

Newport Forest

November 18 2000

1:45 - 5:3pm

Weather: cold 4C, breeze from W, heavy overcast

Purpose: to finish the bridge

Participants: Kee, Nic, Glen Jacobs

We parked the car by the old log at the corner of Harvey's bean field and the creek bluffs. Darren, who had mentioned that he might come down to help out, wasn't there. We carried 5 more barn boards and three more 2x3s to carry down to the bridge, as well as our tools.

We worked without stopping, Nic sawing and placing decking boards, me in my rubber boots, nailing in stringers and shaving them with the chisel. The creek was only down marginally since my last visit and again I flooded my rubber boots, my feet gradually becoming more painful until they were numb. I switched to my shoes and began to work, straddling the log. I was now immediately adjacent to the far bank and I could see the end of labours ahead of us. Amazingly, through all the hammering and sawing, a White-breasted Nuthatch continued to call from downstream.

Suddenly, I turned around and saw a figure standing on the bluff side of the creek. It was not Darren, but his Uncle Glen, a figure all the more welcome because I hadn't seen him in a long time. We took a break for drinks and smokes and then Glen joined in, sawing planks with the swede saw and painting preservative on the decking. Toward the narrow end of the log, there were many branch stubs. The work slowed down because each of these had to be chiselled away to make room for the planking. By about 4:30 we had the bridge decked all the way to the creek flats and a fine job it was!

We carried all our tools and spare lumber back up to the van, then stood around to chat. Just then, I though I heard a Great Horned Owl. "Shhh!" We listened. Yup. then another, then a third! For a while it seemed like Eva's woods were full of owls, but we can only say 3 for sure, judging from the different directions. There was a lull, so I gave my own GHO call. They all immediately answered.

Species:

New:	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	EW
Old:	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	FCF