

**Newport Forest**

November 12 2002

2:10 - 3:30 pm

**Weather:** prec. 38 mm (!); overcast, calm; LM 5 C; FCF 5 C

**Purpose:** a brief stop

**Participants:** Kee

On my way down to Moraviantown to investigate some alleged cougar sightings, I stopped in at Newport Forest to check on a few things and to manufacture some cougar scent posts, a recently developed technique involving a stake driven firmly into the ground and covered with velcro. After planting the post at a selected location, one smears cougar urine on it, then visits the post at regular intervals to see if any hair is to be found on the velcro. The technique has been tried successfully in Quebec. We have made the acquaintance of a recent Guelph Biology graduate named Cynthia McLeod who wishes to study cougars and has been working with them at Daniel's Ark, a wildlife refuge/rehab facility located near Bolton, Ontario. Yesterday she brought us several bags of wood shavings soaked with cougar urine (both sexes), as well as several bags of scat (male only).

I walked down to the river to check the level. It is about a foot over the clay beach.

It took all of ten minutes to make two posts which I took with me to Moraviantown to give to Darren. I then walked down to the creek, noting it was up several inches from the recent rains. I then walked the Fleming Creek Trail to give it some "exercise," noticing an ash that looks very much like a Black Ash (very corkey bark). I will have to wait for spring to get the leaves and confirm. The tree is located on the left of the trail at m 550.

**Birds:** (6)

American Robin (FCF); Blue Jay (tr); Northern Cardinal (HW); Downy Woodpecker (tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (tr);