

Newport Forest

October 10 2002

2:30 - 5:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; sunny/hazy; calm; LM 23 C; FCF 19 C

Purpose: to check property

Participants: Kee, Nic

On Sept 24, Nic and I had a road accident coming to the property along the Fleming Line eastbound from Clachan Road (the bridge was out again). I suffered a fractured vertebra and had been away from the property since. Pat went once (driven by her friend, Truus) and Nic went once with his father. I am sufficiently recovered to begin light duties. The van is a write-off and we have had to rent a car until we can purchase a new van.

At the tree station, we discovered that many of the trees were turning brown or otherwise looking marginal. There have been a few near-zero nights recently and this may be a partial cause. We moved three small Hop Trees to Bed #1 from Bed #2. At the trailer we unloaded the rental car and checked the trees in the island. Some appear headed for early dormancy. I walked down to the bridge to call for Junior and Nic walked the FCT as far as the first bench, also calling. No Junior.

Nic and I checked the trees in the island before heading along Edgar's Trail to get some samples of the large willows growing there. Nic continued to walk the HB circuit to check on conditions while I returned to the trailer to look at the samples. There were five willows that fit the branch samples, more or less. Unless these shoots were not "vegetative" the Willows are probably not pure Black Willows. Before Nic returned, I took a short nap in the trailer.

On his walk, Nic collected some mushrooms, including a young Coprinus sp. which he will try to identify at home. He also spotted a large paper wasp nest along ET - a nest that Pat claims has been there for some time. He also reported that "Lotor" was back up in his favorite Black Maple.

On the way out, Nic broadcast a few hundred Redbud seeds onto the creek bluffs.

Birds: (7)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (ET); Blue Jay (FCF); Gray Catbird (BCF); Northern Cardinal (ET); Red-bellied Woodpecker (TR)