

Newport Forest

March 17/03

2:15 - 5:00 pm

Weather: sunny/hazy; calm; LM 21 C; FCF 21 C

Purpose: site survey

Participants: Pat, Kee

Coming in, we were greeted by a Red-tailed Hawk in the pear tree near the homestead site. We filled the deer feeders, bird feeders, and suet feeders. Owing to the recent thaw with its abrupt onset, Fleming Creek is up 2 m or more, with flood levels halfway up the legs of the stake-bench beside the bridge. Some ice sheets have piled up against the pipes, but the latter appear to be holding. The far ramp brackets have been damaged by ice. (3P)

We watched birds at the feeders for a while, also watched a chipmunk make several trips between the Hickory feeder and its nest under the trailer. Pat found several stoneflies walking or flying about.

We took a short walk down to the river, noting some possum tracks on ET. Several ice sheets or flows had become arrested on the rapids visible from the landing. Leaves and muddy debris coated the surface of these floes. The river is also up about 2 m. (P) Pat caught a Honeybee in a bag while sitting at the RL bench. She examined it, then let it go.

Returning to the trailer I decided to inspect the forest nuclei planted last year. I was dismayed to find nearly half the tree in the island nucleus had been girdled either by mice or rabbits - sign of a hard winter. About a quarter of the trees in the triangle nucleus were also girdled.

Near the end of our stay we were thrilled to see two Great blues flying over the BCF toward the UM.

Birds: (15)

American Robin (1 - BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (2 - Tr); Blue Jay (1 - Tr); Canada Goose (2 - RL); Chipping Sparrow (1 - Tr); Downy Woodpecker (3* - Tr); Great Blue Heron (2 - BCF); Northern Cardinal (1 - BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1m/1F - Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (1 - UM); Red-winged Blackbird (1 - BCF/LM); Slate-coloured Junco (1 - Tr); White-breasted nuthatch (3 - Tr); Wild Turkey (3 (tracks) - ET);

*Including what appears to be a mating pair.