

**Newport Forest**

Thursday August 9 2007 3:20 - 8:15 pm

**weather:** prec. 12 mm; RH 56 %; BP 29.22"; calm; ovcast; LM 25 C

**participants:** Kee & Darren

**purpose:** to exchange camera cards & obtain stream sample

The air was dead still throughout the LM, with a humidity so high that to stir was to sweat. I took the weather, fed the birds and listened for my list, mostly just relaxing. A trip through the RZ revealed that all the little oaks along ER near the Hole were continuously growing new eaves while their colleagues elsewhere stuck with their spring growth. Darren came in around 4:30. He was quite keen on his new GPS device, explaining that it updated your position continuously and made a little map of your wanderings. We walked to the RL, putting out meat bait at each camera site and exchanging the memory cards.

We stayed on the beach for about a half hour, watching a Great Blue Heron take off from the lower rapids, where it had been fishing. A Belted Kingfisher flashed upstream just over the tree tops on the north bank. Later, a Spotted Sandpiper bobbed its way along the south shore nearer to the landing than we. Back at the trailer, he showed me the map of our wanderings as a thick, jittery line on the GPS display window. It gave our total time on the excursion and our average speed as well.

Darren left around 7:15, giving me enough daylight to stumble down to the Fleming Creek rapids directly downhill from the Nook. Not really a good idea! When I finally got to the rapids I was not surprised to see the water so low. It trickled between rocks. Getting the sample of rocks with a good biofilm was made difficult by the lack of filamentous algae of any kind.

**birds:** (11)

Belted Kingfisher (TR); Blue Jay (FCF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (TR); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (EW);