

Newport Forest Saturday March 18 2006 2:33 - 6:15 pm

**weather:** prec. 21 mm; RH 42%; clear; NW  $\leq$  30 kmh; LM 2 C; FCF 2 C

**purpose:** birding and trail maintenance

**participants:** Pat & Kee

Driving down to the trailer, we saw six Wild Turkeys cross HBF and enter the BCF. Then Pat spotted a Red-tailed Hawk over EW, then, just after we had wondered out loud whether the TVs were back yet, three flew right overhead. Terry Keep arrived to complete the interview he had begun a couple of weeks ago. Pat told him that Randy Martin (Four Counties Real Estate) would make an exceptionally good contact to alert the TTLT to any natural farmlands coming up for sale in the local area.

After Terry left, Pat pointed out that "someone" had been tearing the insulation out of the raccoon box. Could there be a pregnant female up there? (We'll know if we hear whining in 2-3 weeks.)

We walked to the river, Pat cutting willow wands (for reforestation) along the way. I went on ahead, noting large pools in the BCF that could not be accounted for by the rather modest rainfall since our last visit. When I got into the RSF, I found large sections of trail missing, liner logs gone, piles of river drift piled against trees. That must have been some flood. There was a pattern of ice-crystals printed on clay deposited on the top of the RSF bench, so the water must have come at least that high! (This rivals or surpasses the flood of July 2001.)

We have a distinguished visitor due to visit Newport Forest a week from today. (I'll call up my crew tomorrow.) The BCF proved to be in pretty much the same state, with 80% of the trail needing attention. Coming off the HB, I saw the same six Wild Turkeys spread their enormous wings and fly off through the woods. When we got back to the trailer, Pat spotted the Pileated Woodpecker over EW. She thinks this one was a male, whereas the previous one was a female (breeding pair?) She had cut about 40 wands and I went out into the LM and cut about 200 HTs.

**birds:** (15) American Crow (HB/S); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (BCF); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Pileated Woodpecker (EW); Red-bellied Woodpecker (BCF); Red-tailed Hawk (EW); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (HBF)