

Newport Forest

May 8 2003

2:30 - 7:45 pm

Weather: prec. 15 mm; overcast; calm; LM 18 C; FCF 18 C

Purpose: birdwatching, tree planting

Participants: Kee, Pat

While I planted a new SM to replace Lorne's tree which appears to be (basically) dead, Pat made her way over to the ER to collect the blossoms of several trees that are now coming into flower. I then trimmed the edges of the west plot in the TS. Then I took Lorne's old tree down to the south core, where I trimmed it back to 2' and planted it there. Pat, meanwhile, had made her way to the trailer by following the edge of BCF from the UM. She set up for birdwatching by the trailer.

I went over to survey budding in the north core, finding more trees in trouble than I had thought would be the case. Surveying the FC bluffs downstream from the bridge, Pat found a Wood Anemone in bloom.

On the way to the RL, we noted that the sloughs by the downed willow had filled with a foot of water. We could also hear the Western Chorus Frogs back on the job, both there and deeper in the BCF. I checked the Bur Oak I had planted in the BCF two springs ago, finding that it had grown to feet and was again budding out in a vigorous manner. This is the first tree with significant recorded growth that I have planted! We continued down to the river, where we saw and heard an Oriole singing in the elm tree where an oriole had made her hanging nest two years previously. We also heard a Leopard Frog grinding Away somewhere in the shallows, but failed to spot it.

We had supper in the trailer, but not before I got stung by one of Pat's pet wasps.

Birds: (22)

American Crow (1 UM); American Robin (1 UM, 1 Tr); Baltimore Oriole (1 ET/RL); Black-capped Chickadee (1 Tr); Blue Jay (2 Tr); Bobolink (2m UM); Brown-headed Cowbird (2 pr Tr); Downy Woodpecker (pr Tr); Eastern Meadowlark (1 UM); Eastern Towhee (1 UM); Grackle (1 Tr); Great Blue Heron (1 LM); Mourning Dove (1 FCF); Northern Cardinal (1 BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1m Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (pr/nst UM); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1m Tr); Song Sparrow (1 Tr); Tree Swallow (1 UM); Turkey Vulture (1 LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr); Yellow Warbler (1 FCF)

Butterflies: (4)

Cabbage White (LM); Eastern Comma (1 ET); Mourning Cloak (1 Tr); Red Admiral (1 RL);

Ethology:

Wood Anemones in bloom, Black Maples with very large buds now unfurling.