

Newport Forest

Sunday Dec 14 2008

3:10 - 4:40 pm

Weather: 59 mm; RH 84%; BP 98.9 kPa; ovcs/rn; SW 0-50 kmh; T 2° C

Purpose: check property

Participants: Kee

The ground is still frozen, but I elected to walk in, anyway. Filled the bird feeders (as usual), took the weather, and checked all three trail cams. I moved Cam #3 from the creek trail up to the Nook, aiming it out into the meadow, changing the batteries in the process. The batteries in the other two cameras appeared to be good, so I left them. I changed the data cards in all three cameras.

Because I forgot to turn the propane off last visit, it has all leaked out, so I must pick up another bottle for next visit. While visiting Cams 1 & 2 along ET, I started an Eastern Cottontail into the woods. VERY few birds up and about today.

I took a few photographs, then trudged out just before sunset. Needless to say, I was pleased with the precip reading. Here's the situation at present in comparison with past years.

yr:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
mm:	617	667	1020	674	1062

Even before the year end, 2008 is already ahead of 2006 (the previous best year) and could easily finish up around the 1100 mm mark.

The trail cams caught another five deer images. I would guess that the deer population is expanding. I have been preparing a condensed version of the site reports in a searchable form. Here are some statistics drawn from the data base:

Sightings of Ruffed Grouse:

dates	visit ratio	percent
2000 Sp09 Dc31	2/50	4.0 %
2001 My01 My31 Au09 Nv01 Nv06	5/76	6.6
2002 Fb11 Ap07 My11 Jl13 Sp05 Dc15 Dc27	7/82	8.5
2003 Ja09 Fb02 Mr13 My17 Je29 Dc31	6/68	8.8
2004 Fb18 Ap03 Je14 Au08 Oc16	5/65	7.7

2005 My29 Jl27 Au15 Au27	4/71	5.6
2006 Ap18 Ap30 My03 Oc31	4/72	5.5
2007 none	0/xx	0.0
2008 none	0/xx	0.0

The “visit ratio” is just the number of sightings divided by the number of visits for the year in question. (expressed as a percent on the right) The population (as revealed by sightings) appears to increase to a high in 1003. declining to 5.5%, then vanishing ! What happened to the Ruffed Grouse? moved next door to Janik’s? outcompeted by Wild Turkey? (same diet)