

Newport Forest

May 10 2003

2:05 - 7:20 pm

Weather: prec. 10 mm; hazy/overcast; calm; LM 23 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee, Steve

I stopped at the TS before Steve arrived. I am especially pleased with how well the Yellow buckeye is doing. It is leafing out quite grandly and with every sign of health. This is amazing, considering that I never worked the soil of the west bed. Two male Bobolinks did a sort of display dance in the meadow behind me as I surveyed the young trees. They would confront each other from adjacent stems, then fly off to another pair of adjacent stems.

Down at the trailer I was very pleased to see yet more rain in the gauge. the meadow is very soggy and the drive down sent lots of muddy spray up along the rear panels of the van, making it look like it had been in stock-car race.

Seemingly a hundred birds all called from nearby trees or flitted boldly in front of me. They wanted food, but I had none. Vainly, i chopped half a turkey sandwich into fine little pieces but these had little appeal for our friends, who continued to harass me.

when Steve arrived, walking down from the gate where his wife had let him off, we set to work taking all the nails out of old boards, stacking the good ones and discarding the useless ones. We also moved all the trash, roofing and tires, up to the pile of lumber left over from the dismantling of the deer blind. We stacked everything as neatly as possible to facilitate the easy pickup of trash with Edgar in two weeks time.

We then checked all the trees in the South and north Core, went down to the bridge to test the 2x4 "comealong" idea. (It didn't work very well and we concluded that a 4:1 chain winch would be ideal for getting the heavy pipes up off the creek bed. We then took the rest of the afternoon off, heading up to the HB for an animal watch.

Birds: (7) Blue Jay (1 Tr); Bobolink (2m UM); Brown-headed Cowbird (5 Tr); Northern Cardinal (1m 1f Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1m, Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1m Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr)