



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 1 ISSUE 2 NOV. 97

MEETING: The October meeting was a huge success. We gained four new families in our membership. The program by PEGGY SPIEGEL, was presented to 18 members and one visitor, Brenda Cox. We missed Wallace & Carolyn, Jeff & Cheylyna, Ricky and Diana.

NEW MEMBERS: James & Sandy Chafin of Lebanon, Fred, Janice & Ricky Martin of Bristol, Va., Rob Biller and Larry McDaniel of Bristol, Tn.

OFFICERS:

President: Robert (Bob) Riggs

V. President: Nina Gates

Treasurer: Tom Hunter

Secretary: Diana Worley

Newsletter Editor: Dave Worley

Happenings: Dave and Larry, who are also members of the Bristol Club, went to the annual TOS meeting in Manchester, Tn. They had a great time on the field trips, and at various stops on the way there and back. Dave got 6 life birds. They were Hermit Thrush, Horned Grebe, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Dunlin and Greater Scaup.

Two White winged Scoters were spotted at Laurel Bed Lake on Nov. 4, by Bob Riggs and Dave.

11 Nov., Bob, Larry, Janet Brown and Bob & Jean Montgomery birded around Russell County. The highlights were a Peregrine Falcon and a Loggerhead Shrike. They found 3 5 species.

13 Nov., Dave & Bob R. visited Stuart's Pond at Rosedale and found a Snow Goose (Blue Morph), 4 Gadwalls, 3 Hooded Mergansers, 5 Wood Ducks, 3 Ruddy Ducks, 1 American Wigeon.

Evening Grosbeaks have been seen in the area by Dave and Bob & Jean Montgomery.

Guest Speaker for November Meeting: Our own WALLACE COFFEY, will present a talk on **A Bird Study in Southwest Virginia**. He will cover 40 years of birding, banding, studying, and releasing birds. He has done more for birds and birding groups than I can cover in this newsletter. A resume of his contributions and achievements will be available at the meeting.

GOLDEN EAGLES On Oct. 27, Bob Riiggs, Dave Worley, Janet Brown and Nina & Dean Gates birded Rich Mt., in Russell Co. The 1st Golden did not give us a very good look, but was enough to ID it. Later in the day Bob & Janet had an extreme close up look at two more. They had to back away from one bird to get all of it in the scope. Three Golden Eagles in one day is quite a find.

Membership Cards: Cards have been prepared for each person and we hope to have them at the next meeting.

News Articles: I need to know what you are doing and what you are seeing, your feelings about what's going on, etc. I can't write it up unless you let me know. Call me at 880-1373 days or 880-1374 nites.

President's Corner: Andy Rooney commented: "All birds look like sparrows to me. There are big sparrows, small sparrows and gaily colored sparrows. But they all look like sparrows. Last summer I realized this was a know nothing attitude, so I bought two bird books. They were filled with every conceivable kind of sparrow."

Watching birds is a lot of fun, but sometimes can be very frustrating. Especially when trying to identify a small ball of energy as it moves from branch to branch. I had this experience a few weeks ago, when I saw a sparrow run along the ground in a pasture. I was able to glimpse a part of the median crown stripe, then I had to stalk the sparrow some more to see a lore and the retrices as it flushed and flew a few yards to land in tall grasses. Moving closer, I saw movement and finally realized I was looking at a Grasshopper Sparrow.

The reason I took the time to piece the bird together is because I believe I may have missed a very good bird, just because I failed to take good field notes of an observation.

All birders should carry a notepad and pen to make notes of a new or unusual observation. Write down every field mark, action or behavior that the bird displays. There will always be time later to look at the guide. Watch the bird, not the guide. Taking notes Will improve your birding skills. Notes provide solid data when checking the bird in a guide.

RCBC SCHEDULE:

- Nov. 22 & 23: You are invited to join the Bristol Bird Club on a waterfowl trip, led by Wallace Coffey.
Meet at the Bristol Herald-Courier Building on Bob Morrison Blvd. in Bristol at 8 am.
- Nov. 25 Regular Meeting
- Nov. 30 Laurel Bed Lake trip with Bob Riggs. Details at meeting
- Dec. 7 Musick's Campground trip with Dave Worley. 1 pm meeting spot to be announced.
- Dec. 17 Lake Bonaventure trip with Bob Riggs 889-5007
- Dec. 20 Christmas Bird Count Bob 889-5007 Details at meeting
- Feb. 7 Burke's Garden trip with Bristol, Herndon, and Bibee Bird Clubs Details later.