

Newport Forest June 14 2:15 pm June 15 7:40 pm 2004

Weather: prec. 37 mm*; sun/cloud; WSW < 10 kmh; LM 28 C; FCF 26

Purpose: two-day stay

Participants: Pat & Kee

We dropped off the new sunscreens at the TS and I busied myself with some clipping, while Pat found what she thought might be a Deptford Pink. At the trailer, Pat went up the road (where she spotted a Bronze Copper), while I checked all the young trees, finding 3 or 4 that had been nipped by deer. The trees are all growing very well and I discovered that one of the Butternuts planted in the nursery plots had germinated. By four pm, however, all outdoor activities were canceled by a heavy rain that added another 10 mm to the 27 originally found in the new gauge.

After the rain, Pat got a nap and I built a new canoe stand to keep our ultralight off the ground and away from rot. Just before supper, I went for a walk up the road with the purpose of memorizing the trees of the GF. I spotted a Hairy WP in the dead Bitternut being chased by a female Rubythroat. An odd sight, but undeniable. Pat thought the hummingbird might well have a nest in that tree.

After supper, which was eaten rather late, we walked to the river. The mosquitoes were rather thick in the BCF and I was glad to get out on the grassy bank, where the flies were definitely diminished. Pat birdwatched from the bench in the BCF, less bothered by the mosquitoes. Some swallows were plying their trade back and forth across the river, but I couldn't identify them as Banks or Roughwings.

The sun was setting as I walked up to close the gate. I paused by the bluffs to look long and lovingly at the FCF, noting how one could still see a patch of the old thorn forest that dominated the flats for about 20 years before the taller trees broke through. The greens were lush and, in spite of the hickory dieback, I had never seen the place look so "healthy."

As darkness descended we started seeing flashes of sustained whitish, bluish or even greenish lights all over the meadow. I snagged one of the fireflies in the butterfly net, finding it to be a Pennsylvania Firefly. After dark, we got a visit from three raccoons, all adults and all probable males. Although we thought we

*the new gauge read 27 mm, while the old gauge read 14, barely half. I junked the old gauge immediately.

heard kits once or twice, we had no obvious visit from same. A possum showed up to share the DBs with his bolder friends, however.

Next morning dawned bright and sunny. Before I could finish my coffee, I found myself confronted with one ID problem after another. Pat was finding insects everywhere, the most interesting being a Golden Tortoise Beetle, with sparkling, iridescent elytra. A great source of insects were the flowers of the Hoptree, which attracted, among other things, our first Gasteruptiid wasps.

By noon I was ready to walk the TRT. Pat stayed at base camp to work on her plants. On the river bluffs, I noticed that both the Crabapple And the native plum that I planted are growing very rapidly indeed. They seem to like their location. The trail is getting badly overgrown, thanks to the ideal conditions. On the HB, I looked for the coon family, with no success. I noticed that the fine White Oak just opposite the bench appears to be in trouble, its leaves small, malformed and blackening around the edges. Coming off the HB, I startled a Ruffed Grouse. Shortly after that, I noticed large clusters of fallen ash seeds. The White Ash were evidently "in mast." This inspired me to search under the Blue Ash trees in the BCF. A cursory search yielded several seeds, leading me to believe that this would be the year we finally collected Blue Ash seeds for the many people who want them.

After lunch, we went to the UM, Pat on to Randy Newport's pond, I to the tree station, where I installed the last two overhead screens, courtesy of Pat. She was unable to see a Willow Flycatcher at the pond, as she had hoped to. (We went to town for ice cream cones.)

weather at 3:40 pm: clear, calm, LM 27 C; FCF 25 C

Back at Newport Forest, I went down to the bridge and, with much effort, retrieved the dangling deck section by one arm, replacing it on the pipes. Before leaving for the day, we took a walk across HBF, noting that it had not yet been planted with corn (frustrating for Harvey, to be sure). Pat searched along the bank of Fleming Creek inside Eva's Wood's while I went to the mouth, surprised to discover there the missing trestle foot as well as one section of decking.

Birds: (32)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (HBF); Baltimore Oriole (BCF); Blue Jay (Tr); Bobolink (UM); Canada Goose (BCF); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (LM?BCF); Eastern Bluebird (UM); Eastern Kingbird (UM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Eastern Wood Peewee (FC); Field Sparrow (UM); Great Blue Heron (FCF); Great Crested Flycatcher (FCF); Grey Catbird (BCF) Hairy Woodpecker (GF); House Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (GF/HBF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (LM); Red-winged Blackbird (LM); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (ET); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (GF); Ruffed Grouse (HB); Song sparrow (UM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Thrush (FCF)

Butterflies & moths: (8)

Bronze Copper (UM); Cabbage White (UM); Eyed Brown (UM); Red Admiral (LM); Orange Sulphur (UM); Summer Azure (HBF); Tiger Swallowtail (FC); Virginia Ctenuchid (GF)

New species: (7)

Carpenter Ant	<i>Camponotus pennsylvanica</i>	GF/FC
Common Sawfly*	fam. Tenthredinidae	Tr pd
Gasteruptionid Wasp	<i>Gasteruption</i> sp.	GF
Golden Tortoise Beetle	<i>Metritona bicolor</i>	GF pd
Meadow Plant Bug	<i>Leptoterna dolobrata</i>	pd
Pennsylvania Firefly	<i>Photurus pennsylvanicus</i>	LM
Virginia Ctenuchid Moth	<i>Ctenucha virginica</i>	GF

*black abd. & legs, orange/brown dorsum on thorax

Phenology:

Field strawberries ripe; Moneywort in bloom; Pennsylvania fireflies mating; Multiflora rose in full bloom; Prickly Gooseberry fruit nearly ripe; Bladdernut bladders fully inflated; Hoptree in full flower