

Newport Forest

Thursday July 24 2008

2:40 - 7:30 pm

Weather: prec. 13mm; RH 62%; BP 99.31kPa; cIm; cld/sn; LM 25°C

Purpose: to continue RZ inventory, reset cams, etc

Participants: Pat & Kee

One of our aims today was to continue taking an inventory of the Regeneration Zone (RZ), another to look for new plants. Taking it all at an easy pace, I completed taking inventory of the next strip of trees (10 m wide, 110 m long), while Pat ran into a new species of St John's Wort near the Hole. We walked to the river, delighted to find the beach almost fully emerged (for the first time since last year). We enjoyed reading the tracks: Coyote, White-tailed Deer, Raccoon, Great Blue Heron, and Spiny Softshell Turtles, among others.

The gravel bars are reduced from last year and all the cottonwood saplings 3' and over have been eradicated by ice and floods. The question remains: Are the gravel bars part of the process of adding new shoreline? If so, are they reducing long term, increasing, or in a suspended state between the two. The young sandbar willows hang grimly on, meanwhile. Indian Hemp is now more common.

I checked all the newt hotels, finding only the odd beetle or sow bug under the boards. I replaced the tie-wires with S-hooks on all three hotels. Back at the trailer, Pat spotted an American Snout Butterfly exactly where I saw one back at the beginning of July: on the trailer deck. Later she spotted a Tawny Emperor. Neither are particularly common insects on site.

One of our two "starving" raccoons showed up to eat bird seed at 5 pm from the Hickory feeder. He has a sharply-defined mask and is not the younger individual we'd been seeing lately. Possibly it's the one we were seeing back in May -- an overwintering adult. We theorize that by switching to day-browsing, the starving individual avoids competition and conflict with the better-established individuals. While resting in the Nook, we were treated to the sight of an adult Chickadee keeping an eye on three of its young -- all only half its size, but already flying well -- as they picked up seeds from the tree tray and flew off with them. To finish off the day I moved Cam #3 from the TS down to the hole, and replaced the batteries in both it and Cam #2 on the FCT.

Birds: (20)

American Crow (RSF); American Robin (FCB); Black-capped Chickadee (Nk); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown Thrasher (FCB); Canada Goose (TR); Common Flicker (GF); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (LM/BCF); Eastern Wood Peewee (BCF); Field Sparrow (UM); Gray Catbird (GF); Great Crested Flycatcher (GF); Mourning Dove BCF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

New species:

Spotted St Johns Wort

Hypericum punctatum

Ho PD J124/08

RZ Inventory (SW to NE) Strip 2 (0-10 m N of track)

species	height/growth	volunteer (v)
BH	5' + 8"	v
ThAp	6' + 10"	v
Th Ap	7' + 1"	v
BO	3' + 3"	
BH	4' + 6"	v
BH	5' + 4"	v
BH	6' + 6"	v
BH	5' + 8"	v
WA	2' + 0"	v
BH	3' + 18"	v
WA	2' + 0"	v
BW	2' + 0"	v
PO	2' + 12"	
ThAp	4' + 8"	v
AB	4' + 8"	v
BH	2' + 2"	v
AB	2' + 4"	v
BH	1' + 2"	v
LTA	8' + 1.5'	
ThAp	5' + 6"	v
RB	5' + 5"	
TT	5' + 8"	
TT	5' + 1"	
WA	3' + 4"	v
WA	3' + 8"	v
LTA	6' + 2'	
WA	9' + 8"	
ECW	12' + 2'	
WE	8' + 1'	
TT	3' + 5"	
KC	2' + 0"	
BH	2' + 6"	v
TT	5' + 8"	
SiM	5' + 1.5'	
RA	6' + 0"	v

BO	2' + 6"	v
SM	6' + 0"	
WA	3' + 0"	v
WE	3' + 1.5"	v
WE	3' + 1.5'	v
WE	4' + 2'	v
TT	4' + 4"	
SiM	2' + 1'	
ThAp	6' + 1'	v
TT	4' + 4"	
BW	6' + 1.5'	v
LTA	8' + 1.5'	
WA	9' + 1.5'	
BC	6' + 1'	
YB	7' + 2'	
SH	2' + 6"	v
BO	2' + 5"	
BW	10' + 1'	v
BW	7' + 1.5'	v
BH	4' + 1'	v
RO	1.5' + 1'	
KC	2' + 0"	
SiM	5' + 3'	
BW	2.5' + 1'	v
BW	3' + 3"	v
WA	12' + 1'	v
WA	4.5' + 0"	v