

Newport Forest

October 20 2004

2:20 - 7:30 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; overcast; calm; LM 12 C; FCF 10 C

Purpose: to collect lichens

Participants: Pat, Kee

When we arrived on site, we could hear many birds calling and saw a number of newly arrived Juncos feeding under the old Black Maple. (Good thing the little black cat is no longer around.)

Pat went to the BCF to collect lichen and listen for birds. I went to the end of the new GF trail, where I found another green powder lichen (S), a “white paint” fungus (S) and a pair of lonely, smallish mushrooms (S) nearby. Since I took the spade with me, I also did a little trail-carving.

I then crossed the bridge and followed the FCT to a point about 50 m past the bench, where I found what I thought might be a red lichen on a dead thorn tree (S), as well as a “black paint” lichen (S) on bare wood near the second old Beech tree.

We regrouped in the nook for lunch. Pat had collected three lichens and had encountered several new birds. We then split up once more. I went to the TRT and Pat followed the edge of HBF down to the mouth of the creek. In the RSF I was reminded of something I forgot to record during my last walk there. Two pairs of trees in the exclusive one-metre club are found between the trail and the shore line. First, there is a one-metre Hackberry not far from the trail, then a Silver Maple closer to the water. Further along (as the trail ascends the HB) there is another pair: an American Basswood near the trail and the giant Blue Ash near the shoreline.

Up on the HB I collected a cinnamon-coloured polypore (which turned out to be *D. confragosa*, as usual. That polypore sure has a lot of variations.) Walking through the BCF, I encountered a sample bag that Pat had dropped. It contained a piece of RBG vine with a greenish lichen on it.

Instead of the black cat showing up today, an orange one appeared, sitting on the table in the nook as if he owned it. This was clearly a barn or house cat from one of our neighbours. Pat had earlier seen two young chipmunks at one of the feeders. We had supper around 6:45 to the accompaniment of some coyotes singing over by the creek mouth. A little later, we heard a Great Horned Owl sing

his hunting song from somewhere in Eva's Woods (at a guess).

Birds: (19)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (Tr); American Robin (FCF); (Tr); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Flicker (FCbluffs); Common Grackle (BCF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (LM); Great Horned Owl (EW); Mourning Dove (UM); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Song Sparrow (Tr); Yellow-rumped Warbler (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-crowned Sparrow (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (Tr)

New species: (6)

Fungi

Leafy Jelly Fungus	<i>Tremella foliacea</i>	FCT/DF KD
“Dark-foot” Mycena	<i>Mycena [inclinata]</i>	GFT KD
“Smooth White Crust”	<i>Perreniporia</i> sp.	GFT KD

Lichens

Hoary Rosette Lichen	<i>Physica aipolia</i>	BCF KD
Mealy Rosette lichen	<i>Physica millegrana</i>	BCF pd/KD
Orange-cored Shadow Lichen	<i>Phaeophysica rubropulchra</i>	BCF pd/KD

“Tar Streak Lichen:” This lichen found growing on bare wood on a shady hillside. Thallus ab. 1 cm wide, sev. cm long. Crustose, thin, dark grey, with 8 - 10 black apothecia per mm. Apothecia 0.02 - 0.05 mm dia. No lobes/lobules, soredia. Tendency to develop parallel cracks with age or drying. Cannot ID.