

Newport Forest

Saturday May 5 2007

1:15 - 7:30 pm

weather: prec. 0mm; RH 45%; cld/sn; SSE 0-10kmh; LM 24C: GF 23C

purpose: McIlwraith tour

participants: Pat & Kee

This was to be the day of the McIlwraith tour, but only three McIlwraith-ers showed up, However, Eva , Jordan & Karissa joined us along with local farmer Lyle Mann and his wife Norma. After arriving at the trailer, we heard a Gray Tree Frog calling down by the creek. A Red Admiral and Mourning Cloak fluttered by early in our visit.

We made our way down to the river, then walked on over the bluffs and into the RSF, where the Virginia Bluebells were in full bloom. Then we came back, owing to the large proportion of over-60s in our group. Eva seemed genuinely happy to have seen the bluebells once again.

The frog chorus was considerably reduced, but the toads have taken over, trilling frequently, if not continuously. I inspected the regen zone, noting that nearly all the small ROs have been nipped by rabbits. However, larger trees are showing the vigour one would expect after a rainy year such as the last one.

Pat saw a large “round” turtle swimming downstream in Fleming Creek. She thought perhaps it was a Spiny. After our guests left, we could hear baby raccoons up in the tree box. The mother has moved them out of the trailer box, owing perhaps to recent visits by us. Pat & I took a walk to the log bridge, serenaded by a Grosbeak who broke out new musical passages with every breath. Later, we saw three male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at the same feeder. We also saw a chipmunk and a Black (Eastern Gray) Squirrel at the same feeder. A mixed flock of warblers dropped in tom their migration flight north.

Pat says we need to check the following plants in the DB.

Blue Cohosh (seen today in the RSF)

Long-spurred (lavender) Violet

Pennsylvania Sedge

Thalictrum dioicus (?)

Early Meadow Rue (LB trail)

birds: (28)

American Crow (BCF); American Goldfinch (HBF); American Robin (FCF); Belted Kingfisher (TR); Black and White Warbler (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Grackle (GF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Great Blue Heron (FC); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Killdeer (HP); Mourning Dove (GF); Myrtle Warbler (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Northern Oriole (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (Tr); Wild Turkey (LM); Yellow Warbler (GF)

phenology: First Grey Tree Frog calling; Virginia Bluebells in full bloom; Black Walnuts breaking bud; Warblers migrating through