

Newport Forest

Friday September 22 2006

3:15 - 7:50 pm

Weather: prec. 10mm; RH 91%; calm, ovcast; LM19C; FCF 18C

Purpose: to check some species

Participants: Kee

Specifically, I felt I had to check the two specimens of *Procyon lotor* named Thelma & Louise. After putting out birdseed, I did check the Red Ashes growing in the old Blind Creek bed for confirming characters, esp. the leaves. (no seeds this year, apparently) The bark is just right.

I took down a large bag of salt and a a sack of shelled corn to the Fleming Creek deer feeder. I thought about the buck whose skull still guards the spot. On the way back up the bluffs, I picked up the canoe and carried it back up to its stand, where I rubbed it clean and dry. Just then, a light rain started, as if to hurry me on. The tarp was on within 20 seconds.

It took two hours for the girls to show up. (Earlier I had caught a whiff of something dead from under the trailer and feared for the worse.) They had shreddies, kibble, and a Swanson's chickenball dinner. They were not really keen on the chicken, but ate all the plum sauce and gravy. As I watched them eat, I suddenly spotted what appeared to be a small, dead, half-eaten rodent. It looked like a house mouse and the tail was the only thing I could reliably measure. (later when I ran the tail length through all the rodentia in the area, I found the length of 65 mm well-separated from the others. Not an ideal ID, but it worked. The girls and I napped from 6 to 7:20 pm.

I also found a new grasshopper on one of the leaves of the small Catalpa tree just outside the Nook. It turned out to be (variously) both a Meadow Grasshopper and a Meadow Katydid. (See below.)

New species:

Meadow Katydid

Orchelimum vulgare

GF/LM KD