

Date and time: July 18 2023 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Weather: RH 58%; BP 101.3 kPa; T 22°C; sun/haze; winds calm; Pr 94 mm.

Contents: We survive mosquito Hell.



This view of the river shows that it's still over its banks — barely.

I met Steve on site, only to be engulfed by mosquitoes when I stepped out of the car. “Holy Hooligan,” I said. I’ve never seen anything like this.” “Yup,” said Steve, “and they’re telling their buddies in the woods all about us.” For the rest of the afternoon, every move in our sweeping operation was interrupted by slaps and curses. “Yup. We’re just two big filling stations.”

The Spirit of Newport Forest said, “The show must go on, regardless.” and so we began sweeping, knowing that the sooner we finished, the sooner we’d be out of there. Since i am now faced with a limited walking range, I asked Steve to make a sweep along the banks of Fleming Creek without me having to go down there.

Besides the sweep along the creek, we swept along the trail in the Lower Meadow and, later on, out at the River Landing. Our overall take seemed sparser than on previous visits. I blamed the mosquitoes for that, as I did for any mishaps of the day. At the creek, Steve netted two Ebony Jewelwings and a nymphal grasshopper, among other things. The meadow sweeps produced two Bumblebees, a Leaf-footed Bug, an emerald Weevil, a strikingly-coloured caterpillar and many other, less memorable insects. The two sweeps out at the River Landing produced a Bush Cricket, a Deer Fly, some hoppers, and so on.

Did we relax in the Nook after an arduous day? Nope. We beetled out of there, truck and car together.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species:

'Striped Marsh Fly' *Limnia sparsa* BCT KD Je23/23

Species Notes: The Marsh Fly was held over from the previous visit, pending it's proper identification. Marsh Flies are predatory on snails. It is widely distributed in E. North America.

Recurring Species:

'One-spotted Harvestman' (*Leiobunum brachiolum*); Short-winged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*); Two-spotted Tree Cricket (*Neoxabea bipunctata*); Two-striped Grasshopper (*Melanoplus bivittatus*); 'Small Milkweed Bug' (*Lygaeus kalmi*); 'Black Mirid' (*Casus ater*); Green Immigrant Weevil (*Polydrusus formosus*); Slender Lizard Beetle (*Acropteroxys gracilis*); Short-necked Soldier Beetle (*Podabrus brevicollis*); Convergent Ladybeetle (*Hippodamia convergens*); 'Notchwing Deerfly' (*Chrysops moechus*); 'Dappled Fruit Fly' (*Eutreta noveboracensis*); Rose Hip Fly (*Gymnocarena norrbomi*); Boreal Bumblebee (*Bombus borealis*); 'Imatiant Bumblebee' (*Bombus impatiens*).

Images



A rather poor photograph of the one new species reported here.



A probable nymph of the Leaf-footed Bug which begins to show up in greater numbers near the Fall and end of Summer. It looks predatory, but it feeds on plant sap. The name “leaf-foot” comes from the enlarged tibia on leg 3.



Sometimes I am confronted by what seems to be a self-inflicted puzzle. The fly above was collected today but I became convinced — on the basis of my memory alone — that I was dealing with a “Flutterfly”, as below. But our specimen, although superficially resembling a flutterfly, had nice, long antennae, an attribute not occurring in Flutterflies. It took a Steve Marshall to pull me back into the proper orbit. With thanks to a valuable expert.



We have kept the skull of a large male deer in the Nook since last year, when Sharon found it lying in some brush by the creek. Both skull and antlers have been nibbled steadily away by salt-loving mice.

The most striking features here is the sutures that seal the cranium during the foetal stage. Note that each suture is a single wiggly line of bone “interdigitating” (a twenty-dollar word) with its opposite plate, locking the two together.