

**Newport Forest**

Friday May 16 2008

2:00 - 6:35 pm

**weather:** prc. 29 mm; RH 55%; BP 98.60; clr; clm; LM 19 C

**purpose:** to search for new plant species

**participants:** Pat & Kee

We stopped at the TS for Pat to check the tree bed situation and for me to install (game-) Cam #3. It was a pleasant sight to see the Bobolinks back, not to mention a Northern Oriole flying across the LM as soon as we arrived at the trailer.

We enjoyed the weather out in the Nook for a while, hearing American Toads trilling over in the BCF, not to mention the odd Western Chorus Frog playing with his pocket-comb. Inspecting the RZ, I was pleased to see virtually all of the (living)trees doing very well indeed, thanks to the recent rains. I noticed that only now are the ashes getting serious about having leaves this year -- just breaking bud, the Shagbark Hickories a little ahead of the ashes.

We went for a walk into the BCF looking mainly for sedges that were in flower or fruit, finding none that we hadn't already logged. But up on the side of the HB, Pat located a large patch of Fragile Fern, as well as another patch of Harbinger of Spring (no longer in flower). I checked the (planted) American Beech, all but one looking very healthy. I also noticed coming in that all the Black Ashes along Blind Creek were extraordinarily healthy, growing like stink in spite of severe deer-nipping. I thought to myself, "They REALLY like it here." Pat found a sedge on the HB that she wants to check at home. The other plant she found earlier in the LM -- a new Speedwell.

Down at the creek I checked the TTs and PP -- both eradicated (along with several young ashes) by the heavy ice last winter. (It's a wonder anything grows there.)

After supper we sat in the Nook, watching the baby Raccoons poke their noses out of the Nursery box, waiting for sunset. We don't know what size this year's litter is, but we saw at least three kits near the entrance. The raccoon box is rarely used, so far as we're aware, outside the maternal season. Going out we stopped at the TS so Pat could drop off some sticks and I could change the Cam #3 res to "HI" from "LO."

**birds:** (23)

American Crow (BCF); American Robin (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (GF);

Blue Jay (GF); Bobolink (UM); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Common Flicker (BCF); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Gray Catbird (BCF); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Northern Oriole (LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FCF); Song Sparrow (GF); Tree Swallow (Rd); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (BCF); Wood Thrush (BCF); Yellow Warbler (BCF)

**phenology:**

Northern Orioles and Bobolinks back; American Toads, Western Chorus Frogs still calling; White Ash, Black Ash, American Beech, Shagbark Hickory breaking bud

**new species:**

from VP4:

Flatworm	<i>Gyratrix hermaphroditus</i>	VP4 KD My09/08
Arcella	<i>Arcella vulgaris</i>	VP4 KD My09/08
Pediastrum	<i>Pediastrum duplex</i>	VP4 KD My09/08
Zygnema	<i>Zygnema [pectinatum]</i>	VP4 KD My09/08
Anabaena	<i>Anabaena</i> sp.	VP4 KD My09/08

from LM:

Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	LM PD My16/08
------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------