



# THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
MEETINGS ARE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY  
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM  
AT 7:30 PM

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 DEC. 97

**MEETING:** The November meeting was very exciting. Our own WALLACE COFFEY gave an excellent presentation on the birds of southwest Virginia. Wallace presented information gathered during his 41 years of birding.

We had more people missing than attended, so I will not list them. But, we did miss you.

We gained two new families for our membership. Ruth Baker of Kingsport and also Dick & Martha Peake of Wise Total 14

**HAPPENINGS:** Dave & Diana birded in South Carolina over the holiday week end. They hit Myrtle Beach State Park on Thursday. Friday was Brookgreen Gardens and Pawleys Island. Saturday saw Huntington Beach State Park and Sandy Island. Birds of interest were 2 Bald Eagles in 1 tree, 3 Great Cormorants on 1 buoy, 1 King Rail, 1 Sora, 1 Clapper Rail, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, and 20+ Pine Siskins. Of course plenty of pelicans and gulls.

Bob Riggs led a group to Laurel Bed Lake on Sun. the 30th. They were members, Wallace, Larry, James & Sandy, Dean, Nina & Sean and guests were Jeff Larsen, Scott Whitcomb, Ken & Lindsey Hale, and Bill & Pat Kent. They saw many birds and ducks including Ruddy Duck and Red-tailed Hawks.

On December 2th a female Calliope Hummingbird was banded in Nashville by Bob & Martha Sargent. This was the first record for Tennessee. It is at the home of Evelyn & Ed Wright. If anyone wants to go see it, I have directions. Wallace Coffey and numerous others have been out already, to visit WEE KATIE CALLIOPE.

On December 3rd, Bob & Martha banded a male Allens Hummer at the home of Bermette Rowan in Johnson City. Only the 4h record for Tennessee. Wallace, Rob, Larry, Ruth and Dave & Diana have been to visit RUSTY ALLEN.

MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS EACH OF YOU  
AND MAY WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF  
CHRIST WITH OUR FAMILIES AND  
FRIENDS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

**PRESIDENTS CORNER:** Dave and myself were standing in my dining room to watch the Fox Sparrows that were visiting my feeders. This was a life bird for Dave. I found myself watching a Downy Woodpecker at the suet feeder, when suddenly a blur flashed across my vision and Dave let out a whoop. A little blue darter had tried to take a dove for its breakfast, I had missed the action, but Dave was looking at the dove when it happened. He said he didn't see how the dove had escaped the talons of the darter; he saw the feathers fly. The moment was very exciting. We looked in the trees, trying to see it again, but it was gone. I've seen these birds take prey from mid-air many times, saw them drop down on frogs, and observed them just hunting. I once saw one try to bring down a Pileated Woodpecker, that was larger than it. The darter would fly up close and try to grab it, only to have the woodpecker maneuver away. I don't know if it ever took the woodpecker, because they moved beyond my vision. The darter I'm talking about is a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, a true hunter. They are benefiting from our backyard feeders just as much as the songbirds. Be on the lookout for one at your feeder and enjoy the visit, after all they are just feeding.

**Newsletter Articles:** I need to know what is happening at your feeder what and where you do and go, any good sightings. I want to see your name in the newsletter. Call me. 880-1373.

**Awards:** At the recent Bristol Bird Club Christmas party, several of our club members were honored with various awards. Rob was honored for his work on the EAGLE newsletter and the web page for the Bristol club. Larry was honored for his outstanding work on getting Bob & Martha Sargent to present the Hummingbird program after the club banquet. This program was responsible for the Allens Hummingbird being found in Johnson City. Dave was honored as "Newcomer of the Year". Wallace was honored for his help to Dave & Diana this year. But, Janice won the biggie. Birder of the year. She was really pleased, and wore her Daffy Duck toilet seat all evening. We were honored to have Dean & Nina visit with us.

**Christmas Bird Count:** December 20<sup>th</sup>. Trips will be led by Bob 889-5007, Tom 880-1283, Dave 880-1373 or 74, and Scott Whitcomb, call Bob. Decide whom you want to work with and call that person.

**Schedule:** Meeting 23d at 7:30pm. **BE THERE.**