Newport Forest   December 5 2004   2:30 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; sun/cld; calm; LM 4 C; FCF 4 C
Purpose: maintenance and sampling
Participants: Pat Kee

We set up camp as usual. While Pat went birding along ET, I worked for nearly an hour on the new trail, then came up for a lunch break. Pat then put BPs on the trees in the NC, while I went around the TRT, looking for new fungi, lichens, and slimes.

At the RL I checked the three little cedars. They seemed a bit reddish, but otherwise healthy. I checked the soil under them, pleased to see typical river deposits of fine sand and silt - probably good for cedars in that particular habitat. I took a sample of lichen at the bluffs bench (only to discover when we got home that it was Fencerail Cladonia). Then. late in the RSF I spotted what looked like blue Turkeytails on a big log. (They were Turkeytails, after all. I didn't know that blue could be a zone colour.

In the RSF I glanced to my right as I entered the point bar forest, surprised to notice that it was rather clear and open, with quite a few well-matured trees. They were, in dominance order: BW; HB (biggies); SE; WA; WE. On the SW corner of the HB, about to descend, I found a very young Beech tree, with no parent in sight. (I hadn't noticed that before, either.) In the BCF in the first pond I came to, I took a sample of the black, leafy muck at the bottom, still hoping to find the elusive Pelomyxa palusatris. Coming out I heard some ominous crashing noise from both ends of the forest at once. I hoped it wasn't rutting bucks. I had forgotten what roosting Wild Turkeys sounded like. Nineteen of them went crashing,flapping off as I made my way out. Back at camp, Pat topped my WT story. She saw a Kingfisher at the RL!

Birds: (11) American Crow (HBF); Belted Kingfisher (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (EW); Canada Goose (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Northern Cardinal (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (HBF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (BCF)

New species:

"Spiny Rotifer"   *Dissotrocha* sp   BCF/VP KD