

Newport Forest Thursday March 6 2008 2:509 - 5:50 pm

weather: prec. 72 mm; RH 87 %; BP: 99.21 kPa; calm; ovcst; LM 5 C

purpose: maintenance and feeding animals

participants: Kee

Compared to recent days, the weather seemed positively balmy at Newport this afternoon. Although there were lots birds along the Beattie Line, there were few around the trailer, even after the birdseed went out.

I fixed the snow pail by mixing up some plaster of Paris and filling the concavity at the bottom of the pail so that future readings would be more accurate, I also took down the Hickory tree feeder, reassembled it much more securely, then refastened it to the tree. I put out one-quarter of a (giant) bag of corn in the deer-feeder by The Hole. I also set up about a dozen separate feeding areas in the LM by tramping down the snow and scattering rabbit food in each one. (Mice & Voles will also enjoy that, I'm sure.) I put out birdseed in both tray feeders, in the LM feeder and in the feeder by the hole. I set out suet here and there, wedging it into branches and forks of bushes for stability. (The suet feeders are all missing.)

I took a walk to the RSF via the TRT, stopping at Camera 1 to change the film and also at Camera 2 (for the same purpose) at the end of my walk. On the way, I set up some six feeding areas, filling each with cat kibble. This is to tide the animals over. (not that any of this is a good idea)

The creek is backed up and not moving, the water level being almost to the top of the primary terraces. The heavy shelf ice is rotting on the shore and the creek is ice-free. The river is also ice-free and moving along at a good clip, being just up to the bases of the Box Elders that line the shore. The ground continues to be firm and frozen everywhere, with 5-10 cm of snow pack in the meadow and woods, deepening to 15 cm in the hollows.

birds: American Crow (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle* (HP); Northern Cardinal (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird* (HP); White-breasted Nuthatch (TH); *seen by Nina Hurdle three days ago.

phenology: ground still frozen; snow depth 5-10 cm