Newport Forest   Friday March 9 2007   2:00 - 6:15 pm

weather: prec. 26mm; RH n/a; sn; calm; LM 6C; GF 4C
purpose: videography and food drop
participants: Kee

Steve Logan's truck was down at the trailer when I arrived on site.   He emerged
from the BCF a few minutes later. We went up to the West Meadow, opened the
slip gate and checked Steve's work of last Sunday. He'll be back Sunday
morning, the rest of us in the afternoon to finish cutting thorn trees. We did a
quick burn test. In spite of the puddles of water abbout, the flames spread rapidly
to three hummocks, threatening still others. Steve and I stampped the fires out.
"A good burn will do wonders for this meadow," said Steve.

I returned to the trailer alone, set up, and headed to the TRT for a video/food
drop walk. The full field pack, the walking staff and tripod amounted to one
more item than I liked to lug, so I hung the trpod off the field pack and this
worked welll enough. I took two pans of the Thames from the RL, two more
from the bluffs bench. Inside the RSF, I took a slow pan across sunlit snow
carpeting the woods. The drops were smaller stall than last time, as I taper this
operation off to zero.

On the way to the RSF, I noted many tracks, including what looked like those of a
weasel crossing the bluffs trail. After returning to the trailer, I decided to go back
to make some notes on the tracks. Later, at home, there could be little doubt: a
White-footed Mouse. It's interesting to compare the life-styles of a WFM living
in the trailer and one enduring the harder (?) regime of the river bluffs, a mad
dash from shrub to thicket then up the tree it calls home. Superb climbers !

mammals:
Eastern Gray Squirrel (BCF/ET; Virginia Deer (RSF); Eastern Cottontail (ET);
Raccoon (BCF); Striped Skunk (RSF); White-footed Mouse (BT)

birds:
American Crow (HB); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Canada Goose (TR); Dark-
eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Northern Cardinal (HB); Red-bellied
Woodpecker (Tr); Rough-legged Hawk (FL/NF); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF);
Wild Turkey (Tr)