

Newport Forest

Sept 9 2000

2:10 - 5:30 pm

**Weather:** cloudy, humid, no breeze, intermittent rains had just finished.

**Purpose:** to introduce David and Winifred Wake to Newport Forest

**Participants:** Pat, Kee, Dave and Winifred Wake

We parked our vehicles at the edge of the OCF forest and there in a young Black Walnut, I thought I saw some warblers, very small birds, in any event. I precipitously announced warblers to Dave, who scanned the tree with his binoculars and pronounced the birds to be Goldfinches. How embarrassing!

But things went much better after that. Following Edgar's Trail to the Landing, we came across two attractive butterflies, first a Question Mark, which Dave identified and then photographed as it rested on a nearby bramble bush. Just a few metres on, we saw a large Fritillary, but much faded. I wondered if it was a Fritillary at all, but Winnie pointed out that Fritillaries often got quite faded as they aged. On the River Landing we found a third butterfly, this one like a Crescent, but "too dark" according to Winnie. We recorded that the dark cells on the rear of the hind wing were "closed in," not open, as they should be in a Crescent.

As we stood admiring the river rolling past, there came a sudden thumping noise from the nearby forest. "Ruffed Grouse," announce Dave. I told him how, on several occasions, I had started large game birds up. These too were Ruffed Grouse, according to the sudden explosive flight.

We ascended the trail to the Hogsback Bluffs, finding some Dogbane, but not being sure if it was spreading Dogbane or some other kind. We also noticed a moss-covered bank near the end of this portion of the trail, something to note for future moss-gathering expeditions. Just inside the RSF, we saw Goldfinches again and a Kildeer. Dave, who is a good ear-birder, heard a Wood Peewee and, later in the OCF forest, a Spring Peeper. I had heard the same call in recent weeks and also strongly suspected a Spring Peeper, as nothing else sounds quite like it. Emerging from the OCF Trail near Edgar's Road again, we found a curious insect on a leaf, rather like a caterpillar, but possibly a Mealy-bug larva. It was a light green all over, had numerous legs (or setae?) projecting laterally from its body and did not move at all, even when touched.

Coming out, we found the wasp nest near Edgar's Road, all torn and hanging in tatters from its branch. We speculated on whether it was raccoons, small boys, or

a deer that accidentally banged into it.

**New species:**

Spring Peeper

*Pseudacris crucifer*

OCF kd/DW

Ruffed Grouse

*Bonasa umbellus*

RSF DW

American Goldfinch

*Carduelis tristis*

OCF/E pd/DW

Eastern Wood-Peevee

*Contopus virens*

RSF DW