

Newport Forest

August 5 2001

1:20 - 9:00 pm

Weather: sunny, cloudless, LM 39; NCF 32, NW brz

Purpose: birthday visit

Participants: Pat, Kee (later: Nina and Edgar Hurdle)

We were to meet Harvey at the property after we got in, but found Harvey already there when we arrived. He had already walked to the property line and had put some lime-green tape around some trees near the trail to show the lot-line clearly. Back out at the trailer, I walked the bean field with Harvey as he explained that if they didn't get rain and real soon, the beans could be ruined. I found some Bindweed on one of the bean plants and took it to Pat for a specimen.

Harvey explained how the hydro people were liable to come in "any year now" and clear the right of way with chain saws and a chipping machine, a very noisy process. To us this sounded alarming, so we decided to get in touch with the NCC to see if it was possible to head off this sort of wholesale clearing or have it modified somehow.

Pat and I walked down to the river with the paddles and life jackets, anticipating a later canoe trip to Clam Island. As we went, I took several photos, mainly of the different species of "river daisy" as people hereabouts call them. These included Cup Plants, Sneezeweed, some species of Helianthus (?), etc. It was so hot, both on the landing and out on the shore, that we were soon forced to retreat to the trailer, where it was now hotter than ever. Pat went into the bedroom to lie down, if not to sleep.

While Pat relaxed, I walked the new trail through the NCF to put numbers on the stakes we drove yesterday: "100 m", "200 m", etc. I also watered all the trees along the bluff (there are actually only about ten still alive).

After Pat got up, we went back to the river, this time with the canoe on my shoulders. Uncomfortable with the shoulder-thwart and having no thwart ahead of me within easy reach to balance the canoe. I was surprised to discover that I could

Raccoons (attested by many prints of little feet and numerous ‘coon-type droppings). We picked up as many possible round hickory-nut valves as we could find. This species must be checked by mussel expert, Janice Smith, of the CCIW in Burlington.

When we returned to the RL, we saw a pair of Canada Geese with three young down by the rapids, an item for our square of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Along Edgar’s Trail, Pat saw a Red-spotted Purple and a giant Swallowtail.

We had a great supper of wieners and beans after which Edgar and Nina arrived to help celebrate my birthday. We had some birthday cake, watermelon and pop or coffee, all in the lengthening shadows of Blind Creek Forest, somewhat west of the trailer. As the sun set the air grew progressively cooler until it could only be called “delightful.” The sunset chose a very pretty pallet of roses and pinks, with low bands of indeterminate cloud and the promise of another hot day to-morrow.

We closed up the trailer and, just before we got in the van to pull out, one or two Screech Owls sang good-bye. The descending whinny was unmistakable.

Butterflies: Monarch (LM plentiful); Tortoiseshell (LM), Giant Swallowtail (ET); Red-spotted Purple (ET)

Birds: Great Blue Heron (3 R); Goldfinches (5 LM); Towhee (BCF & NCF); Robin (NCF); (possible) Flicker (Eva’s Woods); Cedar Waxwings (R); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (LM); Crows (RSF ?)

New Species:

Screech Owl

Otus Asio

BCF