

Newport Forest Monday June 30 2008

2:40 m- 8:30 p;m

weather: pr. 33mm; RH 77%; BP 98.64kPa; ovcast; NNE 0-20kmh; LM20° C

purpose: search for new insects & fungi

participants: Pat & Kee

Opening the gate, I startled a small Northern Leopard frog that quickly hopped into the long grass. (this year's spawn?) We stopped at the TS, Pat potted up several HBs, while I gave the grass a haircut with the shears.

After setting up camp down at the trailer & putting out bird feed, we began to scout the immediate area, noting literally hundreds of mushrooms poking up from the soil after the recent generous rains. *Russula*, *Hygrophorus* (S), *Amanita* (S), *Lactarius*, and (numerous) LBMs were everywhere. Pat found a small troop of very slimy but beautiful yellow waxy-caps and then a White-marked Tussock Moth caterpillar (nn) Later she picked up a distinctive-looking small green caterpillar with red bands (geometrid?) that we could not identify.

As for the RZ, you can "hear" the young trees growing. Even trees that I had given up on years ago have risen like Lazarus, resprouting from the base. (Even with the revivals, I doubt if our success ratio exceeds 75%.) I was particularly pleased to see "Jane's SF" already double last year's height and still growing! Pat, while looking for insects in the LM, found two little trees that we had forgotten about. One was a TT she had planted two years ago (grown from seed) and one was a volunteer RO. Suffice it to say that the RZ contains more invisible trees (below the veg-line) than visible ones.

We made an excursion up to the Copse, finding its history as a mushroom haven fulfilled once again. A troop of 9 beautiful Panther mushrooms (*Amanita panthera*), some caps already expanded to 8 cm, others in the button stage. Several *Lactarius zonarius* (uncommon) were confirmed (nn), the closest lookalike being ruled out by the zonation pattern. We spotted a lily that seemed on its way to being a Helleborine and made a note to check it next week when the blooms emerge. Pat spotted our first new species of the day, a *Galium*.

Just before supper, I took the second newt hotel into the BCF and installed it under the old willow at the bend in ET close to the BC bed. The mosquitoes were not swarming in the numbers seen last week, but they were still plentiful enough to drive me from the woods as soon as the hotel had been secured with stakes and a spring.

Relaxing in the Nook after supper, we received one of our rare visits to the tray feeders by an Eastern Grey Squirrel (black phase), as well as the usual chipmunks. A pair of Grosbeaks were feeding their young in the Black Maple overhead.

Note: the towhees appear to have moved en mass from the BCF to the FCF over the last two years !

birds: (16)

American Crow (EW); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (ER); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Common Grackle (BCF/HBF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Kingbird (FCB); Eastern Towhee (FCF); Field Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (UM); Turkey Vulture (UM)

new species:

'Hairy Galium'	<i>Galium pilosum</i>	CP PD Je30/08
'Slime Cap'	<i>Hygrophorus chlorophanus</i> *	NK pd/KD Je30/08

phenology: Blackcaps at the red fruit stage

*also "uncommon," but readily distinguished from lookalike *H. flavescens* by its excessively slimy coating.