

A large bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a large, bright orange sun. The eagle is positioned on the left side of the frame. In the foreground, a tree branch extends from the right side towards the center. The background is a gradient of light colors, suggesting a clear sky.

Volume 2

GARNIE'S PHOTOS

Nature Studies

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Cover photo:

A photo composite, Full Moon photo in background and photo of juvenile Bald Eagle, foreground. The location of the eagle photo is LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area. When the eagle pushed off to take flight the branch of the tree on which it was perched broke off.

This Magazine can be purchased at:<http://garnie.magcloud.com>

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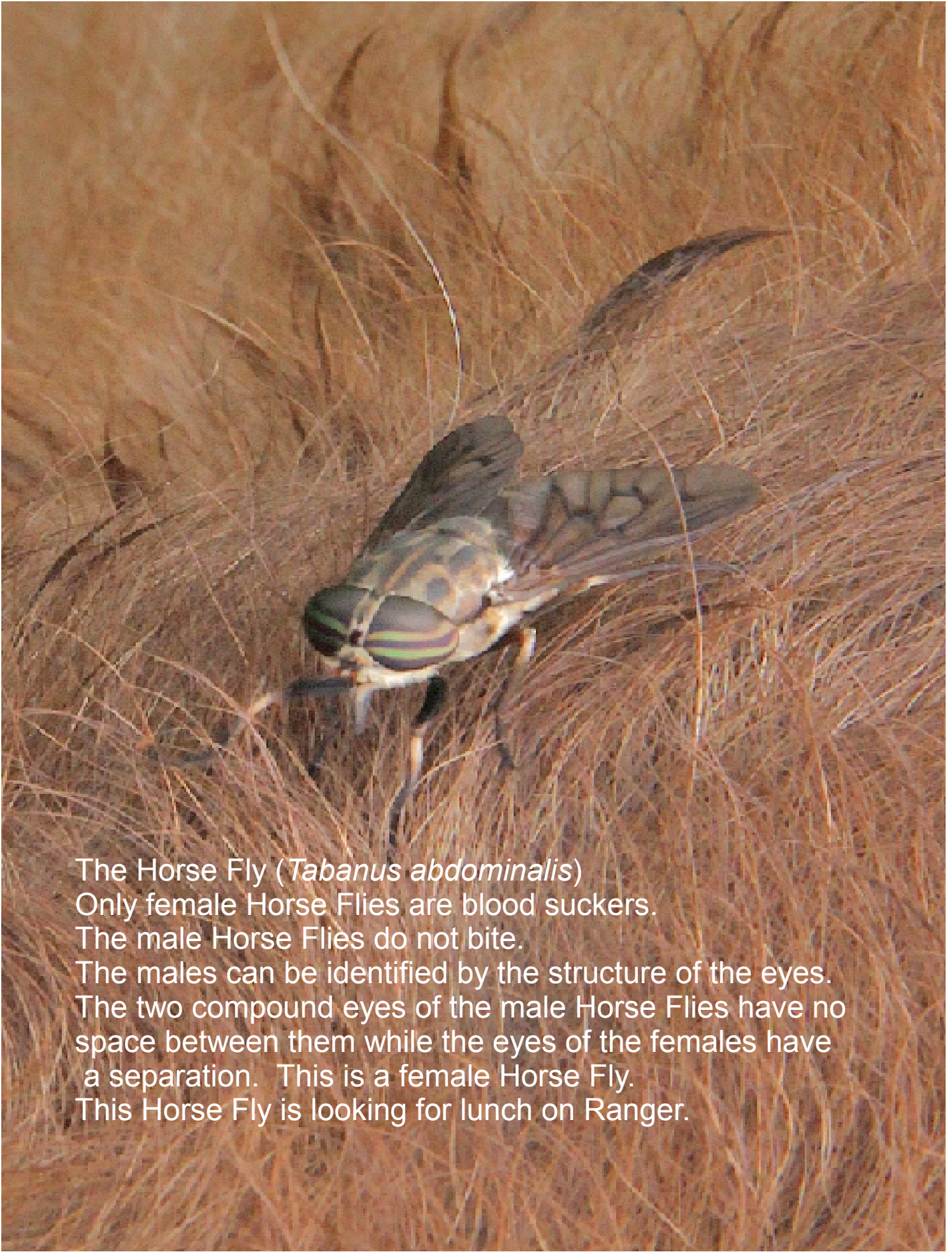
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Great-Blue Heron | Dead or Alive?



While on a forced march with Ranger Danger at Three Rivers County Park, we encountered this Great-Blue Heron laying on its back in the tall grass on the edge of the lake. Range got birdie and alerted me to the herons presence, I was able to shorten his lead before he ever saw the bird. Herons are a shy and solitary bird, they will squawk and take to the air before you realize they are there. To be sure, I was surprised to be able to get so close to a live heron and puzzled because I've never seen a dead one. Had to take at least one pic. During the set up, I could not see any obvious injuries. Maybe an illness has it down, Bird Flu or West Nile Virus? I should get the pic and let nature take its course. I focused on the birds yellow eye, hmmm, the eye is clear and the pupil is focusing ever so slightly. It just took a breath, shallow and slow but constant. This bird is not dead, dieing maybe but not dead. Got this shot and left the bird in peace. Not trying to experience the bird flu or west nile. After working on this image and thinking about animal behavior, I am willing to believe that this bird made a fool of this predator. Yes, the oldest survival trick in the book of life, "Play Dead".



The Horse Fly (*Tabanus abdominalis*)

Only female Horse Flies are blood suckers.

The male Horse Flies do not bite.

The males can be identified by the structure of the eyes.

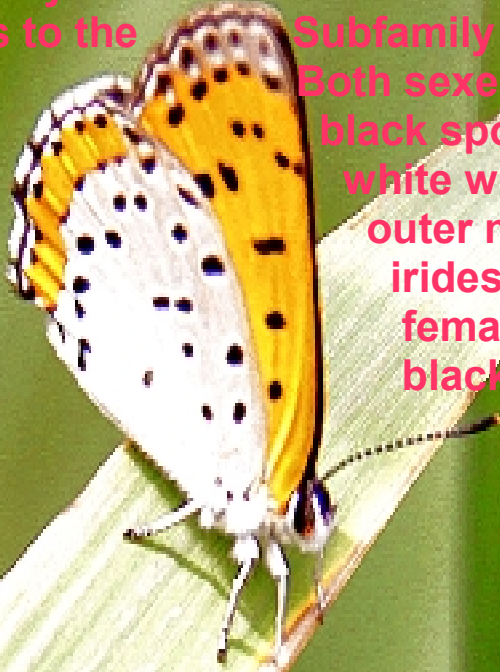
The two compound eyes of the male Horse Flies have no space between them while the eyes of the females have a separation. This is a female Horse Fly.

This Horse Fly is looking for lunch on Ranger.

Bronze Copper

Lycaena hyllus (Cramer, 1775)

This butterfly is a member of the Gossamer-wing Family (Lycaenidae), it belongs to the Subfamily of Coppers (Lycaeninae) Butterflies. Both sexes underside forewing is orange with black spots; underside hindwing is gray-white with black spots and a broad orange outer margin. The upperside of male iridescent copper-brown; female forewing yellow-orange with black spots.



Males watch for females perched on low growth near host plants. Eggs are laid singly on plants. Eggs hibernate until spring.

Eggs are laid on herbs of the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae) including curly dock (*Rumex crispus*).



Can be found in low, wet areas such as bogs, marshes, wet meadows, ponds.

Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758)

Brush-footed Butterfly (*Nymphalidae*)

A very common butterfly. This one is sipping nectar from a butterfly bush flower. The Painted Lady can be seen visiting gardens and meadows around the world.



I think this is a Silvery Checkerspot *Chlosyne nycteis* .



Resting on a purple-cone flower leaf.

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus Linnaeus, 1758



Bumble Bee and Tiger Swallowtail butterfly at Purple-Cone Flowers.



Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly and Purple-Cone Flowers

Float Like a Butterfly, Sting Like a Bee



Can you find the Bumble Bee in this photo?

Red Admiral's “MayDay”

A Red Admiral Butterfly
Vanessa atalanta (Linnaeus, 1758)
was flirting about my dog-fish pond,
when its wing clipped a spiders web,
causing it to splashed down into
the pond water.

A quick photo was taken and I
observed that the surface pressure
to great for it to drag its self on to a
violet leaf and out of the water.



Decision time, do I respond to the Red Admiral's “MayDay” call and
pluck it from the inevitable or let nature take its course.



I settled for compromise.
I fished the butterfly out of the
pond with a stick and placed
it in a sunny spot to dry.

Free Your ButterFly!

This butterfly was caught in the plastic wind break of my deck. I offer it my finger and with out hesitation it grabbed hold. I walked to where it could fly free and took these shots in the mean time.

It may be a **Gray Comma**

Polygonia progne (Cramer, 1775), not sure, of the Family Nymphalidae, the Brush-footed Butterflies.



Silver-spotted Skipper

***Epargyreus clarus* (Cramer, 1775)**



Drinking the nectar of the butterfly bush.

Spicebush Swallowtail
***Papilio troilus* Linnaeus, 1758**



Black Swallowtail



Papilio polyxenes Fabricius, 1775

The Rare Honey Bee Sighting



The Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*, is actually alien to North America, an import from Europe, the Native Americans called them “The White mans Fly”.



Currently the Honey Bee is experiencing Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) which may be caused by a virus introduced to North America by imported Australian Honey Bees.

Garden Predator



The Ambush Bug sits patiently and waits for insects to feed on.



They hold their Raptorial front legs as if they're praying for prey.

Dragonflies resting on the tips of plants



From the tips of plants dragonflies darter out and catch insects on the fly..





Bald-faced hornet

Dolichovespula maculata

This is a Queen Bald face hornet. The queens over winter in the ground litter and in the bark of trees. In the spring they build a paper nest and start a new colony.

Males are called drones. Born from unfertilized eggs. They don't have stings and are not aggressive.

The females can be Queens or workers. They have stings and will attack a threat to the nest and will sting repeatedly. When away from the nest, they are looking for food and are non-aggressive, just don't swat at them.

Hornets catch insects to feed to the larva in the nest. One hornet may catch 100 flies a day. This makes them a beneficial insect. If you find a hornets nest at your home, leave it alone or call a professional to remove it.



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