



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 2 ISSUE 5 MAY 98

MEETING: Dave & Diana Worley presented a video and photographs of their trip to Ft. Morgan, Alabama. The video included an interview with Bob and Martha Sargent, the top Hummingbird banders in the USA, and lots of birds.

Ben & Ellen are back from Florida. Ellen was at the meeting. WELCOME BACK.

Happenings:

Fred & Janice Martin have Carolina Chickadees nesting in one of their bird houses. They have been seeing Purple Finches, Indigo Buntings, Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks and even an Evening Grosbeak.

Larry McDaniel has a Screech Owl raising young in one of his boxes. I do not know how many young, yet.

Rob Biller has a Bluebird box with 5 eggs.

May 5-Bob Riggs & Jean Montgomery saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Blackpoll and Yellow Warbler.

May 7-Bob & Dave birded Big A Mt. Lots of Scarlet Tanagers, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Canada, Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers.

May 11-Bob Riggs and Bob & Jean Montgomery saw the Bobolinks and 2 Bank Swallows at Elk Garden.

New Members: Walt, Barbara, Erin, Adrienne and Amy Parker of Lebanon. 889-0661

Billy, Judy, Sally, Lora Beth and Lindsey Settle of Lebanon. 889-4934

We are very happy to have these new members and hope to see them soon, on a trip or at a meeting.

Meeting: The May meeting is on the 26th at 7:30pm. Lebanon Community Room. Don Gowan of the Nature Conservancy will present a program on the mission of the Conservancy.

Presidents Corner: I want to thank Diana & Dave for continuing the high standards of our recent programs. You put on a great show.

I hope everyone has gotten out and watched the migration. It has been a great month. I often wonder about the great distances these birds travel. The Blackpoll that Jean & I saw will spend up to 3 days over the Atlantic as it heads North to Canada or even Alaska, then dodge many obstacles that man has put in their way. It used to be lighthouses, but now includes many radio and television towers.

Our woods and fields are filled with birds returning here for the breeding season. Elk Garden has many Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Yellow Warblers and Warbling Vireos. The mountain slopes have Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks filling the trees with brilliant colors. In the lower parts of the county we have numerous warblers, Hooded, Canada, Prairie, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Northern Parulas, Blue-winged, Golden-winged and many others. If that is not enough to fill your senses, just listen to the Wood Thrush singing. Get out there and enjoy it. BOB RIGGS

Trips:

May 23-An overnight adventure to NC. Leave Bristol Regional Med Center at 6 am for a 2.5 hour trip to Chimney Rock Park.\$8 adult-\$4 kids. Expect to see Peregrine Falcons nesting. Stay in a bunkhouse for \$9, then Bird May 24. Call Dave 880-1373 for details.

May 25-Lower Russell County-Contact Bob 889-5007 for details.

June 14-Whitetop Mountain. Leave Weaver's store in Konarock at 9am. Arrive earlier for breakfast. A 2.5 mile downhill hike. Led by Larry McDaniel.

June 20-RCBC picnic on Rich Mountain. Details at May meeting.

VSO: Our club was well represented at the Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting at Mountain Lake this past week-end. Bob & Diana Riggs, Wallace & Carolyn Coffey, Dick & Martha Peake, Larry McDaniel and Rob Biller were all present and had a great time.