

Newport Forest

April 11 2003

1:45 - 5:30 pm

Weather: RG: 40 mm; clear; calm; LM 20 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: birdwatching

Participants: Pat, Kee

We stopped at the tree station where Pat planted some willow shoots along the swale by the FC bluffs. I planted the potted trees already in the station, as well as a few new ones we brought with us from the home nursery. Then I loaded the larger standards into the van (mostly Hackberry). Pat spotted a Leopard frog behind the station.

Tree brought to Newport today: pot of 5-6 RB; Bittersweet Vine (planted in corner of station); 1 NB 4'; 5 HT 6"; 5 HB 2-4'

At the trailer, Pat spied a youngish-looking raccoon sunning itself in the dead Black Maple halfway down the bluff. Was it Junior? She called and it appeared to be coming down, but disappeared into a large hole on the S side of the tree.

We watched a pair of WB Nuthatches making a nest in a small hole in the Black Maple by the trailer rest area. One of them, probably the female, kept throwing leaves out of the hole, cleaning it, while a pair of Downys looked enviously on.

We took a walk to the RL, along the new trail to the RSF, then to the Hb and over. In the BCF, Pat spotted another pair of WBNH making a nest-hole in an old Black (?) Willow. We found the sloughs at the far end partially filled with water. We heard Western Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers calling. As well, I spotted a Wood Frog in one of the sloughs.

Birds: (21 spp)

American Crow (3 FCF); American Kestrel (2 UM); American Robin (1 UM); Black-capped chickadee (1 RSF); Blue Jay (2 Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (1 Tr); Downy woodpecker (pr Tr, pr BCF); European Starling (2 TR); Goldfinch (2 LM); Great Blue Heron (1 LM); Hairy Woodpecker (1 tr); Mourning Dove (1 FCbluffs); Northern Cardinal (1m RSF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (3 TR); Ring-beaked Gull (7 UM); Rough-legged Hawk (1 RSF); Slate-coloured Junco (1 Tr); Song Sparrow (1 UM); Turkey Vulture (2 UM); Wild Turkey (3m 7f UM)