

Newport Forest

Saturday August 27

3:30 - 6:35 pm

Weather: prec. 6 mm; RH 80%; calm; ovcst; LM 22 C; FCF 20 C

Purpose: to check trees

Participants: Kee

Coming in, I disturbed two Wild Turkey hens that ran down the road ahead of me for a few seconds, then took wing for the BCF. It was nice to see Newport Forest wet for a change but a test at the tree station soil quickly revealed that there had been little or no penetration into the soil. Nevertheless, I decided not to water. The creek, meanwhile has almost stopped flowing, now at no more than a litre a second.

On several occasions, I heard a bird call that I couldn't [diagram in orig. doc.] identify. The sonogram would go somewhat like this -->

Having decided not to water today, I felt free to take a walk on the TRT. Along the River Bluffs I heard a Grey Tree Frog call several times. As I entered the RSF, I spotted a black squirrel then saw an unusual bird ahead of me. It had a downcurved beak, near-white plumage on belly & throat, a dark colour on the upper half of the bird, white wing bars, a slender body and a long tail. I made a sketch of the field marks, imagining that I had seen a cuckoo. When I got back to the trailer, I realized that I might just have seen our first mockingbird. (Later I checked with Dave Martin.)

Continuing my walk, I found some new fungi in the deeper part of the RSF (2S) and, in the BCF, surprised a Ruffed Grouse. There are now 9 Orange Dogs on the HT. I put one on the small HT as an experiment.

Birds: (includes list for Au22/05) American Crow (TR); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (FCF); Catbird (RB); Cedar Waxwing (LM); Great Blue Heron (FC); Mourning Dove (UM); Northern Cardinal (RSF); Northern Mockingbird (RSF/RB); Red-bellied Woodpecker (BCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (BCF); Wild Turkey (Tr)

New species:

Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	KD RSF/RB
Woolly Velvet Polypore	<i>Ionotus tomentosus</i>	KD RSF/HB
Grape Moth	<i>Desmia maculalis</i>	nhKD HP

Phenology: only 2-3 mosquitoes per visit these days.