

Newport Forest

February 13 2005

2:00 - 4:40 pm

Weather: prec. 13 mm; ovcast; calm; LM -2 C; FCF -2 C

Purpose: putting out winter food & birdwatching

Participants: Pat & Kee

The van made it all the way down to the trailer without difficulty, greeted by a Red-tailed Hawk that soared majestically away over the Upper Meadow.

I checked the creek, noting that it had opened at the upper rapids and also on the pool below the lower rapids. We put bird seed in the two tray feeders, as well as the hanging feeder inside the entrance to the BCF. Pat also filled the suet bag/cage feeders. At first there were few birds but, as we watched from the trailer, more and more found their way to the food.

I took a walk around the TRT, noting the most plentiful count of animal tracks I have ever seen on the property. (see below) Coyotes, in particular, are becoming increasingly plentiful and this may explain why we're seeing fewer rabbit tracks than ever. Along the TRT in the BCF deer tracks were particularly common. On several occasions I found a doe/yearling combination, probably not all the same pair. Throughout the walk I encountered wild turkey tracks with up to a dozen individuals per flock. On the HB, I crossed two sets of raccoon tracks, traveling together, that went from the RSF right across the HB toward the BCF. The open lead in the TR looks pretty much as it did on the last visit.

Birds: (12)

American Crow (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Canada Goose (BCF); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Tree Sparrow (Tr); House Sparrow (Tr); Northern Cardinal* (Tr); Red-bellied Wood-pecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (ET)

* 5 m, 2 f

Tracks & signs:

Coyote (FCT); Eastern Cottontail (RL); Eastern Grey Squirrel (FCT); Raccoon (FCT); Red Fox (ET); Virginia Deer (LM); Wild Turkey (ET)

Phenology: Winter Stonefly in suet