

Newport Forest Friday July 21 2006

2:00 - 7:40 pm

Weather: prec. 11mm; RH 84%; ovcst; calm; LM 27C; FCF 25C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee

As soon as I stopped the van and released the girls, they were off on some wonderful adventure that did not end for over two hours. After putting out the birdseed, I unloaded the recently constructed coon cage from the van, taking nearly two hours to set it up behind the trailer. Just before I installed the cage, I noticed an Eight-spotted Forester clinging to the mesh. (I have been waiting several years for this sp. to show up, being common in our area.) I moved the garbage pail to a more convenient location near the front of the trailer, painted the trailer deck with wood preservative and gave the canoe woodwork a coating of tung oil.

Sitting in the Nook, I could hear lots of adolescent squawks from young Blue Jays. I took a walk along the two-bridge trail, grooming the west side as I went and occasionally whistling for the girls. They showed up at my feet about half way to the log bridge. I proceeded to carry them, but they leapt (rather athletically I thought) to a young Hackberry as I passed it and descended to the ground, content to follow wherever I led them. Spotting an old hollow log near the trail, I thought to introduce the girls to a possible future refuge, taking several photos of them as they explored it. (6P) On the log bridge, Louise sniffed at some very old coon scat, then proceeded to do a dump of her own right beside it! They followed me all the way along the east bank, across the pipe bridge and up to the trailer.

While the girls slept in the trailer, I took a walk to the river, picking up several more birds, including a flight of about 6 Cedar Waxwings hunting insects over the river. I looked closely at the succession of gravel bars, which seem distinctly higher than they were last year. (4P)

Birds: (18)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (GF); American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Grackle (HBF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Eastern Towhee (EW); Gray Catbird (GF); Great Blue Heron (TR); Great Crested Flycatcher (GF); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (HL); Northern Cardinal (HBF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Wood Thrush (BCF/LM)

New species:

Eight-spotted Forester
[Noctuidae]

Alypia octomaculata

Tr KD

(from malaise samples)

Red-crossed Stink Bug
“transparent Mirid”

Elasmotherus cruciatus

Hyaliodes vitripennis

LM nz/KD J118/05

LM nz/KD J118/05