

Newport Forest

October 22 2002

1:35 - 6:15 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; sunny/hazy; S < 5 kmh; LM 19C; FCF 15C

**Purpose:** to continue RSF survey

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

We noted, after Nic had climbed the Black Maple to inspect Junior's box, that something had eaten all the food that I had put there during our last visit. The bag was torn in several places as I would expect a raccoon to treat it. The suet feeder hanging on the same tree had also been emptied, but the trailer had not been entered, as far as we could tell, or disturbed in any way. All of this evidence points to a raccoon other than Junior.

We went to the RSF via the BCT. Along the way, Nic found an interesting chrysalis (S) that was brown and flecked with gold. The chrysalis was lying among some leaves.

We finished the plot up to 180 degrees (See the survey database), then continued out by the River. As we went, we estimated that 20-50 percent of the trees on the property were still mostly green, the rest being brown, yellow or red. We found a pile of Downy Woodpecker feathers right on the trail just before emerging from the RSF to the river. We theorized about the predator. Nic thought a hawk was the most likely candidate, according to the way the feathers were distributed.

Back at the trailer, I took a nap while Nic walked the FCT, finding just past the first bench, a cluster of Giant Puffballs growing just off the trail. He took one of the larger ones, about 17 cm dia. (and that evening, Pat and I enjoyed slices fried in butter).

Before we left, Nic put some dog biscuits and soda crackers in Junior's box.

**Birds:** ()

American Crow (a murder - LM); Blue Jay (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

**New Species:**

Giant Puffball

*Calvatia gigantea*

FC F NM