

Newport Forest Sunday November 23 2008

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Weather: precip. 57 mm; RH n/a; BP 99.68 kPa; calm, clr; T 2° C

Purpose: check property

Participants: Pat, Kee

We debated whether to drive into the property until Edgar Hurdle volunteered to plow the road for us. It took about 10 minutes. When we got down, I made a beeline for the weather station. I had been anxious to see how much precipitation fell during the recent falls of rain and snow. When I added the rain gauge reading (corrected for the expansion of ice) to the snow depth (converted to liquid equivalent) we ended with 57 mm, our second highest reading ever. So far, we've had 108 mm in November and, comparing the end-of November cumulative precipitation from other years, we have

year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
condition	drought	drought		drought	
precip.	504	589	917	534	952

After setting up camp, Pat headed out to find some cattle tracks. I followed a little later. In the BCF we found meandering tracks that looked like they were made by a very large buck, but the stride was much shorter and each track was joined by drag marks to its predecessor. Not a deer. The tracks were no more than a day old. It turns out (according to Eva Newport) that a neighbouring farmer lost one of his steers while loading his herd for auction recently. It was last seen in a property right across the road from Newport Forest. The steer had been wearing a halter and the game cam picked up the halter rope, apparently.

Other tracks included the usual deer, squirrels and rabbits. The raccoons have apparently been lying low. Cam #3 had died and I had no batteries for it, so I didn't bother swapping memory cards. But Cams 1 & 2 were still operating, so I swapped cards. The river had backed up into the creek recently, but water levels in the creek have begun to drop and a slow flow has begun. It's still a good foot or more above its normal level.

Birds: (7)

American Crow (EW); American Gold Finch (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Nk); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

New species: (I cringe to make this entry, but rules are rules.)

Domestic Bovine

Bos taurus

BCF KD Nv23/08