

Newport Forest

February 1 2003

2:20 - 5:00 pm

Weather: overcast; calm, LM 3 C; FCF 2 C (end of 3-week cold period)

Purpose: to put out food

Participants: Kee

Opening the main gate, I heard what sounded like two shotgun blasts from the general direction of the Sittler property across the river. This was followed, about a minute later, by a rumbling crash, as if a metal building had just collapsed. (no idea what it was)

I stopped to inspect the buds on Lorne's tree (small buds but they're there). Then I stopped at the tree station to inspect the stock. More of the young trees have been nipped, either by rabbits or deer. We'll install an arresting wire above the fence that surrounds the station and see if the damage stops.

At the trailer I filled both bird feeders with black oil seed, filled the suet feeder, then both deer feeders (which never seem to be used by deer but which are popular with birds and small mammals). I then set out to walk the Hogsback Trail, taking with me a bag of cougar urine (wood shavings), a bag of small mammal food and a bag of puppy chow. I went by the river, noting the tracks of a White-tailed Deer, a Red Fox, and numerous Grey Squirrels on Edgar's Trail. The river has opened a new reach about 100 m long just upstream from the point bar. On the River Bluff Trail I found Raccoon tracks from last night. They led to the old white Oak beside the trail so, at the base of the oak, I placed a good quantity of puppy chow, then moved on.

Along the RST placed deposits of small mammal food whenever I found a brush pile. There were numerous squirrel tracks and those of a large buck. I put more puppy chow on the RSF bench and went over to check the Gauthier post. Nothing. I refreshed the urine on it. Up on the HB, I found numerous tracks of wild Turkey, including what appear to be a lot of young birds. I refreshed the Gauthier post there (P), noted tracks of a buck White-tailed Deer, then descended into the BCF where I did the last Gauthier post, left puppy chow by the bench, and distributed the last of the small mammal food among a few brush piles.

Birds: (6)

White-breasted Nuthatch (3 trailer); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1F trailer); Downy woodpecker (1 F suet); Black-capped Chickadee (3 walnut feeder); White-breasted Nuthatch (2 walnut); Red-breasted Nuthatch (? walnut feeder)