

Newport Forest

Tuesday April 1 2008

2:00 - 4:39 pm

weather: prec 42 mm; RH n/a; BP 98.2 kPa; ovcst; WSW 20-50 k; LM 9 C

purpose: check property

participants: Kee

The property was too wet to drive, so I walked in from the gate, pushing the wheelbarrow with the supplies in it down to the trailer. I was greeted by the song of the Field Sparrow. I expected Steve & Joel to show up, but they never appeared, so after putting out the birdseed & corn, I decided to clean the trailer.

Checking the RZ, I found a lot more trees had been nipped by deer than I thought. Apparently, I missed a lot of trees when I put on the bud protectors.

I walked to the RSF, changing the card in Cam 1 and, at the end of my walk, in Cam 2. From the Bluffs I could see that the river was right up to the top of the RL. The river has backed into Fleming Creek, where it has flooded a stretch of forest 50-80 m wide (across the creek). The bluff trail was tricky because it was still ice-covered in places. In low areas the TRT was flooded with local pools, so I had to work around these areas. I put out kibble and closed up camp.

Passing through Delaware on the way home, i was surprised to see the Thames had flooded several fields. On the way down, it was just over its banks. Evidently the crest of the flood is still ahead of us., probably over the next 24 hr.

birds: (12)

American Crow (BCF); American Robin (RSF); Black-capped Chickadee (Hole); Common Grackle (BCF); Dark-eyed Junco (Hole); Downy Woodpecker (LM/BCF); Field Sparrow (LM/BCF); Northern Cardinal (EW); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (FC); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF);

phenology: first Field Sparrow, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird;
property 99.9% snow/ice free