



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
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: At the last meeting we had dead birds and parts of birds. We learned to ID them by size and all the field marks available.

HAPPENINGS: Janice Martin, Wallace Coffey and Mary Irwin got to see 9 Marbled Godwits in Virginia and Tennessee. These are first records for Southwest Virginia and Upper-East Tennessee. Rick Knight of Johnson City found the birds April 13th.

April 3rd, Laverne Hunter had a Northern Parula in her back yard.

April 7th, we only had 6 people show up for the field trip, but we found lots of birds. Including Blue-winged Teal, Common Snipe, Greater Yellow Legs, Broad-winged Hawks and Lots of Yellow-throated Warblers. Bob Riggs, Roger & Linda Mayhorn, Dave & Diana and Lisa Worley were the attending birders.

April 12th, Tom & Laverne Hunter found a Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-throated Green Warblers, Northern Parula, Black and White Warblers, Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat.

April 15th, Bob Riggs and Tom & Laverne Hunter saw some nice Swamp Sparrows, and Laverne kept tripping over snipe. The birds were so startled they would fly away and cry, Escape, Escape. Tom managed to find 2 Solitary Sandpipers. They also saw Yellow Warblers and a White-eyed Vireo. The highlight of the day was a litter of coyote pups.

Dave & Diana will be in Texas for the next 2 weeks, but we will be thinking about the club members.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: The American Robins sang first; way before daylight, as I waited for the sun to come up. Then the Northern Cardinals started singing, adding to the morning sounds. I sat and listened to the sing-song of the robin while the cardinal was telling the world how pretty it was. The sun climbed above the mountains and the little cove erupted with bird song. Wood Thrushes, Carolina Chickadees, Eastern Towhees, Song and Field Sparrows, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Eastern Bluebird and even White-throated Sparrows joined the chorus. What a way to start a workday. Who would have thought so many species were in the area? The only way I knew was being able to ID each song. This is the time of year to get the ears tuned up for breeding season. The local birds and arriving migrants are all adding their song to the wild chorus. It is intimidating at first listening to several birds singing at once, but with a little patience and identifying them one at a time, it does not take long to match the song to the species. Learning songs will enrich your birding experience. I look for songs that I do not recognize, then I find the bird that is singing it. As I was leaving the area the woods vibrated with the loud gobble of a Wild Turkey. Life is good. Hey, get out in the field and listen to this wild chorus, the breeding season does not last forever.

Bob Riggs

NEXT MEETING: April 24th at 7:30 pm at the Community Room. I am sure Bob has an excellent program planned.

Our annual camping trip will be June 23,24 and 25th at Grindstone Campground. We will be with the VSO. Make your plans now. More details next month.