1214 The Newport Forest Bulletin Au13/22
Citizen Science & Monitoring Nature

Date and time: Saturday August 13 2022 2:35 - 5:45 pm.
Weather: Pr 68 mm; RH 48%; BP 102.1 kPa; overcast; winds calm; T 22º C.
Contents: A sampling visit to Fleming Creek**.**

Sharon demonstrates kick-fishing

A gray overcast greeted Sharon Campbell and me when we arrived at the gate. Sharon is my week-end housekeeper who occasionally fills in as my field assistant for the day. She loves nature and all animal life — except spiders.

Inspecting the top of the old trailer deck (still to be removed) Sharon lifted a board to reveal two ant nests, triggering a panic among the ants to stow away the hundreds of eggs amassed there. I'll get back to that find in the IMAGES section.

The focus of the day was aquatic life in Fleming Creek and its banks. There were Micrathena (aka "Teapot Spiders") webs across every trail. Their bridge lines are extraordinarily strong.

Donning rubber boots, we made our way down the Fleming Creek trail carrying both insect nets, the aquatic net and a balancing pole. We waded to the lower rapids where I showed Sharon the basics of "kick-fishing." Briefly, one immerses the aquatic net placing it firmly against the stream bottom immediately downstream of a promising rock. Delivering a kick (or a vigorous nudge) to the rock in a sideways direction un-leashes a torrent of water into the space under the rock, sweeping anything there directly into the net. Then one retrieves the net to see what was under the rock: snails, fish, insect larvae crayfish and whatever else was lurking there. About half the rocks had nothing beneath them, possibly sitting too snugly.

For good measure, we also swept the banks of the stream, but then a light rain began to fall. This would guarantee a poor harvest and it did. When the rain died, we carried everything back up the bluffs to the Nook where a table stood ready with a white sheet covering it. Going through our bags, I saw several smaller insects like hoppers and small flies flee, along with several small spiders and two larger ones that I could identify. I had to ask myself, "Why so many spiders?" Then I realized it was simply one effect of that brief rain that caused insects to hide.

Phenology: Again, no mosquitoes.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species:

Caddis Fly	*Potamyia flava*	GF AW Jl31/22
Snow's Robber Fly	Machimus snow	GF AW Jl31/22
Cone-headed Planthopper	*Acanalonia conica*	GF AW Jl31/22
Moths (cont'd from Jl31)		
Sharp-angled Carpet	*Euphyia intermediata*	GF AW Jl31/22
Flowing Line Snout	*Hypena manalis*	GF AW Jl31/22
Johnson's Euchlaena	*Euchlaena johnsonaria*	GF AW Jl31/22
American Lappet Moth	*Phyllodesma americana*	GF AW Jl31/22
Mantled Acrobasis Moth	*Acrobasis palliolella*	GF AW Jl31/22
Ragweed Borer Moth	*Epiblema strenuana*	GF AW Jl31/22
Sharp-edged Carpet	*Euphyia intermediata*	GF AW Jl31/22
Variegated Midget	*Elaphria versicolor*	GF AW Jl31/22
Verbena Bud Moth	*Endothenia hebesana*	GF AW Jl31/22
Wonderful Underwing	*Catocala mira*	GF AW Jl31/22
Woodgrain Leafroller	*Pandemis lamprosana*	GF AW Jl31/22
Others		
Planorbid freshwater Snail	[*Planorbis*] sp.	FC KD Au13/22

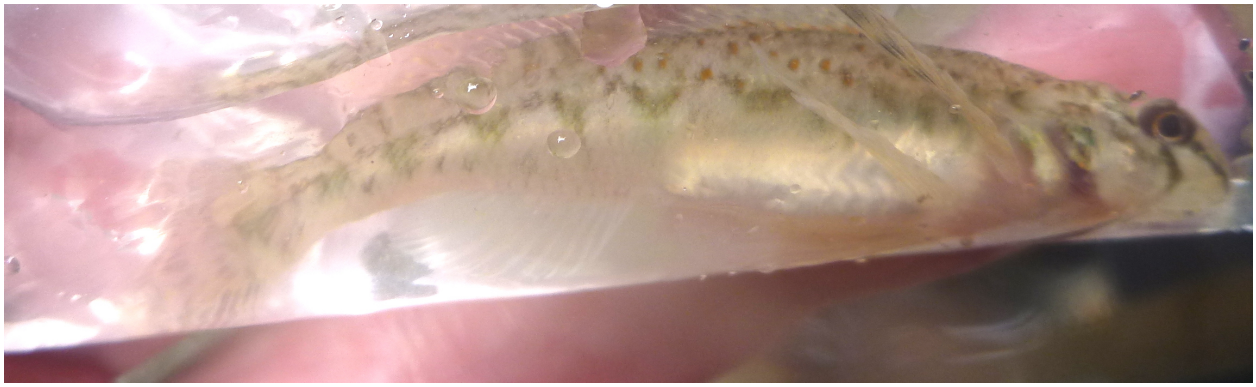
Recurring Species:
'Giant Tetragnathid' (*Tetragnatha elongata*); 'Crenellated Nursery Spider (*Pisaurina mira*); Ebony Jewel Wing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*); Green Stink Bug (Chinavia hilaris); Ulke's Field Ant (*Formica ulkei*); Milkweed Tussock Moth (Euchaetes egle).
Other animals: Johnny Darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*); Logperch (Percina caprodes); Northen Clearwater Crayfish (Orconectes propinquus); Eastern Forest Snail (Anguispira alternata).

Images

Two different-sized worker ants in the act of taking an egg in their jaws. Size differences make for specialties in some contexts. Ulke's Field Ant is parasitic on another Formica species, F. *subsenescens*. Ant expert Gary Umphrey once told me that our region is the world headquarters for slave-making ants.

Northern Clearwater Crayfish

is easily identified by red tips on chelicerae and black band around the end of carapace. (Just been to the nail spa!)



Johnny Darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*) is identified by a row of X'x and W's along its side This fish, being very squirmy, was kept in the baggie.

Logperch (*Percina caprode*s) is identified by row of long dark bars alternating with shorter ones. Both species are darters. All darters belong to the Perch family.

What appears to be a Crane Fly larva (an aquatic caterpillar, so to speak) has four sensory palps at it front end. Just don’t ask me what species it is; terrestrial caterpillars are hard enough!)

Planorbate Freshwater Snail (above) & Eastern Forest Snail (below)

Both snails have the same shape (a low spire) the same number of whorls, and a dark complexion. The Forest Snail is barely half the diameter and lives on land. It was collected from vegetation bordering the Creek