

Newport Forest

June 12 2002

2:00 - 6:30 pm

Weather: precip. n/r; sun/cloud; NE lt/var.; LM 26; FCF 23 C

Purpose: Junior's vacation

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic

We had little serious purpose in our visit to-day. We brought Junior, a raccoon we have been raising, with us. Our idea is to release him here eventually, so we have begun a process of familiarization for him.

He seemed to enjoy a romp down by Fleming Creek. The rapids seemed to frighten him and he enjoyed himself far more simply running around in the vegetation near the bridge. A pattern has been evident for some time: on each occasion where we have introduced him to a new patch of landscape, he spends the first 20-minute to half-hour period going back and forth between two points or making sallies outward from a single point, always returning. Eventually, he makes longer excursions and will, sometimes, settle on a new point of departure.

While Pat took her afternoon rest, Nic and I drove up to the tree station, where we nailed on the screen we installed last week. From the angle of the sun, it was clear that we need a second screen beside the first one. We watered all the trees thoroughly, then measured the pitch of the tank, finding it to be 6" lower at the west end.

The three of us went to the RL for some birdwatching. Nic suggested that the puzzling "swallows" were not swallows at all, but Purple Martins. Pat gratefully concurred, especially as Michele Carnerie had remarked to her a week ago that the place was "full of Purple Martins." Along Edgar's Trail, i was lucky enough to approach a giant Swallowtail (P) close enough to get some very good close-ups.

We brought Junior to one of the Blind Creek sloughs, where he mostly ran back and forth along a log and, later, climbed half way up a Box elder. Twice during this visit, we saw a Six-spotted Green Tiger Beetle.

New Species:

Wild Coffee

Triosteum perfoliatum

LM/HBF