

Newport Forest

May 19 2004

4:10 - 8:15 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm; calm; clear; LM 25 C; FCF 21 C

Purpose: birdwatching

Participants: Pat, Kee, Michelle Carnery

I dropped Pat off in a field near Newport Forest where Michelle was looking for artifacts. I went on into the property and spent half an hour checking the trees in the LM. Everyone is doing well, except that the FD and WP we planted two years ago have died. I had expected this to happen to the FD, but not the WP, which was doing well last year. Both trees had been girdled by mice, however, so that may have been the cause for the WP. I noticed that many of the volunteer saplings need to be single-stemmed before they get much more developed.

When Pat and Michelle arrived we filled the bird feeders. I went on to the GM test plot in the FCF, where I cut all the new GM plants that had sprung up, certainly a lot less (about 200) than I had cut last year.

Michelle had left by the time I got back to the trailer. I noticed that about six very large BNHs in the Gallery forest HBF had either died or were extraordinarily late in leafing out. Their leafless branches are very noticeable beside the healthier surrounding trees.

With Michelle's help, we got 43 bird species today, a new record for us. I was pleased to learn the song of the Field sparrow after asking Pat what song that was that always seemed to end with a trill that speeded up, rising in pitch, like a ping-pong ball.

Birds:

(See attached report)

Phenology:

Garlic Mustard at its peak now. Mosquitoes not yet out in force.