

Newport Forest Tuesday January 29 2008

2:20 - 5:25 pm

weather: 21 mm; RH 93 %; BP 96.84 kPa; calm; ovcst; LM 4 C

purpose: feed birds etc

participants: Pat & Kee

Today was the lull before the storm. Calm, overcast weather with above-zero temperatures made our visit as pleasant as it gets this time of year. We walked in, leaving the van at the gate, owing to the property being very wet -- although the ground is evidently still frozen.

Pat put out ample supplies of bird seed and suet in three locations, with at 6 or 7 feeders being used. We only saw/heard five species of birds, all old standbys. While Pat put out the bird food, I spent nearly an hour adding more bud protectors to trees in the RZ. Several of these had already been nipped, a few severely. I am amazed at the size of the Yellow Birch. It seems to like the LM a lot. Perhaps we should plant more in the spring.

Pat walked to the river while I went deep into the BCF to lay a bag of DBs at the base of our last, still-standing Black Willow. I joined Pat at the river, where we saw a long stretch of open water before us; the cake-ice has all jammed at the bend upstream by the mouth of Fleming Creek. The water is no longer muddy, but now semi-clear with a faint green agal tinge.

After four pm the wind came up, prelude to the coming storm. We made haste to clean up, then loaded the wheel barrow for the return trip up to the gate.

birds: (5)

Black-capped Chickadee (LM); Blue Jay (UM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)