider that had spun an orb web behind the trailer's shutter. (See IMAGES.) Then it was Pat's turn to find a spider, a very large Nursery Web Spider (*Pisaurina mira*) carrying a white ball under its spinnerets. Pat quickly outdid herself by spotting a Giant Swallowtail butterfly then, later, another. Then a Little Wood Satyr. Sweeping along the Regen Zone, I netted the Beetle shown on the left, a Longhorn Beetle known as the Soybean Stem Borer (new).

“We're getting too old for this,” was our common thought as we made our wobbly way down the bluffs to Fleming Creek. At the bottom we hoped to find our first Green Dragon of the Season — and there it was! (See IMAGES.) The creek was now running at normal levels and the water was clear. Ebony Jewelwings fluttered out over the creek to hawk mosquitoes. (The latter are not yet a great bother.) We made a search for more Green Dragons to the accompaniment of a Great Crested Flycatcher singing its “weeb” song. No further specimens were found.

Setting out for the most challenging foray — to the river — we stopped at the Elbow to examine the gigantic Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) that has taken up residence there. In the image below Pat points to the developing flower buds. Wide umbels of small white flowers will sprout from these swelling structures.



Although one might (or might not) develop a rash from touching the plant, it is considered edible, to a degree. Native North Americans used it as a food plant.

Walking the trail to the river, we were accompanied by a relay team of Litter Moths (a broad term). There were literally dozens of them, an outbreak population of an Erebid moth called the Grayish Zanclognatha Moth (*Zanclognatha pedipilalis*). From a distance they reminded me of Clover Loopers. At the River Landing we noted that a rather large patch of Dame's Rocket, a popular (native) garden flower, had settled in. The Beach was entirely emerged from the water, so we ventured down onto the hard clay to do a little spider hunting. The best find was a Thin-legged Wolf Spider (genus *Pardosa*) of a species already logged.

It was getting late. We headed back to camp to take a much-needed rest. Before we left for the day, I picked up another half-dozen species by simply scanning the trailer walls and the low-hanging branches of the Gallery Forest nearby. My best find there was a new Scorpion Fly, a female unfortunately; male Scorpion Flies sport a stinger-like organ on their tails (actually an organ of insemination), making ID somewhat easier. Otherwise *Panorpa* has a great many lookalikes. "We better leave soon. I see rain clouds off to the southwest." Then Pat spotted an Eastern Garter snake, wisely slipping under the trailer while there was still time.

Birds: (19)

American Crow (FCF); American Gold Finch (GF); American Robin (FCB); Bank Swallow (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Canada Goose

(TR); Common Grackle (BCF); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Towhee (GF); Field Sparrow (LM); Great Crested Flycatcher (FC); Killdeer (TR); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Flicker (TR); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (Rd); Wood Thrush (FCB). **Note:** We are described as “fair” birders, at best. Consequently, we miss some species that are calling.

Phenology: Mosquito population not yet at high numbers. Most leaves fully out.

New Species: (30% new)

‘Shield-backed Orb Weaver’	<i>Larinioides patagiatus</i>	LM KD Je04/16
Small Minnow Mayfly	[<i>Baetis</i>] <i>flavistriga</i>	LM hg/KD My23/16
Nebulous Scorpion Fly	<i>Panorpa</i> [<i>nebulosa</i>]	GF KD Je04/16
‘Yellow-necked Soldier’	<i>Podabrus rugosulus</i>	LM KD Je04/16
Argus Tortoise Beetle	<i>Chelymorpha cassidea</i>	UM pd/KD Je04/16
Soybean Stem Borer	<i>Dectes sayi</i>	LM KD Je04/16
‘All-black Click Beetle’	[<i>Limonius</i>] sp.	GF pd/KD Je04/16
‘Striped Deer Fly’	<i>Chrysops</i> [<i>aberrans/striatus</i>]	GF KD Je0416

Old Species:

(We have decided to move this section, being of limited interest and taking more room all the time, to the very end of the report. Some 19 species are listed there.)

Species Notes:

Two images of a rather small Mayfly were identified by entomologist Steven Marshall as belonging to the Small Minnow Mayfly family (Baetidae). We thought *Baetis* was the most likely genus, but couldn’t be entirely sure, justifying the use of square brackets. But *if* the genus is correct, then it must be *B. flavistriga*. The *Chrysops* fly could be either *C. aberrans* or *C. stratus*.

Join the Recycling Tour now.

Anne Boyd, site manager for the Municipal Recycling Facility here in London, has set aside Tuesday, June 21 to host a tour of the facility by local readers who would like to see this eco-techno-marvel for themselves. The tour will run from 10 am to 12 noon.

If you think you might like to join this tour, please get in touch with Bruce Parker at <hayjoe55@gmail.com> and he will add your name to the tour list. Attendance limits are not known at the moment.

IMAGES:



The Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) is a member of the Araceae family and shares interesting structural features with the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, in the same family. Readers should have no trouble spotting the spadix, the long, whitish “tongue” of the dragon, sprouting from a stalked, bulblike structure (the spathe) that produces inconspicuous flowers.



The three species of Furrow Spider in our area look somewhat alike, with overlap and variation in many characters. The folium (on the abdomen), became the determining feature and I am reasonably certain that this is our third species of *Larinioides*, as listed above. Is she not beautiful?

Old Species: Velvet Mite (*Trombidium* sp.); Orchard Orb Weaver (*Leucage venusta*); ‘Brush-footed Wolf Spider’ (*Schizocosa crassipes*); Thin-legged Wolf Spider (*Pardosa milvina*); Dark-lined Orbweaver (*Tetragnatha caudata*); ‘Striped Orb Weaver’ (*Tetragnatha straminea*); Nursery Web Spider (*Pisaurina mira*); White-banded Crab Spider (*Misumenoides formosipes*); 12-spotted Skimmer (*Libellula pulchella*); Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Green Plant Bug (*Leptoterna dolobrata*); Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*); Crescent Butterfly (*Phyciodes* sp.); Little Wood Satyr (*Megisto cymela*); Eastern Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*); Virginia Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma virginiana*); Grayish Zanclognatha Moth (*Zanclognatha pedipilalis*). Not counted here are four unidentified arthropods, a Skipper, a Cutworm, a Plant Bug nymph, and a Mosquito.