

Newport Forest

January 27 2002

2:10 - 5:00 pm

Weather: LM 15 C; FCF 9 C; sunny/hazy; winds var./med; SW

Purpose: property cleanup

Participants: Pat and Kee

The corn, we found, had been entirely cleaned out of both feeders, the one on the creek bluffs, the other in the BCF. We replenished both. The snow is now pretty well gone from Newport Forest with perhaps 1% remaining in forested areas. Fleming Creek is up about a foot from its normal (summer) levels and running a brownish/green colour. The ice has disappeared. We refilled both bird feeders, the suet feeder, then added another suet feeder about 30 m SW of the trailer. We stayed to watch a while:

Birds:

4 Black-capped Chickadees; 2 Red-bellied woodpeckers; 4 White-breasted Nuthatches; 2 Slate-colored Juncos; 3 American Crows; 3 Downy Woodpeckers (mostly at the suet feeders); 1 Brown Creeper.*

We walked down to the river landing, looking for garbage along Edgar's Trail and throwing whatever we found in the woods out on the trail for later pick up. At the RL we found a few more birds:

2 Canada Geese; 1 Northern Cardinal; 2 Black-capped Chickadees; 1 White-breasted Nuthatch.

In the blind Creek Forest we foraged for garbage off-trail, finding an assortment of bottles and cans, which we put out on the trail for return pickup. While foraging, I found a very large patch of young White Ashes and (Black?) Maples (but mostly ashes) ranging in height from 5' to 10' or more. It made me think there had been more cutting in there than I realized. Pat stopped to rest on the bench near some old willows, while I went on up to the hogsback, where I found Lotor fast asleep in the old Black Maple. I left him some cat chow and returned after admiring the view of the river far below through the trees. Returning, I noted that the blind Creek sloughs still had ice on them, albeit well-rotted and ready to melt.

*Down to inspect the creek, Pat saw this bird walking upside-down around on the trunk of an Elm tree.