

## Two in a Row...

Newport Forest Wednesday October 21 2009 2:00 - 6:10 pm

weather: prec. 7 mm. RH 73%; BP 99.4 kPa; calm; cld/sn; T 21° C

purpose: trail maintenance and fungi

participants: Pat, Kee, Will

While Will and I rolled and yanked at Bitternut logs on the slopes of the Fleming Creek Bluffs forest, Pat went birding with a vengeance, picking up our first Tufted Titmouse of the year, not to mention a Belted Kingfisher winging down the creek right past her nose. While browsing the creek area, she also found what she thinks may be a new sedge.

The trail down to the creek never looked better. Will seemed to prefer the largest logs he could find, so that we could both get hernias together. But the massive liners give the trail downslope a certain majesty, if I may put it that way.

It was also a good fungus day. On first arriving at the head of the Fleming Creek Trail (FCT), I thought someone had dropped a softball among the leaves. The puffball (P), being *Calvatia gigantea*, still has lots of growth left. Further down the trail, Pat discovered two whole troops of bird's nest fungi on an old log. (P) Then I found what looks like a *Lepiota* at the base of an old stump. (P, S) Whatever it turns out to be, it is certainly new.

While lining the trail, I spotted a Brown Snake (about half the size of the one I saw yesterday) scurry into the oak leaves. I had to shoot fast to get three images of its progression.

By 4 pm the sky was clearing out to the south, the sun beamed down and a warm breeze bathed us, the temperature climbing slightly to 22 C. So we took a break in the Nook, flicking off the odd ladybeetle off our persons. Pat told of hearing a Western Chorus Frog calling in the BCF near the Hole -- or what sounded like one.

notation: (one-time explanation) (P) means that we took a photograph, (S) a sample, (P, S) both. This helps us keep track of our data, as such.

butterfly phenology: yesterday, Bruce saw an Eastern Comma along Edgar's Trail, Today we saw a Milbert's Tortoiseshell, a Mourning Cloak, and an Orange Sulphur.

birds: (14)

American Crow (UM); American Robin (FC); Belted Kingfisher (FC); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (FC); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (GF); Downy Woodpecker (LM); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (HBF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Tufted Titmouse (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

### IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



*White Birds Nest fungus with numerous nests and "eggs" (peridioles) that contain spores. Rain splashes eggs out of "nests." Note several developmental stages.*

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(click on image to enlarge)



*A young Brown Snake flees the trailmonsters. Brown Snakes live on worms, larvae, slugs, etc.*

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