

Newport Forest

Saturday-Sunday August 11-12

2:50 pm*

weather: prec. 2 mm; RH 60%; BP 29.50"; calm; sn/cld; LM 30 C

purpose: two-day stay

participants: Pat & Kee

* saturday arrival time

A pair of Giant Swallowtails fl;uttered around the trailer & Lower Meadow, as if to welcome us. On a cursory examination of the Hop tree near the trailer, Pat found two small "orange dogs," larvae of the Giant Swallowtail. There were few birds at first, but lots of insects, including a pale green Flatid planthopper that I can't ID sitting on the table in the Nook. Meanwhile, a Black swallowtail (I hadn't seen for many weeks) fluttered past the trailer. Pat drove the van up to the tree nursery to get it in shape for the fall while I sat in the Nook.

After supper we walked to the TR, changing the camera memories as we went. A wide variety of tracks decorated the beach: deer, raccoons, herons, sandpipers, turtles (SSH). Back at the trailer I walked up to close the gate, feeling a pain in my right hip rather like arthritis. (but by midnight the pain was gone) Three young raccoons, completely new to us and NOT accompanied by their mother, browsed the road in front of the trailer for kibble. They departed when the kibble was gone but returned at 1 am to finish off whatever was left. The raccoon situation gets puzzling like this periodically, as one set replaces another. This litter is rather young for the time of year (more the size of June). Where are the stripe sisters? Could this be a litter of one of them? Having fed to satiety, the coons played paw-soccer with an empty coffee tin. I worked on IDing a moth Pat had found in the trailer.

There were two separate serenades by screech owls, the best one around 9:30 pm, when at least four started calling to each other. There were a few brief rainfalls, from dawn to sunrise, leaving the foliage all wet, but doing little good, since at most two mm fell.

In the early afternoon, Pat took the van up to the TS again. She spotted a Brown Snake near the fence. She also saw the black squirrel again near the Tr. She also noted plenty of Hairstreak butterflies around the trailer. We had to leave early for a WENC picnic. We noted as we left that no Turkey Vultures had appeared during our entire stay.

birds: (26)

American Crow (Rd); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (BCF/LM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (LM); Canada Goose (TR); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Screech Owl (BCF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Eastern Wood Peewee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (BCF); Great Blue Heron (LM); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); Indigo Bunting (Tr); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Flicker (BCF/LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF/EW)

new species:

Oscillatoria	<i>Oscillatoria angusta</i>	FC/Rp KD Sp16/07
Common Gray	<i>Anavitrinella pampinaria</i>	Tr pd/KD Au11/07

phenology: Cicadas have been singing for a week now. Chickadees nesting over, “river daisies in full bloom two weeks ago, first goldenrods in bloom (5%).