

Newport Forest

My12/04

1:50 - 7:00 pm

Weather: prec. 10 mm; SW < 40 kmh; sun/haze; LM 29; FCF 30 C

Purpose: To sample vernal ponds

Participants: Pat, Kee

I inspected most of the trees in three of the four core planting areas. They continue to show the vigor of relatively well-established young trees. Their state of renewal is now spread out from just breaking bud to leaves half-developed.

Pat & I visited several of the ponds in the BCF. Although I sampled in several places, I couldn't collect a single fairy shrimp! (Later I read every thing I could about fairy shrimp in Thorp and Kovich to see if perhaps they had an exceptionally short reproductive adult phase. No indication of that.

At the nook, Pat spotted several bee flies of the type I had recently recorded. (*Bombylius* sp.) They look rather weird, with their bee-like abdominal pile and very long proboscis. I then spotted what I thought was a new jumping spider. I remembered them as all black, but this one had rather flashy white markings. Pat assured me that we had already logged it as *Phiddipus audax*.

We went to the river, noting that it was rather high from recent rains. In fact the river has backed up to the bridge on FC, submerging it.

Birds:

American Crow (LM); American Robin (RL); Baltimore Oriole (BCF/LM); Blue Jay (Tr); Cat Bird (BCF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/E); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Great Crested Flycatcher (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (RL); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Rain Data: I recently asked Steve for his rain records in 1904 to date. These supplement our own records for the same period:

Mr04 25mm; Mr08 1mm; Apo2 10mm; Ap24 7mm; My09 9mm