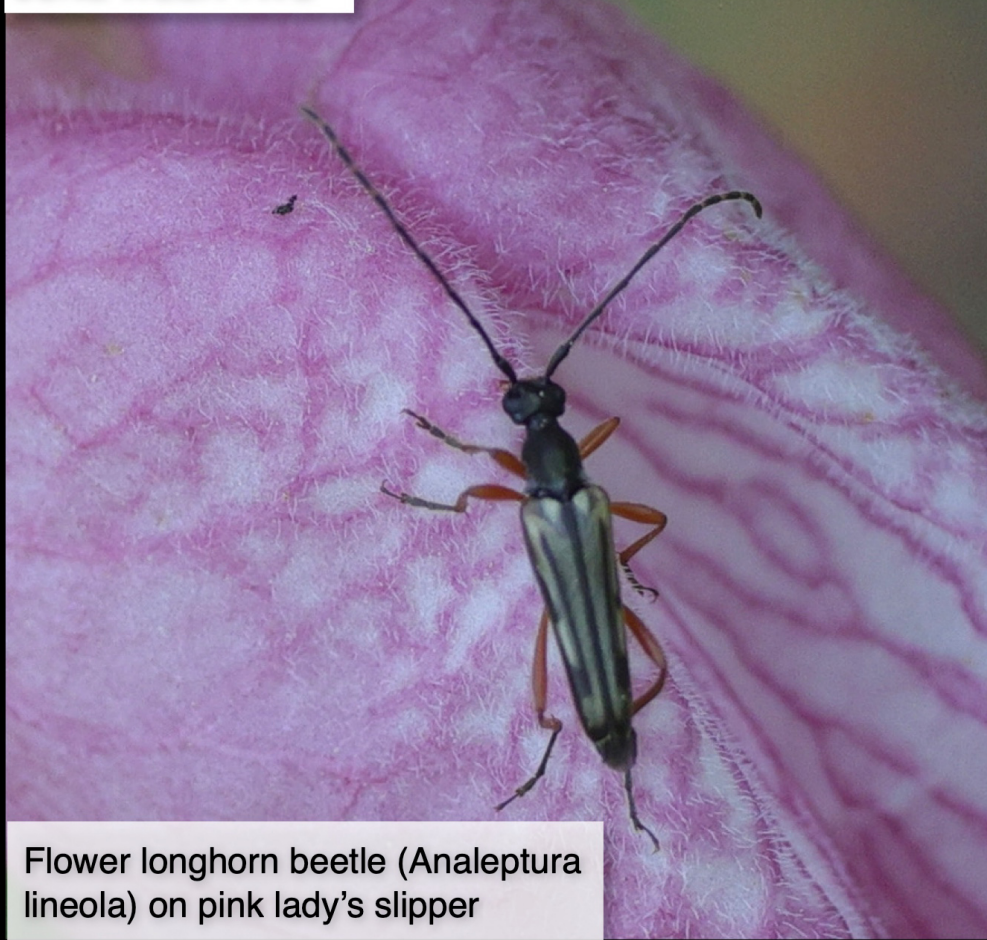


This Week in the Woods June: Week Two

JUNE WEEK TWO



Flower longhorn beetle (*Analeptura lineola*) on pink lady's slipper



Tree swallows



Hooked crowfoot



Slant-lined moth



Common ringlet



Dryad's saddle

This Week in the Woods, we visited our favorite **pink lady's slipper** patch and discovered a couple of beautiful beetles crawling on the blossoms. *Analeptura lineola*, sometimes called the **flower longhorn beetle**, is a common forest beetle that uses beech, hornbeam, and hophornbeam as its larval hosts. In its adult form, it feeds on the pollen and nectar of various flowers. Soon after we took its photo, this beetle made its way into the "lobster trap" of the lady's slipper bloom. Whether it found or bit its way out again, we don't know. For more about lady's slippers' technique of temporarily trapping pollinators, see this *Outside Story* [essay by Susan Shea](#).

Here are some other nature sights this week (clockwise):

Tree swallows are so common in our region that they are often ignored (or grumpily observed, as they occupy intended bluebird houses), but they're fun to watch, be they skimming water off the surface of a river with their beaks at high speeds, or performing acrobatic dives after flying insects. We've often seen a mated pair switching off at the entrance of their next cavity, as in this photo, and after the chicks hatch, the parents will frequently emerge from the cavity with white blobs in their beaks. These are fecal sacs – exactly what they sound like – which they'll discreetly drop at a distance. You can see a Northern Woodlands blog post about fecal sacs, and video demonstration of a junco feeding its young and removing a fecal sac, [at this link](#).

Hooked crowfoot, which is also often called **hooked buttercup**, is blooming on the edges of swamps and other wetlands. It has waxy looking flowers typical of its ranunculus (buttercup) tribe. The “hooked” part of its name derives from the barb-like structures on its fruit, shown in a photograph in this [Native Plant Trust profile](#).

Deep in a patch of **maidenhair fern**, we found a large cluster of **dryad's saddle** (also called **pheasant's back polypore**) growing on a log. This fungus is easy to identify, and it shows up reliably at the end of spring each year. Here's a [profile from the Ohio State University's Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine blog](#).

Common ringlets are really, well, common, right now in the meadow, and as Larry Weber notes in his guide, *Butterflies of New England*, they have a “jerky, bouncing flight just above the grass tops.” They use grasses and rushes as caterpillar host plants. Here's a [profile from the Butterflies and Moths of North America Project](#), including additional photos.

Finally, nicely timed for baby birds and bats, it's woods moth season, and there is a seemingly infinite variety of small, drab colored moths lurking out there in the ferns and leaves. **Slant-lined moths** use a variety of tree species as hosts, and their caterpillars do a credible job of imitating sticks. Here's a brief [profile of white slant-line moth from bugguide.net](#). And special note: this photo is courtesy of new nature photographer Lucy Tillinghast.

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