



THE DRUMMER

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RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

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

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MEETING: Tom Hunter showed a video on Shorebirds, and we discussed which ones might visit this area. Thanks to Tom for a great evening.

Happenings: Ben & Ellen Ames visited Sanibel, Florida on Feb. 25th and birded the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge. This is a beautiful place for shorebirds and they were not disappointed. They saw Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tri-colored Heron, White Pelican, Willet, Red-breasted Merganser, Cormorants, Anhinga, Short-billed Dowitcher, Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron, Laughing Gulls, White Ibis, Ring-billed Gulls, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, Prairie Warbler (what a beautiful high pitched song), and others. They also saw Wood Storks in the canals around Naples. We look forward to seeing Ben & Ellen back home soon.

March 20th, found Janice Martin, Bob Riggs, Dave Worley, Tom & Laverne Hunter and Bob & Jean Montgomery at Elk Garden, when Dave went to work, the rest visited Clifton and Kents Ridge. They had a fabulous day and saw lots of birds.

On March 28th, Dave Worley, Rob Biller, Larry McDaniel, Wallace Coffey, Annette Poore and John & Lori Shumate got to bird with Dr. Charlie Smith, an ornithologist from Cornell University. We saw quite a few birds, including Eared Grebes, Horned Grebes, Osprey and American Pipit. While Charlie was visiting, he also found a Great Horned Owl and chick on a nest at Glade Springs. This was the same nest that Wallace and Dave found a Red-tailed Hawk on last year. Dave & Diana have been by twice since this and found the adult and chick once and 2 chicks the other.

April 15th, Mary Jane Erwin and her friend Mary Evans birded around Holston Lake and found, Loons, PB Grebes, DC Cormorants, Buffleheads, RB Mergansers, RB Gulls, Killdeer, Hooded Mergansers and a Loggerhead Shrike.

A Pileated Woodpecker is nesting at Elk Garden. Dave Worley and Bob Riggs watched it clean out the hole on a recent trip.

Presidents Corner: While doing some early morning birding the other day at Elk Garden, I was hearing some bird songs that were familiar but that I was unable to pinpoint. Some of the call notes were embarrassingly easy and I am ashamed to admit that I could not place them for a few minutes. All during the winter months I kept saying I should dig out the tapes and take a warm-up before spring migration, but I kept putting it off. Now I have the tapes out and am brushing up on the call notes and songs. Of course nothing beats a good field experience for tuning up the ear. On April 1st, I was down on the Clinch River expecting to hear a Yellow-throated as my first warbler of the spring. I was really surprised to instead hear the happy singing of a Louisiana Waterthrush. A new first warbler of the spring for me.

So get out there and warm up those birding ears, it will not be long before the leaves are too thick to see all the birds.

See you birding.

Bob Riggs

April Meeting: 7:30 p.m. the 27th at the Lebanon Community Room. Guest speaker will be Allen Boynton, Game Biologist Supervisor, Region 3, Va. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Allen has worked for North Carolina in the Peregrine Falcon reintroduction program. He will be talking about the habitat and nesting needs of these fabulous birds. He is very excited about the cliffs in Russell County and will tell us what to look for to find nesting Peregrines.

Trips: April 25th, We will take a walk around Hidden Valley Lake to look for spring warblers. Meet at 1 pm at the Carriage House Motel. We can eat at the Chinese buffet or go birding.

I am glad to see more of our people are out birding and that they have reported their sightings. It makes a much better newsletter. Call Dave at 540-880-1373 to report what you are seeing.

Dave & Diana Worley have their first nesting Bluebird. There were 5 eggs in the nest on Friday 16th, but only 1 on Monday. What has happened to the other eggs?

In May, Dave & Diana will present a video on Arizona birds that they find on their trip.