

Newport Forest

Thursday June 30 2006

2:20 - 5:35 pm

Weather: prec. 21mm; RH 71%; NNE 0-15kmh; sn/cld; LM 23C; FCF 21C

Purpose: check butterfly fauna

Participants: Kee

I broadcast a bagful of BE seeds (collected at home by Pat) into the creek bluffs, then drove down to the trailer, where I parked, put out birdseed, and checked the trees in the regen zone. A BC has developed a serious case of brown leafspot and the leaves are turning yellow.

I walked the 2BT, stopping by the pipe bridge to further my familiarity with plants. A tall, yellow flowered plant growing in a large patch near the pipe bridge turned out to be Fringed Loosestrife. I spent most of the time watching/listening for birds and wandering in the vicinity of the trailer, looking for butterflies (see list below).

I walked to the river, surprising a mother duck and her twelve ducklings. The mother performed a convincing wounded bird act, making her way toward the mouth of FC, while her young paddled in a panic for the far shore of the river and the safety of overhanging branches. The mother was smallish, with a white patch on her cheek. Although I did not see a crest, the white patch on the cheek makes the Common Merganser the likely ID.

Birds: (17)

Blue Jay (Tr); Common Grackle (GF); Common Merganser (TR); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (GF); Great Blue Heron (BCF); Green Heron (UM); Mourning Dove (BCF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Oriole (LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Wood Thrush (FCF)

Leps:

Baltimore Checkerspot (HBF); Cabbage White (LM); Common Wood Nymph (LM); Meadow Fritillary (LM); Monarch (LM); Northern Crescent (HBF); Pearl Crescent (HBF); Red Admiral (Tr)

Phenology:

Black Caps ripening