

Newport Forest

Friday June 16

4:20 pm Fri - 4:30pm Sun

weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 49%; clr; S 5-10 kmh; LM 29 C

purpose: Bioblitz weekend

participants: Pat & Kee (plus others on Saturday -- see below.)

It seemed to take hours to unload the supplies that our provisioning dept. deemed necessary for a successful bioblitz. But we were soon settled in, determined to relax a little before the onslaught. A quick check of the trees in the RZ showed early signs of drying stress on a few of the smaller trees, otherwise growth continues unabated. Just before supper we walked to the RL to enjoy the early evening sunlight and the sight of Bank Swallows working the river for insects. (V) Coming in, we saw a Wood Duck take off, heard a Northern Oriole, and spotted a Yellow Warbler. Lately we have been seeing more Kildeers along the river, as today. The clay beach is now fully exposed.

Dave & Winnie Wake arrived at the camp around 9am followed shortly after by Stan Caveney. Soon Jeff Skevington pulled up in his government truck, followed by Jane Bowles, Andre LaChance, and Michelle Carnerie. Once Daria Koscinski and Erin Carroll arrived, we were ready for dispersal. I took Jeff (assisted by Erin and Daria) and Andre for a walk into the RSF, where Jeff distinguished himself by expertly imitating a Screech Owl, actually getting one to reply. He split off after this and while probing the woods close to the river, Erin spotted what they both thought at first was a peculiar insect. It turned out to be a minute Wood Frog, fully developed, but far from fully grown. I continued on with Andre, showing him as many oaks and other potential "flux trees" as we went over the HB and down into the BCF. He marked a few trees on the GPS unit Jane had loaned him.

Meanwhile, Pat accompanied Jane up the east side of the HB toward ET, where Jane found a rare Fragile Fern (see below). She went on to find 15 more plants there and, later, under the hydro lines. (The Bioblitz Record composed by Pat has the complete list.) Back in the Nook, Jeff, Stan and then Jane reported in. Jeff gave us the name of a beetle and two damselflies, while Stan brought in at least two new relatives for the Earwig Fly (order Mecoptera) in the form of several scorpionflies. He also had an extremely primitive insect -- a Bristletail (order Archaeognatha) and guessed the genus Mechilis. Jane showed us the new fern but spent the rest of the time preparing her plant presses for new specimens. Daria had to leave, so I took her down to the creek to collect a shore sample from a choice spot that I could not comfortably go, given my injured knee.

We were joined for dinner by Nina and Edgar Hurdle. After dinner everyone left but Stan, who stayed just long enough to set up an ultraviolet light in The Hole. Stan had an excellent day, finding a Horned Spanworm larva (the adult moth is gorgeous) and a Forked Fungus Beetle (not new, but quite interesting).

Alone again, we enjoyed the sight of the mother coon and her 7 kits all eating kibble on the log. (V) Later, two more adults came to feed on kibble I had distributed lightly over the road in front of the trailer (so I could get an idea of “who” was around). The night time low was 12 C. After midnight I went to Stan’s light to see what had come to it. A gigantic Dobsonfly (Corydalus?) was accompanied by a great many moths. I collected four of the most distinctive moths I could find. (See list below) I must say I find moths quite enchanting, certainly more mysterious and exotic than butterflies.

On Sunday morning, Stan came to collect the light and examined my few specimens that Pat showed him. He also left me with some Mayflies to ID. In the afternoon, just before we left, I watered all the recently planted trees, the great majority being oaks.

Jane Bowles found seven new species of Carex for us, as well as two new Docks, an Acrimony, five species of moss and, of course, that wonderful new fern.

birds: (P & K 27)

American Robin (TR); Bank Swallow (TR); Blue Jay (Tr); Bobolink (UM); Brown-headed Cowbird (LM); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Phoebe (HP); Eastern Screech Owl (FCF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (BCF/HBF); Great Crested Flycatcher (EW); Killdeer (TR); Mourning Dove (HL); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Oriole (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Duck (TR); Wood Thrush (BCF); Yellow Warbler (RL)

birds: (other birders 45)

American Crow (WW); American Goldfinch (WW); American Redstart (MC-WR); Black-capped Chickadee (MC); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (MC); Blue-winged Warbler (SC); Brown Thrasher (JS-UM); Canada Goose (JS-TR); Cedar Waxwing

(MC-TR); Chestnut-sided Warbler (JS-TR); Chipping Sparrow (MC-HP); Cliff Swallow (JS - LM); Downy Woodpecker (WW-RSF); Eastern Bluebird (JS - Rd); Eastern Kingbird (DW); Eastern Meadowlark (DW); Eastern Wood Peewee (MC); European Starling (JS); Grasshopper Sparrow (DW-UM); Great Blue Heron (WW-TR); Hairy Woodpecker (DW- RSF); Horned Lark (MC - HP); House Sparrow (MC); House Wren (DW); Indigo Bunting (MC); Least Flycatcher (DW); Mallard (WW-TR); Northern Flicker (MC); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (MC - TR); Ovenbird (MC-ET); Purple Martin (JS-TR); Red-eyed Vireo (MC); Red-tailed Hawk (JS - BCF); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (DW-?); Savannah Sparrow (DW); Scarlet Tanager (JS-FCF); Spotted Sandpiper (MC-TR); Tree swallow (MC); Tufted Titmouse (JS); Vesper Sparrow (MC-WM); Warbling Vireo (MC-ER); Wild Turkey (DW-HB); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (SC - FCF); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (WW - ER);

total bird species observed: 72

participants:

J. Bowles, M. Carnerie; E. Carroll; S. Caveney; K. Dewdney; P. Dewdney; D. Koscinski; Andre LaChance; J. Skevington; D. Wake; W. Wake

phenology:

fireflies in large numbers over meadows, vernal ponds in BCF completely dried up, mosquitoes much less prevalent.

new species: (preliminary list of 13)

River Spirogyra	<i>Spirogyra rivularis</i>	FC/Br KD Je16/07
Common Lytrosis	<i>Lytrosis unitaria</i>	BCF/E sc/KD Je16/07
Short-lined Chocolate Moth	<i>Argyrostroma anilis</i>	BCF/E sc/KD Je16/07
Small-eyed Sphinx	<i>Paonias myops</i>	BCF/E sc/KD Je16/07
Bindweed Sap Beetle	<i>Conotelus obscurus</i>	LM JS Je16/07
Midland Clubtail	<i>Gomphus fraternus</i>	RL JS Je16/07
Emerald Spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>	RL JS Je16/07
Slender Spreadwing	<i>Lestes rectangularis</i>	TR JS Je16/07
Fragile Fern	<i>Cysopteris protrusa</i>	HB/E KB Je16/07

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	ER WW Je16/07
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	ER WW Je16/07
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	LM JS Je16/07
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Rd JS Je16/07