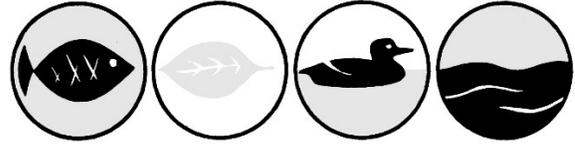


# N.I.C.C.



## April 2015 Newsletter

### Following Spring Migration



This species is one of those whose breeding range appears to be shifting northward in recent years, apparently as a result of global warming. Temperature increases, which result from higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, are also causing some birds to begin migrating earlier in the spring. This in turn may put them out of sync with the foods on which they depend. Baltimore Orioles prefer winter habitats that offer mature trees as well as a significant understory. They do well in shade-grown coffee and cacao plantations, but are losing important habitat as agricultural practices shift and shade trees are removed. The arrival of this beautiful bird in the early part of May coincides with the blooming of the fruit trees in the New England area. The mature males, first to arrive, make a colorful sight among the pink and white blossoms of the orchards. Arrival – April 16 to May 15



It is hard to miss the arrival of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the spring, as the males sing their bright, cheerful songs throughout the day while they establish their territorial boundaries. Mature males (second year and older) arrive first, about three days ahead of the females. First-year males are last to arrive; these birds, which look more or less like females, also arrive in a predictable order: "bright" individuals come first, the dullest birds (those that look most like juveniles) last. (It is believed that the dull birds are those that experienced a less extensive molt, possibly due to poorer nutrition on the wintering grounds.) Females will sometimes mate with first-year males, and when they do, they usually choose the bright individuals. This species has been arriving earlier each spring for about the last 20 years, possibly as a result of climatic change due to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Arrival – April 16 – May 30



Although this common and popular bird is found throughout the eastern states in the warmer months, the nature of its migration is poorly documented. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds spend the winter along the west coast of Mexico and through Central America to Costa Rica. They frequent tropical deciduous forests and lowland scrub and are common in the extensive citrus groves of Belize.

Spring migration involves several different routes: Some individuals travel north along the east coast of Mexico, while others migrate across the Gulf of Mexico, presumably departing from the Yucatan Peninsula. Large numbers have been observed flying low over wave tops off the coasts of Louisiana and Texas. Males appear along the U.S. Gulf coast in late February, 8 to 10 days ahead of the females. The timing of northward movements is variable and appears to depend on the blooming of favored nectar plants along the way. In the extreme north, the arrival of the hummingbirds may be timed to follow the migration of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. These woodpeckers open sap wells that may be crucial food sources for Ruby-throats in the absence of floral nectar.

Arrival – April 1 – May 15

above article from eNature.com

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 13 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm - at Antioch Library  
May 2 Adopt-A-Highway-----10 am  
May 18 Board/General/Elections-----7 pm  
June 8 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm  
July 13 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY MAY 2, 2015

This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year to volunteer for Adopt-A-Highway in Lake County. We have been assigned the stretch of road between Rts 59 and 83 on Grass Lake Road. Come on out and join us to see who collects the most unusual item. All volunteers are asked to meet at 10 am at Triangle Sports & Marine just west of Rt. 83.

## ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on **May 18** at the combined Board/General meeting at 7 pm. Nominations are now open until **April 13** for President, Vice President, and two directors positions are 3 year terms and responsibilities include, serving on at least one committee, provide support for club programs and activities and assist any officer as needed.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to mail in your membership renewal.



Trails of NICC

*When one tugs at a single thing in nature,  
he finds it attached to the rest of the world.*

*John Muir (1838-1914)*

*Naturalist and conservationist*