

Newport Forest

Saturday May 21 2005

2:00 - 7:45 pm

Weather: prec. 2 mm; clear; NE \leq 20 kmh; LM 25 C; FCF 25 C

Purpose: to water trees and birdwatch

Participants: Pat & Kee

On arrival, we noticed that Fleming Creek has returned to normal levels. We did a heavy watering of approx. 3L/tree and this involved three trips to the drought-buster.

Pat birdwatched for a while and, in spite of an afternoon nap, succeeded in seeing or hearing over half our birds today, mostly in the BCF.

Between watering sessions, I crossed the log bridge to search for the missing farside trestle downstream. I searched a bit beyond Eva's Hairpin, but found nothing except four medium-to-large BEs had fallen over, the most recent about two weeks ago, judging from the size of the arrested leaves. What is *happening*? Is this the leading edge of "waldsterben" in the Great Lakes area?

Along the FCT I found large (domestic) dog tracks, possibly those of the German Shepherd we spotted on the morning of our overnight stay. The presence of dogs on the property is another disturbing development.

On the way back to the trailer, I stopped by the old BM, where the raccoon den is. I could hear the kits stirring inside and peered in. One of the kits stood up on his hind legs and reached out the hole with his arm. I shook his paw, a gesture which he took in stride.

Birds: (24)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (ET); Blue Jay (LM); Brown-headed Cowbird (BCF); Catbird (BCF); Common Flicker (UM); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Downy Woodpecker (ET); Eastern Kingbird (HY); Eastern Towhee (GF); Field Sparrow (UM); Great Crested Flycatcher (FC); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Cardinal (FC); Northern Oriole (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (LM); Yellow Warbler (ET)