



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: We had a great time at our last meeting and even picked up some new members. We scheduled our Anniversary Banquet for Tuesday, September 11th at 7:30 pm, at Bonanza in Lebanon. Each person should bring a small birding gift to exchange. Buy your supper and join us in the banquet room.

HAPPENINGS: Tom Hunter found an Upland Sandpiper on August 4th. It was on Rt. 640 in the Clifton area. This is the first sighting in several years for Russell County.

Janice & Fred Martin found two Red-headed Woodpeckers on Cedar Creek, they were carrying food to a nest hole. After this, Tom Hunter was also able to locate them.

Dave & Diana Worley had 57 Northern Flickers in their yard on Friday, August 17th.

Charles & Alona Kennedy, our newest members, have a Bald Eagle perching near their home.

Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers are moving into the area in large numbers.

The guys who manage the Elk Garden farm waited until late to mow the meadow where the Bobolinks nest. So they had a successful nesting season this year. We owe Johnny Lester and his crew a big **THANK YOU!** They continue to welcome birders onto the property.

Diana Singleton saw two very large birds on a recent trip to Florida, a Magnificent Frigatebird and the space shuttle. She also saw a loud flock of small green parakeet like birds, that she was unable to identify.

Bob Riggs reports that large flocks of birds are moving through the area. Hundreds of Chimney Swifts were seen in the Honaker area.

Bob also says he wants to spend more time birding, so if anyone is interested in getting together, call him at 889-5007.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: I must be crazy, I thought as the alarm clock buzzed at 3:00 am. Getting out of bed and driving for one hour, I arrived at Flannagan Marina and waited to see owls feeding. Several people had told me of seeing bunches of owls and hearing their loud calls. I was not disappointed. As I pulled into the parking lot a large owl flew up off the ground and landed in a White Pine. Two other owls were calling from deeper in the trees. The morning had turned exciting very quickly. The owls were Barred Owls, *Strix varia*, and they were feeding along the grassy edges of the parking lot. I saw three that morning flying down to the ground, where they would look around, by turning their heads, until they located their prey. Then they would hop onto the prey. I had a hard time seeing what they were eating, until one ventured close to the vehicle and hunted that area. I then could clearly see the owl hopping onto moths and other insects. The night slowly turned to day and the owls continued to feed. The searching, hopping, catching and eating continued until traffic finally drove them away. At one point I could see three and hear two others in the woods. I had never been around that many Barred Owls at one time and the experience was worth the early wake up call. I wonder if the owls were attracted to a certain insect hatch at that certain time of year. Well, that's another story. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

NEXT MEETING: The August meeting will be a picnic/eagle watch. We will meet Saturday, August 25th at 1:00 pm, at Laurel Bed Lake. Bring your chairs, drinks and a covered dish. We will cook hot dogs. Bob Riggs will have canoes there. We have been blessed with eagle sightings on our previous picnics and you might see a Ruffed Grouse.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Bristol Bird Club is having a banquet on September 14th at 7:00 pm. Dr. Fred Alsop will be the featured speaker. Dr. Alsop is a professor at ETSU and recently released two new field guides to the birds of North America. He has birded all of North America and numerous other countries. The cost of the banquet is \$18 per person. Reservations must be made with Dave Worley by September 9th. 880-1373 or 1374.

