

Newport Forest Wednesday June 26 2007

2:40 W - 2:10 pm Th

weather: prec. 3 mm; RH 90%; BP 29.5mm; ovcst; var 0-10 kmh; LM 24 C

purpose: overnight stay

participants: Kee

As I drove down the Beattie Line a light rain started, but ended shortly after I reached the gate. I had barely set up camp when the rain started again, so I sat in the trailer and watched the trees and plants drink. The rain was heavy at times, but had left within a half hour, with only 3 mm showing in the gauge. By 4:30 the sky began to lighten. That was it for this rain opportunity. Local farmers are not happy. Right after the rain ended, a large number of Grackles flocked into the GF and, within minutes of that, a large flock of crows settled into the FCF.

What was supposed to be a pleasant, vacation-like overnight stay was rendered somewhat nightmarish by a bad stomach following a heavy meal of bean stew. Steve Logan came in around 5 pm to try to blow the obstruction out of the water tank valve using compressed air. It generated an impressive rush of air accompanied by great upwelling bubbles in the tank, but the flow remained restricted. The valve will definitely have to be replaced.

We had a supper of bean stew but within an hour of Steve's sunset departure I grew bilious, then lost my supper altogether. This was accompanied by feelings of lassitude so profound that I could think of nothing but sleep. Thus I missed almost all the nightlife except for what I witnessed from the trailer deck during odd moments when I would get up and try to stay awake. Two adults and one younger raccoon came for the kibble, but I could not pretend to recognize them. The new mother and her kits did not show up -- at least the new kits didn't show up. In the morning I drove into Rodney for breakfast (raccoons had stolen my bread the night before). Stayed until about 2 pm.

birds: American Crow (FCF); Blue Jay (LM); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Towhee (GF); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); Mourning Dove (EW); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Oriole (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (LM); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Thrush (FCF); Yellow Warbler (LM)