

Newport Forest

August 20 2003

2:15 - 6:45 pm

Weather: prec. 8 mm; WSW < 10 km/h; sun/cloud; LM 33 C; FCF 30 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee, Nic

Coming in, we watched a “murder” of some 17 crows fly across the road and down into the FCF. We dropped off a bag of topsoil and sand at the tree station and did a little watering. Arriving at the trailer, we could hear Grackles in the FCF, but few other birds, owing to the time of day and the humid heat. While I prepared the fixit kit for our trip to the RSF, Nic scanned the Shagbark Hickory near the trailer for nuts, finding only one full-sized nut near the top. A Giant Swallowtail had the audacity to flutter through the “nook” before Nic had his camera ready. On a quick trip down to the creek, Nic spied a new mushroom, stalkless and emerging from the soil beside the trail. (S)

We set out for the HB along Edgar’s trail, then into the BCF and so up to the HB, where we found Lotor asleep in the old Black Maple, his bedroom slippers protruding from the lip of the pocket. We fixed the steps on the HB trail down to the RSF, sawing off the protruding posts and nailing new steps on top of the ones Steve and I installed last week. I collected a white crust fungus from a BN log near the bench (S) and we set out into the RSF. On the way, we found what proved later to be another Fawn Mushroom (S). We also collected a large, beautiful white Milky. (S) At the RSF bench, we collected the new can of spray paint and “tagged” all the plot posts we could find, namely #1 to #6. Try as we might, we could not locate the post for #7, so I decided that I would use our data to make a map before the next visit.

On our way out along the bluffs, Nic spied a buff-coloured coral mushroom. (S) Emerging from the “hole” into the LM, we were surprised by two Wild Turkey toms that strutted across our path, then took wing as they neared the meadow vegetation.

We spent the hour prior to our departure collecting insects in the LM. I caught two new dragonflies and Nic also caught several insects, photographing a few.

Birds: (5)

American Crow (FCF); Great Blue Heron (TR); Northern Cardinal (RSF); Turkey

Vulture (UM); Wild Turkey (LM)

Butterflies: Cabbage White (LM); Black Swallowtail (LM); Giant Swallowtail (LM/Tr); Monarch (LM); Little Wood Satyr (Tr)

Phenology: Prickly Ash coming into seed (another week?)

New species:

Peppery milky	<i>Lactarius piperatus</i>	RSF/HB
Milk-white Toothed Polypore	<i>Irpex lacteus</i>	HB/bnch
Fawn Mushroom (not new)	<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	RSF/HB
“Soil Crep”	<i>Crepidotus</i> sp.	FC/GF
“Buff Ramaria”	<i>Ramaria primulina</i>	RB/trl
“White Mycena”	[<i>Mycena inclinata</i>]*	RST
Eastern Amberwing (m)	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	LM
White-faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>	LM
Two-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	LM
Pennsylvania Leatherwing	<i>Chauliognathus pennsylvanicus</i>	LM
Red-legged Grasshopper	<i>Melanoplus femur-rubrum</i>	LM
Black Blister Beetle	<i>Epicauta pennsylvanica</i>	LM

Note: On this particular inaugural collection effort, I concentrated on easy-to-identify species. I also collected a leaf-footed bug and a stink bug in the nook, both nymphs and too difficult to ID.

*Description of mystery mushroom: cap 3 cm, dry, grey/buff, striate, umbonate; gills distant, white, attached, spore print white, spores av. 6x10m, beaked; stem 3 mm, widening slightly to base, silky, white; on soil *and* wood. All characters matched *Mycena inclinata*, except the stem, which was not darker near the base.