

Newport Forest Thursday February 23 2006 2:15 - 5:10 pm

Weather*: prec. 24 mm; RH 62%; ovcst; SW \leq 30 kmh; LM 6 C; FCF 7 C

Purpose: winter maintenance

Participants: Pat & Kee

When we arrived today, the land was free of snow. When we left, it was covered again. So goes phenology. Just before we went through the gate, Pat was visiting Nina and I stood there talking to Edgar, when a red-tailed hawk came swooping across the UM toward the WR. Later, Pat saw it fly out of the ER and recross the UM going east.

There have been two floods since last wednesday, apparently. One reached 1.2 metres above the pipes and had a 3 cm sheet form on subsequent freezing. Before the water subsided at all, a second mini-thaw produced another flood, raising the level another 10 cm and forming a 1 cm sheet. Subsequently, the whole affairs gradually collapsed onto the banks, covering the ground like broken dishes. (interpreted from a few fragments of hanging ice).

Pat had not been down for a while and she wasted little time in heading for the river. I accompanied her. An Eastern Cottontail made off to the right as we rounded the sharp bend in ER. I continued on along the TRT, trying to shoot more video of the river from inside the RSF/E. But I found the ski-pole I had brought to steady the camera hardly improved the smoothness of my panning. Tripod is next.

I encountered no less than nine logs across the TRT, two in the RSF and the remaining seven in the BCF. I began some cuts with the bow saw that I can deepen with each passing. Incremental work does the rest.

Pat, meanwhile, brought the wheelbarrow half way back from the river and threw some more branches on our flood bridge at the sharp bend in ER.

Birds: American Crow (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Canada Goose (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr).

Phenology: Nina saw turkey toms displaying in the UM on Feb 15

***Note:** average winter temperatures cannot be determined from our weather data, since winter visits have a relative warmth bias.