

Insect Report



As some of you have begun to realize, I have a fetish for common names -- to the point where, if an organism doesn't have one, I bestow my best effort. Such names are always enclosed in single quotes in our records. The following beetle belongs to the family Melandryidae, a poorly studied family with its taxonomy in disarray, according to LeSage. Melandryids resemble Darkling beetles and so are called "False Darklings." These beetles live under bark or in dead wood or in leaf litter. Their larvae are predators and detritivores, but the diet of adults has not been much studied.

'Brown-sided Deacon' *Amblyctis praeses*
status: new species

photo courtesy of Steve Marshall



And on a different note, here is an amazing shot of a Blue-fronted Dancer (standard common name) dining on what appears to be a Snipe Fly. Damselflies, although a junior edition of the dragonflies, are every bit as predacious. Watch any of them as they perch quietly on a leaf or stem near a favoured hunting area. Suddenly they flutter out, snatch a flying victim, and return to their roost to dine. The practice is called "hawking," and some birds, like the Eastern Wood Peewee or the Eastern Kingbird, hunt in the same manner. (if it works, use it.) Most Damselflies hold their wings parallel to the body, unlike Dragonflies, which hold them outward.

Blue-fronted Dancer *Argia apicalis* status:
previously recorded

photo courtesy of Steve Marshall