

Newport Forest

October 7 2001

2:30 - 5:00 pm

**Weather:** prec. 34 mm, SW gusting wind, mixed sn/cld, LM 15C, FCF 18C

**Purpose:** to clean up the trailer and check the property

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

Having been invited to thanksgiving dinner by Edgar and Nina Hurdle, we decided to use this as an excuse to come early and visit the property. Coming in, Pat spied a Red-tailed Hawk over Harvey's Bean Field. It's tail was bright enough to seem as if "someone had recently painted it." We also noted that Harvey had still not harvested his beans.

Fleming Creek was up a few inches and flowing much faster than previous occasions. The bridge remains in precisely the same position as before. We spent nearly half an hour trying to get an estimated position of the point where Eva's lot line crosses the FCT. Pat stood up on the bluff by a lot post while i walked back and forth along the trail until she could glimpse me. An awkward business fraught with error. But I finally gritted my teeth and drove the marker stake.

At the trailer we cleaned up the stakes and put all the seasonal medicines in a box for transport home. Pat cleaned up some rain that had penetrated the roof vent.

We walked Edgar's Trail to the river next, seeing a White-throated Sparrow on the way. At the RL we found the Thames up nearly half a metre, now half submerging Nina's Rock. About 90 percent of the gravel bars were now also submerged. As a final excursion (the cold was beginning to get to us), we decided to walk the bed of Blind Creek from Edgar's Trail to the "new" creek mouth some 100 metres distant. The bed had very uneven topography, seemingly filled in at some points by surrounding soil. When we got to the old (input) "mouth" we were astonished to find that it was at least four metres higher than the present outlet. Since the "breakthrough" (who knows how many hundred years ago), the creek has cut right down to the average river level.

Struggling back to the trailer along the edge of the beanfield, Pat found some Pokeweed and saw a "little dark brown bird with white wing bars" near Edgar's Trail.