

Newport forest

February 19 2003

1:45 - 4:30 pm

Weather: sunny/clear; SW < 20 kmh; LM 7 C; FCF 5 C

Purpose: to practice tracking

Participants: Kee

I stopped at the Tree Station to check the buds on the young trees. Either deer or rabbits have nipped off about a dozen buds. Sigh! Don't expect nature to help you when you're trying to help nature. . .

After filling all the feeders, I checked the snow pack. There is still not much snow on the ground. Measurements across ET by the trailer were 6, 10, then 9 cm. There were lots of older tracks around the trailer and beyond, but most of them were almost unreadable.

I walked down to the river to check ice conditions. An open stretch of about 80 m in length persists just upstream of the point bar. I found tracks of a young deer (about 2 days previous) following Edgar's Trail and then those of a Coyote (1-2 days old) along the BCT. By the RL there were a great many squirrel tracks less than a day old. I elected not to walk the whole trail over the HB but merely walked into the BCF for about 100 m, then returned.

I found some Raccoon tracks that followed ET where the old Willow fell over. I followed the tracks into the BCF forest strip between ET and the LM, losing the trail several times where the Raccoon made sudden lateral moves. I also followed several sets of squirrel tracks but learned very little from the exercise.

I then checked the buds on the planted trees in both nuclei. About half the buds are absent and the other half are distinctly undersized. No more drought, please!

Birds: (no counts)

Black-capped Chickadee (TF); White-breasted Nuthatch (TF)