

Newport Forest Sunday January 1 2006

2:40 - 5:00 pm

weather: prec. 10 mm; RH 72%; ovcst; W \leq 10 kmh; LM 4C; FCF 4C

purpose: property check

participants: Kee

The ground was very wet in the upper meadow but the frozen subsoil gave lots of support to the tires and I made it down to the trailer without incident, unless you count the large hawk that swooped across the LM and then over the BCF as I approached the trailer. I didn't get to see the tail or the rump clearly, as I was still descending the upper slopes.

I filled one bird feeder, then went down to check the creek. FC is still up, about 1.2m below the pipes. The bridge itself is in good shape, except one of the ice cakes must have struck the midstream trestle - or nudged it - knocking the base about a foot downstream, giving the structure an upstream tilt. I timed the creek flow at about 0.5 m/sec, a fair clip.

A quick survey gave the following approximate percentages of snow cover for the property: open areas - 5%; wooded areas - 40%

I walked the TRT, noting that the river was still up at least half a metre. A pair of ducks took off from the mouth of FC as I watched the river. Later a Red-tailed Hawk flew upriver along the west side. Along ET I saw tracks of Eastern Cottontail and Eastern Grey Squirrel, in the RSF I found tracks of Coyote and a family of Virginia Deer (doe & two juveniles), on the side of the HB I found tracks of several raccoons.

Up on the HB, I found some more Hohenbuella (?) growing on a BH log and collected them for Greg thorn to examine. One was very "cute" - small black caps hugging the wood, lined with white gills beneath. (S) Two species pending Greg's report.

Birds:

Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);