



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: The July meeting was presented by Tom and Laverne Hunter. It was a slide presentation on Warblers. Everyone enjoyed the show and I feel we also learned a little.

We missed all of you who did not make it to the meeting and wish you would come on out to the next one.

Happenings: Bob Riggs and Dave birded around Elk Garden on 11 Aug. and spotted lots of different species, including American Kestrel, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-Throated Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Barn & Song Swallows and even heard a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

16 August, Bob Riggs found a lot of birds at the small pond near Lebanon High School. They included Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, Green and Great Blue Herons. But the big find was 3 **American Avocets**. We are not sure yet, but we think this is the first record for Russell County. Bob notified as many people as possible. Dave Worley and Tom & Laverne Hunter made it out to see them. They were finally scared off by a car going out into the field. But not before Dave was able to get pictures.

Tom & Laverne Hunter recently did some birding in New Mexico and picked up lots of new Lifers. See them at the next meeting for details.

Dave & Diana Worley went to Chatanooga, Tn. and saw the Peregrine Falcons that nested on the railroad bridge below Chickamauga Dam. They got to see Roi, Bridget, and Tuffy. They observed Roi bring in a pigeon and make Tuffy chase him and take the pigeon from him in the air. Tuffy was working on his hunting skills by harassing the Great Blue Herons in the area.

NEXT MEETING: Bob Montgomery will give the program on IDENTIFYING RAPTORS OF THE NORTHEAST. This should help us since migration is just getting started and we will be seeing hundreds of these birds very soon.

Presidents Corner: I think there is nothing so thrilling as to pull up to an area and look at a bird, then wonder what kind of bird I am seeing. The thrill of seeing a new species is one of the things that makes birdwatching so much fun. So be on the lookout. This time of year the sky is full of new species dropping in for a rest before heading on south. Even some of our regular species are changing their plumage, giving us a fresh look that adds to the challenge of identification. Throw in your first year immature birds and things can really get tricky. Adorned with the off colors of youth and the ruffled look of molting feathers even the more common species can make a person take a good long look before naming it. This time of year the birds are not singing as much, so I really have to look and study a species, such as a Grasshopper Sparrow, before making a positive identification. It is much easier to ID by song. There are lots of birds out there with new looks so get out and enjoy them. BOB RIGGS

BIRDS AROUND THE COUNTY: In the Clifton area, there are lots of Blue Grosbeaks, and the farm ponds are heavy with the migrating shore birds. A Semipalmated Plover, lots of Solitary and even a few Spotted Sandpipers have been sighted in the area. Bob has spotted two Loggerhead Shrikes on the power lines.

Elk Garden has days where the trees are filled with feeding warblers, and there are always lots of swallows. Bob spotted 228 Barn Swallows perched on the wires there at one time.

The raptors are starting thru also. There are more sightings of Broad-wing Hawks and Kestrels than usual.

Trips: VSO Chincoteague Weekend September 11-13

Sept. 12-26, especially weekends will be hawk watching at Mendota Fire Tower

Oct. 9-11 is 6th Annual Eastern Shore Birding Festival

We will plan other trips at the regular meeting on August 25th.