



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 4 ISSUE 12 DEC. 2000

MEETING: Dave & Diana Worley did a slide show and video of their trip to Nova Scotia. Refreshments were served to a good crowd.

Happenings: Tom & Laverne Hunter and Dave Worley attended the VSO winter field trip in Hampton, Virginia. On Friday, December 1st they birded Fort Monroe and surrounding area. Dec. 2nd found them at False Cape State Park and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and on Dec. 3rd they went to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and to Craney Island. Tom and Laverne owe us a life bird dance. The birds seen were fabulous and plentiful.

Watching the gulls and Northern Gannets feeding off the tunnel islands was a big highlight of the trip, along with the tram ride thru the back ponds and impoundments of Back Bay NWR.

Bob Riggs reports seeing lots of sparrows around the fields, and a Golden Eagle was seen on River Mountain.

Tom Hunter saw a Barn Owl at Clifton.

December 14, Bob Montgomery reported a Northern Harrier in his backyard.

Several members attended the Christmas party at the home of Janice and Fred Martin. It was a combo party for Bristol Bird Club and all clubs in this area. Santa put in an appearance and rewarded all the good little birders with gifts. Everyone pitched in on the food, and it was great. Santa and Dave both gained weight.

We recently had a red and white visitor in our area and I do not mean Santa. A Whooping Crane that was migrating south to Florida spent the night in Russell County. As far as I know, no one sighted it, this info was furnished by a team that was tracking its progress. It also spent several nights in Tennessee and was seen there by several members of our club.

Do not forget our feathered friends at this time of the year. Be sure to keep the feeders filled and fresh water out, so they can survive these cold winter nights.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: Happy Holidays to everyone. Christmas is a great time of year and it brings us to another Christmas Bird Count. This will be our fourth count and we are getting a good idea of what birds are spending the winter in our area and what birds are a rarity. I always get excited because one never knows what new species will show up. Someone finds a new one every year. The date for this year is December 30th. If you want to help, there is still plenty of time. Dave Worley has River Mountain Road and Honaker area, Tom & Laverne Hunter have the Clifton and Kents Ridge area, Bob & Jean Montgomery have the Elk Garden and Dry Branch area. I have the Beartown Mountain and Laurel Bed Lake area. Just contact any group leader and they will be happy to include you. There are other counts that could use your help as well.

Bristol, December 31st-Richard Lewis 423-878-2505
Tazewell, Dec. 29th-Sarah Comer 540-988-4267.
Hope to see you in the field, birding.

Bob Riggs

Contact numbers:

Bob Riggs 889-5007

Tom Hunter 880-1283

Bob Montgomery 889-2932

Dave Worley 880-1373 days or 1374 evenings

DECEMBER MEETING: There will not be a meeting for December. We will have the CBC instead.

DUES: The dues for 2001 should be sent to Diana Worley at PO Box 153, Rosedale, Va. 24280. \$8.00 is the amount and checks should be made to Diana Worley. We thank those who have already paid. The dues cover the costs of this newsletter and an occasional special project.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**