

Date and time: Saturday June 24 2017 1:25 - 5:20 pm

Weather: Pr 30 mm; RH 63%; BP 100.9 kPa; cloud/sun; SW 05-10 kmh; T 22°C.

Contents: We find more new spiders than insects.



The featured Arthropod for this issue is the gigantic Starbellied Orbweaver. (*Acanthapeira stellata*). Its abdomen is studded with conical spines. The dimensions of the spider can be inferred from the millimetre-sized mesh.

It was a dramatic day, with Steve Logan's weedeater whining its way through the woods, Pat pointing out prospects and me sweeping away like a maniac. With the weather cooperating, a sweep at the Elbow yielded a potential Jewel Beetle, which

obligingly flew away, a Harvestman, our first of the year, a Mangora spider, a Firefly, a Katydid, a long black beetle, a small brown spider, and much else. I couldn't complain about a paucity of arthropods!

Thus encouraged, I walked to the river where I met up with Steve. He agreed that on this visit he would cut only as far as the river bluffs. While he cut his way up the bluffs, I swept along the River Landing, netting a *Misumenops* crab spider, two jumping spiders (one small, one large), a striped plant hopper, several plant bugs and many ants. Looking around, I also "captured" a Lady Beetle on a Cup Plant, only to be distracted by a bizarre sight: I was taking a picture of a Soldier Beetle clinging to the underside of a nearby leaf when something fell away from beneath it, a long, black body. Looking closely at the image, I discovered more than six legs under the beetle. I had caught a pair *in flagro delecti*, as my entomology lecturer once called it, breaking them up in a state of deep humiliation.

We retired to the Nook, listening for Steve's weedeater. Shouldn't we be hearing it again? As it turned out, Steve had decided he had enough gas left to groom the better part of the Blind Creek Trail. In any event, we decided that one more sweep should do it, while Pat searched for other finds. Off to the Regen Zone I went, soon netting the prize of the day: a rather large Star-bellied Orb-weaver, as on the first page. I also netted a small spider, then what I thought was a Green Lacewing, followed by two different Leaf Hoppers, a firefly, small bugs and the usual gang of confused ants.

Back in camp, I found that Steve was back at his truck, having run out of gas. He pointed out the tops of several dead White Ash trees. "It's the same back home," he declared, "The ash all seem to be dying." As we caught up on Steve's news, we were serenaded by a Grey Tree Frog nearby. Then a Giant Swallowtail flew right past us through the Nook, even as a Six-spotted Tiger Beetle wandered underfoot. After Steve left, Pat called me over to a flower that had a little Syrphid hovering around it. Photos. She turned the van around for our departure, only to discover a large, hairy horsefly sitting on the door jamb. More photos. The Syrphid was not new, but the horsefly was, and a hairy one, too! Pat then drove us out to the road.

Birds: (10)

American Crow (BCF); American Robin (BCF); Blue Jay (GF); Common Yellowthroat (IM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Northern Flicker (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Song Sparrow (LM).

Biological Inventory Project (ATBI)

New Species: (25% new)

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ‘Black Harvestman’ | <i>Leiobunum vittata</i> | BCF KD Je24/17 |
| Sac Spider | <i>Clubiona</i> sp. | RL KD Je24/17 |
| Stirrup Shell Spider | <i>Emblyna hentzi</i> | RZ KD Je24/17 |
| ‘White-crossed Jumper’ | <i>Pelegrina [aeneola]</i> | LM KD Je24/17 |
| ‘Fairchild’s Firefly’ | <i>Photuris fairchildi</i> | BCF KD Je24/17 |
| ‘Three-spotted Horsefly’ | <i>Tabanus trimaculatus</i> | LM pd/KD Je24/17 |

Species Notes:

The Jumping Spider was not certain to species owing to high variability in abdominal patterns for the species named. Bugguide does not yet have this species of *Tabanus* recorded for Ontario, but all five neighbouring States show a record.

Recurring Species:

Star bellied Orbweaver (*Acanthepaira stellata*); ‘Six-spotted Jumper’ (*Phiddipus clarus*); Crenellated Nursery Spider’ (*Pisurina mira*); Northern Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa asperata*); Striped Orb Weaver (*Tetragnatha straminea*); Tuft-Legged Mangora (*Mangora placida*); Blue-fronted Dancer (*Argia apicalis*); European Earwig (*Forficula auricularia*); Red-banded Leaf Hopper (*Graphocephala coccinea*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*); Ebony Bug (*Corimelaena pulicaria*); ‘Black Mirid’ (*Capsus ater*); Scarlet Plant Bug (*Lopidea media*); Seven-spotted Ladybeetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*); Six-spotted Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela sexguttata*); Northern Crescent (*Phyciodes cocyta*); ‘Red-tailed Hover Fly’ (*Sphaerophoria contigua*); Flesh Fly (*Sarcophaga* sp.).

Holdovers & Discards:

Army-green Leaf Hopper; green plant bug with an X on dorsum; greenish fly or lacewing; a large black beetle; a small beetle with dark green abdomen and dark brown thorax; and a ragged-looking white moth with a red head and thorax.

Readers Write

Reader Joanna Cummins recalls Click Beetles from childhood: “Click [beetle]? Oh yes. Played with them when I was a kid. Not many toys back then!”

Image Gallery



The Stirrup Shell Spider (*Emblyna hentzi*) must be common somewhere for it to have a common name, yet Bug Guide has only one record and Kaston's spider book omits the genus entirely.



The spiders in genus *Clubiona* of "Sac Spiders" all look very similar, so no species ID. Females fold over grass leaves to hide their egg sacs.



The 'Black Harvestman' (*Leiobunum vittatum*) pictured is unusual within its Order, with some males of the species largely lacking in any distinctive pattern or solid colour, but sporting darker areas about their body. Harvestmen have no visible segments, with both carapace and abdomen fused.

The annual **Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count** will be held this coming Sunday on July 2nd. Volunteers may join the team after 1 pm when it arrives to survey Newport Forest. For other details, see *The Cardinal*, published by Nature London.