

**Newport Forest** Saturday August 5 2006 2:15 - 8:30 pm

**Weather:** prec. 25mm; RH 76%; sn/hz; calm; LM 29C; Fcc 25C

**Purpose:** birthday visit

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

We brought the girls with us, hoping that they would run off prior to our departure. That would give us an excuse to leave them on site for two days, as part of their gradual release program.

I inspected the trees in the regen zone, finding no further problems and up to 1' of growth in some individuals, including cottonwoods and silver maples. I was surprised to see that the little Sassafras by the side of the track has resprouted and is now a fine little "bush!"

We walked the 2BT, the girls dutifully following. I shot several videos of them climbing an old beach tree shell beside the trail.

Our birthday party was enlivened by an airshow put on by local residents as the steaks cooked on the hibachi. Several Giant Swallowtails flew past the Nook. Then two Great Blue Herons flew over the LM, one of them flying very low over the meadow to show off its elegant form and superior flying technique. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird then conducted a demonstration of precision flying behind the trailer, as it fed on wingstem blossoms.

We walked to the river, somewhat perturbed that water levels had not dropped, but remained high, covering the clay beach and permitting only a few of the colonizing cottonwoods to poke above the muddy currents. We were compensated by a wonderful sight: About 50 American Rubyspot damselflies clung to grasses overhanging the water's edge. The males had bright ruby patches proximally on their wings, while the females had yellow-orange ones. (I kicked myself for not bringing the video camera.)

When it came time to go, the girls seemed eager to be off with us. But as I closed the gate and drove away, Louise churred and complained, trying to get out the door. It took us a while to realize that she had been expecting an overnight stay - and now wanted to go back!

**Birds:** (23)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (UM); American Robin (FCF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Eastern

Wood Peewee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (CF); Great Blue Heron (LM); Mourning Dove (HL); Northern Cardinal (TR); Northern Oriole (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (BCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Thrush (BCF)

**Leps:**

Black Swallowtail (LM); Eastern Tailed Blue (came in with us - in van!); Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (LM); Giant Swallowtail (Tr); Great Spangled Fritillary (LM); Little Wood Satyr (LM); Monarch (LM); Pearl Crescent (HBF); Rd-spotted Purple (Tr); Summer Azure (GF);