

Date and time: Sunday June 26 2016 12:55 - 5:55 pm

Weather: Pr 0 mm; RH 46%; BP 101.5 kPa; cloudy; SW 5-10 kmh; T 33°C

Activity: Maintenance (trail grooming) and ATBI (arthropods)

Steward Darren Jacobs was already on site when I arrived. He had brought a gift for Newport Forest from the Rez — a potted Hairy Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*), one of several that he knew of there. This is a rather rare (S1) plant. We will consult the Property Management Committee about importing rare species.

The weather was very hot and a strong breeze from the south didn't help matters. As we sat hydrating in the Nook, some baby Raccoons appeared at the tray feeder overhead on a birdseed raid. There turned out to be five in all, shepherded by a



rather small dark mother, one of two families in the immediate area. (See Raccoon Report below.) The tree is an ancient Black Maple, a common species here.

Once he had assembled his gear, including a weed eater, Darren set out for the main trail, while I set out for the Lower Meadow nearby. In such hot weather, heat stroke is always a possibility for older people, so I limited my forays to about 15 - 20 min apiece, with frequent breaks in the Nook. The insects were not as plentiful

as I had hoped they would be. Sheer numbers drive the ATBI success rate; the more individuals there are, the more species one finds, in general. In any case, due either to the steadily rising wind and the grey overcast, my heart frequently sank at the sight of the sweep-net contents: only tiny black beetles (which I refuse even to try ID-ing), an occasional grasshopper nymph, not to mention hoppers and flies which immediately take off.

Even as Darren's weedeater whined away in the distance, I made several more forays along the Gallery forest edge, through the Regen Zone, and along the track before heading for The Hole, entrance to the Blind Creek Forest. I had barely gotten started along the trail when I was arrested by an unusual sight, an orange ball clinging to a grass stem. About 1 cm in diameter, it was covered with holes and apparently hollow. What is it? A fungus? I sent images of it to our mycology consultant at the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Greg Thorn, for examination.

There were lots of spiders at the Elbow, most of them Theridiids or Cobweb spiders, species that were already recorded. I took a photograph of the giant Angelica there, with my sweep net for scale. I made it back to the Nook just before Darren returned, his weedeater cord all used up. He reported that he had finished the trail right up to the Hogsback, then startled me by mentioning that he had found a third Green Dragon growing right beside the trail half way to the river!

The weather radar had shown a storm system coming in from Michigan. The wind was now strong enough to signal the approach of that storm, so we cleaned up and left the site.

Birds: (See below.)

Raccoon Report: Two families, each with a deadbeat dad and overworked mom: One female is smaller, with a very dark, rufous coat. We'll call her "Melanie", accordingly. She has at least five kits. The other female is relatively large, with a much lighter coat. We'll call her "Blanche." She has at least three kits. Individual Raccoons can be made out as individuals by facial characteristics alone. The principal features are the mask (solid or divided) and eyestripe (single or double). Melanie has a solid mask, for example, while Blanche's is divided.

Phenology: Mosquitoes sparse to absent, Blackcaps reddening.

New Species: (15%)

Cluster Fly	<i>Pollenia labialis</i>	LM KD Je2616
Green Midge	<i>Axarus</i> sp.	LM KD Je2616
Red Ichneumon	<i>Perilissus</i> sp.	BCF KD Je2616

(For “old” species see the end of this Bulletin.)

Species Notes:

Its reddish wing base and white eye stripes help to distinguish *Pollenia* spp. from other Calliphoridae. I avoided mistaking the Ichneumon for a Sphecid wasp.

Readers Write:

Steward Marg Hulls sent some bird observations that resulted from her visit of June 16, while Will Van Hemessen submitted his list from the 18th. The two lists are combined here. Thanks to the high-level renaming of the Class Aves, we may now list the birds under a new heading; we probably won't make a practice of it.

Dinosauria (22)

American Crow; American Robin; American Woodcock; Baltimore Oriole; Black-and-white Warbler; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Blue Jay; Brown-headed Cowbird; Common Yellowthroat; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Wood Peewee; Eastern Towhee; Field Sparrow; Great Blue Heron; Great Crested Flycatcher; Northern Cardinal; Northern Flicker; Killdeer; Rose Breasted Grosbeak; Song Sparrow; Spotted Sandpiper; Yellow Warbler.

Naturalist Natalie Helferty corrects our mistaken report in Bulletin #1032 that Dame's Rocket is a native species. Pat actually said “non-native,” but I heard only “native”. The rest is history: “Dame's Rocket is non-native to Canada. It is a Eurasian species of wildflower.”

Will van Hemessen: “The bulletin is always a good read. I enjoy your arthropod lists especially because those are taxa I know little about. I'm impressed how frequently you're able to publish them.”

Rebecca Smythe: “For those of us who are self-taught your bulletin is very helpful and entertaining. It's a "bee-loud glade" away from the "pavement gray" (Yeats) until we can get outside in real-time. You and Pat share with us the gift of knowledge — the best gift there is.

IMAGES:



I spotted this ‘Black and White Harvestman’, as we call it, while sweeping at the Elbow. (See Old Species.) Not true spiders, Harvestmen or Daddy Longlegs have their own order, Opiliones. Instead of eight eyes like spiders, Harvestmen have just two. In the macro image above (not from our specimen, but hardly different) they appear to be focusing on the viewer, but they’re not. The dark spots are called “false pupils”. Whenever one looks at a compound eye, the vision elements (called ommatidia) that happen to be aimed in your direction appear dark, as you are looking down into them. Their eyes appear to follow you. (photo: Charles Krebs)



The Meadow Plant Bug (*Leptoterna dolabrata*) is just about the most common insect in the open vegetated areas of Newport Forest. A handsome creature of black, orange and grey panels, it's nymphs look quite different, clothed mostly in green or beige, as below.



Old Species:

'Black and White Harvestman' (*Leiobunum vittatum*); 'Yellow-backed Theridion' (*Theridion albidum*); Six-spotted Orbweaver (*Araniella displicata*); Cobweb Spider (*Enoplognatha ovata*); Broadwing Katydid (*Amblycorypha oblongifolia*); Alder Spittlebug (*Clastoptera obtusa*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Meadow Plant Bug (*Leptoterna dolabrata*); 'Black-darted Red Bug' (*Metriorrhynchomiris dislocatus*); 'Two-spotted Black Mirid' (*Polymerus venaticus*); 'Brown Photinus Firefly' (*Photinus consanguineus*); 'Yellow-necked Soldier' (*Podabrus rugosulus*); Green Immigrant Weevil (*Polydrusus formosus*); Virginia Ctenucha Moth (*Ctenucha virginica*); Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*); Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*); Allegheny Mound Ant (*Formica exsectoides*);

UnID: Very small Black and white spider; small, green boat-shaped Aphid; black Mirid nymph; black Sphecid Wasp; narrow green plant bug;