

Newport Forest

Monday-Tuesday October 31 2005

1:10 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec. 8mm*; RH 53%; SSW \leq 30 km; sun/hze; LM 18C; FCF 16C

Purpose: two-day stay

Participants: Pat, Kee

*this rain fell overnight

Coming in we stopped at the TS long enough to water the pots lightly and to make a list of stock on hand. (for planning purposes). Once we had set up the trailer for our stay, we set out on the TRT, noting an Eastern Cottontail that took off into the woods just as we left the RL for the river bluffs. Pat seemed to like the new section of trail, but worried that the extra length might be hard on weak walkers. She went back to the bluffs, while I walked the rest of the trail. In the BCF, I heard a crashing noise up on the HB and looked up just in time to see two deer running along the near side, one going east, the other headed west. I found a Cynipid (oak) gall, something we see only rarely at Newport, although at A'Nowaghi they were very common. (more oaks?)

After supper, I walked in the darkness up to the gate to close up for the night. On my return, we decided to play a tape of owl calls that Pat had brought with her. The sound was weak, owing to the small tape player, but I put it on the bottom of the canoe to amplify it. GHOs, Screechies and (I think) Short-eared Owls. There was no response from the woods on either side. I had also put out puppy chow at sunset, but we saw no raccoons, even though later it turned out most of the chow had been eaten.

At 10 pm a light rain began, lasting about an hour. (It rained off and on through the night.) I went out to see 2 mm in the rain gauge. At 12 pm the outside temperature had dropped to 9 C, but it seemed quite balmy, nevertheless. It was foggy. The flashlight made a beam thick enough to cut with a knife. And there, trundling around the far corner of the trailer, was a good ol' boy with damp fur and a sudden loss of appetite. At 1:45 am I went outside for a chill break and heard an owl calling from the BCF. I recorded "yowp . . . yowp, yowp." (Later I checked the web and found it to be identical to the call of the Short-eared Owl. I am therefore confident in adding it as a new species.) After I went to bed, it rained for the rest of the night - all very cosy in our trailer.

Next morning I went on the TRT to the Sandbar to put gards on the 4 planted trees there. On my return, I spied what looked like a Collybia, but found, when I got it home that night to be the long-awaited Deadly Galerina. On the way back I rested on the bluffs bench. I hadn't been there more than a minute, when I noticed

a young buck on the opposite shore, searching the bank as though looking for a good place to cross over to our side. I followed him as he then browsed his way back inland, eventually losing him in the dense undergrowth.

While I worked at the TS, Pat visited Nina, then took the slow road down to the trailer. I cleaned up the germination frame (wondering whether it would ever be useful), lay down new weed cloth, and dumped all the pots into one bucket, thinking to give those seeds one last chance to germinate. When I got back to the trailer, Pat told the story of a few chickadees and a young chipmunk at the maple feeder. In zoomed a Sharp-shinned Hawk out of nowhere. It aimed for the chickadee, but missed. The last significant event of the day was my discovery of the missing weather station top in the long weeds near the post. It was supposed to have blown to the east, not west. Vandalism? We packed up and left.

Birds: (19)

American Crow (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Gray Catbird (GF); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Gold-crowned Kinglet (Tr); Great Blue Heron (EW); House Finch (Tr); Mourning Dove (FCT); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Sharp-shinned Hawk (Tr); Song Sparrow (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-crowned Sparrow (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (Tr)

New species:

Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	UM wcKD Oc29
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus velos</i>	Tr PD Nv01
Sharp-scaled Lepiota	<i>Lepiota acutaesquamosa</i>	FCF pdKD Nv01
Deadly Galerina	<i>Galerina Autumnalis</i>	RSF KD Nv01

Phenology: GBHs still around, Striped Chipmunk still about; lady-beetles very abundant - box-elder bugs and leaf-footed bugs also present