



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Dave Worley
MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH TUESDAY
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 7:30 PM
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 99

MEETING: We had a very large turnout for the last meeting. We picked up a new member, Jim Jackson of Lebanon. Bob Riggs showed a video on the importance of the Horseshoe Crab to migrating shore birds.

Happenings: Tom & Laverne Hunter just returned from South Carolina. They birded Huntington Beach State Park and Santee Coastal Wildlife Refuge. They picked up four life birds, Painted Bunting, Common Ground Dove, Clapper Rail and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. They also observed Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler and numerous shore and water birds.

Ruth Baker and her friends, Mike & Mary Evans, birded on the Blue Ridge Parkway recently and got Red Crossbill-12, Ruby-throated Hummingbird-6, Raven-1, Red-breasted Nuthatch-1, Golden-crowned Kinglet-1, Cedar Waxwing-12, Junco-11 and Common Yellowthroat-1.

Dave & Diana Worley report they are seeing as many as 25 Hummingbirds at a time on their feeders and are using 3 quarts of sugar water a day. Dave also saw a Pileated Woodpecker on Aug. 11 in their yard.

Warblers are on the move, Redstarts were seen along the Clinch River near St. Paul.

Bald Eagle seen at Laurel Bed Lake, sitting on a snag. To bad Bob did not have a camera.

Do not forget, our club`s second anniversary is coming up in September. We will be having a dinner at Bonanza on September 27, 7pm. This is a Monday evening. Wallace Coffey will be giving the program, from his 40+ years of birding. Everyone will buy their own meal then join together in the meeting room. Door prizes will be awarded, and if they are like last years, you do not want to miss out.

Call in your adventures to Dave at 880-1373 if you wish to share them in the newsletter.

Keep looking up, you never know what you might see.

PRESIDENTS` CORNER: There appears to be a build up of swallows hanging on the power line wires along the roadway. Soon hundreds will be seen sitting on the wires or flying over the hay meadows eating insects. When you see these huge flocks, stop and check them out. You will be able to distinguish the different species easily if they are perched. Barn, Tree and Northern Rough winged are the most common, but Bank can be seen with regularity during fall migration. I have looked for Cliff in the flocks but so far have had no luck. As I watch the different swallows fly, I have noted their style of flight. The Barn Swallows fly low, close to the ground with their wings pulled back. The Bank has a fluttery irregular flight. You can vastly improve your birding skill just by watching how these winged wonders fly. Go check them out, they will soon be gone for the winter.

Bob Riggs

News: The Va. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries is in the process of making an Eastern Shore Birding Trail similar to the one in Texas. There will be info available to bird watchers on where to find birds, where to stay, where to eat and sleep, etc.

Closer to home the Department is starting to manage Laurel Bed Lake for waterfowl. They are planting millet and other forage around the lake shore. This should greatly improve the winter waterfowl population. They are also planning a wildlife watching platform for the spillway area, that will be handicapped accessible.

Picnic: Saturday the 21st, 3pm, Laurel Bed Lake at the dam. Bring a covered dish and your drinks, hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bob will be there all day, but call if you are coming early so he can meet you. Otherwise he could be anywhere around the lake. To get to the lake from Lebanon, take 19 north to 80 east, then at Hayters Gap, turn left on 613 go to Tumbling Creek road and turn left. From Abingdon take 19 north to Brumley Gap Road, go to 80 and turn left, at Hayters Gap turn right on 613. Left on Tumbling Creek Road, go to top of mountain.

Meeting: The picnic will take the place of our regular meeting this month. **NO MEETING ON THE 24TH.**

The hot dry weather has taken a toll on shorebird habitat, so we are seeing very few.