

Date and time: Sunday August 14-15 2016 2:10 Sun. - 1:50 pm Mon.

Weather: Pr 29 mm; RH 66%; BP 101.3 kPa; cloudy; calm; T 25°C

Activity: Overnight stay to operate light trap and hear birds of the night.

There's an amazing amount of work to prepare for an overnight stay, so we weren't set up until 3 pm when the trailer was cleaned up, the food put away, the bed made, and so on. Outdoors, our immediate impression was that more insects were in evidence today, thanks to the plentiful rains, with some 29 mm in the gauge.



The sunset as it appeared over "Harvey's Beanfield" looking to the northwest.

Relaxing in the Nook, we could hear a Dog Day Cicada calling from the Fleming Creek Bluffs, followed by the burbling of a Gray Tree Frog. I pursued a Bandwing Grasshopper, but could not get a clear camera-shot as it kept hiding at the bottom of the vegetation, taking off again as soon as I uncovered it. Sweeping along the edges of the track netted little: a 'Two-striped Plant Hopper', a Goldenrod Crab Spider, and a few small black beetles (which I have never attempted to identify).

We decided that we had enough collective energy for a walk to the river and the sooner the better. Along the way, we found a peculiar bunch-gall growing on the

head of a Coneflower, possibly made by an *Eriophes* mite.

I was particularly anxious about a trail cam that we had left out on the beach during Darren's visit here two weeks ago. Recent heavy rains had produced a flood and the beach was submerged, with water now edging around the legs of the tripod. The beach was too slimy to get to the camera, so we had to leave it. Sweeping around the River Landing produced little: another hopper and another Crab Spider.

Back to camp for a light dinner attended by the two us, a Chipmunk and a Red Squirrel. We commiserated over the lack of birds, with only four on our list. As the sun slowly sank lower in the west, I set up the light trap and Pat went out to check the corridor which is now formed by the Gallery Forest on one side of the track and the Regeneration Zone (RZ), which now has a lot of 30' trees next to the track. In former years, this had been a flyway for bats out hunting, but today (and recently), nada. Pat heard an Eastern Wood Peewee calling out from the RZ and remarked that this was a good sign for the regeneration project; what had once been open old field was now becoming a primary forest, with one stage of succession (Thorn Tree phase) simply skipped.

To keep tabs on the local Raccoon population, we occasionally put out kibble bait to see who shows up. Even as we turned on the UV lights to wait for insects, a Raccoon family appeared, apparently a third family, with kits that were barely half the size of kits in the other two families. As insects began to show up on the white cloth screen, we began to photograph the more promising ones; Pat would hold the flashlight for extra illumination and I would take multiple images of several Leaf-tier and other small moths. A large black beetle showed up, probably a Carabid (Ground) Beetle. And larger moths, one resembling a looper, would also come to the screen, but immediately fly away again. An Eight-spotted Forester Moth showed up, a species we hadn't seen for 10 years. Then a Crocus Geometer, a species we see almost every year. At 10 pm we closed the trap and retired.

Later that night, a Screech Owl began calling from Eva's Wood. Being something of a night owl myself, I sat out on the trailer deck with a coffee to enjoy the ambience of cool night air, a broken overcast and a moon that reminded me of a line from *The Highwayman*: "The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas." To make things just a little more ghostly, a "night bird" began to call, a kind of descending moan, almost like that of a Gray Catbird but much louder. We have no idea of what it is. Overhead, from high in the Oaks of the Gallery Forest, Tree Crickets and Katydid kept their chirping up into the wee hours.

The following day started out promising. Pat visited the Jane Bowles memorial Sassafras tree and was surprised to find it loaded with Japanese Beetles. She managed to shake out some 15 of the creatures. She also pointed out a large spider that had taken up residence in a cardboard box beside the trailer. This was our first Wolf Spider in the genus *Rabidosa*. As for the box, we take our species where we find them! Shortly after noon, it began to rain, so we packed up and left.

Birds: (15)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (); Blue Jay (GF); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Screech Owl (EW); Eastern Wood Pewee (LM); Gray Catbird (BCF); Great Blue Heron (LM); Mourning Dove (FCF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Song Sparrow (GF); Turkey Vulture (LM); Wild Turkey (Rd).

Butterflies (10):

Cabbage White (UM); Clouded Sulphur (UM/Rd); Common Wood Nymph (Tr); Giant Swallowtail (UM); Great Spangled Fritillary (GF); Monarch (UM/Rd); Silver-spotted Skipper (BCF); Tawny Emperor (LM).

Phenology: No mosquitoes about (except in trailer), “River Daisies”, Wingstem and Scotch Thistle in bloom, Milkweed pods have now formed.

New Species: (31% new - thanks to the light trap.)

Rabid Wolf Spider	<i>Rabidosa [rabida]</i>	LM/GF pd/KD Au1416
‘Flat-backed Caddisfly’	<i>[Phytocentropus placidus]</i>	GF KD Au14/16
Green Cloverworm Moth	<i>Hypena scabra</i>	GF KD Au14/16
Splendid Palpita Moth	<i>Palpita magniferalis</i>	GF dj/KD JI31/16
Beautiful Wood Nymph	<i>Eudryas grata</i>	LM hg/KD JI21/16
Crowned Phlyctaenia	<i>Phlyctaenia coronata</i>	GF KD Au14/16
Double-striped Scoria	<i>Scoparia biplagiialis</i>	GF KD Au14/16
‘Orange Fruit Fly’	<i>Euaesta festiva</i>	LM KD Au14/16
‘Shiny Taxomerus’	<i>Taxomerus politus</i>	GF KD Au14/16

(For **Old Species** see the end of this Bulletin under Reappearing Species.)

Species Notes:

Two of the species above are holdovers that I have been working on in the interim. The Beautiful Wood Nymph moth has finally been identified correctly. On the day, I had it *tentatively* identified as a species of *Olethreutes*. It’s not even a Tortricid, but a Noctuid. The earlier record has been stricken. The Orange Fruit Fly has a distinctive pattern of black spots on its wings and the *Taxomerus* is a Syrphid Fly.

Readers Write: The next *Bulletin* will be devoted to the issue of insect decline, featuring remarks by two entomologists about the phenomenon and featuring a brief article by one of our entomologist readers, Dan Bickel.

IMAGES:



Hypena scabra, the Green Cloverworm Moth, belongs to the family Erebidæ, the name derived from the Greek word Erebus, an underworld figure, and meaning “from the darkness.” This species is common and found throughout eastern North America.



This *Rabidosa* spider sits nestled into an inside fold of a cardboard box. It has a prey item caught in its fangs, perhaps a fly. In spiders, the head and thorax are fused into what is called a carapace, here above the abdomen. The main diagnostic feature for this Wolf Spider is the narrow white stripe running along the carapace forking into a pair of stripes that may be narrow or wide.



Here is a puzzle for readers who like to identify moths. Was it just bad luck on my part, or is this a tough one to ID? It looks distinctive and has a rather pretty geometric pattern on its wings. Note the two black maculae (spots) near the outer margin of the forewing, not to mention the two white dashes at the margin. The focus could be a bit better, but it's adequate to the task.

Reappearing Species: (20 species that have already been logged.)

Fishing Spider (*Pisaurina mira*); Mecaphesa Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa asperata*); 'Green Mayfly' (*Maccaffertium* sp.); Roesell's Bush Cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*); Longhorn Bandwing (*Psinidia fenestralis*); Two-striped Planthopper (*Acanalonia bivittata*); Dog-day Cicada (*Neotibicen canicularis*); Alfalfa Plant Bug (*Adelphocoris lineolatus*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*); Brown Stink Bug (*Euschistus servus*); 'Rose-winged Damsel' (*Nabis roseipennis*); 'Gold Tachinid Fly' (*Archytas apicifer*); Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*); Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*); Eight-spotted Forester (*Alypia octomaculata*); Crocus Geometer (*Xanthotype urticaria*); Broken Dash Skipper (*Wallengrenia egeremet*); Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)

Holdovers: (7)

Five small Moths (mostly Leaf-tiers), a Beetle and a Robber Fly.