

Newport Forest

March 2 2003

2:15 - 4:10 pm

**Weather:** sunny/hazy then ovcast; calm; LM 3 C; FCf 2 C

**Purpose:** putting out food for the animals

**Participants:** Pat, Kee, Nic

We filled the bird feeders, the suet cages and the deer feeders. There were a great many tracks milling around both feeders, the first time we've seen such evidence of heavy use since we started the program. There are still no deer tracks at the feeders but a lot of rabbit, squirrel and other small mammals, as well as one set of Raccoon tracks that led from the old black Maple along Et to the deer feeder. Junior? We looked in his box. No one home. But some raccoon had evidently been busy about the box, scattering many fragments of insulation onto the ground.

It was nice to find rabbit tracks in the LM again. One set of tracks looked rabbit-like, but the paw-prints were larger and the characteristic

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Nic and I walked the Hb trail from the river back out through the BCF. There were no particularly interesting observations except that deer tracks continue to be plentiful including the tracks of a very large buck who followed a 50-m stretch of the RSf trail. The snow is now a good 10-15 cm thick with a distinct crust just centimetres below the surface, making walking somewhat tiring for me.

When we got back, I put out three heaps of DBs near the trailer.

**Birds: (8)**

3 American Crow (FCF); 10 Black-capped chickadees (WF); 1 Blue Jay (heard) (FCF); 8 Downy Woodpecker (TF); 2 Northern Cardinal (ER & TF); 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker (TF); 1 slate-coloured Junco (WF); 6 White-breasted Nuthatch (TF)