

Site Visit Report

Newport Forest Wednesday May 20 2009 2:25 - 6:10 pm

weather: prec. 1 mm.; RH 35%; BP 29.73"; SW 10-45 kmh; clear; T 28° C

purpose: maintenance

participants: Kee, Pablo

We spent the first portion of this visit adding liner logs to the BC trail, pegging in each log with a nail through the peg or using a branch-stub on the peg to hold the liner down. We completed six (non-trivial) logs in this fashion. I attended the trail cameras (another deer on #3) and we walked the TRT circuit as an introduction for Pablo to the greater forest behind the field(s). We watched Bank (or Cliff) Swallows swooping over the river to pick off insects, then proceeded to the Box Elder portion of the RSF (Bluebells 90 % gone now) and on to the Beech-maple component, including a brief inspection of the amazingly abrupt ecotone between the two.

We rested on the HB, catching occasional glimpses of a rather scruffy young raccoon up in the Black Maple E of the bench. Continuing down to the BCF, we stopped to take a sample of pond benthic material, then out to ET again, admiring our handiwork on the way out. Back in the Nook a wee chipmunk would dash right under our chairs to distract us from Pablo's thesis. (No Red Squirrel) I inspected the RZ, noting that about 10 % of the trees (young & old alike) had sustained severe frost damage, losing most or all of their half-formed leaves. The damage was done with two back-to-back zero nights over last weekend. We noted some trees in the forest had also been frost-bitten.

We pulled out through the farm gate escorted by a Cottontail, making Pablo's third mammal of the day.

birds: (17)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (BCF); Bobolink (UM); Blue Jay (GF); Common Grackle (GF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Great Crested Flycatcher (HB); Hairy Woodpecker (GF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Tree swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wood Duck (UM); Wood Thrush (HB); Yellow Warbler (RL)

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



untitled

(click on image to enlarge)



Pablo with liner logs (note: supported ice victim in foreground -- rope removed in two years)