



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: Attendance was down at our last meeting. We covered the use of several birding CDs.

HAPPENINGS: Bob Riggs has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. He will serve a three year term.

March 26th, Roger & Lynda Mayhorn had their first Brown Thrasher of the year.

March 29th, Tom Hunter had 75+ Common Snipe, 30+ Killdeer, 15 Wood Ducks, 2 Green-winged Teal, 4 Mallards, and a Greater Yellowlegs at the Mudhole at Elk Garden.

Dave & Diana Worley stopped by the Mudhole recently and found nothing. But there were 8 Wood Ducks and lots of Red-winged Blackbirds along the creek.

Bob Riggs reports that the warblers are back. He has already seen just about all of our summer residents. The woods are full of songs and activity.

Dave & Diana Worley have 2 families of Eastern Bluebirds building in their bird boxes, and Dave recently saw a Tree Swallow building in a neighbors box.

Easter weekend found Roger & Lynda Mayhorn and Ed & Michelle Talbott on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. They stayed on Hatteras Island and visited Pea Island NWR, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Island. They had 87 species for the trip, with Michelle getting 31 lifers, Ed-28 and Roger with 12. Highlights were Northern Gannets, Black-crowned Night Herons, American Oystercatchers, American Bitterns, Marbled Godwits, Common Terns and Black Skimmers.

April 12th, Wallace Coffey and his friend Kevin Hamed had a Spotted Sandpiper at Steeles Creek Park in Bristol, Tennessee.

PRESIDENTS` CORNER: I was talking to a lady the other day and she said she wanted to get into birding because she had read that bird watchers see things other people seldom see. I had to agree with her. I have seen some very interesting places, moments and wildlife activities because I was bird watching. A couple of weeks ago I was in Sparta, Wisconsin, and decided to go check out the waterfowl on the local lakes. Was I surprised, everything was frozen solid. So much for watching waterfowl. I then traveled over to the Mississippi River and received another surprise. In the Black River tributary of the Mississippi, the shad will spawn and then die, leaving a food source that attracts Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Hundreds of eagles were feeding on the dead and dying fish. More eagles than I have ever seen at one time in my life, perched, soaring, diving and feeding. It was unbelievable. One person I spoke with said they had counted as many as a thousand a day. I did not see any new birds to add to my life list, but that day rated as one of my best ever. Yes, bird watchers do see things other people miss. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

MEETING: Our next meeting is April 23rd, at the Community Room at 7:30 pm. Hope you can be there.

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday, April 20th, we will visit Hidden Valley in Washington County, Virginia. We leave Food City in Lebanon at 8 am. Should be there at 8:30 am if you want to meet us there.

Saturday, May 4th, we will visit the Mayhorn home area in Buchanan County. I will have Roger post directions on Bristol-Birds or you can call him at 276-259-7636.

VSO SPRING MEETING: The Virginia Society of Ornithology will have its meeting in Richmond on April 26,27and 28. For more information visit their website at www.ecoventures-travel.com/vso/ or contact Bob Riggs at 276-889-5007. They always have a great speaker, dinner and several good field trips.

PLEASE CALL DAVE AT 276-880-1373 TO PASS ON ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

