

Newport Forest

Thursday October 5 2006

1:50 - 6:45 pm

Weather: prec. 17mm; RH 71%; NW 0-10kmh; sn/cld; LM 18C; FCF 17C

Purpose: to check on releasees

Participants: Pat & Kee

Following a recent heavy rainfall, the creek was in flood, with water just submerging most of the bridge decking. The girls never did show up all afternoon, leading Pat to wonder if they had drowned in the creek. Charlie, who had slept in Pat's jacket all the way to the woods, now showed little desire to climb the Black Maple, so I set him on the old log. Before long he scooted up the trunk and was soon browsing the branches for keys, seeming to quite enjoy eating them. Toward the end of the afternoon, when we tried to get him down again for the trip home, he showed a definite preference for the tree and we were forced to leave him there, absent a break-neck climb on my part.

Pat and I revisited the copse, where several new fungi were fruiting. We collected about seven new specimens, four of which I was eventually able to identify (later, at home). I found a new-looking lichen with tall podetia and Pat found a bird's nest fungus.

I walked the two-bridge trail, delighted to find that the log bridge was still above the flood (barely a foot) and just as safe to cross as ever. Near the deer feeder I found a very old fungus looking rather knobby and distorted, like an ancient albatrellus - or what?

Following this we had time for one mini-expedition. We decided that the vegetation under the power lines (as far as the BCF) would make a suitable excursion: the usual old-field vegetation of goldenrods and asters gave way gradually to scattered Red Ash, White Ash and shrubby patches dominated by Grey Dogwood. A small forest of Crategus then took over rather thickly, admitting a few taller trees such as American Basswood and ashes through its canopy and hosting several patches of Prickly Ash.

We then returned to camp to relax with drinks before departing near sunset.

Birds: (14)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Grackle* (LM); Downy

Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF/W); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (BCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

New species:

Russell's Bolete	<i>Boletus russelli</i>	GF KD
The Miller	<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i>	GF KD
Variable Russula	<i>Russula variata</i>	GF KD
"Ring-cap Milky"	<i>Lactarius fumosus</i>	GF KD
Mealy Pixy-cup	<i>Cladonia Chlorophaea</i>	GF KD

(from Malaise trap '05)

Common Looper	<i>Autographa precatationis</i>	LM nz/KD J131/05
Ignorant Apamea	<i>Apamea indocilis</i>	LM nz/KD J131/05
Rubbed Dart	<i>Euxoa detersa</i>	LM nz/KD J131/05

Phenology: Aster spp. still in full bloom; *flight of several hundred grackles over LM