

Newport Forest Wednesday May 9 2007

2:30 - 5:50pm

weather: 0 mm; RH 57%; ovcast; calm; LM 25 C; GF 25 C

purpose: Cousin Ann's annual visit

participants: Pat, Kee, Ann Cherry

It was time for cousin Ann's annual visit to Newport Forest. On the previous two visits it rained. This time it stayed dry until near the end of the afternoon, when the humidity shot up and the clouds began to spit.

We filled the feeders while Ann kept an eye out for new birds, especially pleased by an Oriole I showed her. We decided to walk in to look at the bluebells. On the way, I emptied a bucket of tadpoles (from our neighbour's pool back in London) into three vernal ponds V 2-4. I read the depth meter at 34 cm, now only 21 cm down.

At the river, I went down to the beach, now mostly emerged, to examine the cottonwoods growing along the three gravel bars. Although terrifically battered by nearly a year under water, bullied by powerful currents, most of the trees had held on, even though half-uprooted or ice-damaged. However, Every one I scratched showed green.

We walked up over the bluffs, pausing to admire the view, then made our way to the bluebells, Ann pointing out individual plants scattered along the trail well before we even got to the general area. Those things are definitely spreading (but how?) In the RSF I took several videos, all of them pans across a patch of flowers: False Solomon's Seal, Virginia Bluebells, Trilliums.

birds: (23)

American Crow (FCF); American Gold Finch (LM); American Robin (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (BCF); Blue Jay (GF); Blue-winged Warbler (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (HB); Field Sparrow (LM); Gray Catbird (LM/BCF); Mourning Dove (FCF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Northern Oriole (GF); Pileated Woodpecker (RSF/HB); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Tree Swallow (Rd); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Wood Thrush (HB)

phenology: Wood Thrushes back