

Hot, Hazy & Humid

Newport Forest Saturday August 7 2010 2:15 - 7:30 pm

weather: prec. 5 mm; RH 83%; BP 101.4 kPa; cld/sn; SW 3-15 kmh; T 30° C

purpose: new species

participants: Pat. Kee

The Green Dragon, having lost its stem in an accident, had gone dormant, so we decided to move it to a "better" location. We dug up the tuber and replanted it at the same depth, upslope by the trail beside the Box Elder snag.

An inspection of the Regen Zone revealed several small trees already showing water stress, so a watering will soon be in order. I performed the bee protocol with the following results:

HB BB OB SF LF SW LW

1 2 0 2 3 0 0

Pat and I collected many plants and went through them one by one. Nothing new.

On the next visit we will concentrate on finding liverworts. So far we have no species in that group, shocking as that may sound.

There were very few birds about; perhaps they were lying low due to the heat. Some Chipmunks visited the feeders, as usual, and an Eastern Gray Squirrel (black phase) also put in a brief appearance.

We walked to the river and spotted the usual birds such as the Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper and Cedar Waxwing. A pair of swallows were hunting over the river, but they flew so fast we could not track them clearly with binoculars and therefore could not make a successful ID. Back in the Lower Meadow, we watched a group of three Eastern Kingbirds, one of them presumably a parent. It looked like they were practicing insect-hawking.

birds: (21)

American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Flicker (GF); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Kingbird (HB); Eastern Towhee (ET); Eastern Wood Peewee (FC); Field Sparrow (GF); Gray Catbird (RL); Great Blue Heron (TR); Mourning Dove (HL); Northern Cardinal (EW); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (GF); Spotted Sandpiper (MB); Tree Swallow (Rd); Turkey Vulture (Rd); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

leps:

Black Swallowtail; Cabbage White; Giant Swallowtail (larva); Northern Crescent; Red-spotted Purple; Silver-spotted Skipper; Sulphur

New species:

Panther Mushroom *Amanita pantherina* gp. Cps kd/GT J131/10

Note: Greg Thorn examined a deteriorated specimen but seemed reasonably sure that it belonged to the *A. pantherina* "group" of species. Uncommon.

Phenology:

Wingstem coming into bloom (10% fully so) Monarda fully in seed.

Drought watch:

28% shortfall - still below all but one of the last four drought years.

Species watch:

IMAGES:



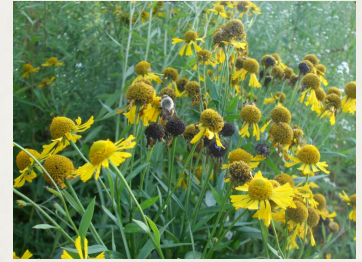
Small troop of Panther mushrooms in the Copse (click on image to enlarge)



Larva of the Giant Swallowtail butterfly resembles a bird-dropping. Here it feeds on the leaves of a Hop-tree, one of two food plants for the species. (click on image to enlarge)



Larva of the Giant Swallowtail butterfly resembles a bird-dropping. Here it feeds on the leaves of a Hop-tree, one of two food plants for the species. Adult Giant Swallowtail is the largest butterfly in North America north of Mexico. (click on image to enlarge)



Wingstem is a rarity in Canada. Name comes from ridges (wings) that run down stems. (click on image to enlarge)