

Newport Forest Saturday April 16 2005

4:40 - 8:10 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; clear/hazy; SSW < 10 kmh; LM 25 C; no FCF data

Purpose: watering trees & bird-watching

Participants: Pat, Kee

We arrived late, owing to a visit to Eva, who wanted us to visit her woodlot in the company of her great grand-kids, Jordan & Karissa. The kids were very pleased with the special nature teeshirts that Pat gave them when the walk was over. (Karissa identified the most spring flowers.)

At the property I loaded up with 100+ litres of water (after watering the trees at the farm gate), then we drove down to the LM, where I began watering, while Pat bird-watched. I ran out of water shortly before starting the North Core, so I went back and got another 120 litres and made a good start on the North Core. before running out with about a dozen trees to do. However, these were not newly planted, so I did not worry much about missing them. Back in the Nook, we were delighted to hear the baby raccoons squeeling and burbling away up in the nursery box in the old Black Maple. They would do this only occasionally, probably when the sleeping mother changed her position.

Stopping at the TS to drop off the watering jugs, we both heard the z-z-z-z-z-p z-z-z-z-p of the American Woodcock. We couldn't see it until it dove into the veg nearby, completing its mating flight

Birds: (18)

American Crow (LM); American Robin (FC); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Canada Goose (LM); Common Grackle (LM); Common Nighthawk (UM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Field Sparrow (Tr); Hairy Woodpecker (GF); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (Tr)

Phenology:

Frogs still calling; first planted trees breaking bud, mostly in poplar family. No trees starting but Dogwoods now have tiny leaves.