

Newport Forest

December 27 2000

2:00 - 4:20 pm

**Weather:** cloudy, cold -4C, no breeze

**Purpose:** to conduct the Christmas bird count and measure the creek

**Participants:** Pat, Kee, Nic

We parked the van at the crest of the hill above the trailer and carried everything we would need down to the trailer. Pat set up a suet feeder beneath a walnut tree near the "old log" and I carried the ladder and a bag of bird feed to the Blind Creek feeder, astonished to find that not only was the bird food all gone, but there wasn't a particle of snow on the platform. Nic filled the other feeder near the trailer. We went inside to make some tea from snow, while Pat went down Edgar's Road to look for birds.

By the time the tea was ready, the feeder by the trailer had attracted several Juncos, then a male Cardinal, then a Blue Jay. Later, when Pat returned exhausted (this was her first real outing since recovering from pneumonia) from her walk, we put our lists together over tea. Being careful to avoid overlaps, we came up with the following conservative figures:

Cardinals:	6 (4 males, 2 females)
Starlings:	5
Juncos:	4
Bluejays	4
Crows:	1
Red-bellied Woodpeckers:	1
White-breasted Nuthatches:	1
Eastern Tree Sparrows:	1

Nic and I went down to Fleming's Creek. Water levels have dropped about two feet, leaving shelving ice that sloped down to a new 1.5" thick layer. We found the ice supported us easily, so we ran the tape measure between the two upper banks at three spots:

ford:	48'
"bush narrows:"	35'
old bridge site:	37'

We will need a mid-stream pier, I believe!