

Newport Forest

Saturday September 10 2005

2:00 - 8:10 pm

Weather: Prec 0 mm; RH 52%; sn/cld; S \leq 10 kmh, LM 32° C; FCF 26° C

Purpose: to water trees

Participants: Kee

Coming in, I stopped to pick up a nondescript Noctuid moth from Nina, whom I have encouraged to collect these critters. I watered the gate trees very heavily, as with the last time, watered the TS trees heavily, as well, and turned another 4 Sq Ft of bed 2, mixing in topsoil and sand. Bed 2 should be ready for transplanting in a few weeks. I then went down to the trailer with my first load of water, filled the hickory tray feeder and spent several minutes searching for GS pupae near the hop tree. According to Ian Carmichael's book, the pupae overwinter, but Caveney has wondered whether they might emerge before winter to fly south.

The watering proceeded exactly as on the previous visit. I noticed that not just some, but ALL the KCs have simultaneously decided to enter dormancy, their leaves all yellowing and now in the process of dropping off. I also noticed a HL along the edge of the field near the end of the track that I had forgotten all about (presumed dead and, I think, not there at all last year) has grown incredibly well, handily outperforming the other HLs by a wide margin. It made me wonder what the point of watering was!

During a break I amused myself by watching large numbers of ants foraging among my fruit and coke-cans on the top of the little table in the nook. By following their comings and goings, I noticed that their main route was up one leg of the table, though a crack in the top and out onto the surface, the return route being the same. Their nest was marked by an unadorned 3-mm hole in the ground about 10" from the leg. They clustered along the opened edge of the fruit, like pigs at a trough.

My final trip of the day was a burdensome walk to the SB with two full jugs. The PP is doing quite well and the AHs are extraordinarily healthy. They seem to like it in that spot. The WH is marginal, but might succeed.

Birds: (8)

Black-capped Chickadee (Tr.); Blue Jay (BCF); Canada Goose (FC/TR); Common Grackle (GF); Northern Cardinal (Tr.); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr.); Turkey Vulture (HBF); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF)