

Newport Forest

March 7 2002

4:00 - 5:45 pm

Weather: overcast, still, LM +1° C, FCF 0° C.

Purpose: to walk the hogsback and adjacent forests

Participants: Kee

Because there was a meeting this evening of the Skunk's Misery Advisory Committee, I decided to come down early to enjoy a stroll on the property. The drive in was very greasy and I almost did not make it out again.

I filled one bird feeder, watching as literally dozens of birds flew to adjacent bushes to watch. Fleming Creek is now about 3.5' below the bridge pipes and looking distinctly tamer. I found Raccoon tracks, leading from the ends of the pipes to the trail up the bluffs. A missing bridge is not going to stop Raccoons!

I walked Edgar's Trail to the BCF trail and then on to the Hogsback. I found some very dark scat about the size that would be produced by a domestic dog or coyote. It was filled with grey (self-licked?) hair. Lotor was not in his Black Maple, but I left some DBs anyway.

I spent most of my time to-day in the RSF, walking about 5-10 m from the river shore and noting some of the larger trees. I am thinking about establishing a monitoring transect that runs from the point bar right into the deep forest adjacent to the HB. I noted that close to the river, Box Elder is almost certainly the dominant species. The larger trees, however, were quite various. I found a Hackberry, a Silver Maple, and an Eastern Cottonwood that all qualified for the one-metre club.

I also saw a lot of overwintering fungi, including a Thin-maze Flat Polypore (S) and several others. Much struck by the soft but lively decay of some recumbent Box Elders, I took a few photographs. (P)

Birds: 3 White-breasted Nuthatches, 5 Chickadees, 4 Slate-coloured Juncos, 1 Red-bellied woodpecker, (all at trailer feeder) Red-tailed Hawk (BCF)