

Newport Forest

June 6 2004

2:50 - 8:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0; sun/haze; SW < 15 kmh; LM 25 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: maintenance & birdwatching

Participants: Pat & Kee

We arrived at the trailer to see the bird feeding platform dangling by one nail from the Shagbark Hickory (young raccoons?). I re-nailed it more firmly than ever. Because the tank is not yet filled, I had to water from the creek. While Pat started watching for birds, I drove the water up to the tree station, where I spent an hour or so weeding, a very tough operation, owing to the nature of the heavy clay soil. One must dig the whole (weedy) plant up with a shovel and, without even bothering to shake the roots, discard the plant. Once a section is weeded, I replace the missing soil by new topsoil or with sand. I also attached the first of three roof panels that Pat is buying to provide shade at the TS.

Meanwhile, back in the Lower Meadow, Pat spotted an Indigo Bunting at the edge of Harvey's Bean Field where it meets our gallery forest. When I returned, we went to the river. Pat stayed there while I walked the Thames River Trail. On her way back from the river, she spotted a new dragonfly for us, a Dusky Clubtail. We had supper, then sat around waiting for new birds to show up. We are much better at ear-birding now.

Birds (23): American Crow (LM); American Robin (HBF); Baltimore Oriole (FCF); Belted Kingfisher (FC); Blue Jay (Tr); Bobolink (UM); Canada Goose (BCF); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/HBF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Eastern Wood Peewee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (Tr); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); House Sparrow (UM); Indigo Bunting (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (BCF); Song Sparrow (UM); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Butterflies (5): Cloudy Sulphur (LM); Eastern comma (ET); Eyed Brown (tr); Great Spangled Fritillary (LM); Monarch (LM)

New species:

Dusky Clubtail	<i>Gomphus spicatus</i>	ET PD
Hickory Bark Borer*	<i>Scolytus quadrispinosus</i>	kdAC GF