

Newport Forest

July 14-15 2004

2:30 pm wed - 5:15 pm thurs

**Weather:** prec. 48 mm\*; SW < 30 kmh; LM 19 C, FCF 19 C

**Purpose:** two-day stay

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

Very little was accomplished during the afternoon because it rained off and on until nearly 6 pm. Between showers, I went down to the bridge and put on the last rope hardware for the tethers. After supper we went to the river. The water level was up, but not over the clay/gravel bars. (The creek was also running high.)

While checking the North Core in the evening, I found a nice Brown Snake curled up under one of the water cans. In another can, I found a dead Meadow Vole. (They come to drink, fall in, and drown.)

At night, Pat saw two raccoons during her watch. Then, later, we saw another raccoon up on the feeder tray looking expectantly upward. Was he hunting for flying squirrels?

On the next morning, Pat remarked that it should be a good day to find fungi. We walked the FCT looking for fungi. Near the bird-watching bench, I found a kind of orange crust on a log (but never succeeded in ID-ing it).

In the afternoon, we went to the WM. I walked a traverse, noting the interesting mix of plants there: Bindweed, Yellow Loosestrife, and other old field spp. The best sighting of the afternoon involved Bobolinks. Pat saw parents with fledged young - all spotted.

**Birds:** (18)

American Robin (HBF); Barn Swallow (WM); Belted Kingfisher (HP); Blue Jay (GF); Bobolink (LM); Canada Goose (BCF); Common Yellowthroat (GF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Kingbird (UM); Eastern Towhee (WM/GF); Field Sparrow (UM); Great Blue Heron (HBF); Mourning Dove (FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Savanna Sparrow (WM); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (EW);

\* 35 mm had fallen before we got there; 12 mm fell after our arrival, and another mm overnight.