

Newport Forest

August 13 2002

4:05 - 11:00 pm

Weather: sunny/hazy; SSW < 5 kmh; LM 36 C; FCF 30 C (very humid)

Purpose: to carry out a brief survey of insects that fly to lights

Participants: Pat and Kee; Anita and Stan Caveney

We arrived before the Caveney's, giving us time to straighten up the camp and get Junior on release. I went up to water the trees at the station and, while so employed, the Caveney's arrived. Pat watered most of the trees in the island and I watered the rest. We then had a sumptuous dinner thanks to the combined efforts of Anita and Pat. While the sun sank slowly in the west, Stan and I watered the trees in the triangle, finishing just in time for us to take his jeep and our van down Edgar's trail. We parked the jeep at the landing and the van at the elbow, where Blind Creek crosses Edgar's trail. We then enjoyed the scenery until it was dark enough to deploy the lights.

On each vehicle, we hung a white sheet along the side, snaking the fluorescent light out through the window so that it hung near the middle of the sheet. Power for the lights came from our respective cigarette lighters. At first we watched Stan's sheet as more and more Caddis flies came in from the river. We then visited the van, finding a few caddis flies there, but many moths and beetles. We collected several specimens, then headed back to the river to discover the whole sheet coated with caddis flies, so many that a great heap had formed at the bottom of the sheet. Stan picked up a heaping handful to demonstrate the quantities. We then collected some moths and other insects. Back at my van, we heard a Screech Owl call, then another. Anita, who does a fair Screech Owl imitation, got into a "conversation" with one of them.

We then moved both vehicles back to the LM, setting up the lights once again on both vehicles. This time they were parked close together, near the trailer. Stan's sheet was aimed at the meadow, while mine was aimed at the forest.

Birds: (5)

1 Belted Kingfisher (RL); 2 flocks Canada Geese (RL-overhead); 2 Great Blue Herons (RL); 2 Screech Owls (ET); unidentified ducks (LM)

New Species:

Click Beetle		ET SC
Fungus Beetle		ET SC
Water Scavenger Beetle		ET SC
White-striped Black (moth)	<i>Tricodezia albovitata</i>	ET SC
Black Horsefly		TR KD
“small june beetle”		SC
Pearly Wood Nymph (which sp.)		SC
Ailanthus Webworm Moth		FCF/LM SC
Painted Lichen Moth		FCF/LM SC
Grapevine Beetle	<i>Pelidnota cantata</i>	FCF/LM SC
Small-eyed Sphinx		FCF/LM SC
Gypsy Moth		FCF/LM SC