

Newport Forest Thursday August 16 2007

2:30 - 6:10 pm

weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 74%; BP 29.28"; ovcast; NW 0-10 kmh; LM 26 C

purpose: watering trees

participants: Kee

Driving along the Beattie Line, I was startled by the sight of a very large, uniformly dark hawk or eagle sitting with its back to me as I came along the road. It took off, showing no variation in the uniformly brown/black colour, except for a thin edging of white on the tail feathers. It was probably either a young Bald Eagle or even a Golden Eagle (unlikely on a fence post in either case) or a melanistic Redtail. (When I first sighted the bird, the phrase that popped into my mind was "golden eagle." It seemed large enough and the right colour.)

After watering the trees by the gate and in the nursery, I loaded up 3 large tanks of water and 14 jugs, then headed down to the RZ. At the trailer I filled two trays (barely) with bird feed before running out altogether. While resting in the Nook, I spied the black squirrel coming for seed, not to mention the chipmunk "regulars."

I finished watering by 5 pm and walked enough of the TRT to change the memory cards in both cameras. I believe camera #2 has ceased to function properly.

birds: (very few about or calling)

American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Gray Catbird (BCF); Great Blue Heron (TR); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Cardinal (GF); Tree Swallow (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (EW)