

Newport Forest

April 20 2003

2:00 - 5:30 pm

Weather: overcast, SE < 10 kmh; LM 22 C; FCF 21 C

Purpose: tree-planting, environmental scan

Participants: Pat, Kee

We brought 3 KCs and 8 CTs with us from the home nursery. On arrival, I planted these in the tree station. The small trees in pots at the TS were all planted there, as well, except for a BN and 2 CTs. (These we took down to the LM.)

While I busied myself at the TS, Pat walked up to the old Catalpa tree on the Rise beside the East Ravine, about 100 m from the TS. There she saw the same bird I had heard from the TS. ("Cooper's Hawk," I said to myself at the time.) She reported seeing a hawk (in the Catalpa) that was either a Cooper's or a Sharp-shinned Hawk. While visiting the tree, she found 5 owl pellets under it. (C) A Great Blue Heron flew overhead and we also saw a TV over Fleming Creek Forest.

At the trailer Pat saw a mud-dauber larva about to emerge from its "pot." She also saw 4-5 Mud Daubers flying about the area, so they are now in a state of spring emergence. Fleming Creek is now down to a more normal level.

After I had planted one CT and the BN in the South Core (formerly the "island"), we walked to the RL. On the way, I spotted a larger-than-life rabbit which I realized was not a Cottontail, but a Jackrabbit or European Hare. From the RL we followed the (new) bluff trail to the RSF. en route we were accosted by a very friendly little bird which turned out to be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At one point it perched on a branch about 4' from me. We continued along the RSf trail until we left it to locate the patch of Virginia Bluebells. We placed markers that would be visible from the path so that we could easily find the patch again. While poking around in the woods, we found a freshly-dug den under an old Sycamore. The hole would take a Red Fox very easily. On the trail itself, nearby, Pat found a pair of discarded deer antlers from a young (3-point) buck.

We returned to the trailer, where we had a light supper, then departed.

Birds: (18 spp)

American Crow (1 FCF); American Goldfinch (4 LM); American Robin (1 Tr); Black-capped Chickadee (1 Tr); Blue Jay (1 HBF); Coopers (or Sharp-shinned)

Hawk (1 UM); Downy Woodpecker (1 Tr); Great blue Heron (1 FCF); Mourning Dove (1 LM); Northern Cardinal (1 FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (1 RL); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1 Rblff); Song Sparrow (1 LM); Turkey Vulture (1 FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr); White-throated Sparrow (1 LM); Yellow-shafted Flicker (4 HBF)

Phenology: The Trout Lilies are now about 1/4 of the way up.

New Species:

European Hare *Lepus europaeus* ET