

**Date and time:** Sunday June 03 2016 12:40 - 5:30 pm

**Weather:** Pr 4 mm; RH 45%; BP 101.8 kPa; cloud/sun; calm; T 27°C

**Activity:** Annual Butterfly Count.

Darren arrived first. Within ten minutes of our arrival, Pat found no less than 7 species of butterflies! Once Darren got his weedeater ready, I accompanied him into the Blind Creek Forest, where he stopped once to show me the third Green Dragon of the season on the Blind Creek Trail. He then went on to the trailhead while I stayed behind to catch what I could. I was startled to find a strange spider lurking under a leaf by the trail. It resembled a dwarf version of the *Nephila* spider (6" span) I once saw in the Everglades. This was only our second species in the family Pholcidae of (so called) "Cellar Spiders". Then I found some Formica ants lapping up sap on a tree nearby. When Darren returned, having completed the summer grooming, we went back to camp together, just in time to greet the butterfly counters. Later, they would return for a break, as shown below.



Butterfly counters take a refreshment break in the Nook after a hard and somewhat disappointing day: From left: Pat Dewdney, Jim Moorhead, Roslyn Moorhead, Garth Casbourn along with his mother Betsy Baldwin, and Kee Dewdney.

While the butterfly counters were still out counting, I did as much collecting as I could, including a small elusive moth that kept fleeing the camera to park on the underside of grass blades and small leaves. At one point I lay on my belly with the

camera back against the ground to shoot up at the underside of a leaf where my subject lurked. Gotcha! It was a new Geometrid Moth called the Single-dotted Wave Moth. This would be the 137th moth in our list with perhaps 300-300 yet to go. By contrast, the butterfly species number about 50, the list being nearly complete. Why are there so many more moth species than butterflies?

When the counters returned, they seemed a bit dejected. They had had a poor morning at the site covered earlier that day and Newport Forest was turning out no better. The report below list 11 species, whereas 20 species was a more typical count for the site. Counters were nevertheless cheered up by the appearance of an unusual visitor to the seed feeder up in the old Black Maple — a Red Squirrel that would glance down at us appreciatively as it munched away.

Later, as he was about to leave, Darren mentioned that he hoped to return that evening to see if any bats were out, either at the Gallery Forest or over the river.

**Birds:** (16)

American Goldfinch (UM); American Robin (LM); Belted Kingfisher (LM!); Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (Rd); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (GF); Yellow Warbler (LM).

**Butterflies:** (11)

Cabbage White (3); Eastern Comma (2); Eyed Brown (11); Great Spangled Fritillary (1); Hackberry Emperor (1); Little Wood Satyr (7); Silvery Checkerspot (2); Sulphur (6); Tawny Emperor (2); Viceroy (1); Wood Nymph (3).

**Phenology:** Michigan Lilies in bloom; Monarda starting to bloom.

**New Species:** (44% new, an unusually high ratio.)

‘One-spotted Harvestman’	<i>Leiobunum [ventricosum]</i>	BCF KD J103/16
‘Black-jointed Pholcid’	<i>Psilochorus</i> sp.	BCT/1400 KD J103/16
‘Elegant Crab Spider’	<i>Xysticus elegans</i>	BCT KD J103/16
‘Blue Candy Leafhopper’	<i>Graphocephala teliformis</i>	LM KD J103/16
‘Pygmy Podabrus’	<i>Podabrus pygmaeus</i>	LM KD J1-3/16
‘Pale Plume Moth’	[ <i>Hellinsia</i> ] sp.	BCT50 KD J103/16
Single-dotted Wave Moth	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	LM KD J103/16
‘Variable Formicine’	<i>Formica [incerta]</i>	BCF KD J103/16

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

### **Species Notes:**

Although all four species of *Psilochorus* in Bug Guide are found in the southern or western US, there are about 40 spp of *Psilochorus* in the Americas, with some expectation of more northern species, such as *P. simoni*.

### **Readers Write:**

Greg Thorn, a mycologist at Western University, writes about the peculiar orange fungus I sent him images of after our previous visit to Newport Forest: “Now that may be exciting . . . I have not seen anything like it here, but had to go to Ecuador to find something similar on bamboo and philodendrons. I have attached a paper on the group . . . What’s really interesting about these is their biology: they appear to be parasites of scale insects!” [We’ll be watching for it on site. AKD]

Steve Marshall, an entomologist at the University of Guelph, enquires about good firefly displays: “ “Do you get good firefly displays at Newport Forest? I’m looking for a site with fairly high firefly density to do some photography, and the only sites I know of off the top of my head are Windsor, Cape Croker and Awanda . . . We are close to the end of the season at your latitude, so I may be asking that question too late.” **Note:** If anyone knows of such a site, please send me a message to that effect asap and I will forward it immediately to Marshall.

Botanist Will Van Hemessen (also an expert birder) has sent a report of a visit to Newport Forest on Canada Day (July 1). I may excerpt other parts of that report in the next issue of The Bulletin, but will include only his bird list for now:

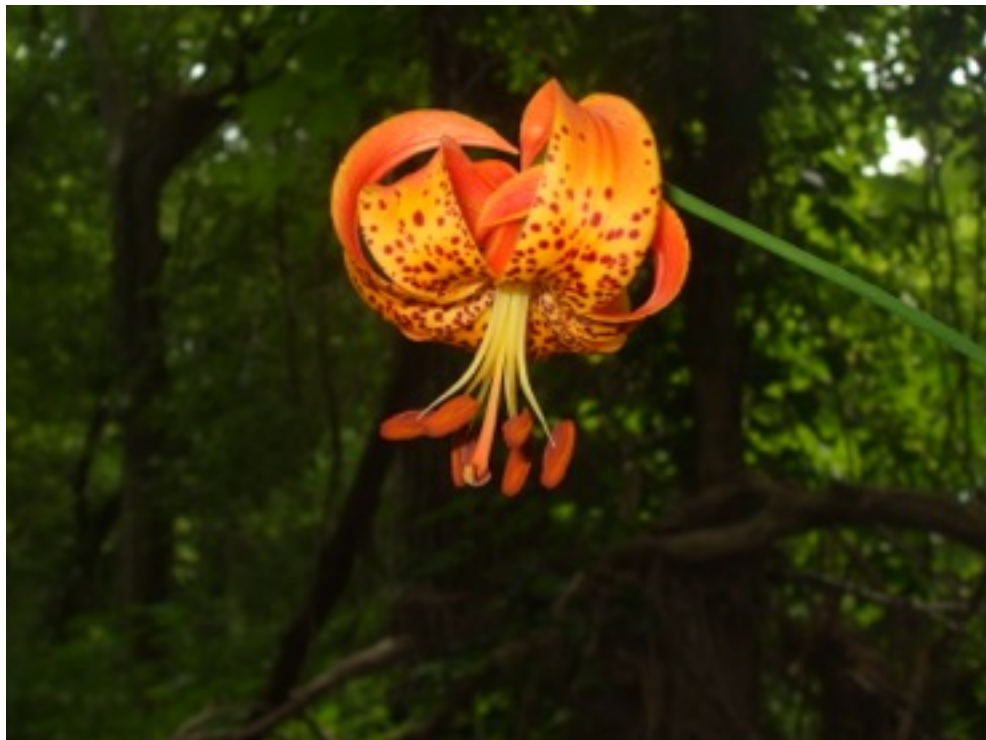
“Killdeer (1), Spotted Sandpiper (3), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1), Belted Kingfisher (2), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Northern Flicker (1), Blue Jay (4), House Wren (2), American Robin (2), Cedar Waxwing (3), Ovenbird (1), Blue-winged Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (1), Common Yellowthroat (2), Eastern Towhee (1), Grasshopper Sparrow!! (1), Field Sparrow (1), Savannah Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (6), Scarlet Tanager (1), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1), Indigo Bunting (3), Baltimore Oriole (1).”

**Note:** This will be only our second record of a Grasshopper Sparrow on site.

### **IMAGES:**



Today's photo of the Tawny Emperor was lost during a system upgrade, but here is an identical image from 2015, taken by Laura Hyunseo Lee.



The Michigan Lily is a welcome bright spot in the gloomy forest in July.





A doe heads out through The Hole into the Lower Meadow, accompanied by two of her fawns. The nearest one seems to be hanging back, as though it had forgotten something.

**Old Species:**

Orb weaver (*Neoscona arabesca*); Bowl-and-doily Weaver (*Frontinella communis*); Grape Phylloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*); Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*); Black Plant Bug (*Capsus ater*); Milkweed Beetle (*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*); Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*); Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*); Robber Fly (*Machimus [snowii]*); Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*).

**Un-IDs:** Small red bug nymph; murky harvestman.