



# 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  
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**MEETING:** Tom Hunter did a wonderful slide show on Warblers. We all had a great time.

**Happenings:** The weekend of May 5, 6 and 7, a lot of our members participated in the Tennessee Ornithological Society Spring Meeting. It was held in Bristol, and put on by the Bristol Bird Club, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BBC. Bob & Diana Riggs, Dave & Diana Worley, Fred & Janice Martin, Wallace & Carolyn Coffey, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Larry McDaniel, Mary Erwin, Dick Peake and Bob & Jean Montgomery all put in an appearance. Some of them even put in some hard work. Thanks to all of you.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dave Worley was proved to be a lucky birder. While video taping some Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on his feeder, he spotted a female Red Crossbill eating from the same feeder. He not only got video, but a few pictures. Bob Riggs says this is probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Russell County. One in 1966 and Dick Peake had a sighting at Laurel Bed Lake in 1973.

Dave & Diana Worley got up early for Mothers Day and birded Elk Garden, before moving on to Clinch Mountain WMA. Their best find at the garden was Eastern Kingbird on a nest. At Clinch Mountain they found lots of warblers and buntings. At Laurel Bed Lake, Diana found a Black-crowned Night Heron.

May 4<sup>th</sup> found Bob Riggs, Jean Montgomery and Tom & Laverne Hunter on a trip to Beartown Mountain. Every tree seemed to have a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Dick Peake located 3 Kirkland Warblers near the Wise Reservoir.

**PRESIDENTS' CORNER:** April and May are two of the best months to be in the field watching birds. These are the months when the wood warblers arrive back on their breeding grounds. Combine their brilliant colors with the leafless trees of spring and you have a wonderful treat.

Here in Russell County we are fortunate indeed to have the high mountains and low valleys. The changes in elevation offer different habitats to numerous of North Americas wood warblers. We have 23 species that breed in our county and each and every one of them is a beautiful bundle of feathers that dart in the treetops or among the thick dense tangles of vegetation low to the ground. A fun day can be had by starting off in the valleys with the Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat, then working your way up the mountains to find the Magnolia and Canada Warblers. I must warn you that most warblers are easier heard than seen. The Swainsons Warbler is a difficult bird to locate by eye in the thick rhodadendroms, but can be easily heard. You can spend a whole day trying to locate it. I have seen or heard as many as 21 species in one day. There are some extremely hard ones to locate. The Cerulean and Blackburnian can be difficult at times.

Hey, get out there and try your luck. You might even see a migrant like a Cape May or a Blackpoll.

Bob Riggs

**Meeting:** Please bring a photo or slide of any bird. We will have a great opportunity to test our birding knowledge.

There are no field trips planned for May, but people will be birding so check with different ones until you find a trip.

Campout on June 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of birds and stories by Bob, Tom and Sandy.