

leaves at ground level. The greenish-yellow bloom will later give rise to blue fruits that account for the name Blue-bead Lily. Maybe you'll find some Pink Lady's Slippers. They are there, not in any great quantity, but seem to be increasing. False Lily of the Valley will show up in great profusion. This short plant, with a small spike of pure white flowers, is common all over the province, as is also the Star-flower. Marsh Marigold has been forgotten in passing but can be found along the banks or back from the stream in a wet boggy area. This is a very interesting plant and could provide material for a short article later.



Well upstream from the bridge is a very fertile low-lying area that produces a multitude of plants. Here you may find Jack-in-the-Pulpit, not rare, but not all that plentiful either. When travelling through this area keep your hands at least at waist level. Stinging Nettle grows here and a brush with it can cause quite a bit of discomfort to some people. Nearby you're almost sure to find Curled Dock and, according to some authorities at least, rubbing juice from the Dock plant on the Nettle burn will relieve the discomfort.

If you go below the bridge on the left side and travel a few yards from the water's edge, you may suddenly be aware of a delightful odour. Just follow your nose and you'll come to an extensive mat of Twinflowers. This is the only plant to which the great Swedish botanist Linneaus gave his own name Linnaea borealis.

As you turn toward the water for easier travelling back to the bridge a splash and a flutter of wings may show that you've disturbed a pair of Blue-winged Teal. As they disappear around a bend you resume your walk to the bridge, when all of a sudden an explosion of sound indicates that you've raised a Ruffed Grouse. If there's a nest nearby the Grouse will become suddenly disabled and flutter about as though it has a broken wing. Don't try to catch it because, if you do, it will always seem to be just out of reach. By the time it has led you well away from the nest it makes a miraculous recovery and sails off completely unharmed.

Only a few birds have been mentioned. An attempt to refer to even a small number would make an article, already too long, much longer. It must be said though that, almost any day in June, Geoff Hogan would have a field day!

In the latter part of June two striking plants will come into bloom. The first will be Cow-Parsnip. This is a huge plant, sometimes reaching six feet or more in height. The large flat-topped flower clusters are pure white but the intense color soon fades and all too soon, the Cow-Parsnip becomes a ragged-looking unattractive plant. Soon after the Cow-Parsnip blooms, Meadow Rue makes its appearance. The many long sprays of white blossoms are beautiful but, like the previous plant, the blossoms soon fade and the plant will hardly merit a second look.

As the summer moves into August, signs of the coming autumn are much in evidence. Many of the earlier plants have matured and maybe the odd Maple branch is showing some color. The orange-yellow blossoms of Ragwort appear, along with the purple-mauve of Joe Pye Weed. Several species of Wild Aster will begin to bloom and some of these are very attractive.

This really started out as a trout fishing trip and, with luck, you may have a half dozen eight to ten inchers in the basket. With a lot of luck you might have something to take a picture of when you get home. One thing you can be sure of, these trout will be of excellent quality. With a twinge of regret that the season is nearly over, you head for home, but you have the sure knowledge that it will all be there again next year.