

Date and time: Wednesday August 24 2016 2:25 - 5:00 pm.

Weather: Pr 32 mm; RH 63%; BP 102.0 kPa; sun/cloud; SW 10-20 kmh; T 27°C.

Activity: Rescue a trail cam, maintenance and a search for more arthropods.

I visited the site today in the company of Brian Cornish, a paid worker who carries out occasional maintenance on site. I had been worried that high water levels in the river would jeopardize the trail camera that Steward Darren Jacobs and I set up by the river. Would the camera be retrievable? It turned out that heavy rains did in fact produce a flood that got as high as the legs of the tripod. But no further. In any case Brian and I found the beach high and dry when we got there. Pushing my luck, I decided to leave the camera where it was, a good decision, considering the results.



The trail cam ran continuously for eight days, capturing deer, eagles, herons, and geese. Here an adult Bald Eagle confronts an immature one, possibly its offspring. Less than a minute earlier they were off the ground, beating wings at each other.

I searched the beach, asking Brian to alert me if he saw anything moving. I found literally dozens of Shore Beetles, close relatives of the Six-spotted Tiger Beetle that prefers drier, inland habitat. Both species are good runners and fly away readily. Once again the clay is drying out and cracking, but more rain is on the way. Brian enjoyed trying to identify the tracks of various animals. “This here was a Heron, right?” he said, pointing to Heron tracks just below the water line. There were human tracks, as well, made by a boot about two sizes larger than mine. My last photograph was taken of a spider lurking beside a rock in the heavily

vegetated Landing area. It turned out to be a Funnel or Grass spider. (Agelenidae)

Back in camp I instructed Brian to move the thermometer box from its pole in the Lower Meadow into a more relevant spot in the woods. It had been getting too much sunlight and heating up several degrees above the ambient air temperature. While Brian found a new location for the box I swept the Lower Meadow, finding rather fewer insects than I would normally have. However, Honeybees were plentiful on the goldenrods that had already come into bloom. A new *Mangora* spider showed up, as well.

Brian's next job was to trim bushes and vegetation that have been threatening to close off the main trail. Meanwhile I searched inside the Gallery Forest, finding a new Syrphid fly and a Potter Wasp in the Nook, adding two more new species on a day when I hadn't expected to get any.

By 4:30 the wind was rising and the sky clouded over. Heavy rains were predicted for the following day, starting possibly in the evening. A last desultory sweep of the Lower Meadow brought a large brown Crab Spider into my net, one that I'm still working on.

Phenology: Goldenrod 25% in bloom; still no mosquitoes to speak of.

New Species: (40% new)

Tuftlegged Orbweaver	<i>Mangora maculata</i>	LM KD Au2416
'Pennsylvania Potter Wasp'	<i>Parancistrocerus pensylvanicus</i>	GF KD Au24/16
Satellite Fly	<i>Metopia</i> sp.	LM KD Au24/16
Rose Hip Fly	<i>Gymnocarena norrbomi</i>	LM KD Au24/16

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

Species Notes:

We have now found all extant species of *Mangora* spider on site. Satellite Flies, Fruit Flies and Signal flies are full of cross-lookalikes!

Readers Write:

Maria Gitta writes about the Japanese beetles infesting Sassafras in the last issue: "Every year these beetles are drawn like magnets to the same trees and bushes in homeowners' yards and gardens," [says] Tim Gibb, Purdue University Extension entomologist. "If beetles are a nuisance now, they will be a problem for many years to come." [link here]

<http://www.purdue.edu/uns/html3month/020701.Gibb.beetle.html>

Allen Woodliffe, a local naturalist, responds to our plea for help in identifying the mystery moth shown in the last issue: "I'm not a moth expert by any means, but I do use the newest Peterson FG to moths and find it quite good. However in taking a look through that guide, I didn't see anything that jumped out at me as being what your photo shows . . . Have you ever tried the Butterflies and Moths of North America web site, where one can post photos and records of known species, but there are lep specialists that will provide an ID if possible for unknown leps that are submitted? I haven't used it much, but just started recently." [link here] <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

IMAGES:



Trail Cam #2 produced this image in the early hours of August 2. Canada Geese take off into the dawn toward a halo of light and coloured rays. The beach is heavily flooded and where once these geese walked, they have just been swimming.



We will never get this close to a Great Blue Heron unless we have a telephoto lens. I cropped the image just enough to preserve the bird and the date.

Reappearing Species:

Funnel Spider (*Agelenopsis* sp.); Northern Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa asperata*); Shore Beetle (*Cicindela repanda*); Silver Spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*); ‘Red-tailed Syrphid’ (*Toxomerus marginatus*); Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*).

Holdovers:

Possible *Mecaphesa* Crab Spider; Plant Hopper similar to *Chlorotettix* spp.; “Stalk-eyed Fly” that is *not* a stalk-eyed fly.