Alone at Newport Forest

Newport Forest Thursday July 16 2009 2:05 - 7:20 pm
weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 51%; BP 29.26; sn/cld; SW 10-40 kmh; T 30° C
purpose: to check TRT
participants: Kee

Coming in, I noticed that the gate was locked in an unusual way. It struck me that anyone from TTLT or the Stewards Committee who goes onto the property should inform Don Gordon, either before or after.

In the Nook I discovered that the feeder tray I had so recently repaired had come down -- presumably from the weight of too many raccoons. A visit to the creek revealed Saggittaria and Arum growing larger leaves than I had ever before seen; nutrients from this year's extensive flooding? (P) The old bridge log, having battered and banged its way down 200 m of creek is currently lodged from bank-to-bank just below the lower rapids, if someone has the energy to roll it about 20° so the treads are once again horizontal.

It was a rather windy day, with a strong, gusting wind from the SW. This may have inhibited the birds and flying insects somewhat, as both counts seemed rather low. (See the "birds," below & the Bee Protocol.)

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I conducted the bee protocol for the second time, noting a nice Silvery Checkerspot, along the way, as well as a new species of Blister Beetle.

The ground has become very dry and almost hard enough to blunt a shovel. (July total precip so far: 7 mm) I will order the water truck on Monday to fill the Drought Buster. We'll have to start watering the younger trees soon. I stayed long enough to watch Two-striped and her five kits forage for kibble, later stealing the kibble-bag from the Nook while I was in the trailer making supper. Other mammals seen on the property included a chipmunk at the Hickory feeder and a cottontail on Edgar's Road as the sun went down.

![Longwood Road Highlights: The Battle Hill memorial cairn](image)

![Mussel Beach almost emerged](image)

**bee protocol (summary):** Hymenoptera 6; Diptera 4 (2 honeybees)

**birds:** (15)
American Robin (BCF/ET); Blue-Jay (Ty); Bobolink (UM); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Eastern Kingbird (UM); Killdeer (TR); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Ty); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Ty); Song Sparrow (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Turkey Vulture (BCF);

**new species:**
White-headed Fly [Epalpus sp. RZ KD Jl15/09]
Red-collared Oil Beetle [Nemognatha nemorensis RZ KD Jl15/09]

**Family Tachinidae**

**phenology:** Monarda in full bloom, "sunflowers" in bloom

Images:

![Longwood Road Highlights: The Battle Hill memorial cairn](image)

![The Red-collared Oil Beetle on Black-eyed Susan](image)

![Mussel Beach almost emerged](image)