

Newport Forest

January 1 2003

2:35 - 5:05 pm

**Weather:** overcast; no snow; N < 10 kmh; LM -1C; FCF 0 C

**Purpose:** to check birds, inspect new trail

**Participants:** Pat. Kee

We were late getting to the site today because we had stopped off to visit Eva Newport and her great-grandchildren, Jordan and Karissa. When we arrived, I filled the feeders and checked the creek level - up about 10 cm since the recent rains (no guage). Both deer feeders were empty, but we had picked up no grain.

We walked to the newly roughed-out trail along the upper river bluffs. As Pat thought it would be, the trail is much better in this position, not as exposed to the river and passers-by and safer. The river, which had a large ice-bar at the upstream point just two days ago, is now ice-free, which occasional thin rafts floated slowly downstream. We noted two conifers that had seeded in sometime in the last few years, a red pine below the trail and a Spruce (Norway, Red?) just beside the trail.

We walked to where the new trail joins the old just inside the RSF, then retraced our steps, noting a lone Black-capped Chickadee in the old White Oak that leans over the new trail about half way along. Here, according to Pat, is where she spotted the young Sassafras last summer. Further along, we were reminded of the colony of Chinkapin Oaks, some rather young, some more mature, that has established itself along the upper bluffs above the trail - just below the top of the Hogsback. Pat collected an old hornet's nest on Edgar's Trail. She has become very interested in wasps and hornets and wanted to study the nest more closely.

No Junior.

**Birds:** Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 - tr); Slated-coloured Junco (15 - tr); Downy Woodpecker (3 - tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (2 - tr); Black-capped Chickadee (1 bluff trail)