

Newport Forest

Tuesday April 3 2007

2:30 - 6:55 pm

weather: prec. 2mm; RH 63%; cld/sn; E 0-10kmh; LM 17C; GF 15C

purpose: videography, birdwatching, etc.

participants: Pat, Kee

While Pat cleaned out the bird boxes along the road, I went over to the WM to check conditions for a possible burn. The standing water is all gone. The bird boxes had all been inhabited by birds, but some by mice, as well, with nesting material clogging the boxes. Pat planted some daffodils along the fence (Nina's request). In the middle of this activity, a new OPP patrol officer, Cnst Jeff Chandelier (!?) paid a visit to discuss local break-ins. I found my old hunting knife by one of the bird boxes. Pat thinks she heard a Grasshopper Sparrow in the UM.

a On the way in, we spotted two Spring Azures. The frog chorus was less pronounced than it was on the previous visit. Fleming Creek is almost back to normal, with the rapids once more exposed. We filled all the feeders to attract as many birds as possible, then went down to the river. On the way, we dropped an old skid into the puddle that blocks ET to the river and I drove a temporary stake to monitor levels in one of the vernal ponds. (VP2) Present reading (measuring down): 13cm -- baseline

While Pat watched the river, now once more below the lowest terrace, I walked the TRT while Pat watched for ducks. I noted the Virginia Bluebells were now up an inch or two and stopped on the HB to shoot a quick video of the Harbingers of Spring. We spent the rest of the afternoon resting in the Nook (we both have an intestinal bug), checking LM trees, and watching the Chipmunks play. Pat found a dead (black) squirrel while walking part of the FCT. (She found a tick on her when we got home.)

birds: (19) American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Merganser (TR); Dark-eyed Junco (GF); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Hairy Woodpecker (GF); Mourning Dove (GF); Northern Cardinal (EW); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Song Sparrow (HBF); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Wild Turkey (ERd); Wood Duck (TR)

phenology: Spring Beauties in bloom, Spring Azures flying, Wood Tick.