

Newport Forest

Saturday July 1 2006

5:25 - 5:45 pm*

Weather: prec. 3mm; RH 59%; haze; SSW 10-30kmh; LM 30C; FCF 27C

Purpose: Annual Middlesex Butterfly Count (that didn't happen)

Participants: Pat, Kee

We brought the “girls” with us, looking forward to their increased independence making a bit life easier for us. We arrived late, but in time for supper, after which a light rain began and the air cooled to the low twenties. During a lull, we walked down to the bridge, seeing a Belted Kingfisher fly right past us upstream and finding a caterpillar of the Waved Sphinx Moth creeping across the decking.

By sunset, the girls had had two extensive outings and they came into the trailer to “rest.” A local raccoon fed from the feeder tray in the BM over the Nook. I have filled a small vial with alcohol to keep our wood ticks in. We found two on our persons and promptly pickled them.

After dark, the wind came up and the temperature climbed back up to 25C, which held throughout the night. Flying Squirrels pattered across the roof, picking up the peanuts we had thrown up there. (This prevents raccoons from predated the flying squirrels at the feeder tray.)

The next morning dawned cloudy and windy, with few butterflies in evidence. By 1:30 on July 2 it was clear that the Butterfly count was in jeopardy. Bill and Marjorie Preicksaitis showed up briefly to announce that they were heading home and that no one had plans to visit Newport Forest.

At 2:15 pm, the weather had warmed up again:

prec: (see above); ovcast; RH 59%; S 30kmh; LM 30C; FCF 27C

We walked to the RL, Kee returning to the trailer to nap with the girls, while Pat wandered through HBF, looking for butterflies (report filed with Counters later).

Late in the afternoon we left for a BBQ at the Preicksaitis farm, but lost our alternator on the Furnival Road. The perfect end to a perfect day!

*next day

Birds: (23)

American Crow (BCF); American Goldfinch (BCF); American Robin (GF); Belted Kingfisher (FC); Black-capped Chickadee (BCF); Blue Jay (BCF); Common Grackle (BCF/LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Eastern Towhee (GF); Eastern Wood Peewee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (LM/BCF); Great Blue Heron (LM); Killdeer (UM); Mourning Dove (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (BCF); Wood Thrush (FCF); Yellow Warbler (RL)

New species:

Waved Sphinx Moth

Ceratomia undulosa

Br KD/PD

Phenology:

Michigan Lilies in bloom