



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Dave Worley

MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH TUESDAY
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 7:30 PM

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2003

MEETING: Tuesday January 28th, 7:30 PM
Lebanon Community Room.

HAPPENINGS: Golden Eagles are everywhere in Russell County, the high mountain snows have driven these big birds down into the valleys. Good areas to view them are Clifton and Elk Garden remember any big black bird this time of year could very possibly be an eagle.

There are two large flocks of White-crowned sparrows hanging around two silos. One at Stuart's pond and another one at Elk Garden a personal high count for me is 57 birds in one flock at Elk Garden.

Bob and Jean Montgomery have had a male Rufous Hummingbird come to their feeder on three separate dates. Is this three separate birds or the same bird visiting another feeder?

Bob Riggs will not be attending the meeting in January he is off on another birding trip to Florida the Miami area.

My thanks to Bob Riggs for all his help with the newsletter, I have not been around this area much since Thanksgiving.

Jerry Thornhill reported seeing a Bald Eagle recently near the old abandoned white house on highway 80.

Dave & Diana Worley just returned from Nassau, Bahamas, where they got some new birds. They saw eight species of warblers and got Smooth-billed Ani, Bahama Yellowthroat, Cuban Emerald, Bahama Woodstar, Bananaquit, Caribbean Dove and Bahama Mockingbird.

Dues for 2003, \$8.00 should be sent to Diana Worley, PO Box 153, Rosedale, Virginia 24280.

Unless we find a replacement editor, this will be the last regular newsletter. We will only publish when there is news and I have the time to fix one up.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: It is hard to believe that the 2002 Christmas Bird Count has come and gone. The birds are always special. This year the Golden Eagles frolicking in the breeze off of Beartown Mountain are something to see. The Northern Harrier floating over a hay meadow was a special touch. I never thought I would ever go on a CBC and only count ten species for the day and have a great time. That was the total for the day at Mount Rogers. Of course we started our day well below zero and I don't think it got above zero all day. The climb to the top of Rogers was the highlight of the day. Ed and Michele made great hiking companions and the new snow and clear blue skies was something that had to be experienced to truly appreciate. I think it is that magic of the season that makes these counts such a special time. The bitter cold, the early starts, the long days, the meal at the end when the totals are counted all add up to a special day of birding in extreme weather. If you have not been able to join us on a count, there is always next year. See you in the field.

Blackford CBC results:

Total species: 67 a new high for the count.

New species for the count:

Turkey Vulture

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Pine Warbler

Low Temperature: 16 degrees

High Temperature : 43

Participants: Beartown Mountain= Bob Riggs and Ed Talbott

Clifton and Kents Ridge -Tom and Laverne Hunter

River Mountain –David Raines and Roger Mayhorn

Elk Garden = Bob and Jean Montgomery

A great big thanks to all those who helped with the count. A special thanks to Tom and Laverne they have counted every year that we have counted birds in the Blackford circle. This being the eighth annual Blackford CBC.

BOB RIGGS