

**Newport Forest**

**Sunday March 25**

**1:40 - 5:15 pm**

**weather:** prec. 8mm; RH n/a; calm; hz/sn; LM 13C; GF 13C

**purpose:** cutting thorn trees

**participants:** Kee, Brian, JD & son Nick

I dropped the crew off by the West Meadow to continue last week's thorn-cutting operation, then proceeded down to the trailer to be greeted by the year's first frog chorus, mostly Western Chorus Frogs. I walked the BCF portion of the TTLT and found two main breeding areas that correspond to the largest vernal ponds in the Blind Creek chain. Each area had 5-10 singing males (two can sound like 4) and several smaller ponds had one or two males each. An estimated two dozen males were singing.

I completed the last (modest) food drop of the season along this stretch of the TTLT. In the very middle of the BCF I found a flock of Juncos feeding, an unusual sight.

I toured the regen zone, noting that, although I had NOT used bud protectors this last winter, about the same number of trees had gotten nipped by deer. Some trees doing well, with strong-looking buds, others continue marginal.

**birds:** (14)

American Crow (LM); American Robin (EW); Black-capped Chickadee (LM); Blue Jay (BCF); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (RL); Common Merganser (FC); Dark-eyed Junco (BCF); Field Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (EW); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF)

**phenology:** frog chorus begins; grasses & sedges emerging