

Newport Forest Thursday June 19 2008

2:30 - 6:20 pm

weather: prec. 13 mm; RH 72%; BP 98.87kPa; ovcast; calm; LM 19 ° C

purpose: to make & install “newt hotels”

participants: Kee

The weather has been cool and semi-rainy. The flies on site continue bad. I filled the bird feeders and unloaded some boards and moulding-strips to make what Salamandrid biologists call “cover boards,” a set of boards arranged in a V (cross-section) providing narrow spaces for newts and salamanders to hang out. It took over two hours to do the cutting and nailing. In the end I had three hotels, each 32” long and 1’ wide. One inspects the hotels weekly to count or log whatever shows up.

I inspected the RZ, noting continued growth, incl. the young sassafras, which has put on 12” of growth this season alone ! I changed the film cards in all three trail cams, giving #1 and #2 new batteries in the process.

At 5:30 or so I noticed the same ratty-looking coon, with all the same distress marks as last time. Raccoons that appear in daylight are usually in some kind of trouble. The young chipmunk was out again at the BM feeder. Newport Forest is turning into Grosbeak Central, with no less than three breeding pairs (or the equivalent) showing up at the feeders, In retrieving some water from the creek, I noticed a troop of over 30 Wood Mushrooms (*Agaricus silvatica*) spanning the FC trail. 2 ticks today.

birds: (19) American Crow (TR); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (HBF); Blue Jay (LM); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Flicker (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Field Sparrow (HBF); Great Blue Heron (HBF); Great Crested Flycatcher (GF); Northern Cardinal GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (Rd); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Thrush (BCF)

new species:

Aphrodite Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aphrodite</i>	RL nz/KD Sp05/05
Sharp-lined Yellow	<i>Sicya macularia</i>	RL nz/KD Sp05/05
Black Mound Ant	<i>Formica subsericea</i>	LM KD My30/06

phenology: Ninebark flowers now entering their red phase.