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COLLECTING INSECTS ON FENCE POST FLOOD REFUGES – Insects are instinctively programmed to avoid drowning, and it is a venerable collecting technique to flush out streamside beetles by splashing or pouring water on their habitats to simulate rising waters. Thus deceived, the creatures break from concealment and in rushing for higher ground easily fall victim to the collector's grasp. I here record an interesting variation on the "high water escape" behavior that shows some potential as a collecting technique, albeit one that is optional only under exceptional conditions.

In February, 2006, Robert S. Hogan presented VMNH's Department of Recent Invertebrates with a small jar containing many specimens of insects preserved in isopropyl alcohol. The origin of this sample, as explained by Mr. Hogan, reflects what I suspect must be a novel collecting opportunity. On 28 September 2004, Little Creek, which flows through a pasture in front of his residence, overflowed its banks and inundated the field for several hours. After its recession, Mr. Hogan walked over the land and happened to notice a variety of insects clinging to wooden fence posts above the high water line. As a long-time friend of the museum, he captured and preserved as many specimens as he could. Eventually the material was prepared and the species of some taxa were identified. I give here lists of the carabid beetles and terrestrial Heteroptera to show the diversity represented. Actually, the fence posts accumulated as much variety as one might expect from a pitfall trap line operated in the same area.

The collection site is in Franklin County about 2.5 miles (4 km) south of Boones Mill on Rt. 693, about 1.0 mile (1.6 km) west of its intersection with Rt. 919.

The following list of carabids follows the sequence in the catalog of Bousquet & Laroche (1993), and the number of individuals secured is shown following each species name. Most are common ruderal or streamside species, but all are new county records and one is not frequently encountered in Virginia.

Coleoptera: Carabidae:

<i>Nebria pallipes</i> Say	2
<i>Patrobus longicornis</i> Say	1
<i>Pterostichus corvinus</i> (Dejean)	1
<i>Amara exarata</i> Dejean	2
<i>Amara familiaris</i> (Duftschmidt)	3
<i>Amara impuncticollis</i> (Say)	1
<i>Anisodactylus rusticus</i> (Say)	1
<i>Amphasia interstitialis</i> (Say)	1

<i>Stenolophus ochropezus</i> (Say)	1
<i>Bradycellus tantillus</i> (Dejean)	2
<i>Harpalus caliginosus</i> (Fabr.)	1
<i>Harpalus compar</i> Casey	3
<i>Harpalus fulgens</i> Csiki	1
<i>Calathus opaculus</i> LeConte	1
<i>Agonum palustre</i> Goulet	1
<i>Agonum punctiforme</i> (Say)	2
<i>Colliurus pennsylvanicus</i> (Dejean)	1

Heteropterans are represented by 14 species in seven families, listed here alphabetically.

Coreidae:

<i>Archimerus alternatus</i> (Say)	1
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Corimelaenidae:

<i>Corimelaena lateralis</i> (Fabricius)	2
<i>Galgupha</i> (undetermined)	1

Cydnidae:

<i>Pangaeus bilineatus</i> (Say)	1
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Lygaeidae:

<i>Belonochilus numenius</i> (Say)	1
<i>Drymus crassus</i> VanDuzee	1
<i>Heraeus plebejus</i> (Say)	1
<i>Myodocha serripes</i> (Say)	1
<i>Pseudopachybrachius basalis</i> (Say)	1

Nabidae:

<i>Nabis</i> sp. (Indet. nymph)	1
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Pentatomidae:

<i>Cosmopepla bimaculata</i> (Thomas)	2
<i>Euschistus servus</i> (Say)	4
<i>Proxys punctulatus</i> (Palisot de Beauvois)	1

Reduviidae:

<i>Oncerothelus acuminatus</i> (Say)	2
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LITERATURE CITED

Bousquet, Y., & A. Laroche. 1993. Catalogue of the Geadephaga (Coleoptera: Trachypachidae, Rhysodidae, Carabidae including Cicindelini) of America north of Mexico. *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada* 167: 1-397.

Richard L. Hoffman
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Martinsville, Virginia 24112