

Newport Forest

February 6 2005

1:30 - 4:15 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; calm; sun/haze; LM 9 C; FCF 7 C

Purpose: to open property

Participants: Kee

At the gate, I began shoveling it out so I could open it and drive into the site. But Edgar came along and suggested blading the whole road down to the trailer with his tractor, so I agreed. The subsequent drive in was easy.

At the trailer I filled the two tray feeders, two suet feeders and one of the peanut feeders. As I filled the second suet feeder, a male Downy came to watch, occasionally clucking, and perched on a nearby branch *no more than two feet from my head* ! When I looked out at the feeding areas from the trailer a little later, there must have been a combined total of about 100 birds feeding or fluttering around. (See list below.)

I ate half a sandwich in the trailer and out the rest out on the nook table, along with some kibble for the coons. As I was praying a little later, a White-footed mouse scampered right past me. Before departing for the river, I noted that Fleming Creek is covered by fairly thick, but “rotten” ice.

I walked down to the river and sat on the bluffs bench, noting that a lead had opened near the landing, then gradually widened downstream until the whole river was open (3P - panorama). Flow is rather slow.

Birds: (approx. numbers also given for one of the feeders over 5 min.)

American Goldfinch (2); Black-capped Chickadee (4 Tr); Blue Jay (3 HP); Downy Woodpecker (3 Tr); Mourning Dove (12 HP); Northern Cardinal (4m Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2 Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (1 UM); Dark-eyed Junco (8 Tr); tree Sparrow (3 Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (2 Tr); Wild Turkey (6 BCF - tracks only);

Tracks in snow:

Coyote (ET); Eastern Grey Squirrel (ET); Virginia Deer (ET - buck, several does, one yearling); Wild Turkey (ET)