

**Time:** 5:30 - 8:00 pm

**Weather:** prec. 23 mm; RH 73%; BP 101.6 kPa; overcast; calm; T 20° C

**Activity:** An *Inviso tardus* with Kee

I arrived a few hours late, having waited at home for the rains to subside. The sky was sullen and overcast when I got to the gate. Coming in, I noticed what looked like a mat of blue-green alga growing in a wet depression on the track. Later at home I would discover to my mild surprise that it was a species of *Oscillatoria* (a



blue-green alga), one that grows “subaerially”. It resembled the species shown in the file image above (*O. tenuis*). Later, on Mussel Beach, I would find a very similar patch growing on the clay next to the water’s edge. Since both sites were bone dry until this morning, these algae grew very quickly indeed. We already have four species of *Oscillatoria* on the ATBI list, at least three of them from pond waters.

I changed the trail cam cards, despairing of seeing many images from them. There is a fundamental incompatibility between these cameras (Wildview) and standard SD cards. Over several cycles, the cards fill up with “unreadable” images (according to my iPhoto software) to the point where only one or two images end up being loaded -- and then none!

Changing the SD card on the camera posted by the Lower Rapids of Fleming Creek, I heard a few “gronks” made by a Great Blue Heron fishing the Upper

Rapids. (That is how I imagine baby dinosaurs must have sounded.)

On my way to the river, I watched a young Red Squirrel cross some branches overhead, exploiting the aerial highway that connects all parts of a closed canopy. Closer to the river, I distinctly heard the chucking burr of the Gray Tree Frog.

The river couldn't have looked more different today from its appearance during recent visits when the clay was cracked and several American Snout butterflies were flying about. (I forgot to mention these in the July 15 Bulletin.) This time the clay beach was smooth and slick, with all the cracks closed again. A lone Spotted Sandpiper bobbed along the shore away from me. I collected the blue-green alga, then started back, noting the Cup Plants at the Landing had half-filled with rain water. (See IMAGES below)

**Birds: (13)**

American Crow (GF); American Robin (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Common Grackle (BCF/Ho); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Great Blue Heron (FC); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Northern Flicker (EW); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Tree Swallow (Rd)

**Phenology:** Mosquitoes more common -- becoming bothersome

**Newport Forest Archives:**

An archive now extending as far back as 2003 contains all our site visit reports and (more recently) copies of The Newport Forest Bulletin. Simply go to the following website and click on "Newport Forest" (upper left corner of main page), then scroll to the bottom of the new page and you'll see the archives.

<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/>

Also, check on Erin Carroll's website "Nature in Ontario's Banana Belt" from time to time. Erin Carroll is a Newport Steward, a superb naturalist & biologist and a great photographer. Current: Fledgling swallows and an Upland Sandpiper!

<http://erintown.blogspot.ca/>

**IMAGES:**



Scene of “headquarters”, a white second-hand trailer with our van parked behind it. (toward camera) Beyond the trailer is the Black Maple “wolf tree” that shades the Nook. In the foreground is a young American Basswood accompanied by numerous “river daisies”, as the locals call them. Soon they will be blooming at eye level. (sunflower species of the *Helianthus/Heliopsis* group)

Note that track is absolutely flat with no ruts. By always driving with one’s wheels on ridges or high spots, it stays that way.



The Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) is a Newport Forest specialty. The leaves are opposite and “perfoliate”, forming a small cup around the stem. As seen here, the “cups” collect water. Whether it use the water in some way, I don’t know. As something of a rarity, the Cup Plant is rated S2 or “imperiled” under the Provincial S-ranking scheme. There appear to be a few dozen plants at the River Landing and (possibly) elsewhere on the property.