

Lots of Bees and One Woodcock

Newport Forest Saturday September 5 2009 2:10 - 7:30 pm

weather: prec. omm; RH 60%; BP 100.2 kPa; clm; clr; T 29° C
purpose: trail maintenance
participants: Kee, Steve

After a wee break in the Nook, Steve & I set out for the Riverside Forest (RSF) and proceeded to search out suitable logs & branches for trail liners. In the course of retrieving a log from a drift pile S of the trail, I flushed a Woodcock -- a happy event, given that we hadn't seen one all year. Later, I rolled over a log the bottom of which was literally coated with slugs. Since there seemed to be at least three different spp there, I collected a sample of about 12 to take home for ID.

With a half hour to go in the lining project, I left Steve to finish up so that I could return to camp and carry out the bee protocol while the sun was still high. On the return journey, I noticed a new, identical Lactarius had sprouted near the original one of the previous week. I collected it, since Greg Thorn could not make the ID from the (previous) photo alone.

As soon as I entered the LM, I knew that the bee count was due for a rapid increase; there were bees everywhere, pretty much the way I remembered them being late in the season of previous years. (See count data at end of report.) I ended up with 197 bees, a tenfold increase over Au30! While doing the count, I spotted another Milbert's Tortoiseshell, this time getting a (lousy) photo of it. It's strange that I had never seen a MT in my life until Au15 and now a second one. (It never rains but it pours.)

Steve came out shortly after I had finished the protocol, reporting that he had started a deer on the HB. We rested in the Nook, while a lone Chipmunk raided the Tr. We also heard an Eastern Gray Squirrel scolding about 100m away in the GF.

Before departing, I visited the creek, noting a pink/crimson plant bug on one of the Giant Ragweed plants growing on the bank. (got away from me) I heard a Gray Tree Frog and a Green Frog calling nearby. No raccoons showed up.

birds: (8)

American Crow (EW); American Woodcock (RSF); Black-capped Chickadee (RB); Blue Jay (GF); Mourning Dove (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Turkey Vulture (FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

new species:

Common Lady Beetle Hippodamia convergens LM SM Jl30/09

The following 21 species of Syrphid fly were identified By Andrew Young (U of Guelph) from the malaise samples taken by Nina Zitani in the summer of 2005.

Syrphinae
Chrysotoxum pubescens RL nz/AY Jl31/05
Eupeodes latifasciatus LM nz/AY Jl18/05
Eupeodes pomus RL nz/AY Au11/05
Melanostoma mellium RL nz/AY Au21/05
Ocyptamus fascipennis LM nz/AY Jl31/05
Ocyptamus fuscipennis LM nz/AY Jl31/05
Platycheirus immarginatus LM nz/AY Jl18/05
Syrphus knabi RL nz/AY Jl31/09
Syrphus rectus RL nz/AY Jl31/05
Syrphus ribesii RL nz/AY Jl31/05
Toxomerus geminatus LM nz/AY Jl18/05
Toxomerus marginatus LM nz/Ay Jl18/05
Xanthogramma flavipes RL nz/AY Au11/05

Eristalinae
Chalcosyrphus nemorum LM nz/AY Jl31/05
Eristalis transversa RL nz/AY Jl31/05
Helophilus fasciatus RL nz/AY Sp05/05
Pterallastes thoracicus RL nz/AY Au11/05
Rhingia nasica RL nz/AY Au11/05
Sphegina campanulata RL nz/AY Jl18/05
Xylota quadrimaculata RL nz/AY Au21/05
Xylota subfasciata RL nz/AY Au11/05

to-day's bee protocol:

group count

HB 197
BB 23
OB 1
LW 1
SW 1
LF 3
SF 5

The table below displays the HB and BB counts over the last month.

HB BB
Au08 3 4
Au15 2 1
Au24 31 18
Au30 20 20 air temp 17° C
Sp05 197 23

Note 1: the response of (proxy) population levels to the goldenrod bloom: BBs respond more slowly as small-colony ground nesters, while HBs respond more quickly with mass production in large colonies.

Note 2: given the area covered by the survey compared with the area of the regeneration zone (part of the LM), there were approximately 4000 bees working the (1 ha) RZ area and possibly up to 10,000 visiting plants in the greater LM.

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



Milbert's Tortoiseshell (drag to desktop to magnify)

(click on image to enlarge)



ideal camp dinner: Ethiopian Bread & Beans (short of pics this trip)