Newport Forest   Wednesday April 27 2005   2:00 - 7:05 pm

Weather: prec. 28 mm; ovcst; S < 10 kmh; LM 10 C; FCF 8 C
Purpose: to check trees and birdwatch
Participants: Pat, Kee

We planted Wild Plum seeds along the ploughed strip and planted about 20 small shoots. Owing to the rain, we parked on the hill near the trailer. We went to listen at the nursery box. Had the mother left with her kits? While Pat logged birds, I placed the eight potted trees in the LM where volunteers had cut disks last year. Inspecting the young trees, I noticed the following species now leafing out: BE; WE; CB (Buckeye); WP; SM/BM.

Pat walked to the river, noting it was high. (The creek is now over its lower banks and the TTs are flooded above their bases.) On the way to the river, I stopped to survey the trees between ER and the LM. More BM than I thought. We speculated on why there were so many BJs near the river and what they were so excited about. Inside the RSF, I left the trail to check the Virginia Bluebells. The patch seems even bigger this year, the plants with flowers just opening now. On the slope of the HB I noticed the trilliums are almost fully opened. On the way out, I checked the interior planting east of ET. Deer have nipped all of them, except three BMs, now leafing out. Pat found a Fine-leaved Sedge near the Corner (P).

Birds: (22) American Robin (ER); American Crow (BCF); American Goldfinch (ER); Black-capped Chickadee (WM); Blue Jay (BCF); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (ER); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr) ; Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Towhee (RL); Field Sparrow (LM); Hairy Woodpecker (GF); Mallard (LM); Mourning Dove (ER); Northern Cardinal (FC); Red-winged Blackbird (ER); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (BCF); Song Sparrow (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild (HW/Rd)

New species:

Calico Crayfish	*Orconectes immunis*	TS KD Sp05/02
Rose Gall Wasp	*Diplolepis* [*rosae*]	LM/HBF PD
Red-cedar Rust Gall	*Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*	GF pd/KD

Phenology: Bloodroot still in bloom; Purple and Yellow Wood Violets in bloom; trilliums in bloom (see tree leaf data above)