



# THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
Editor-Dave Worley  
MEETINGS ARE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY  
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM  
AT 7:30 PM  
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2001

**MEETING:** Bob Riggs did a presentation on the Whimbrel count that took place on the Eastern Shore this past spring.

**HAPPENINGS:** Roger & Linda Mayhorn helped get the new Buchanan County Bird Club started, along with some friends. They had a meeting at Grundy Public Library recently and got rolling. I will publish their meeting time and place soon. They already have a web page up and running. Dues are \$10 a year for family or \$5 individual.

A lot of our members went to Whitetop Mountain recently to see a Snow Bunting. An adult male hung around that area for a while and really put on a show. Wallace Coffey & Dave Worley watched it for over 30 minutes one day.

Dean, Nina & Sean Gates attended the Bristol Bird Club Party on December 8<sup>th</sup> and socialized the evening away. 44 people attended the party at the home of Ron & Joan Harrington. Many of those present are members of Bristol and Russell County clubs. Dave Worley received the James & Mae Musick Distinguished Service Award.

Tom Hunter birded Rabbit Ridge and Sourwood Mountain on December 16<sup>th</sup> he saw Northern Harriers and Swamp Sparrows. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, he had a Golden Eagle at Kents Ridge, 2 Buffleheads at Dry Fork and a Ruddy Duck at Stuarts Pond.

Bob Riggs reports lots of Northern Harriers on the strip jobs and Barred Owls everywhere.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**PEACE TO ALL**

**PRESIDENTS' CORNER:** I am glad the winter residents still come south when it is warm. I do not think winter would be the same without them. The melody of the White-throated Sparrow is always welcome on a drab winter day. The browns and reds of the Fox Sparrow can easily match the colors of the wood warblers. When the big winged Golden Eagle comes gliding over the ridges at ground level and barely clears your head, you can not help but say "AMEN". There are many flocks of Canada Geese in the county and lots along the Clinch River, I can not tell if they are residents or winter visitors. We have a lot of residents. In the olden days people hunted the geese as they migrated south. They would be plucked and eaten. The old timers would then use the breastbone to predict the weather. A thin bone meant a short mild winter a thick bone meant a long and cold one. Hey, the birds have done their part by migrating south, so get out there and enjoy them.

Bob Riggs

**MEETING: NO MEETING!!!** Our regular meeting would fall on Christmas Day, so therefore we will **not** have a meeting. Enjoy your family and the holidays.  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

**DUES:** It is time once again for dues. \$8 is now due for 2002. If postage continues to go up, we may have to start sending the newsletter by email. Would you rather see the dues go up or get it by email? Let us know. Send checks to Russell County Bird Club, PO Box 153 Rosedale, Virginia 24280

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFO\*\*\***

Our Christmas Bird Count will be December 29<sup>th</sup>, if you want to help contact Bob Riggs, Tom Hunter or Dave Worley. If you can not help but want to know how it went, join us that evening at Bonanza in Lebanon at 7pm.

**OFFICERS:** Bob Riggs-President, Bob Montgomery-Vice President, Diana Worley-Secretary/Treasurer