

Newport Forest

October 31 - November 1 2004

2:15 - 3:40 pm

weather: prec. 25 mm; overcast; SW < 20 kmh; LM 12 C; FCF 12 C

purpose: two-day stay

participants: Pat, Kee

We had barely begun to set up camp when Steve & Joel arrived to say hello. They dropped off several bags of candy - perhaps so we wouldn't miss Hallowe'en. I took them along the new trail and we ended up walking the whole bluff system. Steve spotted a raccoon asleep in a tree right across FC from the first bridgelet.

With very little time left before sunset, Pat & I went to the RL, where I left some raccoon treats on the sward, then inspected the three little cedars. (All doing well, thanks to the recent rain. Up on the bluffs, we gathered several samples of fungi (including a new fibre-head) & lichens. While Pat worked her way back to the trailer, bird-watching, I walked the rest of the TRT, pausing up on the HB long enough to see Lotor "at home." We went to visit the FC coon & I left some DBs at the base of its tree.

After supper we went to visit Nina & Edgar briefly, then drove back down to the trailer, starting up a Cottontail in the process. The rabbit refused to leave the road, but ran between the headlights all the way to the trailer. (Pat's theory about why rabbits do this is based on the assumption that seeing darkness ahead of them fools the rabbit into thinking things are safer just ahead. Later, walking up the road to close the gate, I thought I saw a dark shape race across the track. It was large enough to be a deer.

In the evening we worked at our samples on the trailer table. Overnight, we were visited by at least one raccoon, probably two. All the DBs and peanuts were completely cleaned up. The overnight low was 6 C.

Morning found Juncos on the ground under the BM and a Hairy at the suet feeder. After breakfast, I walked the new trail, shovel in hand, to do a little touchup work. Then I walked the TRT again, this time in the opposite direction. In the BCF I collected an old white mushroom, a Coprinus with a small, pinkish umbo, and a burnt orange mushroom that I had seen several times before this. (3S) Up on the HB, Lotor was still in the old BM. I found a moss with fruit at the base of a maple tree (S). At the RL I noticed that the raccoon treats hadn't been touched. I found some Pear-shaped puffballs on wood out on the beach. Back at the trailer

we inspected an ant mound. The favoured grass seems to be *Poa compressa*.

By 2:00 we were up on the road to meet Kevin Alderton and his tractor. Kevin wasn't ready until about 2:30, when he drove his tractor and plough through the slip-gate and onto the WM. I rode with him in the cab as we trundled down to the gallery forest at the west end of the meadow, then proceeded to plough along the forest edge around the back of the meadow. The tractor was sometimes tilted 30 degrees downslope, but the dual wheels kept us stable. He completed four passes, the first two made directly over one another, the next two the same, except offset into the meadow by five feet. The final result was a 15-foot wide ploughed strip, the central 5' of which had received four passes, the outer five-foot strips two passes each. (3P)

Birds: (17)

American Crow (LM); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (RSF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Chipping Sparrow (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco* (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (TR/FC); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Northern Cardinal (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (HBF)

*adopting latest name

New species: (7)

“Ridged” Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	TRT blfs PD
Straw-coloured Fibre-head	<i>Inocybe fastigiata</i>	TRT/blfs pd/KD
Silky Parchment	<i>Stereum striatum</i>	TRT/blfs pd/KD
“Hairy” Trametes	<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	TRT/RL KD
Crumble Cap	<i>Coprinus disseminatus</i>	BCF KD
Cinnamon Cort	<i>Cortinarius cinnamoneus</i>	BCF KD
Fence-rail Cladonia	<i>Cladonia parasitica</i>	RL KD

Possibles: Elm Oyster (?) on old log in BCF

Phenology:

Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum*) by FC; Orange Sulphur in LM; last GBH?