

Newport Forest

Monday July 28 2008

1:50 - 6:35 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 70%; BP 98.81 kPa; cld/sn, calm, LM 29° C

Purpose: trail grooming

Participants: Kee, Steve, Jamie

Coming in to the UM, I heard an unfamiliar sparrow song. It sounded like a Field Sparrow, but the rising trill at the end sounded more liquid, with notes sounded individually.

With Steve brushwhacking and Jamie and me hoeing, we cleared over 400 m of trail, from the BCF up and over the HB. Two more visits with this kind of progress and the place will be good right into winter. It is interesting that, although the prospect of a multitude of mosquitoes always seems daunting at first, one gets so used to them after 10-15 minutes of hard work, they seem to simply disappear. It could also be that heavy sweat repels them, either the odor or the fact that your skin is covered by liquid and they have trouble getting a footing.

We also cleaned the trail down to the creek, clearing the opening on the bank, where the bridge used to be. Perhaps we can open a short trail to the lower rapids, which are normally easy to cross without getting a soaker (if you pick your way carefully). Steve also cleared the RL portion of the trail right up to the beginning of the bluffs.

I recorded nine birds, but nothing unusual.