

Newport Forest

Tuesday April 17 2007 2:20 - 5:40 pm

weather: prec. 3mm; RH 61%; sn/cld; NNE 0-40kmh; LM 13C; GF 13C

purpose: to set salamander traps

participants: Kee

The property is slowly drying out, the creek is now running clear (with a greenish hue), but the river is still over the clay beach. While taking the weather readings, I stood in the shade of the trailer (near the raccoon cage) to whirl the psychrometer. I heard a distinct mewling sound then a soft churring. Had to be baby raccoons, but where? I stuck my hand into a hole of the cathouse atop the cage and felt a warm little body. As I wrote in my field notes, "What now?" I decided not to interfere with them.

I set six minnow traps loaned to me by Daria Kocsinki (?), two in the first stretch of vernal ponds (VP 1-3) and four in the next stretch (VP 4-7). Each trap had a few fragments of cat food in it, the idea being to trap larval (and possibly adult) salamanders for Daria to examine and ID tomorrow. While setting the third trap, I noticed a very small wood frog (less than 1" long). It seemed too small to be an adult holdover from last year, but too early for an emergent adult. (mystery) I heard the descending shriek of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on my way out.

Back at the nook I relaxed and watched for birds, amused by the Chipmunk kids running up to the feeding trays and down again with cheeks bulging. A black squirrel fled from the Black Maple as I approached it.

birds: (15) American Crow (EW); American Robin (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Grackle (BCF); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (BCF); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Duck (VP6); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (BCF); Yellow-shafted Flicker (BCF/LM);

new species:

Wild Millet *Echinochloa c.f. muricata* RL JB Sp15/01

Malaise trap samples

Deer Fly *Chrysops frigidus* LM nz/KD J118/05