

Newport Forest

March 17 2002

2:15 - 5:10 pm

Weather: strong NW wind, changing to SW; ovcst; LM 12° C; FCF 11° C

Purpose: to birdwatch, line trail and work on RSF plot

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic

As a reward for finding the lost shovel, we gave Nic his own field-pack today, which he seemed glad to have. We filled the bird feeders and I went down to inspect the creek. It has gone down considerably, now being about 5' below the bridge pipes/ Again, I found fresh prints of a raccoon or raccoons that crossed the creek on the pipes. There were also several fainter tracks made by wild turkeys.

while Nic and I went into the BCF, Pat took a bucket of cracked corn up to the deer feeder on the creek bluffs. Nic and I filled the feeder in the BCF.

As we left on the last visit, Nic and I heard one or more sharp “cracks” coming from the BCF in the midst of a strong wind that came up with a sudden rain. Now we could see what made the noises; three elms were down, although we couldn't say that all three went down on that particular occasion. They were dead, anyway.

We lined another 100 m of the BCF trail (BCT) along a stretch that had barely been lined at all. Then we paused by the bench so that Nic could sketch the bark of an elm tree. He will be learning his trees this year. Blind Creek is now in the process of drying up once again, the chain of vernal ponds has been replaced by a few isolated stretches of standing water and otherwise “squidgy” soil.

On the HB, we found two raccoons in the old maple. Does Lotor have a new roommate? While we descended into the RSF to drop a load of plot-stakes, Pat returned from the creek bluffs and was now bird-watching at the RL. We did not have time to record on the plot.

Birds: (9)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (ET); Black-capped Chickadee (ET); Blue Jay (ET); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Tree Sparrow (ET); Northern Cardinal (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch GF)