

Newport Forest

Wednesday March 30 2005

2:15 - 7:25 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; ENE < 30 kmh; clear; LM 17 C; FCF 17 C

**Purpose:** to plant trees

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

Before going in, we parked on the roadside by the slip gate, where I entered the WM and made my way to the back with a bag full of RB seeds. I found the marker where I had run out of seed last week, then continued from there, broadcasting along the ER almost to the road. Inside the main gate, I stopped to go down the creek bluffs to inspect two Crab Apples I had planted last year. Both are healthy, but one is on a piece of land that appears to be sliding slowly downslope.

We took the van down to the small hill above the trailer and carried everything in. We could hear one or two Western Chorus Frogs calling, as well as an occasional Spring Peeper. At the trailer we filled the feeders and Pat began her bird census. We had brought in eight trees with us from the bed at home and I proceeded to plant them between the two cores: 4KC; 2BE; 1RB; 1CW (I don't expect this last to survive, as it had heavy root damage coming out.

While Pat explored along the edge of HBF, I took the TRT, noting along ET that VPA-C where still 60% ice-covered. At the RL, I went to search for the cedars again, finally finding one that had been broken by debris from the December flood. I staked it up with a twig. The river is now in flood, being up about two metres, with a fast, roiling, muddy current. The entire TRT is now due for some clearing, as there are about a dozen obstacles over the trail. In the RSF I rolled the old oil drum that has been sitting by the trail for a couple of years back into the river it originally came from.

On the BCF side of the HB, I found ash seeds scattered liberally along and beside the path. In the BCF I noted that VPH & I were ice free. Further on, I found a spot under a tree with about a dozen old corn cobs strewn about - a probable dining spot for a raccoon that had brought them there to munch on over the fall and winter. Many other cobs were strewn here and there by the bandits, all the way out to the meadow.

We had supper in the trailer and stayed as long as we could to enjoy the fine weather. Finally, it got too chilly and, as no owls were calling, we left.

**Birds: (20)**

American Crow (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (ET); Blue Jay (ET); Canada Goose (FC); Common Grackle (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); European Starling (EW); Great Blue Heron (LM); Kildeer (UM); Mourning Dove (WR); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (WM); Ring-beaked Gull (LM); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (HB)

**Phenology:**

Frog chorus beginning; Turkey Vultures back; Nina saw Tundra Swans flying over two days ago; first Great Blue Heron; first Song Sparrow