

Newport Forest

September 28 - 29 2004

2:50 - 4:50 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; ovcst; NNE < 25; LM 20 C; FCF 18 C

**Purpose:** two-day stay

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

We got in rather late, so I dropped Pat at the trailer and went back to the TS to water all gate and TS trees, then loaded the van with water and headed to the LM. After a second trip, I had watered all trees in both cores. Drying stress is evident everywhere. On the second trip back to the tank, I noticed a Goldfinch fledgling perched on a plant just three feet from the tap and peeping his heart out.

After a brief lunch, we walked the new trail as far as the bridgelet, a process that left Pat exhausted. She clipped along the trail, however, and noted some interesting plants, including a small tree or bush that I could not (and still can't) identify. I fed the little black cat, now a decidedly friendlier fellow, although he still hisses from time to time.

We did not eat until dark. The temperature plummeted about 6 degrees as the sky cleared out and a brilliant moon lit the scene. One raccoon (only) came to feed and later, before turning in, I heard an argument between two raccoons deep in the FCF. I sat in the trailer, staring at the outline of the BCF in the moonlight. The canopy is still very young, so I determined to make an annual photographic record, starting tomorrow.

Next morning after breakfast, Pat spotted a Monarch (last of the years?) We walked to the RL to inspect the beach for tracks and to look for beetles under stones. I found some beautiful algal tresses at the rapids. (S) On the way back, I transported a wheelbarrow load of river drift to mulch some more of the trees in the SC. After lunch, I took a panorama of the BCF canopy by standing on the van "running board" and keeping the camera as high as I could. (van parked by canoe, facing east) (5P)

After lunch, Past walked to the upper meadow and I walked the new trail to the bridgelet. We discovered by using our walkie-talkies and hand signals that the ravine the bridgelet crosses begins in the swale where Edgar's Road bends southward. She made her way somewhat painfully down the rim of the ravine until she reached the bridge. Here she birdwatched while she caught her breath, then continued down the creek, crossing at the rapids and clambering up the opposite bank, taking the old trail back to the bridge.

We closed up camp, fed the cat some Carnation milk and proceeded to the Upper Meadow where, as I put the jugs away, Pat stood on the bluffs and spotted a new bird. I examined the bird through her binoculars and we recorded the field marks. (Tentative conclusion: Loggerhead Shrike - I've consulted with Dave Martin on this one.)

We closed up and headed to the West Meadow where Pat located two more new species, including Tuckerman's Sedge, and I walked the perimeter of the field, prior to having Kevin Alderton plough it after the next rain.

**Birds:** (11)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (with young) (UM); American Robin (FC); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Flicker (FC); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Red-tailed Hawk (GF); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

**New species:**

“Little Wolf Sedge”	<i>Carex lupulina</i>	WM PD
River Spirogyra	<i>Spirogyra</i> Sp. Gp A*	TR KD
Four-spined Brachionus	<i>Brachionus quadridentata</i>	TR KD
Yellow Vorticella	<i>Vorticella convallaria</i>	TR KD
“Hairy Oxytricha”	<i>Oxytricha setigera</i>	TR KD
Sun Actinopod	<i>Actinophrys sol</i>	TR KD

\*Gp. A [3 chlplsts; 40 m+; 2 turns] includes *Spirogyra stricta*, *S. dubia*, *S. triplicata*, *S. Fuellebornei*

**Phenology:** last Monarch?