

Newport Forest

June 22 2002

2:00 - 7:40 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm, sunny/hazy, calm, LM 30 C; FCF 26 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic

We entertained Eva and two of her Great-grandchildren, Jordan and Karissa, today. They came expressly to see Junior and apparently really enjoyed their visit. For his part, Junior found the whole thing rather confusing and did not behave very normally until after their departure.

During the visit, however, we observed some new species, including a carrion beetle on Edgar's Trail, a Ctenuchid moth in the long grass by the trailer, and a large jumping spider beside the trailer door. All three could be ID'd without capturing, except the carrion beetle, which I was able to release after examining it at home.

While Pat slept (or tried to) during the latter part of the afternoon, Nic and I went up to the tree station and installed two roof beams, as well as the second sunscreen. We re-strung the damaged chicken wire along two sides of the station and also strung double lengths of 12-gauge fence wire, threading it through the chicken wire to strengthen it.

Junior enjoyed his late afternoon ramble, climbing a large Black walnut beside the trailer up to a height of 20 feet or so. Later, he explored some of the lower branches of the wolf tree (Black Maple) by the old log. Our policy will be to give him decreasing supervision on subsequent visits until, hopefully, one day he runs away, so to speak.

The arthropods were out in full force today, making up for previous scarcity. They included not only a Black Swallowtail (our first record this year), but the above-mentioned, as well as more wood ticks than we've seen since first coming to the property over two years ago! Pat and Nic each got one, while I got four (two discovered after we got home).

New Species

American Carrion Beetle

Silpha Americana

ET

Virginia Ctenuchid Moth

Ctenucha virginica

LM

Audacious Jumping Spider

Phidippus audax

LM/TR