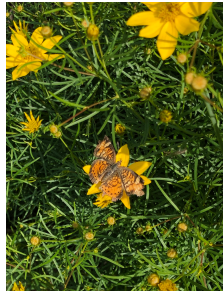


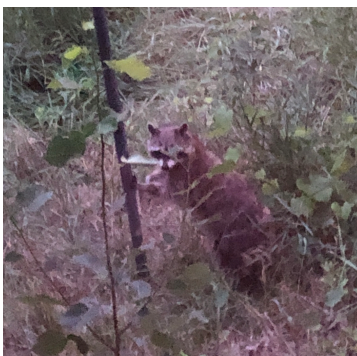
Gillespie Creek Journal



Leonard's Skipper
Photo by JA



Ovenbird
Photo by eBird



Thursday Evening Raccoon Came to Share In the Plenty



Eastern Comma Butterfly
Gillespie Creek 6/30/23
Photo by JA

Believe it or not an Ovenbird calling it's signature "teacher" melody is the most common song bird of the 35 species of migratory birds spending their summer on The Farm property this summer 2023.

Ovenbirds eat mostly insects but will forage for both seeds and fruit. They seek deciduous woods for building their multi-room "oven" shaped nest. Often times it's located on the ground. The inner cup is 3" across and 2" deep. Parents line the interior with deer or horse hair. The outer dome is camouflaged with leaves and small sticks. Although I've identified Ovenbirds foraging below my sunflower feeder for several years, I never have been lucky enough to stumble on to a nest.

Merlin hears them singing in the Birch and Oak woods all along the perimeter of the creek.

Thus far 2023 is a year of plenty in the Gillespie Creek meadows. Monarch Butterflies proliferate, there are many Skippers, and this mid-sized Eastern Comma flew into my open door to settle on a window sill. Fortunately he remained calm and let me gently guide him back outside without injury.

Daily a variety of tiny, tall grass Skipper Butterflies proliferate on our 80 A property.

These days my son mows only paths through the meadows making a labyrinth pattern around our buildings.

Now in our fifth year in residence at The Farm, the Sedge grasses are trending toward a height of six feet.

"Sedges have edges, Rushes are round, Grasses have nodes from the top to the ground."



Wildlife Habitat: The Ovenbird - Alyssa Harris

Visit

Sketch by All About Birds

Missing in 2023 are Wrens Burnett County, Wisconsin should be a nesting habitat for House, Winter, Sedge and Marsh Wrens. **Neither Merlin nor I have encountered a single Wren this year!**

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