

Newport Forest

May 31 2001

1:30 6:30 pm

Weather: mixed sun/cloud, 22C, no breeze

Participants: Pat, Kee, Darren and Neal

Purpose: to continue veg. census and to explore the Janik property

We arrived at precisely the same moment as Darren and Neal. They drove down to the trailer while Pat delivered a note for Nina, then we joined them. We walked down to the creek. While I crossed to check if the fawn was still there, Pat discussed some plants with Darren and Neal. The fawn wasn't there.

Back at the trailer, we watched a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Walnut tree feeder. An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, several orange skippers, a Mourning Cloak, an Eastern Comma, a Cabbage White and a Little Wood Satyr danced over the meadow or by the trailer. While I filled the feeders, the others went ahead down Edgar's Trail. We examined numerous plants growing beside the trail, including some Golden Alexanders (P). At the River Landing, the mother Oriole was going in and out of her nest. Darren got a picture of a Warbler and Pat saw a Great Crested Flycatcher with insects in its beak for young somewhere. She spotted a Robin along the river bank.

We set out on our trip to the hogsback, pausing once or twice on the bluffs to admire the view. We watched a Wood duck come down the river, followed by a Mallard, followed by two more Mallards and another Wood Duck. Then all flew off when one of us moved. At this point, the Great Crested Flycatcher came to check us out from a nearby shrub. Then Neal said, "Listen! It sounds like a big old Harley starting up in the distance." It was a Ruffed Grouse drumming. Setting out once again, we passed a Tiger Swallowtail and soon entered the east end of the RSF. I explained to Neal that this was young forest that was overgrown in consequence.

We all enjoyed the gradual transition to old forest. We stopped frequently to examine plants but soon were climbing the long trail to the top of the hogsback, searching along the way for the elusive tiny, orchid-like plants that Nic and I collected last week. While Darren, Neal and I searched for the plant, Pat sat on the bench and looked around. Soon enough, she spotted another (?) Great Crested Flycatcher, this one passing into a hole in a nearby tree, obviously a nesting cavity. Pat noted the spot for subsequent visits.

At this point, Pat parted company with us, we to proceed to the Janik property,