

Newport Forest

May 8 2001

2:20 - 5:00 pm

Weather: mixed sun/cloud, 24C, breezy to gusting

Purpose: to check and water trees

Participants: Pat, Kee

Note: In this report we begin another convention, to place an 'S' in parentheses after every organism of which we take a sample.

This morning, according to Nina Hurdle, the general area received about 1/2" of rain. The ground was still damp when we got there. Coming in, we saw two Redtails circling over the Old Creek Forest. We stopped twice to check trees along the bluff. All were fine, except the TT had been pulled out, the one tree that, up to this point, had not been disturbed. Closer to the trailer, I spotted a Leopard Frog (P) in the grass. We do not see a lot of these in the area.

We unloaded the next batch of goods for the trailer, from pillow and sheets to mouse traps. I filled the bird feeders for what may be the last time during the warm seasons, then headed down to the creek, where I filled three jugs with water. Beside me, quite near the bank, I found a Hawthorn in bloom (P, S).

Pat was keen to get to the river, so we set out in that direction, me stopping to water some of the trees close to our trail, Pat to birdwatch. Inside the BCF, along Edgar's Road, she spotted several warblers and succeeded in pishing a few in, discovering to her delight that they were Blue-winged Warblers. At the RL, Pat spotted a turtle basking near the mouth of FC. It was not a Spiny Softshell, as plates on the carapace were visible through binos. It was not a Snapper, either, so it might have been our first glimpse of a Painted Turtle at Newport Forest. Pat spied two Robins, one with what looked like a worm in its beak. We also saw several Cabbage Whites, a Red Admiral, and two small butterflies that looks like Blues. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang us a beautiful song as we prowled the gravel bars for new treasures. I found some large "dog" (canid) tracks and measured them to be 8.5 x 11.5 cm (wide), the toes being spread somewhat for better traction in the clay. To get some experience with plaster track casts, I took a plastic bag with pollyfilla from the field pack, mixed in some river water until the mixture was somewhat soupy, then poured/patted the mixture into the depressions of the track, being careful to leave a high "bridge" over the cast for strength. Pat found a new species of clam further on. (Later I took this specimen to Bob Bailey, who said it was a Pimpleback (*Quadrula pustulosa*). If this is correct, we have another Mollusc with an S3 rating by the NHIC.

All trees at the RL appeared to be doing well, except for the four cedars, which are definitely lacking water, and one of the Witch Hazels, which got pulled up. I replanted and watered it. All the Yellow Birches I looked at to-day are doing extremely well, a possible indication of a new riverine forest component in the future. On the way back to the trailer, I watered several of the trees on the east side of the trail. None have been disturbed.

Before setting off for the Hurdles and a birthday dinner for Pat, I unloaded some 91 stakes given to us by Mary Kerr, following her unsuccessful run for city council.

Birds:

Blue Jays (BCF/); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (BCF/, RL); 2 Turkey Vultures (UM, OCF); Crow (heard - OCF); Savannah Sparrow (UM); Baltimore Oriole (BCF/); White-breasted Nuthatch (NCF/); Red-bellied Woodpecker (NCF/); Blue-winged Warbler (BCF/ER).

New Species:

Pimpleback *Quadrula pustulosa* RL