

Newport Forest

Thursday June 5 2008

1:45 - 4:45 pm

weather: prc. 14 mm; RH 78%; BP 99.0 kPa; ovcst; WSW 15 kmh; LM 30°C

purpose: flight lessons

participants: kee (plus Pat & cousin Ann Cherry)

I brought a young Robin that we have been raising in order to give him some flying experience without worrying about our two cats (Xena & BK). After leaving his cage and eating a few bait worms, Robbie flew up to the Black Maple and spent an hour just exploring one large branch.

Meanwhile, Pat & Cousin Ann were on a visit to Moraviantown to look for rare plants. They dropped in on the way back to London. Ann took pictures of Robbie up in the Black Maple, as well as a young raccoon sleeping in the box. A baby chipmunk played about the foot of the maple.

The mosquitoes are now getting quite noticeable and a bit of an irritation. I checked the trees in the RZ, most now growing more rapidly than ever before. The forest is taking off, as it were. Spotted a young garter snake out hunting there.

Robbie flew down for a quick bite, then back up again. I examined a large congregation of Carpenter Ants on the log. It appeared they were preparing for the spring nuptial flight. A winged queen was present, along with several winged males (?)

Robbie came down again at 4:30 and I put him in his cage fearful that if I released him once more, he might well decide to spend the night up in the maple.

birds: (16)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (HBF); Bobolink (UM); Common Grackle (HBF); Common Yellowthroat (LM/BCF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Crested Flycatcher (FCF); Eastern Kingbird (UM); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (FCF); Song Sparrow (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Wood Thrush (BCF);

phenology: first Giant Swallowtail