

Geog 144 Assignment 2
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Time lapse photo looking east onto Plot 16 – March 16, 2006, ~4 PM



Heterogeneity of seasonal changes + possible causes of this heterogeneity for all plants on the plot

No spatial heterogeneity in seasonal changes have been seen so far for the plants within my north-facing plot. Regardless of their location, all the trees have buds. All *Carpinus caroliniana* trees additionally have a few dead leaves left over from the fall. There is only one tree with brand new leaves (left). It is a rather young tree compared to the others, but I can't tell from the basis of one tree whether young trees undergo seasonal changes earlier than older trees. As for the understory, it is mostly devoid of vegetation except for a few clusters of ginger plants (top, right) and ferns. These haven't undergone any seasonal changes.

If there were any heterogeneity on my plot, I might expect it to come from differences in drainage (though most of the plot has a fairly constant slope), the presence of overhead gaps that let in more light (areas receiving more sun might show seasonal changes earlier) or age differences of the trees as mentioned above.

Bird study

It was 4:00 in the afternoon and the birds were too far away beyond the plot to be seen, but they could be heard. I counted 5 different kinds of bird calls, mostly from over the stream downhill and also uphill. A 6th bird call was that of an owl to the west.

I also directly observed one bird, but it was dead (right). I found it on the mossy mound on the west side of my plot. Most of its polished bones had been scattered, and its skull was missing, but several long bones and vertebrae remained. I could tell these were bird remains from the light weight of the bones and their spongy interior appearance.

