



THE DRUMMER

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RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Dave Worley

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

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MEETING: Allen Boynton did a great job with the Peregrine program presented to us at the April meeting. You really missed out if you were not present for this one.

NEW MEMBERS: A great big welcome to Beth & Emily Rogers of Lebanon. It is always good to find people just as excited about birding as we are. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

HAPPENINGS: Rob Biller and Ron Carrico just returned from a trip to Arizona. They report a good time and lots of new birds.

April 25th trip to Hidden Valley Lake by Bob Riggs, Jean Montgomery and Janice Martin produced the following birds: Am. Crow, Tree Swallow, Am. Redstart, Osprey, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black and White Warbler, Junco, Eastern Towhee, Broadwing Hawk, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers.

May 2nd: Ricky, Fred & Janice Martin, James & Sandy Chafin, Jean Montgomery, Beth & Emily Rogers and Bob Riggs went to Big A Mountain. They saw Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ovenbird, Woodthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, American Redstart, Carolina Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Baltimore & Orchard Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Great Blue Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee and the following warblers: Canada, Worm-eating, Hooded, Black-throated Blue, and Black and White.

Dave Worley wrote an article on the Pelagic trip that Bob Riggs and he took on February 6, 1999. He sent it to WILDBIRD Magazine and not only did they publish it, they selected him as Birder of the Month. He will receive a certificate and a pair of Bushnell 8x42 Natureview binoculars. He is also in the running for Birder of the Year. Dave says the article was edited down, a lot.

The club is going to do some bird surveys for the Clinch Ranger District of the National Forest, get details at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Bobolinks are back at Elk Garden with all their fun action.

I think they should be called a Burst of Bobolinks instead of a flock. Diana and I spent some time Sunday between Mothers Day dinner and church to watch them. They were as always entertaining and put on a great show. Each time a female would fly up from the hay meadow, a group of seven to ten males would burst up into the air and do their bubbling, bouncing song as they chased the female. The display of their upside down colors made quite a spectacle. Counting them was impossible because of the way they intermingled and then landed on an exposed perch or disappeared back into the meadow.

I do not know of a better way to watch birds during this time of year than to find a seat and enjoy the show as they defend their territory, do that mating thing and raise their young.

The meadow was certainly alive not only with the antics of the Bobolinks but included the fiery red chevrons of the Red-winged Blackbirds and the brilliant yellow of the Eastern Meadowlarks. Even the elusive Grasshopper Sparrow made an appearance, but that is another story in itself.

Get out there and enjoy the show.

BOB RIGGS

MEETING: Dave & Diana Worley just returned from Southeast Arizona where they spent 9 days birding. Their drive through to there and back produced 85 new species. They will discuss planning a trip like this and have pictures and video of the trip. To find out what birds they saw, you have to be at the meeting. Hope to see you May 25th 7:30 p.m. at the Lebanon Community room.

Dave & Diana would like to say "THANK YOU", to all the people who helped them with their trip. The books and reports from previous trips and all the tips for saving time and where to stay really helped make it a nicer trip.

We hope you are enjoying the spring migration, if so call Dave (880-1373) and give him a report for the newsletter.

FIELD TRIP: May 22, 8am, Community Room in Lebanon. Bird at Lake Bonaventure and area "strip mines". Should see warblers and tanagers.