Newport Forest   Thursday May 28 2008   2:00 - 6:05 pm

weather: prc. 0 mm; RH 47 %; BP 99.59 kP; sn/cld; W 10-25 kh; LM 26ºC
purpose: to water & mulch small trees in RZ
participants: Kee

Driving along Hwy #2 I saw several farmers with equipment out in their fields. Even the Hurdle's sharecropper was out discing the field across from the gate. At the TS I watered the gate trees and loaded up with 11 jugs of water, then down to the trailer. The Shagbark Hickory by the trailer has been slow to leaf out, but 3/4 of the branches are now fully leafing out, the remainder with a scattering of leaves.

I took the wheelbarrow to the BCF and brought back two loads of mulch, which I chopped up in the mulch pile. During a break at the Nook, I noticed a large garter snake cross the path (a good 2 1/2' in length). I also heard definite raccoon noises coming from the box. The mosquitoes are out in numbers now. (Last visit I saw/heard exactly one.) I watered 43 young trees, including several smaller ones (mostly RO) that hadn't been mulched yet. During a break around 4:30 pm, I spotted a raccoon eating birdseed under the Hickory feeder. It looked very scruffy and thin, seemingly a wanderer. I have noticed several times now that raccoons in an undernourished state frequently develop a light, sandy-coloured coat. I threw this one several handsful of DBs -- which it eagerly ate up before disappearing into the GF.

As I left, I changed the batteries in Cam #2 (650 images). I intend to move this trigger-happy device to a less stimulating environment like the TS.

birds: (19)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (ER); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (GF); Common Grackle (UM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Gray Catbird (GF); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); Killdeer (UM); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Northern Oriole (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (BCF/LM); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Thrush (BCF);

phenology: First Ebony Jewelwing