

Newport Forest

June 1 2003

2:00- 5:30 pm

**Weather:** prec. 31 mm; clear; N < 40 kmh; LM 16 C; FCF 14 C

**Purpose:** birdwatching and maintenance

**Participants:** Pat and Kee plus Michelle Carnerie

While Pat and Michelle went birding (See separate list for this date), I puttered around.

Edgar brought the canoe down to the trailer and I showed him the bridge in its current, half-assembled state. Fleming Creek is up about a foot, thanks to yesterday's rain.

I painted and installed four more coffee cans, two in each core. I also did some heavy thorn-tree cutting, eliminating another 100 or so trees. I wandered into the BCF with the pole pruner which is very handy not only for cutting the bases of young woody plants without bending over, but for cutting multiflora rose bushes without having to worry about thorns. I cleared about a dozen medium-to-large bushes, cutting back on the big ones and cutting to the base on the smaller and more accessible ones. I did a quick census of the tree types in the BCF and it comes out as follows: Dominant trees: Black Walnut; White Elm; White Ash; Black Willow (X). Sparse but present: Hackberry; Swamp White Oak; Blue Ash; Basswood.

Although I've been cutting thorn trees in the LM, I've left the Ninebark bushes, knowing that they will never be a problem in the lower canopy. I was pleased to see that about a dozen White Ash and about two dozen Black Walnut have already volunteered for duty in the LM cores - mostly in the North Core which is closer to the BCF.

The real excitement of the day belongs with Pat and Michelle who garnered close to 40 species this afternoon. They saw an Ovenbird, which is a new record for us, as well as a Snapping Turtle by the river, another new record.

**New Species:**

Snapping Turtle

*Chelydra serpentina*

TR

Ovenbird

*Seiurus aurocapillus*

BCF/ET