

**Date and time:** Saturday July 23 2021 1:00 - 5:15 pm

**Weather:** Pr 0 mm; RH 78%; BP 101.4 kPa; cloud/sun; S 10-30 kmh; T 29° C.

**Contents:** We get back to arthropods in killer heat.



Removal of the trailer has left a bare patch of soil for a new parking spot. Or should I leave it bare and document all the plants that appear over time?

When we arrived at the farm gate, I was a bit surprised to see that Alex McIntyre (the farmer across the road) had already towed (or dragged) the trailer up to the gate. Just then, a Cabbage White flew in one open window and out the other. Was that a sign?

Down at the camp area we emerged into intense heat and humidity. Not even the bare spot left by the removal of our memory-laden little trailer could deflect the discomfort. Assistant for the day, Brian Cornish, and I sheltered in the Nook under the old Black maple until I could no longer delay the work of the day. We walked out to the River Landing. Along the way, Brian spotted a large insect parked on a leaf, enabling me to take one of my better photographs of a Robber Fly. A bit later he spotted two Robber flies in *flagro delicti*, as my entomology instructor once described it, on another leaf. I asked them to forgive my intrusion. At the Landing Brian fired up his weed eater to clear a window for Cam #2. (Readers will see the problem posed by an overgrowth of vegetation in the last image of this issue.) Then I took a sweep of the plants at the Landing, explaining to Brian what I was doing. I already knew it would not be a good day for me, physically.

On the way back I noticed that I was doing my “tired walk”. This is accomplished

by leaning slightly forward so that you would fall forward if you didn't catch up with your feet. The problem came when I Stopped to change the sd card at Cam #1; I continued to lean, resulting in a fall that was broken only by a firm grasp of the camera tree. "I think you got heat stroke," said Brian, who kept a hand at the ready on our way back to the Nook.

The bag was not impressive. Brian watched expectantly as I rapidly captured the critters in my camera, even as some flew or snuck away. So then, after some cold Timmies coffee, I sent Brian out to sweep at the Elbow. "I bet I get more than you did" said Brian as he sauntered away, soon trotting to get into the relative cool of the forest. In his absence, I stumbled over to the old trailer parking site. It would have to be cleaned of debris before Moth Nite this coming Sunday.

When Brian got back there were, indeed, more insects in his bag, including one of the more colourful beetles on the property. And a new species, to boot, decorated with a modest calligraphic design. "I told ya I was going to get more!" This time, we collected, collectively, more Arachnids than I did last visit.

To complete the day, I had Brian load up a large garbage bag with leaf litter. During wet weather we get more arthropods than during dry times. This time, ignoring all the ants, we got a Wood Louse, an Ebony Bug and badly photographed brown and black beetle. We stopped in Wardsville for the usual ice cream cone.

### **Biological Inventory (ATBI)**

#### **New Species:**

'Hammerback Leaf Beetle' *Calligrapha bidenticola* RLKDJ123/22  
'Gold-legged Robber Fly' *Neotimus [flavofemorata]* ElbKDJ123/22

#### **Species Notes:**

The beetle is very common throughout the eastern half of North America. The Robber Fly was identified to genus by Steve Marshall with my added guess of "flavofemorate," which means "gold legged". Our specimen, like several in the bug guide gallery for this species, has only partially "golden" legs. The only other choice for this species would be *N. orphane*.

#### **Recurring Species:**

European Sowbug (*Oniscus asellus*); 'Striped Longjaw' (*Tetragnatha straminea*); 'Black and White Harvestman (*Leiobunum vittatum*); 'Black-eyed Harvestman (*Leiobunum [flavum]*); 'Yellow-backed Theridion' (*Theridion albidum*); 'European

Alder Spittlebug' (*Aphrophora alni*); 'Green Sharpshooter' (*Draeculacephala [antica]*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Ebony Bug (*Corimelaena lateralis*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus [brevipennis]*); Say's Trig; (*Anaxipha exidua*); 'Black Click Beetle' ([*Aeolus* sp.]).

### Image Gallery

The Leaf Beetles *Calligrapha* are boldly marked members of the Chrysomelidae Leaf Beetle family. This beetle munches on plants of the genus Bidens, where "Bidenticola" means "lover of Bidens."





Robber Flies are predatory members in the order Diptera (flies). Chief characters are the swollen femora which enable a Robber Fly to clutch prey tightly. The large eyes mean excellent vision enabling these predators to close in on prey in flight.

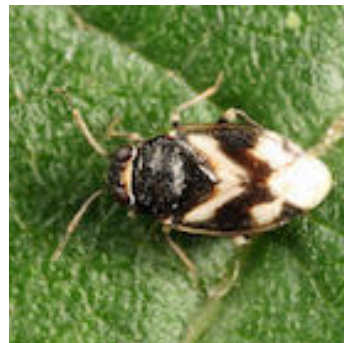
Two Robber Flies



making out.



This Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*) is not only the most common Mirid at Newport Forest, it has the most different forms and coloration, although always the same basic structural pattern. Anyone unfamiliar with this bug is apt to think there are 20 different species involved. (2 examples below)





A new youngster trots out ahead of its mother

**MOTH NITE AT NEWPORT FOREST**

Reminder: Sunday evening at 7 pm with Allen Woodliffe. See previous issue..