

Newport Forest

March 7 2004

2:15 - 5:05 pm

Weather: prec. 17 mm; mixed sun/cloud; W < 75 kmh; LM 8° C; FCF 7° 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 can 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