

Date and time: Wednesday May 11 2022 2:45 - 5:15 pm

Weather: Pr 38 mm; RH 49%; BP 102.4 kPa; clear; S 10-30 kmh; T 25° C.

Contents: New Trail Cam Raises a Coyote Conundrum



The Virginia Possum (seen here on Trail Cam #1) is my favourite animal.

After driving into camp for the first time this year, Assistant Linda Parker and I stepped out into a cloudy humid landscape that contradicted the day's Wardsville weather predictions. I wanted to show Linda what Trout Lilies looked like in a glorious abundance of speckled leaves and gay noting flowers. When I led her to the large patch that covers the upper creek bluffs, I was astonished to see not one bloom; all appeared to be over. (previous visit was April 24, a mere 17 days earlier. In short a 17-day period of bloom) Apparently the expected blooming period is about two weeks, so we missed the show entirely.

Larger trees are now in bud, including the Shagbark Hickories with relatively giant 3" buds already beginning to unfurl. Smaller trees are now bursting into leaflets. As for spring ephemerals, the Spring Beauties (only) are now out in numbers. It's almost as if every spring flower now has a blooming season all its own.

We walked out to the river to collect the sd card from the newly installed Trail Cam #2. This camera later turned out to be full of surprises. After our return from the river, I had to go back to Trail Cam #1 to get its card. I was followed by an Eastern Towhee into the Hole and then back out again.

The images in this issue will be mainly those taken by Trail Cam #2. Here is a video illustrating the use of trail cams by a wildlife biologist to peer into the private lives of some baby foxes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqBrWMGtFLI>

Phenology: Large trees in full bud, smaller trees leafing out.

Image Gallery



Kee and Assistant Linda head for the river, eventually to collect the sd card from trail Cam #2 (now taking their picture). The Thames can be seen reflecting sky in the background.



Healthy senior does contrast with famished youngster below.



Sometimes a little scene analysis is required in assessing an image. For example the second deer is actually smaller than the does above. Merely note that it is much closer to the camera.



Alarmed doe springs into action. Note the elevated white tail.



Conspiracy theorist deer inspects camera: “Are we under surveillance?”

ECO-QUIZ: Is this a Red Fox or a Coyote?

As an experiment in democracy-based ID protocols, I will ask readers with an opinion on the question posed above to send that opinion to me. I will not publish names except for those who wish to support their opinions. I will publish the results of this poll simply as a tally of votes.

Feel free to consult our comments on the misidentification of one of these animals in the previous issue.



Note *The Newport Forest Bulletin*: is distributed to some 400 readers almost evenly divided among biologist, naturalists and nature lovers. Our publication is growing steadily by self-selected new readers. Please feel free to leave our email list at any time by replying to the email message with a “No thanks.”