

Newport Forest

Wednesday March 16 2003

2:45 - 5:35 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; calm; clear; LM 5 C; FCF 2 C

Purpose: to check animals and birds

Participants: Pat, Kee

We filled the feeders and were delighted to spot a Brown Creeper on the old Black Maple by the Nook. As Pat bird-watched, I walked the TRT. Earlier I had mentioned that one of the big willows had fallen in the BCF. To be more precise, the willow has lost one of its two major stems and is located at m 370. By coincidence, I found the first vernal ponds forming just past this willow, from m 370 to about m 400. More to the west are on the way. It seems that we should have some kind of reference system for these pools, one that takes into account the fact that they tend to link up after plentiful rain.

On the HB I startled some eight Wild Turkeys, which took wing from the thorn scrub under the hydro lines. In the RSF I cam across the tracks of a rather large Eastern Cottontail. (The hind foot of an European Hare prints twice as large as the fore foot.) When I got back to the trailer, I found that Pat had identified a new species of bird that showed up at the feeder.

Animal tracks:

Eastern Cottontail (RSF); Eastern Gray Squirrel ((ET); Raccoon (Tr); Virginia Deer* (ET); Wild Turkey (RL)

Birds:

American Crow (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Brown Creeper (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Purple Finch (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (HB)

New species:

Purple Finch

Carpodacus purpureus

PD Tr

Phenology: first vernal ponds

* the “fawn” tracks showed up again today