

Newport Forest Saturday April 28 2007

2:00 - 5:00 pm

weather: prec. 33mm; RH 70%; ovcst; SSW 5-10kmh; LM 15C; UM 15C

purpose: maintenance

participants: Kee, Brian, Joe

The property was rather spongy, coming in, and I wondered if it was wise to drive all the way down to the trailer. But the weather was beautiful and down we went without incident, except to put awash the “mudhole” once again.

The creek is up and flowing quickly, but not over its banks. We could hear the toads trilling over in the swamp and the rain gauge showed 33 mm. The better trees in the regen zone are leafing quickly, as is the Witch Hazel in the Hole. There were no raccoons in the trailer box this time, but a well-worn passage in the straw that spoke of frequent use by the mother.

While Brian and Joe went off on the TRT to clear the deadfall, I walked up to the TS and laid out about 12 sq. ft. of shade cloth before becoming soggy in the waterlogged soil. I was much struck to see my second juvenile Wood Frog in a week, this one squatting in the mud of Plot 2 in the TS.

Back at the trailer I birdwatched for a while, checking on Brian & Joe’s progress by walkie-talkie every half hour or so. I went to meet them in the BCF at the last deadfall, just in time to see Brian injure himself on a large leaning branch that we told him to saw off, not wrestle out of the way. He walked with a limp back to the trailer and I decided we might as well head back to London so Brian could take something for his pain. Brian drew my attention to an Eastern Garter Snake by the dead BH.

birds: (15)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (BCF); American Tree Swallow (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (EW); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (FCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (HBF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (BCF)