

May 1-31, 2014 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW

By Dick Harlow

In the waning days of this month Mosquito presence has increased at the cottages and Swallows and Dragonflies can only prey on so many. So be happy we have a breeze or constant wind here most of the time to blow biting insects away.

Dandelions have been in profusion and are now going to seed throughout the countryside as viewed in many fields along Rt 7. Here at East View there are only a few dandelion seed heads scattered about our grounds, that may please some residents, but personally, a field of yellow dandelions in bloom at the same time is a pretty sight in early spring.

Tree Swallows are trying to nest in 3 boxes and 1 gourd in back of the Deer Meadow area, and at least one more box in the area between Kestrel Lane and Deer Meadow Drive. As well, a pair of Bluebirds has nested in the Deer Meadow area. Also, unfortunately, European Starlings and House Sparrows are trying to compete for these same nest boxes.

In 'Dragons' Pool' (a retention pond in back of Deer Meadow Drive) Bull Frogs and Leopard Frogs have been chorusing the neighborhood on warm days and nights. Gray Tree Frogs, as well, have set up shop outside various cottages singing their loud monotonous song. And, the muskrat pair observed in April and the first week in May have not reappeared. Also, Deer have shown themselves only intermittently.

A single harmless Garter Snake scurried through the grass this past week.

Four species of butterflies have been recorded for East View to date. Single individuals of the white form, of Orange Sulphur, and individuals of Cabbage White Butterflies have been seen during the day since the end of the first week in May. And, a Mourning Cloak was seen winging quickly through our area. Also, a single Spring Azure, with wings of a beautiful dappled subdued blue, was observed.

The first Dragonfly this month was a male Common Green Darner flying his beat along Dragon's Pool. No female Green Darner or Damselflies have been noticed to date consorting along the shoreline of Dragon's Pool. Expect that the shoreline activity will increase next month.