



Monitoring Nature

Date and time: Sunday July 1 2018 1:30 - 10:05 pm

Weather: Pr 0mm; RH 62%; BP 101.5 kPa; cloudy; S 00-00 kmh; T 00°C

Contents: Annual butterfly count and weekly bug collection.



Light trap all set up, just waiting for dark.

Pat and I arrived while the butterfly people were still out assaying the butterflies. We had time to prepare the hospitality suite in the Nook before the four of them returned, all looking a trifle peaky. (Later the Nook would be doing double duty by hosting our light trap, as seen on the left.)

The intrepid four showed up sweaty and tired: Stan Caveney, Cathy Quinlan; Ric Symmes, and Sandy Symmes. With energy returning thanks to butter tarts and refreshing drinks, the talk became quite animated, with subjects as diverse as reforestation, Beatrix Potter, three Hallowe'en Pennant dragonflies that Stan spotted, and some unusual, large scat that Ric had found while doing the butterfly count in the upper Meadow. (See Readers Write.)

After the butterfly people left, I thought I might as well do some sweeping while Pat caught up on her rest in the trailer. The very first sweep in the vicinity of the Hole brought the delightful sight of two young Walking Sticks struggling in slow motion to get out of the bag. One was larger than the other. Sweep #2

along the bank of Fleming Creek brought in a Jewelwing, a large Sarcophagid Fly (that got away), a medium-sized beetle, a “triangular” bug, a watermelon spider (as I call it), a “house fly”, and an Assassin Bug.

I managed to get in one more sweep after, this. At the Elbow I found a micro-moth, a large Harvestman, a black beetle, a Stink Bug nymph, and a white-striped Mirid.

We had our dinner in the Nook while being serenaded by a Wood Thrush which had been calling from nearby ever since we arrived on site. Shortly after dinner, Pat spotted a Pill Bug making its way across the Nook "floor." Not long after this a young Raccoon snuffled into the Nook to look for food. Over the last two baiting experiments (for population assessment), it has seemingly learned to associate the presence of humans with food.

Before long the light began to fade and I set up the light trap as in the cover image above. By 9:30 a modest collection of insects had gathered, mostly small flies, gnats, midges and small beetles. Then came a few small moths of the Tortricid persuasion, then a very large Ichneumon, some Caddis Flies, a *Macaria* moth, what appeared to be a Lyctocorid bug, and a stink bug nymph. A light trap like ours, with UV lamp donated by Stan Caveney, has a two-sided nature. Although the lamp hung on one side of a large white sheet, the other side was nearly as bright, with light coming through the sheet. It seemed reasonable to suppose that insects on the south side of the sheet had come up from the creek bluffs, while those on the north side came from the Lower Meadow, just outside the Nook.

Just as things seemed to be getting more active, it was time for us to leave. Oh well, I said, "I'll be back on Tuesday evening." (See the next Bulletin.)

Trail Cam Traffic:

#1: Virginia Deer fawn: Je29 - dawn; Raccoon Je30 - night; Coyote Je29 - night; large Raccoon Je30 - night; Coyote JI01 - morning.

#2: Blue Jay Je26 - day; large Raccoon Je26 dusk.

Birds: (9)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Clay-coloured Sparrow (UM); Common Grackle (GF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gary Catbird (BCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Wood Thrush (FCB).

Phenology: Black Caps now almost uniformly red, with only a few black.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species: (21% new but omitted from study because of inconsistent sample.)

White-spotted Hedyia *Hedyia chionosema* FCB KD JI0118

Inornate Olethreutes *Olethreutes inornatana* FCB KD JI0118
'Two-lined Macaria' *Macaria brunneata* FCB KD JI01/18

Species Notes:

The first two moths are small, both being Tortricids and both distinguished by a pair of spots, white in the first case and black in the second case. The Macaria is a medium-sized orange-brown Geometrid moth.

Recurring Species:

Common Pill Bug (*Armadillium vulgare*); Cobweb Spider (*Enoplognatha ovata*);; Hallowe'en Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*); Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Red-banded Leaf Hopper (*Grapho-cephala coccinea*); Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus* sp.); Northern Walking Stick (*Diaperomera femorata*); Two-spotted Stink Bug (*Perillus bioculatus*); 'Black-darted Red Bug (*Metriorhynchomiris dislocatus*); 'Red-collared Oil Beetle' (*Nemognatha nemorensis*); Firefly (*Photuris* sp.);

Deferred or Discarded:

UnID'd Firefly; tattered white moth; unID'd Harvestman; white micro-moth; unID large fly; one Muscid fly; small green nymph; unID'd stink bug; unID'd yellow moth; unID'd assassin bug; green hopper nymph; very large Ichneumon Wasp. **Note:** The larger number of entries in this category is due to a number of unusual and hard-to-ID spp. showing up at the light trap.

Readers Write

Ric Symmes, one the butterfly counters, reports as follows: "Butterflies we saw today on the Newport Forest property:

European Skippers	3
Summer Azure	2
Little Wood Satyr	5
Wood Nymph	16
Gt Spangled Fritillary	11
Cabbage White	8
Northern Crescent	1
Tawny Emperor	1
Monarch	4
Clouded Sulphur	3

We also noted several Halloween Pennant dragonflies and Clay Coloured Sparrows calling in the [Upper Meadow].”

Image Gallery



The quickest way to tell a pill bug — like *Armadillium vilgare* above — from a sow bug is to watch how it crawls. Sow bugs stay relatively inflexible while crawling. A pill bug looks like a concertina with legs and flexes readily as it moves through a landscape. Above, for example, you can see it flexing as it crawls over a grass stem. Pat gets the day’s prize for this one!



Young Walking Stick insects are evidently all green, while the adults are brownish. This way, so goes my theory, the young are protected among the green plants that they frequent, while the adults are better camouflaged along brownish twigs,