

Newport Forest Thursday April 10 2008

1:30 - 2:25 pm

weather: prec. 3 mm; RH 68%; BP 99.89 kPa; calm, ovcast; LM 16 C

purpose: to install new weather station

participants: Kee

The ground was dry enough to drive down to the trailer. I heard chorus frogs in both the BCF and in the FC area. The new weather station took about 1 1/2 hr to assemble and “plant” in the ground. I walked down to the creek, noting that several new trees had fallen across the creek. Fine sand and silt had been deposited to a depth of about 1/2 cm. The creek has started to flow again, about 0.2 m/sec, the water still about 0.5 m above its normal height. The pipes must be lying at the bottom of the creek, as they are nowhere else to be seen. The floodplain is a forlorn jumble of recently fallen trees, mostly BH.

I walked the TRT, changing the film in Cam 1 (19 P). (Later: most of these turned out to be night scenes, with two daylight images of black-phase EG squirrels.) The vernal ponds are now at their peak, high enough to force me to wade across BC at the bend in Edgar’s Trail. The trail itself was covered in new river sediment, a mucky, grey coating. The river is still up about a meter over the beach, which should reemerge in about a week.

At Cam 2, I discovered to my dismay that the camera had been submerged in the flood. Toast! I removed the card and dismounted the camera to take home with me. Many (smaller) fallen trees bar the trail to the Bluebells, so these will have to be cut as part of the work on April 20.

Resting in the Nook, I distinctly heard the sounds of baby raccoons coming from the “cat box.” I stayed well away.

birds: (12)

American Crow (UM/Rd); American Robin (UM/Rd); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (BCF); Brown Creeper (GF); Common Grackle (RSF); Northern Cardinal (LM/BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Red-winged Blackbird (ER); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF)

phenology: trout lilies: leaves up about 2“ sedges and grasses developing small shoots.