

Newport Forest

September 5-7 2004

3:30 - 4:35 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; humid!; haze/sun; calm; LM 32 C; FCF 27 C

Purpose: three-day stay

Participants: Pat, Kee

Shortly after arriving, we were greeted by a Giant Swallowtail flying through the Nook. A Gray Treefrog called occasionally from the lower GF. After supper, we walked down to the river, noting a colourful caterpillar in the BCF. (It turned out to be in none of our reference books. See description below) While Pat explored the RL for new species, I walked the TRT, picking up a chanterelle-type mushroom in the RSF, but unable to accept it as a White Chanterelle because the habitat was wrong. Up on the HB, I found a rather dark-coloured raccoon sunning in an upper branch of the old Black Maple.

When we got back, Harvey visited with a large half-melon. His corn is now tasselled out and is developing fine-looking ears. At sunset I went up to close the gate and found Nina waiting for me with a loaf of fresh-baked bread. The small black cat is still hanging around the trailer, so we gave it some bread & milk.

The evening was warm, but a light fog slowly developed in the lower meadow. The effect of the fog was to make it appear as if all the (overhead) stars were visible through a hole in the sky. We heard two or three coyotes calling from the direction of the Furnival.

The trailer and its environs continues to be a great place to spot new animals, in this case a GIANT Crane Fly bumbling against the roof inside the trailer (S). Throughout the evening, we saw only one Raccoon feeding near the trailer. Much later, I spotted an older cub eating bird seed from the Hickory feeder.

Next morning, while Pat searched the edge of the upper road I inspected the south core and decided that the trees all needed a watering. Pat saw a garter snake and under the trailer, she found a new caterpillar (Hickory Tussock Moth - see below), then had a nap. It took me until mid-afternoon to finish watering. I also moved a few more trees in the TS, cleaned up the germination frame (which is overrun by Meadow Voles).

Weather: (3:00 pm): prec. 0 mm; clear, S < 15; LM 30 C; FCF 26 C

After waking up, Pat showed me a dead organ-pipe wasp lying at the bottom of

the front window (S). After supper about 50 robins accumulated in the GF and along the hydro lines. Are they getting ready to fly south? We paid a brief visit to Eva, but missed the Hurdles on our way back in.

It was a beautiful warm night, with a light but steady south wind. We sat out in lawn chairs until quite late, admiring the stars, meteors, and listening for night sounds. At one point a large bat swooped low, right over our heads. Much later the sky became overcast and a gentle but steady rain fell during the wee hours while we slept.

Next morning, we went to the RL. I was determined to get some mosquitoes, yet failed to catch one! (There were not many around.) I also failed to catch any of the smaller Crane Flies until about ten attempts. At the RL we wandered down the beach toward the rapids. The mystery cat tracks had been washed away by the night's rain. I collected a longhorn grasshopper (S) and on the terraced swale near the rapids, found two spiders. (2S) Both were orb-weavers, I believe. On the way back, I finally snagged another Crane Fly (S).

Weather: (1:45 pm): prec. 10 mm; cld/sun, calm; LM 25 C; FCF 20 C

Back at the trailer, Pat noticed a stick insect on the trailer window (P) while she worked on some plants she had collected at the RL. In the afternoon, we went down to the creek to try some kick-samples with the aquatic net. The results surprised us. None of the expected water beetles appeared. Instead, we got three peculiar-looking minnows (which turned out to be darters) and five crayfish among the rocks in the two rapids. Based on this sample, one could estimate that the two rapids between them contained about 30 darters and 50 crayfish. Coons should have no trouble dining in the rapids!

Finally, just before we left, I bagged a mosquito! (S)

Butterflies: (9) Black Swallowtail (LM); Cabbage White (LM); Cloudy Sulphur (LM); Giant Swallowtail (Tr); Monarch (LM); Orange Sulphur (LM); Ridget (LM/HBF); Summer Azure (RL); Yellow Tiger Swallowtail (Tr);

Birds: (20) American Crow (LM); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Flicker (LM); Common Grackle (FCF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Eastern Wood Peewee (FCF); Gray Catbird (RL); Great Blue Heron (FC/TR); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF/E); Mallard (TR); Mourning Dove

(LM); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Turkey Vulture (BCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology: Jewelwings still present (FC); Gray Treefrogs calling

New species:

Green Foxtail	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	LM/HBF PD
Panic Grass	<i>Panicum [capillare]</i>	RL PD
Johnny Darter	<i>Ethiostoma nigrum</i>	FC/Br KD
Meadow Katydid	<i>Conocephalus brevipennis</i>	LM KD
Hickory Tussock Moth	<i>Lophocampa caryae</i>	Tr PD
Eastern Giant Crane Fly	<i>Pedicia albivitta</i>	Tr pd/KD
Three-striped Crane Fly	<i>Tipula trivittata</i>	ET KD
Organ-pipe Wasp	[<i>Hypoxylon</i>] sp.	Tr KD
Bush Spider	<i>Neoscona arabesca</i>	RL/W KD
“Grass” Spider	<i>Araneus [cingulatus]</i>	RL/W KD

Mystery caterpillar: length 2.5 cm; background colour black (pile), with orange dorso-lateral spots (1/seg), white latero-ventral spots (2/seg); orange head - on Wingstem leaves in FCF and BCF.