



# THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Dave Worley

MEETINGS ARE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY  
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM  
AT 7:30 PM

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**HAPPENINGS:** Roger Mayhorn had a Baltimore Oriole, Black and White Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and a Blue Grey Gnatcatcher at his home on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Rack Cross and Wallace Coffey had a Great White Heron, two Spotted Sandpipers, five black Terns and a Greater Yellowlegs at Holston Lake on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Erwin and friends Mike & Mary Evans had about 20 Black Terns, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, 4 Spotted Sandpipers and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at Holston on that same day.

Dave Worley, Rack Cross and Wallace Coffey birded Rankin Bottom WMA in Cocke County, Tennessee on August 11<sup>th</sup>. They had Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Wood Ducks, Greater Yellowlegs, Ospreys and lots of peeps and sandpipers.

August 14<sup>th</sup>, Wallace Coffey with friend Tom Horsch birded Rankin WMA again and found a Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Ed and Michelle Talbott just returned from a 3 week trip that included Canada and numerous states, California, Montana, North Dakota, and Arizona, just to name a few. They will be doing the program at the Buchanan County Bird club on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Meeting is at the Buchanan County Public Library at 6:30pm.

August 18<sup>th</sup>, bob Riggs found 2 Spotted Sandpipers, 1 Blue-winged Teal, 2 Killdeer, 1 Green Heron and 9 Mallards at Stuarts Pond.

If you are interested in Peregrine Falcons, there is an excellent web page at [www.ccb-wm.org](http://www.ccb-wm.org). Researchers at William and Mary have placed satellite trackers on the backs of some falcons and you can see their travels tracked.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas is going to be updated after nearly 10 years. It will be web based, so it can continually updated.

**PRESIDENTS` CORNER:** While crawling through a thicket the other day and I do mean a thicket. Blackberry briars with small saplings grown up within them. I saw a nest built on a sapling about 12 inches above the ground. Inside were four nestlings with very few downy feathers. They were mostly skin and beak each time the wind would rock the sapling their beaks would open and they would wait for food. Not having a clue as to what kind of birds they were I took up a good observation position and waited for the male or female to show up. While I waited I noticed the nest was totally vulnerable form the ground. From above it was well camouflaged hidden among the leaves it was canceled and would not have been found by me. From below it was out in the open and easily seen. I wondered how the female choose the location so open from below. It seem like an easy task for a predator to locate and eat the young. It was then I heard the chip note of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) coming from the thicket. When a bird uses a chip note it also has the unique ability to throw its voice making it very difficult to locate by its chip note. So I waited a while longer until finally the female showed up with a worm in its beak. The Indigo Bunting flew around the nest then landed a short distance away. It then hopped from limb to limb checking for predators before finally coming to the nest to feed her young. I was still amazed at the openness of the nest from below and returned often to see how the young were surviving. The Indigo Buntings knew what they were doing three of the four survived to become fledglings and then I never saw them again. Hey see you in the field!

**Bob Riggs**

**EVENTS:** Regular meeting, Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at Community Room.

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at Laurel Bed Lake, our annual picnic and Eagle Watch. Bring a covered dish, your drinks and easy chairs. Be prepared for a relaxing afternoon with plenty of fellowship.