



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

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

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MEETING: There was no meeting last month due to the picnic.

Happenings:

The 1st annual club picnic was held on Beartown Mountain on June 20th. It was attended by Bob & Diana Riggs, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Dean, Nina & Sean Gates, Bob & Jean Montgomery and Jean's two sisters. From what I hear, they had a fabulous time.

The Bobolinks are really putting on a show at Elk Garden. It would be worth the trip out, if you have not seen them. Bob & Jean Montgomery can give you directions, if needed. 889-2932

Dave & Diana Worley birded Skyline Drive and part of the Blue Ridge Parkway over the holiday weekend. Their best find was the dozens of hummingbirds and the food at Whetstone Ridge Visitors Center on the Parkway.

Bob Riggs and Bob & Jean Montgomery found an immature Double-Crested Cormorant and a Great Blue Heron at Lake Bonaventure recently. This is a sure sign of post breeding dispersal and that fall is not far away.

Larry McDaniel and some friends recently made a pelagic trip off the coast of North Carolina to see the birds that seldom come ashore. They found an extremely rare **BERMUDA PETREL**, only the third North American record. There are only about 180 nesting pairs in the world. Congratulations. They also saw 1 Fea's Petrel, White-tailed Tropic Bird, Long-tailed Jaeger, storm petrels, shearwaters, terns and even some whales, tuna, dolphins and Blue Marlins. Sounds like quite a trip.

A Great Blue Heron Rookery was found near Damascus recently. Rob Biller and Ron Carrico went over and observed and took pictures. This is a first breeding record for southwest Virginia. For directions call Dave 880-1373.

Be sure to call in your trips and sightings to Dave at 880-1373 if you want them in the newsletter. We need articles every month.

Presidents' Corner: Golden Eagles, Golden-Winged Warblers, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, and good camping companions made the Beartown camping trip a lot of fun. I had a great time listening to Jean and her sisters sing around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and telling ghost stories; and the birding was excellent. I don't believe I have ever seen Golden-Winged Warblers and Chestnut-sided Warblers put on a show like that, with just a touch of Common Yellowthroat at one time.

I guess Dean and Nina deserve an award for being bounced around the most, what a ride they had up the mountain. They both showed a lot of courage and fortitude as they hung on for dear life all the way to the top.

A pleasant surprise was seeing the Golden Eagle upon our arrival at the top. Laverne and her sharp ears located a Cerulean Warbler on the south slope and there were lots of Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows around for everyone to see. Even though there were a lot of birds on top, the thick foliage made them difficult to observe.

Thanks to all for a great time.

Remember, you can not build birding skills or enjoy the birds if you are not out there looking.

Field Trip: July 18th, we will have a river trip to the Clinch. Wear your shorts or a swimsuit and be prepared to wade, swim or snorkel, or you can just bird along the shoreline. The trip will be led by Mike Pender, a non-game biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Mike is a certified mussel expert and also President of the Virginia Herpetologist (Salamanders) society. We will be able to use underwater viewers or snorkel to check out the mussels. The days will be hot and the birds will be singing less, so don't miss this opportunity to explore the Clinch River, one of Russell County's most valuable resources. 10am at Nash's Ford. From Lebanon take rt. 82 toward Cleveland, turn right on 640, at the y intersection take rt. 740 left, follow it to the river and turn right, go out to the access area.

Meeting: The July meeting will be on the 28th. The program will be presented by Tom & Laverne Hunter. Don't miss it.