

Newport Forest

Sunday November 13 2005

2:40 - 6:05 pm

Weather: prec. 23 mm; RH 71%; ovcast; SSW \leq 50 kmh; LM 16 C; FCF 16 C

Purpose: tree-planting

Participants: Kee

At the TS I picked up 2EB, 1RLD, and 1WH, bring the four stems down to the trailer. I put out corn and salt at the corner deer feeder and salt for the "wallow" at FC. Also birdseed at the hickory tray feeder.

While passing through the Nook I saw a young chipmunk scurry behind the old log. I had some salsa and corn chips in the trailer by way of a light lunch. Being unenthusiastic about the rigors of planting, I decided to walk the TRT, instead, spotting an eastern Cottontail on ER near the river. Coming to the beach I startled a flock of about 60 Canada Geese, creating a thunder of wings and a chorus of honks as the entire flock took off as one, half flying upriver, the other half down. On the beach I found tracks of the geese, as well as those of several deer and a GBH.

In the RST I was somewhat dismayed (but not surprised) to see a very large (24" dbh) Bitternut Hickory had gone over in the high winds of the last 24 hours. On the HB I received a genuine surprise. Up in the cockpit of the old Black Maple was a mother raccoon and at least two kits! Holy cow! What are those (VERY late) kits going to do in the coming winter? Would they have enough food? I decided to return with water and dog chow. In the BCF I found another Bitternut down, this one about 20 " dbh.

I was tired when I returned to the trailer, but determined to do something for the kits. I went back to the HB via BCF and dutifully put out the water and chow, deciding to return through the gathering darkness via the RSF. On the river bluffs I startled a Ruffed Grouse, whup-whup-whup-whup splitting the stillness.

When I got back to the trailer I discovered that I had left the door open. Inside I found a royal mess, with corn chips and salsa all over the floor. This was the reward for my mission of mercy!

Phenology: Great Blue Herons still around.