

**Newport Forest**  
*Monitoring Nature*

**Weather:** prec. 11mm; RH 74%; BP 101.2 kPa; sun/cld; SW 10-40 kmh; T 36° C

**Time/date:** Thursday June 21 2012 3:10 - 8:00 pm

**Activity:** Kee dissects scat and Darren clears trail

Acting on an alert from Dave Martin, I parked for a while in the Upper Meadow on my way in, hoping to see or hear a Dickcissel. It was windy and few birds were out in any case, so I proceeded on to the trailer.

It was surely time to face the long-delayed task of dissecting the mysterious scat found by the creek several weeks ago. Setting up an operating theatre in the Nook,



I donned latex gloves and breathing mask (as recommended by wildlife biologists) and set to work. Surprise finds are documented in the Scat Report to be sent out shortly. The outcome looks more “predatory” than ever.

With an hour to go before Darren's arrival, I hammered together another tread-way (a series of 1 x 2s nailed to two parallel "runners") for the seeps on the Fleming Creek Trail. I called Pat to check the progress of more northern parts of the storm: "There's thunder and lightning and heavy rain here." I felt smug.

I had just changed the SD cards on the trail cams when Darren finally rolled in with his jeep, accompanied by friend Rick Hopkins. By the time our brief social catchup was over, storm clouds loomed menacingly. Rain began to spatter, so we decided to wait it out in the Nook. After 20 minutes the rain let up and we set out. By the time we entered the Blind Creek Trail, the rain had become heavy again. Then torrential. I could barely make out Darren and Rick ahead of me. Only one obstacle mattered today. An old thorn tree had fallen over the trail, taking several thick vines with it and creating an impassable tangle. The bizarre scene only lasted ten minutes: lightning flashing, thunder crashing, a continuous rush of rain overhead, the chain saw sputtering and roaring. I wasn't too worried about Darren. He's expert with the chainsaw and certified by the TTLT. Once Rick had thrown all the cuttings off-trail, we beat a hasty retreat, this time to the trailer.

Just before he left, Darren was accosted by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird! I left the property shortly after Darren and Rick. Coming to the road I spotted a pair of birds flashing some yellow. Dickcissels? No. American Goldfinches.

### **Birds: (13)**

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (UM/Rd); Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Yellowthroat (FCF/LM); Field Sparrow (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (LM/ER); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (Rd); Turkey Vulture (FCF)

**Phenology:** Black-caps ripening, still no mosquitoes, fawns half grown

### **Trail cam Report:**

Cam #1: Virginia Deer Je18 a/d 4x(1)  
Cam #2: Eastern Cottontail Je19 p/d (1) (2), Raccoon Je18 a/n 2 x (1),  
Virginia Deer (fawn) Je21 a/d (1)  
Cam #3: Raccoon Je17 p/d (1) (1) Je18 p/n (3\*) (1\*) Je19 p/d (2\*) Unid. Je20

### **IMAGES:**



A sunny day gives ground to a storm cell looming in the southwest. The wind comes up and small trees in the Regeneration Zone (foreground) whip back and forth.



**WILDVIEW**

06-18-2012 08:46:00



Water on the lens mars an otherwise beautiful scene of a doe taking some morning browse at the Elbow of the river trail.