Newport Forest  March 7  2004  2:15 - 5:05 pm

Weather: prec. 17 mm; mixed sun/cloud; W < 75 kmh; LM 8º C; FCF 7º C
Purpose: birdwatching, enviro-scan, assorted maintenance
Participants: Pat, Kee

The Thames is well over its banks, coming up to the very foot of the RL sward.
(2P) FCF is approx. 50 % flooded, as well. The bridge is wholly under water and
the midstream trestle cab be seen lodged against a forest tree about 70 m from
bridge.

We parked the van at the TS and looked down at FC from the top of the bluff.
Pat took some pictures of the scene while I scrambled down a few metres to take a
picture of what I had just then realized was probably the largest Eastern Red
Cedar on the property (2P). We walked down to the trailer and put out bird food,
deer food and raccoon food.

While Pat went for a walk to the river, I cut 100 woody plants: about 75 HT and
25 MFR. (multiple stems counted as one) I then joined Pat on ET and, while she
cleaned out a small bird box (finding what looked like house finch breast feathers
inside), I checked the interior planting area in the BCF, finding that over half the
trees had been nipped severely, protectors or no protectors.

We returned to the trailer for a break. Pat was sitting facing the LM, when her
eyes suddenly went wide: Three large toms strolled unconcernedly by, headed for
the BCF! (P) As we cleaned up to leave, we saw a Chipmunk, our first of the
year. At the TS, we became stuck on the extremely slippery ground and Edgar
had to come and tow us out with the tractor.

Birds: (14) American Crow (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay
(BCF); Canada Goose (FC); Common Grackle (UM); Downy woodpecker (Tr):
Herring Gull (UM); Mallard (FC); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed
Hawk (LM); Slate-coloured Junco (BCF/ET); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild
Turkey (Tr); Yellow Warbler (?GF);

Phenology:
1. snow gone from property
2. first sighting of Chipmunk in ‘04
3. Thames flood