

Date and time: Wednesday April 18 2018 2:55 - 4:40 pm

Weather: Pr 36 mm; RH 63%; BP 101.1 kPa; overcast; winds calm; T 5° C

Contents: Checking plant emergence, animal conditions.

Once more the river (and creek) are in a massive flood situation. The river is almost over its banks and Fleming Creek is well over, inundating the Fleming Creek Forest. Below, worker Brian Cornish surveys the river in flood.



Once more the property was soggy underfoot, all 47 ha of it. We therefore left the van on the road and walked in. Along the way, our worker, Brian Cornish, pointed out every scat deposit along the track, mostly from Coyotes that generally deposit along trails. More Coyote sign this time? Not so many of Virginia Deer, anyway. A Northern Cardinal called as we descended the old farm track from the Upper Meadow to the Lower. When we got to the trailer, I was happy to hear a large flock of Wild Turkeys gobbling somewhere up on the Hogsback. Later, a Northern Flicker called from the Blind Creek Forest, then some American Crows in Eva's Woods. Just downslope from the Nook (by the trailer) I found (at long last) new shoots of Trout Lilies, varying from small red spears to half-developed leaves, but with no flowers yet.

We walked the trail to the river, finding more Trout Lilies emerging as well as well-developed bunches of Wild Leek. All of that, while encouraging, was far from where we expected to be by this time of the Spring. We walked to the river, finding it in flood right up to the Landing, normally about 9' above the river. Back to the trailer we went. "Do you see any birds at the feeder?" Brian: "Nope. Nobody has

showed up yet.” Although we always used to get birds at the feeder, both over winter and spring, none to speak of have shown up so far this year.

Back in the trailer Brian nursed his Coke while I scrambled from bench to door to window, trying to get a good close up of the moth I half-identified during our last visit. After gathering sd cards and putting out kibble for Raccoon census bait at Cam #2, we left the property. Before leaving we installed the new gate lock. Down the road Brian spotted a Raccoon ambling across a floodplain field nearby.

Phenology: Trout Lilies emerging, Wild Leeks already up.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species:

‘Agonopterix April Moth’	<i>Agonopterix</i> sp.	GF KD Ap08/18
Clemens’ Agonopterix Moth	<i>Agonopterix clemensella</i>	GF kd/HC Ap08/18

Species Notes: A comparison of last week’s entry with the new one reveals the dynamic that sometimes lurks behind the identification process. First of all, the attribution code changes from “KD” to “kd/HC”, indicating that whereas I was originally both the finder and principal identifier, I have now become the finder only, with Hugh Casbourn becomes the principal identifier. I also changed the moth’s temporary handle to a proper common name.

Readers Write

Reader and moth specialist Hugh Casbourn reports on the images I sent to him recently: “You are right, this is a difficult ID. I looked through as many images of Leafrollers as I could find. The shape of this moth is a common one among the microleps. Many of these species hibernate as adults and so they can be seen in the spring as well as their more usual flight period. The family Tortricidae has many candidates of a similar shape but they are mostly too well marked for this moth. . . . I noticed *Agonopterix walsinghamella*. I looked at it quite a bit but decided it was not a match for your specimen. Others I rejected are Thelma’s Agonopterix Moth, *Agonopterix thelmae* and the Four-dotted Agonopterix Moth, *A. robiniella* . . . I think your moth is Clemen’s Agonopterix Moth, *Agonopterix clemensella*.” [The message continues, giving a 90% chance of this ID being correct. The next message ends as follows.] “The new image confirms the ID in my mind, *Agonopterix clemensella*.”

Reader Marg Hulls reports: “As usual, thanks for sending along this report . . . I’m glad to hear that you are replacing the lock. I've had a problem with it for a long time. Last week I saw coltsfoot at the Eagle Ponds so there is hope of spring ephemerals. Right now I am listening to spring peepers from . . . my pond.”

Sad News



We mourn the passing of Nina Hurdle who died at the Babcock Community Care Centre last Monday at the age of 87. She is survived by her husband Edgar. She and Edgar lived most of their lives in the house across from the property now known as Newport Forest. Nina hosted several stewards' meetings at her house, but we remember her best for her idea that this property, when it first came up for sale, should be purchased as a conservation area. When we came to know about the opportunity, we bought the former farm in 2000 and donated it to the Thames Talbot Land Trust in 2006. The funeral will be Saturday, April 21 at 11 a.m. In Rodney. Visit <https://www.lenecrologue.com/canada/ontario/southwestern-ontario/elgin/rodney/denning-rodney-chapel/RDGP/nina-may-hurdle/obituaries/> for more details.

A lock puzzle

Our new five-wheel gate lock came with a number of wheels that could be installed in the lock: four number wheels with ten digits: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 and four letter wheels with the alphabet distributed as follows (extraneous symbols deleted): A B C D E F G H I J; K L M N O P Q; R S T U V; W X Y Z. Challenge, using just one digit as a letter substitute, compose a memorable five letter word that might serve as a gate code.

Image Gallery



Emaciated deer searches for new browse amid old vegetation. Images from previous years at this time show occasional thin-looking deer, but none in such bad shape!



First Trout Lilies of the season poke through the leaf litter, flowers to follow.



I finally got an image that is suitable for sharing in *The Bulletin*. Clemens' Agonopterix Moth (*Agonopterix clemella*) clings to the screen inside the trailer door. According to Casbourn, the moths probably overwintered in the trailer. "Species are where you find them." (to quote myself)