

Newport Forest

September 15 2001

1:05 - 7:30 pm

Weather: LM 26 C, FCF 17, sunny

Purpose: to conduct a plant, bird and insect biosurvey

Participants: David and Winifred Wake, Jane Bowles and Andre LaChance, Stan and Anita Caveney, Barbara Kronberg

When we had all assembled, Pat went with Jane down to the RL, while I took the remainder of the group for a tour of the Fleming Creek Trail in the usual (counter-clockwise) direction. The tour was largely uneventful, with some admiration expressed of occasional vistas afforded by the new trail. Stan (or someone) spotted a small grey Tussock-moth caterpillar beside the trail and Stan collected it. We passed through the NCF, thence to the OCF (Harvey's Woods), where, on the side of Tower Hill, Stan spotted a curious tree: an oak with leaves like a cestnut. I was in a bit of confusion, at first, because I had been seeing a lot of Chinquapin Oaks with round-tipped leaf-lobes and these were pointed. However, that's what it was. The others all thought it was wonderful, in any event, and stood for some time admiring and discussing it.

We came down from Tower Hill, finding another small Tussock Moth caterpillar. Waiting for the others to catch up with me inside our own lot, I looked idly around and spotted a very large white caterpillar and called the others over. Stan collected it as well, being careful to ask my permission. Dave and Winnie Wake kept a record of the birds they had seen or heard (See below).

Meanwhile, Jane and Pat were finding a lot of new species and confirming ones already logged. (See below) tarding at the RL and gravel flats, they climbed the bluffs to the top, then climbed down again to the willow bank, then found the RSF trail and followed it up to the HB. From there they descended to the BCF, walking out along the trail. At the trailer, Jane took a GPS reading (436366 4720199).

We all rejoined for a late "lunch," the time already past most people's supper hour. Adjourning to the river, our combined forces observed many species, new and old. All seemed delighted with the late evening ambience, golden sunlight and warmish temperatures.

Observations:
(not including plants)

Herpetofauna:

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Wood Frog | BCF | Dave and Winnie |
| American Toad | RB | JB |

Birds: (all seen and recorded by Dave and Winnie Wake)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gray Catbird | RL |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | RL |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | RL |
| Spotted Sandpiper | RL |
| Great Blue Heron | RL |
| Cedar Waxwing | RL |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | GF (Fleming Cr. Gallery) |
| Turkey Vulture | LM |
| Cooper's Hawk (possible) | LM? |
| A "large falcon" | LM? |
| Blue Jay | FCT |
| Crow | FCT |
| Downy woodpecker | FCT |

Insects:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Common Buckeye | LM |
|----------------|----|

New Species:

Birds:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Swainson's Thrush | <i>Catharus ustulatus</i> | RL DW |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|

Insects:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------|
| Fawn Darner | <i>Boyeria vinosa</i> | RL SC |
| Grouse locust | <i>Paratettix cucullatus</i> (Tegridae) | RL SC |
| Water Strider | <i>Gerris</i> sp. | FC/br SC |
| "Red & Black Stink Bug" | <i>Cospmopepla bimaculata</i> (Pentatomidae) | NCF SC |
| Whirligig Beetle | <i>Gyrinus</i> sp. | FC/br SC |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------|
| American Dagger Moth | <i>Acronicta americana</i> (Noctuidae) | FCT/1350 SC |
| Isabella Moth | <i>Pyrrharctia isabella</i> | TH SC |
| Pale Tussock Moth | <i>Halysidota tessellaris</i> (Arctiidae) | NCF SC |

Plants: (in order of discovery; * means very uncommon in Elgin Co.)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Calico Aster | <i>Aster latuiflora</i> | RSF JB |
| “Virginia Cut-grass” | <i>Leersia virginica</i> | BCF/ET JB |
| Northern bedstraw | <i>Galium boreale</i> | RB JB |
| Giant Goldenrod | <i>Solidago gigantea</i> | RB JB |
| Poa grass | <i>Poa compressa</i> | RB JB |
| Goutweed (to be removed) | | RB JB |
| Hawthorn | <i>Crataegus punctata</i> | RB JB |
| Beggar Ticks | <i>Bidens frondosa</i> | RB JB |
| Nodding Bur Marigold | <i>Bidens cernua</i> | RB JB |
| Muhly | <i>Muhlenbergia [mexicana]</i> | RB JB |
| Smooth Brome | <i>Bromus inermis</i> | RL/W JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex emoryi</i> (check) | RB/W JB |
| Ground Cherry | <i>Physalis</i> sp. | RB/W JB |
| White Vervain | <i>Verbena sertifolia</i> | RB/flats JB |
| Horseweed | <i>Conyza canadensis</i> | RB/flats JB |
| “Virginia Polygonum” | <i>Polygonum virginianum</i> | RSF/N JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex hirtifolia</i> | RSF JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> | RSF? JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex woodii</i> | RSF/RST JB |
| Beech Drops | <i>Epifagus virginiana</i> | RSF nr700m JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex rosea</i> | RSF/bench JB |
| Path Rush | <i>Juncus tenuis</i> | RSF/600m JB |
| Sweet Joe Pye Weed | <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> | BCF/BCT JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex lupulina</i> | BC bed? JB |
| Sedge | <i>Carex projecta</i> | RSF JB |
| Nightshade | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | ?? JB |

Others:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----|
| Old Witch Grass | <i>Panicum capillare</i> | JB |
| | <i>Eragrostis hypnoides</i> * | JB |
| | (uncommon in Elgin Co.) | |
| | <i>Amaranthus</i> c.f. <i>tuberculatus</i> | JB |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| | <i>Chenopodium</i> or <i>Atroplex</i> | RB/W flats JB |
| Grass | <i>Echinicloa</i> c.f. <i>muricata</i> | JB |
| Perrenial Wormwood | <i>Artemesia biennis</i> | JB |
| Clearweed | <i>Pilea pumila</i> | JB |
| | <i>Cyperus odoratus</i> * | JB |
| False Pimpernel | <i>Lindernia dubia</i> * | JB |