



Horst's Loop Snowshoe

January 05, 2019

It was a rather mild day relative to the previous week and with the warming temperatures, a thin mist hovered over the snow pack.

Nevertheless, conditions were good as we trudged along the trail north off Peoples Road, across the marsh near Horst's place and northward into a mixed wood forest.

Bird life was scarce but wildlife sign was aplenty. Our trail crisscrossed the tracks of Moose, Red fox, Fisher, Ruffed grouse, Red squirrel, Snowshoe hare, mouse (White-footed?) and shrew (Northern short-tailed?). In addition, droppings of both Moose and hare confirmed their very recent presence.

Many Pileated woodpecker feeding cavities were observed on an old Yellow birch and fresh and past browsing on Red maple suggested this area is a favoured place for wintering moose.

A huge bonfire at the lunch stop combined smoke with the mist for added mystique to the setting. The 23 participants settled in for a quick bite and made enough



boisterous conversation to be heard for far more than a stone's throw away.

The return trip involved a bushwhacking section, an old logging road and several checks on GPS units and compasses through unfamiliar territory.

As the day progressed the temperature rose, the mist thickened and conditions changed enough to cause some snow build-up under foot. Regardless, all made it to the finish line of this fine winter excursion.

Thanks, Jeff.

