

Newport Forest

Monday December 21 2005

2:15 - 4:30 pm

**Weather:** prec. 12 mm; clear; NW  $\leq$  10 kmh; Lm - 7 C; FCF -7 C

**Purpose:** to check property

**Participants:** Pat, Kee [snow depth approx 30 cm]

We had to walk to the trailer from the road because the snow plough had blocked the gate. Because we are now on site less frequently, we put out extra bird seed on the Nook table, as well as both tray feeders. I filled the deer feeder in the LM, then took the long way around to the feeder on the far bank of FC via the log bridge, as Steve & I had stripped the Pipe Bridge last week. I found deer tracks along virtually the whole length of the Two-bridge Trail. A well-made trail can actually save deer energy and thereby cut their food requirement - however slightly.

Before clearing snow from the Log Bridge, I found just one animal had used the bridge since the snow fell - a coyote.

Before setting out for the Two-bridge Trail, I had been sitting with Pat in the trailer having some coffee. My feet not only felt cold, they were getting colder by the minute! I hesitated even to set out. However I discovered to my amazement that by the time I reached the Log Bridge, my feet had become as warm as toast - through sheer exercise.

**Birds:** American Crow (LM); Black-capped Chickadee (HP); Blue Jay (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (HP); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)