

Newport Forest

Wednesday May 11

3:16 - 8:00 pm

**Weather:** prec. 1 mm; ovcast; N < 20 kmh; LM 13 C; FCF 13 C

**Purpose:** watering trees

**Participants:** Kee

I brought in a small load of bridge lumber with me and, once I had filled the tray feeders, I took it down to the bridge log and nailed on two 8' 2x4s as cleats, then cut the 1x4 planks into 2' lengths and nailed these to the cleats. Every time I come, over the next few visits, I'll bring a pair of 2x4s and some 1x4s with me until the span has been decked.

Watering was onerous. I had hoped for rain but apart from a brief drizzle near Melbourne on the way here, I saw no rain at all. On the other hand, I could hear thunder to the south near Lake Erie and the sky in that direction was nearly black. I watered the trees at the gate and in both cores of the LM. It was not a very generous watering - just what I call a "maintenance watering." Total water delivered - about 225 litres.

While watering in the south core, I spotted a new rodent, not a Meadow Vole and not a White-footed Mouse. This mouse was longer than either, with a rather long tail and a bicoloured pattern on its body fur: a well-marked area of darker brownish fur on its back, lighter on the sides. It froze in position, hoping I wouldn't see it. From all available clues (including range & habitat) this animal turns out to be a Meadow Jumping Mouse, a new species for us in any case.

I left some DBs for momma coon.

**Birds:** too busy for birds today

**New species:**

Meadow Jumping Mouse

*Zapus hudsonius*

LM KD