

Date and time: Sunday July 02 2017 1:25 - 5:05 pm

Weather: Pr 8 mm; RH 59%; BP 101.4 kPa; sun/cloud; SW 20-25 kmh; T 25°C

Contents: Finding amazing new species and helping the butterfly team .



Michigan Lilies a-bloom along the River Landing mark the beginning of the July season.

We drove in to find members of the Skunk's Misery Butterfly team already on site, prowling the Upper Meadow with nets at the ready. We stopped for a brief chat with the butterflyers: Betsy Baldwin, her son Garth Casbourn, and TTLT Board members, Richard Symmes. They remarked that they were seeing "lots of Monarchs" and that they would join us in the camp shortly.

We didn't wait for them to show up, but immediately set to work. While Pat searched through the Nook, I carried out a sweep of the Regen Zone in the Lower Meadow, finding yet another Green Immigrant Leaf Weevil, several small beetles, a firefly, several Plant Bugs, a Wood Tick, and a small fly.

A second sweep of the Lower Meadow (flowering vegetation only) brought up a good 30 arthropods: among them a small red Mirid Nymph, a *Euschistus* Stink Bug, some *Formica* ants, a *Thermion* spider, a grasshopper nymph, many small flies and beetles, a brown Leaf Hopper and another Wood Tick.

Resting back in the Nook, the sound of approaching voices signalled the arrival of the butterfly team. They collapsed into chairs for drinks & donuts, happy with their finds so far and bearing tales of birds that we see little of: an Indigo Bunting and a Chipping Sparrow. As for butterflies they reported seeing an American Snout and a

Silvery Checkerspot among other species. With a BBQ to attend, they then took their leave and walked out.

At this point, Pat drew my attention to a black bug or beetle making its way across the floor of the Nook. I bent over, calling out, in succession: “It’s a Rove Beetle. No, It’s a Millipede. No. It’s too short for a Millipede.” This was one of our big finds of the day. I have been waiting a long time to see our first Pill Bug, a terrestrial crustacean like sow bugs, but usually larger and with a distinctly slinky gait, as apposed to the stolid crawl of the sow bug. I watched it “slink” over a blade of grass, revealing a stack of segments with distinctive black lateral plates.

The next sweep took place in and around the Elbow on the trail to the river. Before I could swing the net once, a Mourning Cloak Butterfly landed on it, clearly wanting its picture taken. The sweep was not rich in species, but a True Katydid was in the bag, along with more of the Immigrant Weevils, and lots of little flies. On my way to the River Landing, Jewelwings fluttered in and out of the vegetation beside the trail. They were having a tough time finding mosquitoes to snatch, putting the lie to the claim last month of the Weather Network that the mosquitoes would be at peak numbers this year. Nope, not here. I spotted some Michigan Lilies blooming deep in the woods to my right and when I arrived at the Landing, I found several patches growing in the open.

I carried the net (with my Landing harvest in it) back to the Nook to sort it out there: First out was a very long beetle that I recognized immediately. Our first Lizard Beetle! Then came a brown moth, a small brown beetle, several leaf hoppers, along with the usual small flies and ants. A final collection down by the creek brought up an Agelenid spider, a Long-jawed Orbweaver, a Theridiid spider, a Meadow Katydid, a green caterpillar, and so on. A final sweep down by the creek produced two spiders, an Agelenid and a Long-jawed Orbweaver, a Theridion spider and a Meadow Katydid, among other finds of no great significance.

On the way out we stopped at the gate so I could check the Milkweed plants for bugs and beetles. The Red Milkweed Beetle was already present in large numbers.

Birds: (14)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (LM); Baltimore Oriole (RL); Black-billed Cuckoo (UM); Blue Jay (GF); Chipping Sparrow (UM); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Kingbird (UM); Field Sparrow (UM); Grey Catbird (LM/BCF); Indigo Bunting (UM); Northern Flicker (RL); Song Sparrow (LM); Yellow Warbler (BCF).

Phenology: Michigan Lilies in bloom; mosquitoes still scarce.

Trail Cam Report: There are at least two nursing mother Raccoons on site, with one litter (5 kits) about two weeks ahead of the other (≥ 4 kits). There are also at least two does with young, one and two fawns respectively. Also, strangely enough, at least two bucks on site, one with a antlers half grown the other barely sprouted. A Virginia Possum showed up in the Hole at 1:10 am on June 26.

Biological Inventory Project (ATBI)

New Species: (18% new)

‘European Pill Bug’	<i>Armadillidium nasutum</i>	GF pd/KD J102/17
‘Convergent Signal Fly’	<i>Rivellia variabilis</i>	RZ KD J102/17
‘Red-collared Lizard Beetle’	<i>Acropteroxys gracilis</i>	RZ KD J102/17
Flat Wireworm	<i>Aeolus mellillus</i>	RL KD J102/17

Species Notes:

If not “invasive” the Pill Bug has earned the milder assessment of “adventive”; The adjective “convergent” means that the three narrow bands on wings all converge.

Recurring Species:

‘Black-banded Harvestman’ (*Leiobunum vittatum*); Nursery Spider (*Pisaurina mira*); ‘Yellow-backed Theridion’ (*Theridion albidum*); Long-jawed Orbweaver (*Tetragnatha straminea*); European Alder Spittlebug (*Aphrophora alni*); ‘Striped Leafhopper’ (*Empoasca* sp.); Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Earwig (*Forficula auricularia*); True Katydid (*Pterophylla camellifolia*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); possible Brown Stink Bug (*Euschistus servus*); Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*); Sweat Bee (*Augochlora* sp.); Red Milkweed Beetle (*Tetraopes tetraphthalmus*); Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*); Allegheny Mound Ant (*Formica exsectoides* gp); ‘Red-spotted Green Midge’ (*Axarus* sp.).

Holdovers & Discards:

Nymphal grasshopper; unid. orbweaver; unid. firefly; dirt-coloured moth; red Mirid nymph.

Image Gallery



The Pill Bug (*Armadillidium nasutum*) on the left and the Lizard Beetle (*Acropteroxys gracilis*) on the right are the best finds of the day.



The other new species appear on this page. Above is the 'Convergent Signal Fly' (*Rivellia variabilis*) and below is the Flat Wireworm (not a great name for the adult life stage). The species, *Aeolus mellillus*, attacks the roots of plants when in the larval stage. (With apologies for the poor focus.)