

Linnaean Field Trip Report

Van Cortlandt Park, NYC, NY

June 16, 2018

Weather was sunny, calm, in mid 80s

Leader: Ken Chaya

Birds

Rock Pigeon
Chimney Swift
Mourning Dove (nest only)
Green Heron (on active nest)
Red-tailed Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
House Sparrow
American Goldfinch (heard)
Red-winged Blackbird
Scarlet Tanager
Baltimore Oriole
Northern Cardinal

Trees, Shrubs

Paperbark Maple
Red Maple
Norway Maple
Silver Maple
European Linden
Red Oak
Chestnut Oak
Pin Oak
Black Cherry
Hackberry
Catalpa Tree
Tuliptree
Bitternut Hickory
Black Locust
Cottonwood
American Sycamore
London Plane
Staghorn Sumac
Smooth Sumac
Sassafras
White Ash

Vines, Wildflowers

Virginia Creeper
Poison Ivy
Wine Berry
Curled Dock
Broad-leaved Dock
Arrowwood Viburnum
Daisy Fleabane
Wild Grape
False Solomon's Seal
Bladdernut
Purple Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Black Cohosh
Mugwort
White Clover
Yellow Wood Sorrel
Deadly Nightshade

Butterflies and Moths

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Cabbage White
Clouded Sulfur
Orange Sulfur
Banded Hairstreak
Summer Azure
Silvery Checkerspot
Red Admiral
Silver-spotted Skipper
Hobomok Skipper
Morbid Owlet
Orange-patched Smoky Moth

Odonates

Ebony Jewelwing
Eastern Forktail
Variable Dancer
Spot-winged Glider
Common Whitetail

Other Invertebrates

Spittle Bug (Cercopoidea)

Red-banded Leaf Hopper
(*Graphocephala coccinea*)
Two-spotted Grassbug (*Stenotus binotatus*)
Stilt Bug (Berytidae)
Eastern Harvestman, aka Daddy Longlegs (*Leiobunum vittatum*)
Earwig (Forficulidae)
Green Lacewing (Chrysopidae)
Katydid (Tettigoniidae)
Syrphid Fly (Syrphidae, several different species seen)
Picture-wing Fly (*Delphinia picta*)
Long-legged Fly (Dolichopodidae)
Crane Fly (Limoniidae)
Checkered Beetle (Cleridae)
Locust Leafminer (larval leafmine seen on leaves)
Golden Tortoise Beetle (*Charidotella sexpunctata*)
Metallic Wood-boring Beetle (Buprestidae)
Ridged Carrion Beetle (*Olceoptoma inaequale*)
Tumbling Flower Beetle (*Mordella marginata*)
Long-horned Beetle (*Necydalis mellita*)
Firefly (Lampyridae)
Net-winged Beetle (*Calopteron discrepans*)
Net-winged Beetle (*Caenia dimidiata*)
Ichneumon Wasp (Ichneumonidae)
Cerceris Wasp (Crabronidae)
Mason Wasp (*Manobia quadridens*)
Cuckoo Wasp (Chrysididae)
Velvet Ant (*Timulla sp.*)
Crab Spider (Thomisidae)
Jumping Spider (Salticidae)

(Note: Roman font indicates Family name, Italic indicates Genus and Species)



We were successful in finding our target species, the Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*).



Another view of the Silvery Checkerspot. We easily saw over a dozen individuals on this day.



This tiny Tumbling Flower Beetle (*Mordella marginata*) was found on a wild rose blossom.



A favorite, the brightly colored Red-banded Leafhopper (*Graphocephala coccinea*).



Another good sighting was this Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*). It cooperatively perched for us allowing for photographs..



The fine, velvet-like hair on its stalk indicates that this is Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*).



Less seen elsewhere in NYC, I often observe this Tachnid Fly (*Cordyligaster septentrionalis*) in Van Cortlandt Park during the summer months.



Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*). A beautiful female—note small white spots on wing tips (pseudostigma)—watches from her perch.



An exciting first-time ever sighting for everyone was this Long-horned Beetle (*Necydalis mellita*).

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Found on decomposing remains was this Ridged Carrion Beetle (*Olceoptoma inaequale*).

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Young Earwigs such as this one can often be found within the foliage of Milkweed plants. Family Forticulidae.



After some research, I believe this Limoniid Crane Fly may be (*Epiphragma solatrix*).

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High in a Pin Oak, we observed this active Green Heron nest.



One of the nesting pair, this Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) was seen perching nearby.



Easily confused in the field are the 3 orange and black insects on this page. The one above is called a Net-winged Beetle (*Caenia dimidiata*).



To illustrate why we use Latin names for precise identification, here is another common named, Net-winged Beetle (*Calopteron discrepans*).



These young American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) still in the nest, appeared ready to fledge.



Balancing on its long, spindly legs, the well-named Stilt Bug makes its way across a leaf. Family Berytidae.



And another look-alike, yet not a beetle at all, is this Orange-patched Smoky Moth (*Pyramorphia dimidiata*).



Careful observation revealed several well camouflaged Morbid Owlet moths (*Chytolita morbidalis*) perched on the ground.



Getting ready to bloom was this Purple Milkweed (*Argia fumipennis*).



Although it goes by the common name of Velvet Ant (*Timulla* sp.), this hairy red insect is actually a wasp.



This bold fellow is a Jumping Spider of the Family Salticidae.



Variable Dancer (*Argia fumipennis*) this female was found blending in with the forest leaf litter.