

## Site Visit Report

Newport Forest Monday August 24 2009 2:30 - 7:45 pm

weather: prec. 6 mm; RH 62%; 99.9 kPa; calm; sn/cld; T 24° C  
purpose: to collect/find more species  
participants: Pat, Kee

On arrival, I dropped Pat off at the WM (West Meadow) and drove on to interview Randy Ovecka to check out rumours she and her husband were raising Fallow Deer in the pen beside their house. Only Virginia Deer there. The closest enclosure with Fallow Deer in it, according to Randy, is in or near Fingal, about 41 km away. Did our Fallow Deer come from there? One of Randy's deer escaped several weeks ago -- so they do get away from time to time.

Pat inspected the WM fence, finding it in need of repair at several points. She also spotted a Common Mullein in the field, a species that has not shown up in other parts of Newport Forest before now! She found an Epilobium sp near the road, as well.

Down at the trailer, I cleared the Fleming Creek trail down to the base, while Pat cleared through an immense stand of Giant Ragweed that has taken over the former bridge landing. (We have stopped using the bridge as it is too expensive and time-consuming to put up every year; the steel beams alone weigh about 350 lbs each!) Back at the trailer, Pat found a dead spider that turned out to be a new species for us. She also found a recently dead (true) Katydid (see image below). Twice a Giant Swallowtail flew past the Nook and I noticed a Red-spotted Purple in the LM on my way to the river. We saw several different species of butterflies on nuptial flights, including Cabbage Whites, anglewings, and a pair of Great Spangled Fritillaries. There are tiny "orange dogs" -- Giant Swallowtail larvae on the larger of our two hop trees. In the Nook, I spotted the largest horsefly (if that's what it was) I have ever seen -- the body over 2 cm long; it had strongly patterned wings, like those of a deerfly.

By 5 pm the sky had cleared almost completely and the air temperature had climbed to 27° C. At the river, the beach has almost fully emerged. No spinies, I sat on the bluffs bench, just as I did during the last visit, and, after a similar wait, along came a Bald Eagle, just as before! Again, it was eye-level and again, I was so startled by the view, I forgot to take a picture. (Fool me twice, shame on me.) Pat called from the trailer to mention she had seen an Eastern Gray Squirrel (black phase), a species we see less often these days than the Red Squirrel. Proceeding on to Bluebell Woods, I did not succeed in locating the Blue Cohosh in ten minutes and so gave up. We will try again so that we can confirm the plant in the spring when it flowers. (at Jane Bowles' suggestion)

The young Red Squirrel came out to say goodbye as we left. At no time did we see the Raccoon called Two-stripe or her progeny; we can only hope they have reverted to the normal nocturnal habit,

birds: (11 -- very few calling) some migrating spp. have departed already

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (BCF/E); Bald Eagle (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Flicker (GF/E); Common Grackle (GF/FC); Gray Catbird (GF); Mourning Dove (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

phenology:

Most species of goldenrod now in bloom or almost in bloom

new species:

Willow Herb Epilobium glandulosum WM/Rd PD Au24/09  
Common Mullein Verbascum thapsus WM PD Au24/09

Hentz's Orb Weaver Neoscona crucifera Tr pd/Kd Au24/09

'Red-bellied Stiletto Fly' Cyclotelus rufiventris RL nz/KD Au18/05  
'Yellow-banded Tachinid' Belvosia sp. LM SC/kd

ID notes: the spider specimen closely resembles lookalike *N. arabesca*, except the chevrons are not single, as in the latter, but double, each black mark being accompanied by a smaller, similar mark adjacent to it. As in many other groups, spiders of the same species may show large variations in colours and density of pattern, causing the latter to look quite different on superficial examination. There are seven species of *Neoscona* in NA. The specimen at hand was somewhat beat up (bird predation?) but still doable. Many additional specimens of *Neoscona* were found on the "web." Size, presence of banding and spines on legs, and other features were also taken into account.

bee protocol: As we suspected, once the Goldenrod came into bloom, we would see more bees. Their numbers have increased 12-fold over last weeks count!

Au24/05 Au15/09 (typical of all previous counts this summer)

HB 31 2  
BB 18 1  
OB 0 1  
SW 1 1  
LW 6 3  
SF 4 2  
LF 6\* 3  
\* one Syrphid

### IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



Honeybee on goldenrod

(click on image to enlarge)



True Katydid (*Pterophylla camelifolia*)