

Newport Forest

August 13-15 2004

3:55 - 5:40 pm

Weather: (Au15) prec. 0 mm; sun/cld; calm; LM 27 C; FCF 27 C

Purpose: three-day stay for collecting/observing new spp.

Participants: Pat & Kee

We barely had time to unload the van into the trailer before departing the area for a supper with Marjorie & Bill Priecksaitis in New Glasgow. We went to their farm later to pick up the following trees for the Newport Forest regeneration project: 5 HB; 1 SG (Sweetgum); 3 PH (Pignut Hickory); 5 TM (Tamarack).

We got back at 8:10 pm under an overcast sky - with just enough time to settle in for the night. Returning from the main gate as the sun set, I heard several long, continuous trills with no pulsation or rhythm to them. Checking my candidate orthopterans, I discovered that the trill might belong to Field Crickets or either of the two species of Tree Cricket living in our area: Snowy Tree Cricket and the Black-horned Tree Cricket.

We were visited by one or two raccoons and much later in the night I saw one of them hunting for Flying Squirrels up in the Hickory tree by the trailer. On three different occasions we heard one or more Screech Owls calling from the BCF. On the third occasion we made out three separate individuals calling. Inspecting one of the young Hop Trees by the trailer, I found a slug eating its leaves. (I had been noticing the "lace curtain effect" on these trees for more than a month now. This was the probable explanation.)

In the morning we were greeted by a Giant Swallowtail fluttering in the vicinity of the larger Hop Tree by the trailer. While Pat went out looking for new plants, I went down to the bridge, noting that the two TTs were going gangbusters. They seem quite "happy" in that habitat. Pat worked for a while on a "weed" that we see everywhere along the trails. I had always called it "Japanese Knotweed," assuming that it was an invasive alien. Not so, said Pat. It's called Virginia Knotweed or, more properly, Jumpseed. (See "new species.")

We went to the RL for a picnic. While Pat searched the riverbank for new plants, I mulched about 20 m of trail with the river drift (strawlike) that accumulated in the big flood last spring. Later, Pat joined me, mulching the side-trail to the river. In the midst of this activity, I spotted a Cedar Waxwing feeding fledged young (important for the Breeding Bird Survey). We conducted a search for

insect and animal burrows along the bluffs, ending at the far end of the beach with the discovery of an “insect pueblo,” a low terrace cliffside that was peppered with holes, large and small. (no activity while we watched) I noted a Spider Wasp conducting a crack-to-crack search for spiders, noting the main characters: yellow antennae, black legs and body, smokey brown wings, about 2 cm in length. Pat collected some new (?) plants and I found an amber snail on grass in a shadier section of the bank.

We set out for the RSF along the river bluffs, stopping by the bench to admire the view before continuing. Pat found two interesting mushrooms further along the trail: a Forest Russula (already logged) and a new species (S) Scaly Hydnum, a toothed mushroom! (See “new species.”) After a brief excursion inside the RSF, we returned to the trailer, where we heard a young Towhee practicing its song.

We then motored off to Eva’s, where we joined Eva, Rob & Charlene (plus the GGKs) for an unexpected and delicious meal!

After dark that evening, we noticed a few fireflies still plying their trade and, at various times, one or more raccoons around the trailer, a maximum of five in total.

Next morning, Pat found a (possible) Tenebrionid on a goldenrod plant. During a break in the nook, we saw a flight of about 100 Common Grackles cross the LM in an interrupted string, ending by roosting in the Gallery Forest nearby. Two Eastern Grey Squirrels (black var.) visited the feeder. Later I found a large wolf spider in the LM. (S)

Under Pat’s supervision, I installed a flying squirrel box in the GF some distance from the trailer. (The opening has a long collar, which prevents raccoons from reaching inside.) At the base of this tree, Pat spotted some raccoon feces and I found a dung beetle half immersed in the fresh mass, and behaving rather sluggishly, as if drunk (S).

It was now time for an excursion by canoe on Fleming Creek. We paddled the shores between the upper & lower rapids, finding to my great delight, that algal tresses have again developed on riffle rocks. (S) We carried over twice into two lower pools, where Pat spotted a Yellow Warbler in a Box Elder on the north shore. found no new plants along the banks, however. We did observe an interesting soil feature, however; at a steep bank where the creek is currently

cutting, a two-foot high layer of basal grey clay has been exposed. The line is so straight and marked, I had the feeling we were looking at a relatively old (glacial era?) stratum. It has about five metres of deposited silt above it.

Phenology: most goldenrods now coming into bloom (some species have been in bloom for a week or more already). Fireflies still active, but in small numbers.

Birds: (26)

American Crow (EW); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (EW); Baltimore Oriole (BCF/ET); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Flicker (LM/BCF); Common Grackle (LM/BCF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Eastern Wood Peewee (FCF); Gray Catbird (BCF); great Blue Heron (BCF); Mourning Dove (RL); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (BCF); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (FC/Br); Screech Owl (BCF); Song Sparrow (FC); Spotted Sandpiper (TR/RB); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Yellow Warbler (FC/E)

New species: (16)

Eubacteria:

“Flexirods”	Elongate bacillus	FC KD
	[1 x 100 mu, rigid serpentine swimming]	

Protists:

Striate Amoeba	<i>Striamoeba striatus</i>	FC KD
Glaucoma	<i>Glaucoma [scintillans]</i>	FC KD

Plants:

Balsam Poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	LM KD
Virginia Knotweed	<i>Tovara virginianum</i>	FCT PD
Common Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	HBF PD
Robin’s Plantain	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	TR/CGB
Rattlesnake Root	<i>Prenanthes alba</i>	RSF/CGB

Fungi:

Curtis's Puffball
Scaly Hydnum

Lycoperdon curtisii
Sarcodon imbricatus

HBF pd/KD

Animals:

Long-horned Beetle

sFam. Lepturinae

LM pd/KD

Black Darkling Beetle

Fam. Tenebrionidae

Tr pd/KD

Dung Beetle

Fam. Scarabaeidae

GF KD

Brown Mantidfly

Climaciella brunnea

LM pd/KD

Robber Fly

[*Efferia*] sp.

Tr KD

Wolf Spider

Lycosa helluo

LM KD

CGB = clay-gravel beach on TR