

Newport Forest

July 26 2004

1:30 - 5:15 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm, ovcast; NE < 10 km/h; LM 21° C; FCF 20° C

Purpose: to collect/observe new species

Participants: Kee, Nic

(This was Nic's last visit to Newport Forest before leaving for Australia.)

We worked for nearly an hour at the tree station, weeding and clipping. I noticed a large teasel just coming into flower nearby. (P)

At the trailer, we put up bird feed and took a short lunch. We took a brief inspection tour of the South Core. Nic discovered three *Promethea* Moth caterpillars on the largest of our young tulip trees. (P) Nearby, a Black-and-yellow *Argiope* was just completing its web. In the North Core we discovered three ash trees that were turning reddish-brown, not a good sign. (Note many of the water cans have ceased to function properly as the holes in the bottom have rusted closed.

We walked out to the TR just in time to see a) a Great blue Heron take off downriver and b) a family of Common Mergansers paddle furiously across the river. (7 young - unfledged) We continued along the TRT, arriving at the RSF, where, beside the trail, Nic spotted a Netted *Rhodotus*, our first of the year. Later, going up the HB slope, I found a very nice Hellborine, thinking it might be a new species. (No) After a short break on the HB, we went looking for new plants. I collected five, while Nic found a new fungus, the Ash-tree Bolete, as well as a White Cheese Polypore and a peculiar slime that had invaded a moss plant. Nic then found our first Indian Pipe!

Coming back out through the BCf, we started up two American Woodcocks in quick succession.

Birds: (9)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (BCF); American Woodcock (BCF); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Merganser (TR); Great Blue Heron (TR); Great Crested Flycatcher (RSF); Mourning Dove (UM); Northern Cardinal (RSF)

New species:

Ash-tree Bolete

Boletinellus meruloides

HB nm/KD

Indian Pipe	<i>Monotrope uniflora</i>	HB nm/KD
Carey's Sedge	<i>Carex careyana</i>	GF/E PD
Tarnished Plant Bug	<i>Lygus lineolaris</i>	LM KD
Mining Bee	[<i>Andrena</i>] sp. (fam. Andrenidae)	LM/GF
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	TR KD

Note: I also identified a mid-Devonian fossil brachiopod found by Steve a few months ago (two individuals). This was a large, distinctive species called *Paraspirifer acuminatus*.

Phenology: Pale Touch-me-not now coming into bloom.