

Newport Forest Thursday April 12 2007

2:30 - 6:00 pm

weather: prec. 16 mm; RH 90%; lt rn; W 10-40kmh; LM 5C; GF 5C

purpose: to investigate black animal

participants: Pat & Kee

We walked in, the ground being wet and spongy. The weather raw, the wind whipped our faces with a light, cold rain. At the trailer we discovered FC was high (still below banks) and running faster than we had ever seen it run before, the current velocity being nearly 3m/sec.

After setting up camp & putting out bird feed, we walked the FCT on the bluff side, sheltered from the wind. It was disheartening to see how many large Bitternuts had fallen over in recent months. Their trunks litter the lower creek terrace. Even the hollow old Black Maple (a popular raccoon nursery) had fallen over. The log bridge is still in place, albeit still rotated, with the decking about 150 degrees out of position. Along the way, Pat spotted what she thought was a young American Beech. I said there were no beech trees growing on that side of the creek, but I gathered a few of the browned leaves still clinging to the tree. (Birch family trees also commonly do this.) Checking at home, I discovered that Pat was right. This is a good sign for the future. I also spotted a large glacial boulder (erratic) of pink granite. Pat, who was last back to the trailer, saw a Great Blue flying along the creek, just above the surface.

After a break, we walked the TRT. At the RL, all five or six cedars had been stripped by deer -- or possibly rabbits. No black animal was seen.

birds: (12)

American Robin (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (BCF); Clay-colored Sparrow (UM); Common Grackle (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (GF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Great Blue Heron (FC); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (HBF); White-breasted Nuthatch (LM/HBF)

new species: (Malaise '05)

Horse Fly	<i>Stonemyia rasa</i>	LM nz/KD J118/05
Friendly Fly	<i>Sarcophaga [aldrichi]</i>	LM nz/KD J118/05