

Newport Forest

May 11 2002

1:25 - 6:30 pm

Weather: precip. 13 mm; overcast; lt E wind; LM 24 C (16 C); FCF 14 C

Purpose: to take members of MacIlwraith Field Naturalists on a tour

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic + visitors

We assembled by the trailer after getting everyone parked on the hill by the deer-feeder. Nic took Group One on the Hogsback tour, while I took Group Two on the Fleming Creek tour.

Group One: H. Cleland, T. Cleland, J. Lorimer, S. Lorimer, W. Wake, D. Wake, B. Bain, P. Dewdney, N. Mihlik:

In spite of the cool, cloudy weather, birding was fairly good. The group took ET, where someone found a Robin's egg (breeding evidence!), continued to the RL, then across the bluffs without major incident and on into the RSF. Just inside the RSF, Pat spotted a raccoon in a tree on the N side of the trail. Then Winnie Wake saw a Wilson's Warbler. The group visited the Virginia Bluebells (which by now are getting quite tired of these visits!) took photos and admired them. On the trail up the HB, Pat and Nic showed the group the extensive patches of False Mermaid and Trilliums, as well as Beech Drops, Cream Violets and other unusual plants. On the HB Lotor was home with his room-mate and people heard the Great Crested Flycatcher sounding rather cross at the intrusion.

Down in the BCF, the Wakes saw a Wood Thrush, a Veery, a Nashville Warbler (spotted by Nic), a Magnolia Warbler and many other birds (see the list below). The Swamp Buttercups were out and the Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers called intermittently.

Group Two: C. Agocs, C. Burr, J. Mayos, A. Mayos, J. Mount; E. Newport, J. Newport, C. Newport, K. Dewdney

There was little incident on the first part of the walk. We stopped to look at the devastated Wild Turkey Nest, then moved on into Harvey's Woods, pausing to examine some Witches Butter that Jordan spotted. In Harvey's Woods I pointed out the result of cutting all the maples. Jack Mayos spotted two Orioles in the distance and everyone stopped to train binos on them. We followed the trail up to TH, where we paused by the bench to admire the large Chinquapin Oak growing nearby. We stopped again by the bench in Eva's Woods, where everyone admired the graceful sweep of the creek. Mayos thought it one of the best birding venues

he'd seen.

The groups came together once again at the trailer where we enjoyed drinks and cookies while swapping stories. Nina Hurdle kindly brought down a chocolate cake she has baked for the group and everyone had a piece - or two.

After the tourists left, Dave Wake, Nic and I headed down to the bridge and across the creek to carry out a small Garlic Mustard experiment. I first cut a small patch about 15 sq metres (P before, P after) near the 200 m marker along the trail and we then went on to the 300 m marker where Nic located a much larger patch, about 30 sq metres. We took turns and cut the whole area in about 10 minutes. It would take, therefore, about 55 man hours to cut one hectare of GM.

Birds: (37 identified - no locs given)

American Crow; American Robin; Baltimore Oriole; Belted Kingfisher; Black-capped Chickadee; Blue Jay; Blue-winged Warbler; Brown-headed Cowbird; Catbird; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Towhee; Field Sparrow; Grackle; Great Crested Flycatcher; Hairy Woodpecker; House Wren; Magnolia Warbler; Mourning Dove; Nashville Warbler; Northern Cardinal; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-tailed Hawk; Red-winged Blackbird; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Ruffed Grouse; Savannah Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Tree Swallow; Turkey Vulture; Veery; White-breasted Nuthatch; White-throated Sparrow; Wilson's Warbler; Wood Thrush; Yellow Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler

New Species:

Chestnut-sided Warbler	BC/ET DW
Magnolia Warbler	BC/ET nm/DW
Nashville Warbler	BC/ET nm/DW
Wilson's Warbler	BC/E WW
Wood Thrush	BCF DW
Veery	BCF WW