

Newport Forest Tuesday October 17 2006

3:30 - 5:50pm

Weather: prec. 25mm; RH 100%; lt. rn.; SSw 0-15kmh; LM 14C; FCF 14C

Purpose: two-day stay with an emphasis on fungi

Participants: Pat & Kee

Neither Charlie nor the Girls appeared after we arrived and we saw neither hide nor hair of them for the entire visit. We filled the bird feeders and waited in the trailer for the rain to subside, noting the many Box Elder Bugs still present, as well as two largish Leaf-footed Bugs on the screens.

We took a fungus walk, first to the Copse (in GF), then to Pat's newly-discovered game trail that leads from the UM/swale down to the creek through the lower GF. In the Copse Pat found a Parrot Mushroom and Purple Jelly-drops, both new species. I found a small rubber cup, a purplish Mycena, and a dark brown mushroom, the former two being already logged, the latter unidentifiable.

After supper, we went for brief walks in Janik's property near the beehives, then down to Betty Purcell's woods to see if the Sisters were in either place. We stopped in at the Hurdles, where Nina told us of seeing a young skunk foraging on their driveway. Edgar also has seen the skunks and reported holes dug in front lawn. Overnight, the temperature went no lower than 10C.

The song of the White-throated Sparrow announced the arrival of our annual migrants from the north. Pat reported one of the birds just sitting on a branch and panting, as if from the long flight. Pat got in a fair spell of bird-watching in the morning while planting a young Tulip Tree that sprouted in our yard back home. She saw a Northern Harrier zoom from its perch in a GF tree out over the meadow and down to snatch up a hapless vole. She drew my attention to a young Horse Mushroom which would have been large had the raccoons (or somebody) not decapitated it during the night.

In the afternoon I went on a fungus walk around the TRT, collecting some nine specimens, including Black Witch's Butter, an Ox Tongue, both new species. The remainder included Common Split-gill, Blushing Bracket, the Grey Hohenbuelia, all of them showing up at several sites during the walk.

I noticed two ephemeral ponds up on the tertiary terrace in the RSF/HB, about ten metres above the river level. Also, the old creek bed in the BCF has started to fill again, with a chain of ephemeral pools showing up again.

Maintenance Note: Four trees are down over the TRT, two on the HB and one on either side of it.

Birds: (19)

American Crow (BCF); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (BCF/LM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Killdeer (TR); Mourning Dove (LM); Myrtle Warbler (Tr); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Northern Harrier (GF/LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Tr); Song Sparrow (TR); Yellow-rumped Warbler (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (Tr)

New species:

Black Jelly Roll	<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	HB KD Oc17/06
Cinnabar Polypore	<i>Pycnoporus cinnabarinus</i>	RSF/HB KD Oc17/06
Ox Tongue	<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	HB KD Oc17/06
Purple Jelly-drops	<i>Ascocoryne sacroides</i>	GF pd/KD Oc17/06
Parrot Mushroom	<i>Hygrophorus psittacina</i>	GF pd/Kd Oc17/06

“Brown-eyed Crust:” Caps small, 1-2 cm, round when growing singly, or fused in long rows. Upper surface smooth, with light and dark buff concentric zones, hairy, thin, stiff. Fertile surface also zonate, with pores in separated annular rings. Margin of caps undulate to crenelate, found in HB on older log.

Malaise samples:

Vetch Looper Moth	<i>Caenurgia chloropha</i>	nz/KD LM J131/06
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Phenology:

White-throated Sparrows migrating through; last Cabbage White? Last Anglewing?