Date and time: Sunday September 25 2016 1:35 - 6:05 pm.
Weather: Pr 0mm; RH 57%; BP 102.1 kPa; sun/cloud; S 5-10 kmh; T 19º C.
Contents: Trail grooming and collections at river and creek.

Steve Logan arrived well before we did. The gate was open, easing our entry, as below. We had spent almost an hour working around the camp before Steve emerged from the woods covered with grass & veg clippings from his weed eater.

A gateway to Paradise: the entrance to Newport Forest was groomed today.

Before Steve arrived, I spotted an Aerial Yellowjacket browsing some Asters, a few grasshoppers and flies, but little else. Once again Steve brought interesting news from the Rez, not bears this time, but mosquitoes. Steve operates mosquito traps for Health Canada at a four sites near the Rez. In years past he has found jars filled to the top with mosquitoes, “Black with them,” as Steve put it. These days he barely gets a dozen. He attributes the lack of mosquitoes to the lengthy dry spell in the area, a lack of precipitation that affects Newport Forest, as well. (We are about 15 km from the Moraviantown Reservation.)

Since Steve still had to finish up grooming by the river, I accompanied him as far as the Landing, then peeled off for the beach. While the weedeater whined its way up the bluffs, I made my way down to the beach, noting another Aerial

Yellowjacket and yet another Marbled Orbweaver as I went. Changing the sd card on the tripod Cam (#2), I also noticed a Field Cricket. Steve soon joined me at the beach and we spent half an hour hunting and photographing spiders, netting one Wolf Spider and one (probable) Fishing Spider, not to mention the several that took refuge in mud cracks. Steve had brought a beautiful flower with him from the bluffs. When we got back to camp, Pat identified it as a Fringed Gentian (*Gentiana procera*), only to be found on the bluffs, as far as we know.

After Steve's departure, I made my way down to the creek to sample the Lower Rapids. I kick-fished (See IMAGES) there, catching some six darters (small fish in the Perch family) from beneath the rocks. Most of them were immature Johnny Darters and Logperches. Looking about me in the pool above the rapids, I saw no mature Pondskaters at all, where normally I'd see a half dozen or so skating about, just a few nymphal individuals. No Water Boatmen or Backswimmers at all. I extracted an alga-covered rock to take to the home lab. We left after that.

Trail Cam #1: Eastern Cottontail, Raccoon, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Virginia Possum.

Birds: (very few about)

Phenology: Fringed Gentian in bloom.

New Species:
"Orange Pear Fungus' *Puccinia agropyri* BCF/HO kd/GT Je26/16
(For "old" species see the end of this *Bulletin*.)

Species Notes:
We lose one, we gain one: Greg Thorn, who announces the identification of the mysterious orange ball fungus in the **Readers Write** section, has also been obliged to point out that the fungus displayed in the September 12 issue of *The Bulletin* is incorrectly identified. It's a difficult ID to make because of the age of the specimen and he can only guess a fungus such as *Mycena leaiana*. And, as Thorn remarks, "Some of the commonest things are often hardest to recognize."

Readers Write:

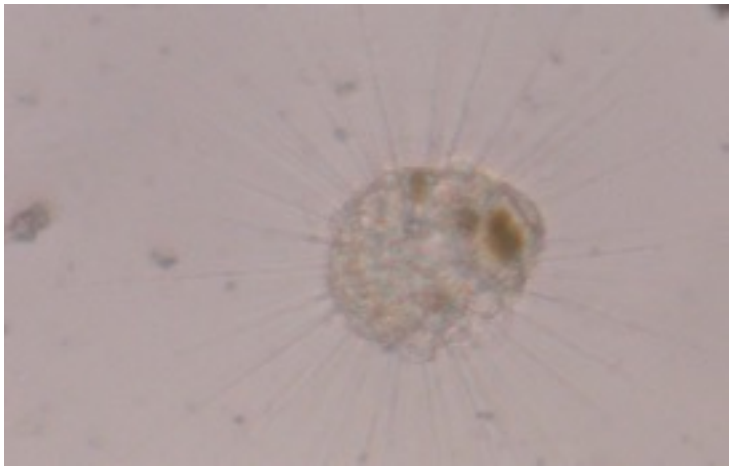
Newport Forest Steward and Biologist Erin Carroll sends this video of an owl landing right in front of the camera — all in ultra slow motion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37MNE8tOBG4>

Mycologist Greg Thorn writes about the mystery fungus reported in the June 26 number of *The Bulletin*: "Here is the taxonomic outcome of your orange ball fungus - *Puccinia agropyri* Ellis & Everh. This name is currently listed as a synonym under *Puccinia recondita*, and has also been called *P. persistens, P. triticina*, (See http://www.speciesfungorum.org/Names/SynSpecies.asp?RecordID=145187) but clearly Cathie Aime knows better! That is a fine addition to your fungal list."

IMAGES:

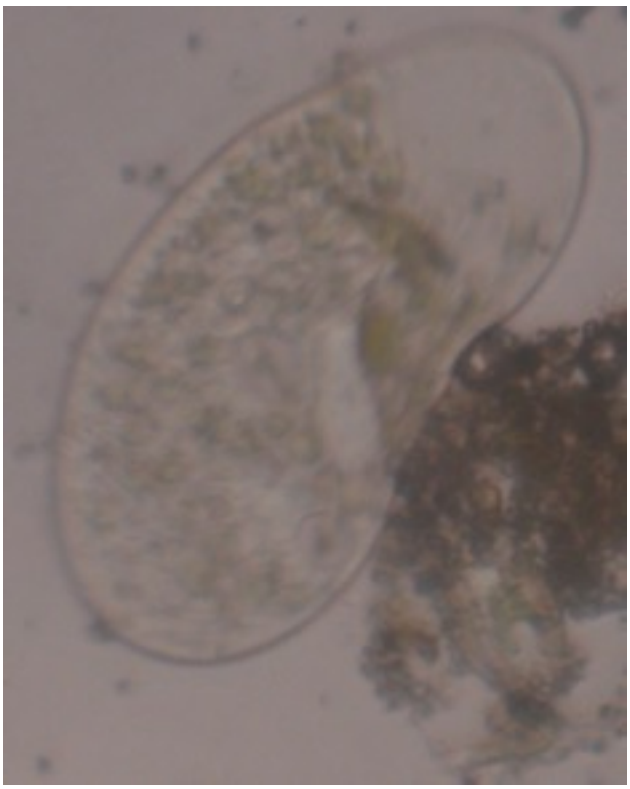
How to kick-fish: Face downstream and place your aquatic net (or an aquarium net as used here) behind the rock you wish to dislodge and give the rock a healthy nudge, simultaneously pulling the net toward you, then bringing it up to inspect the contents. This is also a good way to collect Crayfish, as seen in the next image, as well as Darters (small fish that lurk under the rocks. (Try not to kick the rock into the net.)

The Northern Clearwater Crayfish (*Orconectes propinquus*) is readily identified by its principal field marks: a black band around the first segment of the abdomen and the red-tipped chelicerae (claws).



Actinophrys [*sol*], the so-called "Sun Animalcule', belongs to the sub-class Actinopoda, a companion subclass to Rhizopoda, the amoebas. Like the amoeba, it captures food with long arms called pseudopods. Unlike the amoeba, these arms are stiffened by interior micro-spines. (With apologies for the poor focus.)

Two more denizens of the rapids, like the Heliozoan above, live among the long strands of *Cladophora*, the "green hair" that grows on the rocks.



On the left is a Ciliate, probably *Chilodonella*, a flat-bottomed browser of detritus. On the right is *Aeolosoma*, an Oligochaete worm that is sometimes called the "Oil "Worm", owing to the many droplets of reddish oil droplets that decorate its tissue. The worm is about to burrow through chains of a diatom known as *Diatoma,* all seen in lateral view. From the tops (now at the sides) they appear oval.

Reappearances:
Marbled Orb Weaver (*Araneus marmoreus*); Shore Spider (*Pardosa Milvina*); Red-legged Grasshopper (*Melanoplus fenurrubrum*); Field Cricket (*Gryllus pensylvanicus*); Aerial Yellowjacket (*Dolichovespula arenaria*).

Holdovers: Water Strider nymph, Cryptic Wolf Spider.