

**Date and time: Thursday June 22 2023 3:05 pm - 5:20**

**Weather:** RH 54 %; BP 101.8 kPa; clear; calm with gusts; T 22°C; Pr 0 mm.

**Contents:** Back to the Arthropods with perfect weather.



**Eco-puzzle: Is that Lake Erie in the distance or just a very long cloud?**

Assistant Brian and I arrived late at the property and so wasted little time getting at the arthropods. We planned two sets of sweeps: The first two, Ia and Ib, covered both sides of the trail from the Nook to the Hole (entrance to the Blind Creek Forest). The next two, IIa and IIb, covered the River Landing and from the Bend back to the Hole, respectively..

Returning from our first pair of sweeps, we processed my bag first. The most interesting find from my sweep was a Ground Crab Spider. (See below.) On his first sweep, Brian brought in three Meadow Plant Bugs. Were they holding a convention where he swept?

When we went into the Blind Creek Forest, I noticed that Trail Cam #1 had gotten infested with small black ants. I tried to photograph them, but they were scurrying so quickly, they all turned out rather blurred as images. Our idea was to walk to the river, take care of Trail Cam #2, then sweep on the way back. I took the River Landing area, While Brian swept from the Bend to the Hole. Starting out, we were startled by a medium sized bird that reminded me of an American Robin, but I can't claim that it was. Later on I heard a Kinglet, but didn't see its crown.

Arriving at the river, I took a picture of a Cup Plant in good position and condition, figuring to use it in the book on Newport Forest suggested by my publisher. Then we harvested the sd card from Cam #2 and carried out our respective sweeps: My sweep at the Landing yielded a beautiful green weevil that I could not ID in time for this Bulletin, also a surprisingly large number of Long-jawed Orb Weavers. For his part, Brian bagged a beautiful iridescent Green Immigrant Weevil (so called).

I had been noticing a large number of plants in flower so, as a side project, I photographed every one I could find on my way back to the Nook. Leaving the property, my car flushed one of the Bobolinks still in the Upper Meadow.

**Phenology:** no mosquitoes — due to dryness of recent weather?

### Biological Inventory (ATBI)

#### New Species:

‘Bronze Skeletonizer’	<i>Ophraella conferta</i>	LM KD Je22/23
‘Picture-winged Fruit Fly’	<i>Procecidochares atra</i>	BCF/ho KD Je22/23

#### Species Notes:

This Fruit Fly is one of several gall-making flies on Goldenrod plants. Two images that should have been diagnosed remain in that condition. One is a green broad-nose weevil, the other is a fly with narrow black parallel bands crossing the wings. I may have to farm these out!

#### Recurring Species:

‘Black-shouldered Harvestman’ (*Leiobunum ventricosum*); One-spotted Harvestman’ (*Leiobunum [bracchiolum]*); ‘Leopard Xysticus’ (*Xysticus ferox*); Giant Tetragnathid (*Tetragnatha elongata*); Whitebanded Crab Spider (*Misumenoides formosipes*); Hentz’s Mesh Weaver (*Emblyna hentzi*); Two-striped Grasshopper (*Melanoplus bivittatus*); Sharpshooter (*Draeculacephala [antica]*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*); Meadow Plant Bug (*Leptoterna dolodbrata*); Scarlet Plant Bug (*Coccobaphes frontifer*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Black Damsel Bug (*Nabis subcoleoptrata*); Twice-stabbed Stinkbug (*Cosmopepla lintneriana*); Fairchild’s Firefly (*Photuris faiurchildi*); Green Immigrant Weevil (*Polydrusus formosus*); The Beggar (*Eubaphe mendica*); Green Long-legged Fly Fly (*Condylostylus caudatus*).

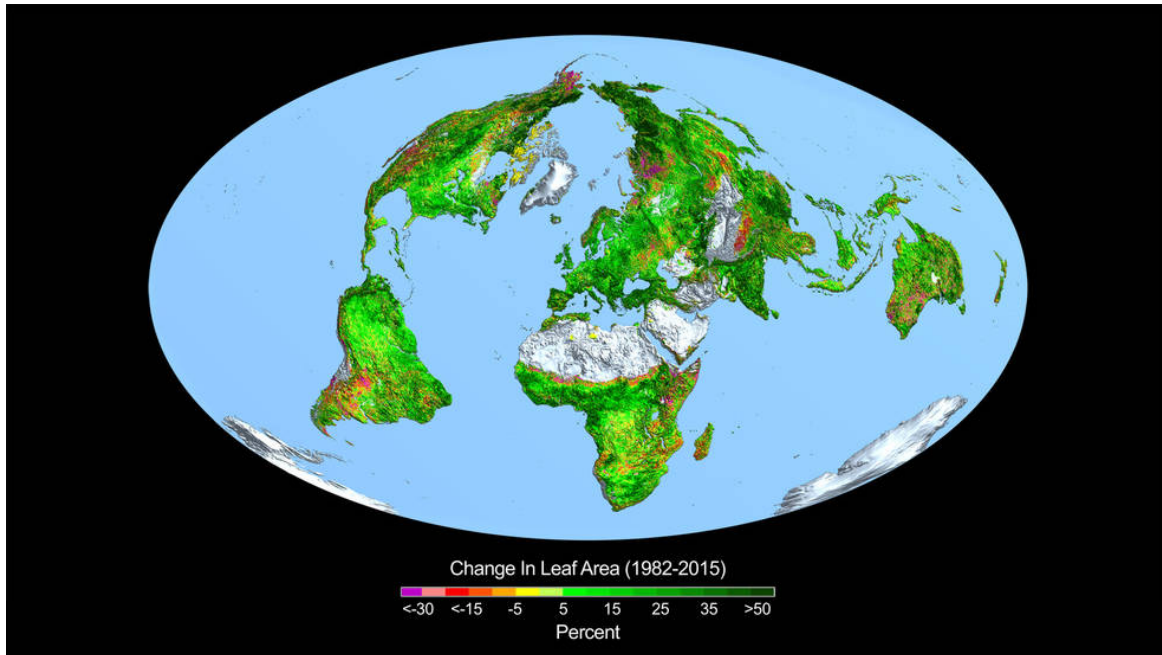
Arachnids are evidently on the hunt; six species of spiders vs 12 spp of insects implies 33% spiders.

## Readers Write

Gregory Zeigler of Santa Fe NM has sent this study about CO<sub>2</sub> and plants:

### **NASA Research: Carbon Dioxide Fertilization Greening Earth.**

<<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/carbon-dioxide-fertilization-greening-earth>>



light green indicates moderate change; darker greens indicate greater change

## **MOTH NITE !**

**Moth Nite** will be held this year on **the evening of July 2, this coming Sunday**, with Monday as the rain date. Readers who wish to attend should bring their cameras and/or cellphones to start their own collections of some of the most beautiful moths in the world. They should stay until 11 pm (leaving the site any time thereafter) as that's about when the moths are peaking, I will stay with Allen Woodliffe, our local moth expert and host, until midnight. Bring a jacket or windbreaker in case the evening cools down. Allen will conduct an intermittent seminar to draw your attention to the more interesting specimens that show up on his UV-illuminated screen. It's the size of a bedsheet and both sides collect their own specimens.

## IMAGES



The “Leopard Ground Crab” (*Xysticus ferox*) The genus *Xysticus* consists of all the Ground Crab Spiders. This species has a widely scattered distribution across North America.



Hentz's Mesh Weaver (*Emblyna hentzi*), according to the Bug Guide range map, has been found so far in Wisconsin and Massachusetts. Southern Ontario is halfway between these states.

Spiders make several different kinds of snares, including orb webs, line webs, funnel webs and mesh webs. The latter resemble disorganized tangles anchored to grass stems. Each style of web is characteristic of the species that makes it.



The 'Bronzr Skeletonizer' led me on a merry chase, taking several hours of looking at mug shots. At first I thought it was a Chrysomelid beetle, plain & simple, only later finding it in the Chrysomelid tribe of Galerucini, the skeletonizing Leaf Beetles.

The larvae of Skeletonizer insects eat out the cells between veins in a leaf, leaving only the net-like skeleton. Our skeletonizer has a broad range, centred on the Great Lakes area.