

Newport Forest

July 5 2000

1:15 - 4:15 pm

**Weather:** sunny, clear, hot: 30C, no breeze

**Purpose:** to look for Butterflies and work on trail

**Participants:** Pat, Kee, Ann White

We drove down to the Old Creek Forest entrance and parked the van. Pat and Ann proceeded directly to the Landing, while Kee chugged back and forth twice, carrying bags of woods chips and the field pack, etc. On the second trip in, I spotted some small, fragile mushrooms growing in the middle of the track, just where the Black Walnuts are thickest. They had grey/white caps with yellow centres. I collected two specimens. (Unfortunately, when we got them home, they had deliquesced and impossible to work with. Based entirely on remembered characters, I would guess they were Walnut Mycenae. I will try again next trip.) We were delighted to find the table and chairs just as we had left them after our Canada Day celebration last Saturday. Going down to the shore, I surprised no less than five turtles who promptly dove into the water, giving me no chance to see them properly. They were not large, however, being only 3-5 inches in diameter. Looking downstream, we could see the gravel bars once again (partially) exposed.

Ann and Pat began to work on Butterflies at the Landing, while I headed along the Riverbank Trail to the Riverside Forest. I had to make two trips to get both bags into the forest and distributed along the trail (another 20-30 metres done). I then proceeded to the far end where I had a brief lunch and searched around some fallen logs to see if I could find any slugs. I found only some of the land snail shells that we found last time just outside the forest on some river drift. This confirms that they are present in the forest, as well. I found an earthworm and placed it in the same jar as the snail shells. I also found an extensive growth of Turkeytail Polypore on one of the logs. On the way out, I left several handfuls of dog biscuits at the "fox earth" (I must say, that hole is quite large, a good foot in diameter)

I then came back out to the meadow, finding Pat and Ann ready for a foray into the Fleming Creek Forest. They had spotted some twenty butterflies, by Pat's count. Pat (wisely) decided to stay on the cliff side of the creek, while Ann and I waded across the ford and up into the floodplain forest. We followed the creek around to the south, pausing only to inspect a few branches overhanging the creek for nests of Acadian Flycatchers. We also paused to inspect the old Wolf Beech and measure its girth (1.82 cm). We then got temporarily lost in a small forest of

very old Hawthorns, not unlike the Hawthorn Forest at A'Nowaghi, emerging finally into Harvey's Old Beech Tract which, in the company of Ann White, somehow didn't look nearly as impressive as I remember it being. On our way back to the west side of the floodplain and creek again, we found a Northern Pearly-eye, which seemed to please Ann. We also found a sedge, the base of which was completely enclosed in a white jelly. I collected the whole plant. (Back home i was delighted to find that this was an easy ID from my new book on fungi of Ontario. Back at the creek, we met up with Pat again. On the west shore, I found a very well-preserved aquatic snail and a small fingernail clam (see below).

We remarked that on the Riverbank Trail, in the Old Creek Forest and in the Fleming Creek Forest, we had seen Ebony Jewel-wings everywhere!

We then drove up to the gate, closed it, and headed home.

### **New appecies:**

#### Animals

“Large Lymnaeid Snail”	<i>Bulimnea megasoma</i>	FCR
Fingernail Clam	<i>Sphaerium [sulcatum]</i>	FCR
Ebony Jewel-wings (add)		
Butterflies (to come)		
Butterflies and Skippers--	Newport Forest, Fleming Line, Elgin County,	
July 5/00		

Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	M
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	RL, M, FCF
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	M
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	M
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	M, RL
Eastern Tailed Blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	OCF, RL
Summer Azure	<i>Celastrina neglecta</i>	OCF
Great Spangled Fritillary	<i>Speyere cybele</i>	RL,M, OCF
Meadow Fritillary	<i>Boloria bellona</i>	RL
Silvery Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>	RL
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	RL
Northern Crescent	<i>Phyciodes selenis</i>	RL
Northern Pearly-eye	<i>Enodia anhedon</i>	FCF

Little Wood Satyr	<i>Megisto cymela</i>	RL
Common Wood-Nymph	<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	RL, OCF, M
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	RL
Duskywing species	<i>Erynnis</i> sp	RL
Northern Cloudy-wing	<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	RL
European Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	M, RL, OCF
Total=19 species		

Locations: RL= River landing; FCF=Fleming Creek Forest; OCF=Old Creek Forest; M= Meadow

Other items of note:

New plants:	Wild Ginger	FCF west side
	Purple Loosestrife	RL
	Blue-eyed grass	M

Possible new bird: Scarlet Tanager Ann White heard OCF

Black-billed Cuckoo (?) flying over river

Fungi

Turkeytail Polypore	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	RSF
“White Sedge Jelly”	<i>Tremella concrescens</i>	FCF