

Newport Forest

Sunday September 17 2006

2:05 - 3:20 pm

Weather: prec. 71mm; RH 71%; S 0-15kmh; ovcast; LM 27C; FCF 23C

Purpose: two-day stay

Participants: Pat, Kee, Thelma, Louise, & Charlie the Lonesome Squirrel

We brought in Charlie, an orphaned squirrel from Askin Street with us and introduced him to the Girls as soon as they showed up in camp. Charlie looked quite at home on the old log and even went up the Black Maple to the lower limbs several times. As I was putting up the bird feed, I noticed a large female Pigeon Horntail laying eggs through the bark of the SH!

With the “threat” of yet more rain hanging over us, we decided to make the most of the weather to put in our walk along the west side of the HB from the south to the north. We decided to take “everyone” with us, as a) the girls would follow us anyway and b) we couldn’t leave Charlie alone in the camp. As well, initial experiments made it clear that the raccoons would not necessarily be friendly to Charlie, showing a certain “interest” in him that involved gnawing on him and/or taking him apart to see if there was anything good to eat inside, so supervision was called for, in any case. (Charlie is about 12 cm from rump to nose.)

The walk took us over the River Bluffs (RB), where we sat for a while on the bench. I noticed a beautiful, delicate little translucent white mushroom growing near some moss and Pat noticed a strange-looking plant shaped like a rosette with either a gall or a seed capsule of some kind in its centre. (We must consult about this one.) Meanwhile, a young Mallard made its way upriver.

In the RSF, Pat got ahead of me, as I was carefully examining the trees I had so habitually ignored for several years. Then I spotted a green “horntail” caterpillar crossing the path. It was bright green, obviously a species of Sphinx Moth, but hard to say which one. From above the pattern of light green lines radiating from its back resembled the veins of a leaf, with a small red spot between each pair of veins (down-and-forward-pointing). The “horn” was entirely green, yet the specimen was in its last instar, judging from its size. It most closely resembles the

way I collected a light grey mushroom with the most pronounced umbo I have ever seen, (no ID) as well as a new Lactarius-like mushroom. (no ID) (2S)

Returning along the RB trail, Pat drew my attention to a wonderful growth of new coral fungus (S), as well as a white mushroom with an excessively slimy cap. (S) (See New Species)

We had supper around sundown and I went to the Nook to sit with my movie camera, in case Greylock showed up. When he did, the girls stuck close to me, then climbed to the top of the table to “huff” at the intruder. (whom they surely know by now) I could not hold the flashlight and the camera steady at the same time, as it turned out. The night was warm (18C) and the clouds remained thin enough to see the stars. The Big Dipper sets earlier these days, but the summer triangle (Aquila Deneb & Altair) was still high in the western sky.

Around midnight I took the girls on a walk to the upper rapids of the creek. The water was up a few inches, owing to the recent rains, and I gingerly stepped from stone to stone, while the girls made a thorough examination of the stream bed. Still later at 2am, the girls were not looking at all sleepy, so I took them on another night walk, this time into the BCF by the Hole. I sat on a downed trunk and looked about me with the flashlight, as the girls plied through the wet, twiggy soil. Ahead of me I thought I saw a Bitternut tree, about 10” dbh. I looked up, expecting to see a dead crown, but there was a healthy growth of leaves. At first I marveled that this Bitternut had somehow survived the Scolytus plague, then I realized that the leaves were more like those of an ash. The bark looked reddish. There was only one thing it could be. (See new species.)

Just before turning in, I went out to the Nook to retrieve a specimen from the table (scale insect), when I noticed some distinctive, small millipedes wandering over its surface, pausing to drink from spilled fluids and a rotting pear. And there by a piece of that pear, a brightly coloured “mess” appeared. Looking again, I realized it was a moth - one I had definitely never seen before. Probably a Noctuid or Geometrid, it sported a pure pink hind wing (barely decorated), a straight pure white band crossing the mid-wing. and an inner wing coloured a

above.

birds: (a relative dearth - 14)

American Crow (RL); American Goldfinch (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Cedar Waxwing (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Gray Catbird (TR); Mallard (TR); Northern Cardinal (RB); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Spotted? Sandpiper (TR); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

New species:

Red Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	BC/E KD
“Uniform Ramaria”	<i>Ramaria [concolor]</i>	RB pd/KD
“White Slimehead”	<i>Hygrophorus eburneus</i>	RB KD
Parajulid Millipede*	Parajulidae sp.	Tr Kd
(Malaise Samples)		
Divergent Dart	<i>Euoxa redimicula</i>	J131/05 nz/KD
Brown-collared Dart	<i>Protolampra bunneicollis</i>	J131/05 nz/KD
Brown-hooded Owlet	<i>Cucullia convexipennis</i>	J131/05 nz/KD
“Eight-spotted Micro”	<i>Anania funebris glomeralis</i>	J131/05 nz/KD

*specimens are readily obtainable for further examination