

**Newport Forest**

March 29 2002

2:10 - 5:00 pm

**Weather:** overcast; calm; LM 16 C; FCF 12 C

**Purpose:** to watch birds and dig holes

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

As we came into a rather wet property, we could hear the chorus frogs calling down in the Blind Creek Forest sloughs. We filled the bird and suet feeders and put out raisins for the robins. While Pat kept an eye on feathered visitors, I dug another ten holes for the spring tree-planting. We have decided that all plantings from now on should be less ambitious than last year's scheme and should take place in more concentrated areas. Thus we are planting, more or less exclusively, in the Lower Meadow this year.

We made an excursion into the BCF, filled the forest deer feeder, and wandered the interior for a while to see if we could spot any chorus frogs and to investigate some duck-like noises coming from the meadow side of the forest. Instead, we found a nice growth of parchment fungus (P) and two more automobile tires, which we wheeled out the the bench for Nic and me to pick up on our next maintenance visit. We then went up to the Hogsback, but Lotor wasn't home.

We nearly didn't make it off the property, the hard clay track being too slippery to get a good run at the road. So we came out across the meadow (something I don't like to do because it tears up the ground somewhat) where the traction is much better.

## **Birds**

Trailer: 4 White-breasted Nuthatches, 8 Black-capped Chickadees, 1 American Robin, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Eastern Junco

BCF: 1 Blue Jay (heard)

River Landing: 1 Mourning Dove, 2-3 Canada Geese

Walnut Feeder: 1 Northern Cardinal, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chickadees