

Newport Forest

Tuesday August 26 2008

2:20 - 8:30 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 57%; BP 99.72 kPa; clm; clr; T 29° C

Purpose: sampling fish

Participants: Kee, Darren & Glen Jacobs, Katie Leigh

To access the Upper Rapids (UR) at Fleming Creek (FC), my first thought was to reopen the older, south bank trail. I got about 50 m cleared when I ran into an incredible jackpot of Bitternut deadfall. So I decided to use the north bank trail which, though higher up on the bluffs, gave me an easy downward scramble of about 15 m.

I found that every fourth kick-sample was yielding something or other. I found another Northern Clearwater Crayfish and a few female Rainbow Darters, as well as a beautiful silvery minnow with hardly any markings or other special features. I had not yet marked my reference book with regional notes, so there were too many possibilities to consider while the fish slowly asphyxiated in its bag, so I returned it to the creek. (possibly it was an Emerald Shiner -- not new)

In the course of all this sampling, I picked up a ramshorn snail and a fingernail clam. Snails (aquatic or terrestrial) are generally easy to ID, but fingernail clams are very fussy and require details that involve sacrificing the animal.

Darren & Co. showed up around 5:30 pm, with Glen attempting once again to scare me with his "silent indian" act. We had a brief sit-down where I got to meet Darren's coworker with the Rondeau Park Service, Kate Leigh, an ecology student at Sir Sandford Fleming U in Lindsay, Ont. We went out to the river, along MB to the downstream Rapids (RP), finding the river wadable right across. Darren found the kick-sampling procedure rather enjoyable and didn't want to leave when the sun sank behind the trees and the air grew a bit chilly. In the course of his searches, he found us two new species, a Logperch (common) and a (beautiful) Greenside Darter. (P) Glen combed the area for thunderstones and butterfly stones (Devonian-age brachiopods).

Back at the trailer we watched several large flocks of Common Grackles fly across the meadow and into the GF. "Chok-wa-leesh," said Glen. This is the Delaware work for grackles. (pl. Chok-wa-leeshak) We had shwarma sandwiches in the twilit Nook and I mentioned that we had neither heard nor seen a Great Horned Owl for about three years. After the three left, I sat alone in the Nook with only a teenage raccoon for company. Just then, TWO Great Horned Owls began to call

from Eva's Woods (EW).

Birds: (6) (I spent far less time today in the areas where I see/hear most of my birds.)

Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Grackle (GF); Great Blue Heron (TR); Great Horned Owl (EW); Killdeer (TR); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Turkey Vulture (UM)

New species:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Logperch | <i>Percina caprodes</i> | TR/RP dj/KD Au26/08 |
| Greenside Darter | <i>Etheostoma blennioides</i> | TR/RP dj/KD Au26/08 |
| Two-ridged Ramshorn | <i>Heliosoma anceps</i> | FC KD Au26/08 |