

Date and time: Sunday June 12 2016 1:50 - 5:40 pm.

Weather: Pr 8 mm; RH 38%; BP 101.6 kPa; clear; NW 00-40 kmh; T 22°C

Activity: Collecting arthropods with our best assistant.



6:26 pm: Is the mother Raccoon, down early, telling youngster to go back to bed.?

After stopping by the milkweed plants growing by the gate, where I found a green *Polydrusus* Weevil on a leaf, we drove down to the trailer with a high wind swaying all the trees along the track. Five Turkey Vultures circling over the power lines had a tough time staying over target. “Did something die”? asked Laura. She shuddered when I replied in mock seriousness, “We might find a corpse.”

We never found a corpse but, thanks to the wind, I thought today's prospects had died. But winds were calmer in the Lower Meadow and I began to think all was not lost. Not only were flies, wasps, and butterflies flying about, but I found a Nursery Web Spider hiding in the bottom of the backup rain gauge, jealously guarding her ball of eggs. Laura, a science student at Western, is our best field assistant yet; often I turn to ask her to do something and she's already done it. Thus she righted the garbage pail despoiled by Raccoons and cleaned up the mess.

We went down to the creek to place a yellow flag beside the Green Dragon for members of the West Elgin Nature Club to visit. We also set up Trail Cam #2 by

the Lower Rapids, to catch any animal traffic crossing there. On the way back up I pointed out a Wild Garlic plant and gave her some cloves to taste. Then I spotted a type of plant gall I had never seen before, discovering later that it was called a “pouch gall.” At the top we saw a Giant Swallowtail fly by, then another. Some dragonflies were hovering around the trailer, dipping occasionally to sun themselves on the deck. I managed to sneak up on one of them, a Clubtail (*Gomphus*) and, possibly, a new species.

For the next foray we followed the old watering trail through the Regeneration Zone, where Laura spotted what looked at first like a peculiar bumblebee, but was actually a Robber Fly, *Laphria*. We saw few arthropods, even though Laura swept mightily with the insect net. Of course every sweeping series brought up something, usually ants, impossibly tiny beetles, jumping spiders, and occasional bugs.

After our lunch break, we set out for the river, with several stops to sweep or to examine curiosities — like the gigantic Cow Parsnip growing at the Elbow and a good ten feet tall! (See IMAGES.) At the Elbow Laura came up with an interesting black beetle larva, iridescent black and dark blue. It later turned out to belong to a beetle called *Trirhabda*, a Chrysomelid beetle. We already have one species of this beetle and, since we have no species for the larva, there is a possibility that it’s the same species. Consequently the ATBI count remains where it is. That’s how the rules work. At the River Landing we met with better success, finding lots of Long-jaw spiders, including a Venusta Orchard Spider, as in the IMAGES below, a real beauty. On the way back out, Laura turned to me to ask about a strange groaning/squeaking noise. She couldn’t imagine what animal it was. “Ah,” I said, “You just heard the Lesser Treesqueak.” This is a joke of Dave and Winnie Wake who mentioned two species to us one day: The Greater and Lesser Treesqueaks.

Before leaving, we were rehydrating in the Nook when suddenly Laura announced a baby raccoon up on the bird feeder tray. Sometimes a hungry Raccoon will eat bird seed. Later at home, when I had a chance to view the imagery from Trail Cam #2, deployed up until today at the Nook: touching scenes of Raccoon family life involving what appears to be two mothers, both with multiple young. A careful examination should reveal just how many families live in that part of the site.

Phenology: Hawthorns in bloom (some spp.)

New Species: (24% new)

Beaverpond Clubtail

Gomphus [borealis]

LM KD Je12/16

Determination of actual species would depend on examination of physical specimen.

Elm Pouch Gall Aphid *Kaltenbachiella ulmifusus* FCB KD Je12/16

The Elm Pouch Gall is unique to the species named, an aphid.

Dusky Stink Bug *Euschistus tristigmus* LM KD Je12/16

I'm surprised we have not encountered this common species until now.

'Marvelous Panorpa' *Panorpa [mirabilis]* BCF KD Je12/16

The wing pattern of our specimen most closely resembles *P. mirabilis*.

Bethylid Wasp [*Laelius*] sp LM KD Je12/16

Our first Bethylid Wasp, closely resembling the genus named: small, dark wasps, larval parasites.

Species Notes: (From now on, notes on a species listed above will appear just below the species in question and this section will disappear.)

IMAGES:



This Venusta Orchard Spider (*Leucage venusta*) with its green legs and distinctive stripes, cannot be mistaken for any other spider. It belongs to the family *Tetragnathidae* of Long-jawed Orbweavers.



Our Field Assistant, Laura Hyunseo Lee, stands beside the gigantic Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) at the Elbow in the trail to the river. Although she is not tall, the plant is nearly twice as tall, anyway.

Old Species: 'Variable Longjaw' (*Tetragnatha versicolor*); 'Six-spotted Jumper' (*Phidippus clarus*); Peppered Jumper (*Pelegrina galathea*); 'Miniature Jumping Spider' (*Pelegrina proterva*); 'Black-striped Mangora' (*Mangora placida*); Nursery Web Spider (*Pisaurina mira*); Orchard Spider (*Leucage venusta*); Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Dogwood Spittlebug (*Clastoptera proteus*); Alfalfa Plant Bug (*Adelphocoris adelphocorus quadripunctatusatus*); Four-lined Plant Bug (*Poecilocapsus lineatus*); Meadow Plant Bug (*Leptoterna dolobrata*); Golden Tortoise Beetle (*Charidotella sexpunctata*); Leaf Beetle Larva (*Trirhabda* sp.); Green Immigrant Leaf Weevil (*Polydrusus formosus*); 'Bumblebee Robber Fly' (*Laphria flavicollis*); 'Candy-stripe Dryomyzid'; (*Dryomyza anilis*).