



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

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

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 99

MEETING: We did not have a December meeting because of the Christmas Bird Count. The CBC took place on the 19th of December, with Tom Hunter, Laverne Hunter, James Chafin, Dave Worley and Bob Riggs participating. We met that evening at Bonanza to compile the count. We were joined there by Bob Montgomery. The species count was 54. This wasn't bad for a cold, miserable, rainy, snowy day. New additions to the count were Merlin, Pintail and Ringneck Ducks. Even with the bad weather, we all agreed that we really enjoyed it. Just remember that the worst day of birding is still better than the best day at work.

DUES: The 1999 membership dues were due before the last of December. If you have not paid, send a check for \$8.00 to Tom Hunter, Treasurer. His address is Rt. 1 Box 413 B Lebanon, Va. 24266, or you can pay at the January meeting. If your dues are not paid, this will be your last Drummer.

Happenings: Members of our club participated in numerous Christmas Bird Counts. I know we were represented at Blackford, Elizabethton, Bristol and Glade Springs. If you did not help, please consider doing so next year. You can talk to Bob Riggs, Larry McDaniel, Wallace Coffey or any of the other old birders.

Bob Riggs advises that there are a lot of Black Ducks on the local creeks and rivers, also there are Green-winged Teal at the Elk Garden mud flats. There are lots of fun sparrows around the county.

Gadwalls were seen on Little River and Oxbow Lake at St. Paul.

Laurel Bed Lake is frozen over and the road a sheet of ice, so stay away.

Presidents` Corner: The first Fox Sparrows showed up at my house on 11-27-96. In 97 they showed up on 12-7. Each year they would spend the winter somewhere near my yard. Coming in early morning or late evening to feed on the seed I put under the spruce trees. I always looked forward to seeing these sparrows as they added their warm colors of rusty reds and browns to the gray winter days. I have seen as many as 4 at one time. In 98, November and most of December had gone and still no Fox Sparrows. I eagerly checked the flocks each day, but no luck. The sparrows in the shadows would turn out to be a song, house or white-throat. Maybe the neighbors cleaning their lot had removed their habitat, I thought. Christmas morning was freezing and wrapped in ice as I scanned the feeders to see if the birds could get to the seed. Suddenly I saw movement of a big sparrow, I knew instantly from the size and behavior that the Fox Sparrows had returned. Christmas had worked its magic and bought me 4 beautiful Fox sparrows. Thanks, Santa for this welcome surprise.

Trips: February 4, Dave Worley, Bob Riggs and James Chafin are set to leave for Virginia Beach. They will bird The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge and Fort Story. Bob and Dave will be taking a one day pelagic trip to see sea birds. We will return on Feb.8. If you would like to go, see Bob or Dave. Feb. 20th will be our Burkes Garden Trip, meet at the Community Room at 8 am. We should see Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles amongst the other species.

Next Meeting: 26 January will be the regular meeting. Join us for an exciting program by Bob Riggs. He will cover little brown birds. (Sparrows) As always the meeting will be at 7:30 pm at the Lebanon Community Room. There will be a door prize.