

# Site Visit Report

Newport Forest Thursday May 7 2009 1:50 - 5:50 pm

weather: prec, 0 mm; RH 60%; BP 98.5 kPa; ovcast; SW 0-10 km/h; T 18° C  
purpose: trail maintenance  
participants: Kee, Will

We unloaded everything from the old van prior to its trade tomorrow for a new van. On the way to the BCF I changed the cards and batteries in both trail cams. (As is usual lately, no game showed up this time around either. We've gone from getting 2-4 deer per week to getting none. Same story with turkeys, etc.)

We took a hoe, clippers, hatchet, and nails with us into the BCF. We are testing a new way of putting down trail liners; we drive two pegs outside the liner and nail the liner to them (or vice versa). We did about 50 metres of trail in this manner, the idea being that no matter how long this operation takes, once the TRT is done, floods will not be carrying away all the liners -- maybe only 10 % of them. (I'm a realist, I think.)

Half way through this operation, I asked Will to get some rope from the trailer to re-erect a tree that was still sound, but lying nearly horizontally, thanks to the ice blocks of February/March. On his way through the LM, Will spotted a yearling deer browsing along the edge of the BCF. (So there are still deer around, despite the trail cam record.)

Taking a break in the Nook, we spotted a chipmunk on the tray feeder. But no Red Squirrel was in evidence, so the (strange) exclusion rule seems to be holding. During the second round of trail work, the sky began to spit rain. This went on for nearly an hour, but I doubt we collected even 1 mm.

birds: (14)

American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); great Crested Flycatcher (FCF); Northern Cardinal (FCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (GF); Tree Swallow (UM/Rd); Turkey Vulture (LM); Wood Thrush (BCF) [for the first time in living memory there were no Nuthatches !]

phenology: Jack-in-the-Pulpits nearly mature; toads trilling; one Spring Peeper calling; no Chorus Frogs.

## IMAGES:

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*Goodbye to the good ol' Cyanovan*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*Major slumps have been occurring along the river landing as we lose more soil to the river. (even though we're gaining on the other side of the point bar) Slump scars are now continuous from the mouth of Fleming Creek (seen in the distance) to Mussel Beach (behind camera)*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*Wet weather brings out the fungi, in this case a Dryad's Saddle sheltering a troop of Inky-caps (at a guess).*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*vernal pond drinking the light rain*