

Newport Forest Tuesday April 18 2006 4:50 - 7:10 pm

Weather: prec. 0mm; RH 50%; clear; calm; LM 21C; FCF 19C

Purpose: to take delivery of water

Participants: Kee

After introducing Free Press Reporter Joe Belanger to the hunters involved in last autumn's collision with a cougar at Oneida, I left for Newport and arrived some 20 minutes ahead of the water truck. It reminded me of Jim Longdo's unfortunate demise last summer and I gave the driver, Brad Carruthers a cheque for Jim's widow.

At the trailer I first fed the birds, then checked the hollow BM. No kits! Hmmm. Seems like the mother had NOT abandoned them, after all.

I walked the TRT, noting that the white Trout Lilies were in full bloom and that the Virginia Bluebells had just entered the "grape-cluster" stage, prior to the full bloom. Resting on the HB bench, I heard a Ruffed grouse drumming three times off to the east.

Back at the trailer, I sat in the nook with book in hand. My idea of birding is not to walk at all, but to listen for their calls and songs.

I left the Pignut hickories well-wetted and wrapped against next weekend's planting in the TS. The remaining trees are still in the van.

Birds: (15)

American Crow (TR); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Canada Goose (BCF); Common Grackle (HBF); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Towhee (BCF/HBF); Field Sparrow (UM); Great Blue Heron (HBF); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Ruffed Grouse (HB/W); Tree Sparrow (Tr); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

Phenology: white Trout Lilies in full bloom; Virginia Bluebells starting; Field Sparrows back; Eastern Towhees back.