

Newport Forest

March 15 2004

4:25 - 6:10 pm

Weather: prec. 3 mm; clear/cloudy; NE < 10; LM 3° C; FCF 4° C

Purpose: to visit Janik property and put out food at NF

Participants: Pat, Kee

The starting time above refers only to Newport Forest proper. We arrived at Janik's a good hour-and-a-half earlier. We came in past the beehives, veered to the right, crossed through the pine plantation and came out on some bluffs that appeared to end in Blind Creek, below. In the PP we found deer scat literally everywhere. It would have to be a major yarding-up area. I found a deer skeleton and Pat found a deer skull (doe) elsewhere. (S) She also spotted an Eastern Cottontail. Along the way, we tapped old deciduous snags whenever we could to see if any Saw-whet Owls might come out. None. However, Pat did recover about four owl-pellets, probably GHO's.

We parked just inside the gate at Newport Forest and walked down to the trailer, pushing a wheelbarrow full of goodies for the trailer and for feeding. The property is still fairly wet, although not as downright soggy as it was on the last visit.

We set out food and, while Pat bird-watched, I walked the TR trail, finding extensive blockages by river drift from the last flood. (Clearing the drift and relining the TRT will make a great project for the visiting UWO students on March 24, fast approaching!) Pat called me on the WT to say that she had been visited by four deer in Harvey's bean-field.

Birds: (13)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (UM/GF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (GF/LM); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (UM); Downy woodpecker (Tr); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (FCF); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Tundra Swan - flock of about 30 (HP); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology: Property continues to be snow-free