

**Date and time:** Monday May 28 2018 3:10 - 6:30 pm

**Weather:** Pr 0 mm; RH 38%; BP 101.4 kPa; sun/cloud; winds calm; T 30° C

**Contents:** Pursuing arthropods with no letup.



I came alone today noticing, as I drove in, how the Upper Meadow is undergoing Stage One regrowth on its way to re-foresting itself. Most of the trees there are *Crataegus* and *Malus*, at a guess. It's intriguing how these pioneer species clothe not only their branches with leaves, but their trunks as well, as if to take fullest advantage of available light. We must sample that area soon!

Down at "Headquarters" (trailer and Nook in the Lower Meadow) the heat hit me like a hammer as soon as I emerged from the minivan. Recalling the new young trees in the Upper Meadow, I made a quick walkabout to survey the trees we had planted in the Regeneration Zone in the Lower Meadow. The Poplars and Tulip Trees are now beginning to "tower", even as the middle of the Zone fills in with trees that have been spinning their wheels for more than a decade and now are growing more quickly, thanks to help from taller neighbours (mycorrhizal feeding).

With no assistant for the day, I had to work extra hard to keep any kind of consistent ATBI pattern going. I therefore organized the afternoon into six major sweeps of 10-20 strokes each. The sweeps took far less time than examining the hauls. The net has to be opened slowly and with great care to make sure that as few insects as possible can escape the camera by flying off; spiders of course are never a problem that way. Here, by way of illustration, is a summary of the day's finds:

Sweep #	Location	Number	Notables
1	Gallery Forest	5	3 Basswood Leaf Miners
2	Lower Meadow	6	striped caterpillar
3	Elbow/BCF	5-6	large beetle (flew off)
4	Trail to river	7-8	Soldier Beetle
5	Trail back to LM	6	Green Leaf Hopper
6	“Deer Park” in LM	-10	Spined Assassin Bug nymphs

The Assassin Bug Nymphs, came as a surprise. There were enough of them to be interpreted as recent dispersals from an egg mass. I’m sorry that none of my images of these mantid-like bugs are of publishable quality. (But see IMAGES.)

Over the afternoon, I could hardly help noticing some species by their presence, others by their absence. On the one hand, Six-spotted Tiger Beetles showed up in their usual spring numbers but, on the other hand, I didn’t see a single Bumble Bee, no bees of any kind and just two wasps. As for mosquitos, I saw or heard about a dozen all afternoon, not enough to be a bother, but noticeably more abundant than during our previous site visit.

### Biological Inventory (ATBI)

**New Species:** (13% new arthropods)

‘Green Sharpshooter’     *Draeculacephala [antica]*

‘Indented Soldier’        *Atalantycha dentigera*

### Species Notes:

In spite of a 3/4 image angle, the rosy spot on the pronotum showed an indentation.

### Recurring Species:

Longjawed Orbweaver (*Tetragnatha* sp); ‘Placid Mangora’ (*Mangora placida*); Linyphiid Dwarf Spider (*Hypselistes florens*); ‘Little Jumping Spider’ (*Pelegrina proterva*); Red Spindlegall Mite (*Vasates aceriscrumena*); Black-backed Treehopper’ (*Pubilia concava*); Spined Assassin Bug (*Sinea diadema*); Meadow Plant bug (nymph) (*Leptoterna dolobrata*); ‘Bordered Stink Bug’ (*Mormidea lugens*); Roesel’s Bush Cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*); Six-spotted Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela sexguttata*); Northern Paper Wasp (*Polistes fuscatus*); Woodland Mosquito (*Ochlerotatus simulans*).

**Deferred or Discarded:** immature harvestman; dark Plant Bug nymph; black beetle larva; Yellowjacket; Greenbottle Fly; unID’d *Chrysops* sp.

## IMAGES



Source: BugGuide\*

Spined Assassin Bug with prey (Lady Beetle?) Note multiple spines, raptorial mantis-like forelegs and feeding beak inserted into prey. (No munching or crunching; just sucking — like a spider.)

**And now for something completely different:** a continuation of our obsession with urban ecology - the city-as-organism, how it lives and how it dies.

## URBAN ECOLOGY — The Rewilding of Detroit.



The once-great industrial city of Detroit is now a shadow of its former self, with a population of 1.85 million in 1950 now shrunk to 0.71 million in 2013, a loss of 63% of its population. Detroit now has something like 53,000 empty homes, most abandoned by residents who couldn't afford municipal taxes. The result is a vast zone within the city which is now in the process of "rewilding," with virtually all houses in the state shown above, including others with trees growing right up through the roofs. Another typical re-growth is shown below. source: Pinterest\*



There are a number of causes for the population exodus, all combining to make for a “perfect storm”. First came automation in the 50s and 60s. This made it possible for automakers to relocate factories to less expensive locations in the suburbs and in other cities. Growing tensions between blacks and whites resulted in the 1967 race riots. This accelerated the migration of whites out of urban residential areas.

Further economic disruption during the 60s and 70s resulted from the success of foreign car imports, as well as the oil price shocks that increased demand for cheaper, foreign models. At this time the city lost some 325,000 more residents, leaving a greatly reduced tax base, not to mention more abandoned properties. All this time there was a slow haemorrhage of industries tip-toeing out of the city, heaving behind abandoned factories and other buildings.

Is it a “bug” or a “feature”? (as the systems people say) Why not exploit the new reality? The word “rewilding” has now taken on a new meaning, thanks to the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework (DFCSF), a document arrived at through broad consultation with major interest groups from industrialists to environmentalists. It divides all this former real estate into “framework zones”, with marketability remaining the deciding factor in zonation policy. Homesteaders may be a wave of the future, with a new approach to how urban land is managed. Read more in the following (healthily sceptical) document:

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/10/the-assassination-of-detroit/>

\*reproduced under fair use provisions.