

Newport Forest

December 24 2001

2:45 - 5:00 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm, LM -3C, FCF -4C, overcast, calm

Purpose: to start winter feeding program

Participants: Kee, Nic

We set up five food drops on the bare ground (snow had recently melted). Each drop consisted of a few handful of DBs and shelled corn. Locations: Creek bluffs at end of Gallery Forest, E of the trailer, the RL, occasional drops in the RSF) the HB, and by the bench in the BCF. As we worked, it began to snow by fits and starts. We saw one WBNH and one RBWP at the trailer and 4 crows over the HB.

Newport Forest

December 27 2001

2:15 - 4:30 pm

Weather: snow 4 cm., LM -3C, FCF -4C, overcast w. lt snow, var. light wnd.

Purpose: to contribute to West Elgin Nature Club's Xmas bird count

Participants: Pat, Kee

Coming in we spied a Rough-legged Hawk making for the woods. We filled the two bird feeders. Agina, I had to repair the feeder at the Walnut tree because something had knocked it off its nails again. This time I drove new nails and now it should last the rest of the winter. Pat saw a Junco at the trailer (her bird list not included here).

No one had visited the food drop at the trailer, which was something of a mystery. We went onto the RL to inspect the drop there. This one had also not been touched. Pat returned to the trailer, while I continued along the RST over the bluffs and into the RSF. Here, at various locations, I encountered large, round tracks about 2" across and rather like those of a cat. I looked in vain for pointed (canid) toes. I would encounter the tracks at several places through the RSF.

Up on the HB, Lotor was not home, but the food drop had definitely been disturbed. In the BCF, I found the tracks of a rather small dog, more likely a fox, which followed the trail for some distance, heading for Edgar's Trail. At all food drops, I replenished only the DBs, using cat chow on this particular occasion.