

**Newport Forest**

Sunday January 6 2008 2:40 - 5:15 pm

**weather:** prec. 34 mm\*; RH 88%; BP 98.7 kPa; ovcst; calm; LM 8 C

**purpose:** to feed birds, etc

**participants:** Pat & Kee

Coming in, we were surprised to see very little snow on the ground. Open areas had about 1% remaining cover, while wooded areas had about 60%, with an average depth of 4-5 cm. We filled the tray feeders, the meadow feeder, and put up three suet feeders and a peanut feeder. For thanks we got very few birds. (See list below.) In particular, no Juncos.

Looking down at the bridge to check its condition, I saw a large doe run from the bridge trail and up into the GF towards the UM. Beautiful sight. As for the bridge, the last flood took out the middle trestle (no longer in view) as well as two deck sections (lodged about 40 m downstream in the middle of the creek. Depth was about 0.5 m over normal.

On the way to the river, we filled the feeders at the Hole, Pat arriving in time to see a Cottontail, as well as a (black) EG Squirrel. I have never seen Edgar's Trail so crowded with deer tracks. It was too bad that the batteries in both cameras were dead. I replaced them, noting that Cam 1 would still not function because the batteries were too old and had died.

Pat spotted some small flies attracted to rotting corn in the deer feeder.

At the RL we startled the largest flock of Canada Geese we had ever seen at the river, somewhere between 100 and 150 birds. They made a tremendous honking and a rush of wings when they took off. To set them going, all I had to do was say "shh" (quietly) to Pat. We were a good 100 m from the flock (then swimming by the shore) at the time. Cake ice continues to flow down the river, several larger cakes hung on the bottom just past the mid stream mark. We hadn't realized how shallow the river is there.

**birds:** (9) American Crow (EW); Blue Jay (UM); Canada Geese (TR); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Mallard (TR); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Red-tailed Hawk (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr);

\*counted for Dec, since most of it fell then