

## Site Visit Report

NNewport Forest Saturday February 7 2009 2:45 - 5:20 pm

weather: prec. 20 mm; RH 75%; BP 98.3 kP; ovcast; SSW 30-40 k/h, T 7° C

purpose: to check property

participants: Kee, Nic

It was great to have Nic along. Probably among the top ten conservation volunteers, worldwide, Nic had been our constant companion onsite from 200 to 2004, when he moved to Australia (later to New Zealand). It was a gusty, grey afternoon as we pulled up to the main gate, finding it blocked by an even higher mound of snow than three weeks ago. We cleared a channel of snow behind the gate, allowing us to open it enough to squeeze in with our supplies and toboggan (borrowed from Edgar Hurdle). Sliding the supplies proved much easier than carrying them, especially in the deep, wet snow. Almost every step on the road in found a liquid bottom; snow melting on the surface evidently trickles down through the interstices to the ground below.

We set up camp, putting out extra bird food in three feeders, plus a block of suet. I was not surprised to see only 3 spp. of bird all afternoon (RBW WBN BCC). Windy days seem to drive them into hiding. We also filled the main deer feeder with caramel corn, a treat the deer haven't had since last winter.

We walked out to the river, noting that a young tree (about 10 cm dbh) had fallen over the main trail. The river was covered with rotting ice but a narrow open lead widened downriver toward the rapids. Upstream the river is completely frozen over as far as the Wardsville bridge & beyond. Back at camp we spotted one Eastern Grey Squirrel (black phase) visiting the old Black Maple by the Nook.

Several measurements of snow depth in the LM averaged out to 8.5 inches or 22 cm. The snow is rather dense so it might represent as much as 5-7 cm of liquid equivalent, instead of the 2 cm implied by the 10:1 rule for light snow. I attended to the trail cams, finding to my astonishment that both cameras had battery power left, continuing to operate through the recent prolonged cold spell. Cam #1 produced more images of deer than ever before. (15 images, 5 partials)

### IMAGES:

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*Nic hauls toboggan*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



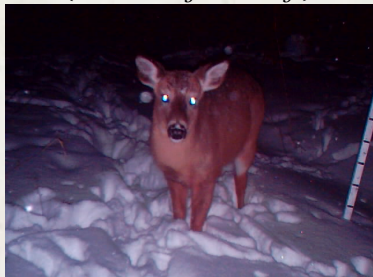
*a buck,*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*a doe ("What was that flash?")*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*("There it is again ! . . .")*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*(. . . and again.)*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*a turkey to go*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*a cougar? no!*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*the river aflow (note the cornstalks deposited in small tree by last flood)*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*Nic surveys his old domain*