

Newport Forest

Monday April 7 2005

2:00 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec. 23 mm; clear, calm/ NW < 10 kmh; LM 17 C; FCF 17 C

Purpose: planting trees

Participants: Kee

I found some wind damage when I got down to the trailer. The garbage can had blown down the hill behind the gallery forest, the whole top of the weather station was blown off its clips, and the canoe was blown under the thorn trees to the east, its tarp badly entangled in thorns. It took nearly an hour to put things right again.

The Thames is still high enough to flood the first level of shoreline terraces and the Fleming Creek Forest is still flooded, with waters having dropped only a foot or two.

I brought in another eight trees with me: 2 HT; 2 HL; 2 BE; 1 SiM (?); 1 RB. I planted the first four trees close to or within the SC, the latter four going close to or within the NC. While walking around, I noticed that all the ant mounds are now plainly visible without the obscuring screen of oldfield plants. I made a rough calculation, estimating their density in the Lower Meadow at about 50/ha.

While busy planting, I did not notice that Steve & Joel had arrived. We went over the plans for a small deck for the trailer that Pat had suggested Steve build.

After the two left, I drove over to the WM, where I parked by the slip-gate and carried in a bag of SY seeds and a bag of CW seeds (gathered along the Thames by the UWO campus last week). I sowed these along the furrows of the ploughed strip, trying to ensure that the seeds landed in bare or wet spots. On the way, I noticed an Eastern Garter out hunting.

Birds: (14) American Crow (EW); American Goldfinch (Tr); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr - pair!); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Killdeer (WM); Mourning Dove (EW); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology: First Brown-headed Cowbird(s) of the season. Last Juncos?