

Newport Forest

Sunday March 13

2:45 - 5:10 pm

Weather: prec. 3 mm; calm; clear; LM 1C; FCF 2C

Purpose: to check mammals & birds

Participants: Pat, Kee

SAD ANNOUNCEMENT: Last night around 11:30 Harvey Newport passed away during the terminal phase of his fight with cancer.

While Pat visited Nina and Edgar, I cleared snow from behind the gate (on the field side) so that I could swing it open. The snow was very crusty and deeply so. A struggle that broke the shovel. Even in the midst of this more intense physical activity, I always watch my breathing rate and slow down or change hands when I need to.

At the trailer I filled the two tray feeders, while Pat did the peanut feeders and suet bags. While she began her birdwatching, I set out for the river, sitting in the cold on the bench high up on the bluffs. The river is down about two feet from last week and is entirely clear of ice, the banks are again earthen. The water, however, seemed excessively muddy-looking. Where is the sediment coming from?

I made a list of tracks coming out:

Animal tracks:

Coyote (ET); Domestic Cat (FCT); Eastern Cottontail (ET); Eastern Gray Squirrel (FCF); Raccoon (ET); White-footed Mouse (Tr); Virginia Deer (BCF); Wild Turkey (ET)

Birds:

American Crow (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology:

Thames entirely ice-free