



# 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 2 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 98

**MEETING:** The November meeting consisted of a tape on the Birds of South Africa, furnished by Nina Gates.

**Happenings:** Bob & Jean Montgomery and Bob Riggs birded behind the Montgomery home in Green Valley recently and got some great looks at a bunch of woodpeckers. Pileated, Downy, Red-Bellied, and Hairy. Also a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and a Northern Flicker.

There is a Common Pintail and a female Ring-necked Duck at Robbins Pond on Rt. 603.

A Golden Eagle was spotted along Copper Ridge on 11-28.

A Northern Harrier female was working the hay meadows at Clifton. Rt. 640

Lake Bonadventure has a nice raft of Buffleheads hanging around.

The Ross's Geese and Snow Geese left on the 24<sup>th</sup>, if you got to see them, you were one of the lucky few. We were very fortunate to get them in our county.

**1998 Highlights:** 2-24, Tom Hunter finds Barnacle Goose at Elk Garden.

6-20 Golden Eagle spotted on Rich Mountain.

Sept. ?, Bob Riggs finds American Avocets near high school.

Sept. 18, Russell County Bird Club's 1<sup>st</sup>. anniversary.

Nov. 16, Tom Hunter finds 2 Ross's Geese at Stuarts Pond, Rosedale.

**Presidents Corner:** Jizz, what is it? The hunched over, drop down to the ground impression that is an Eastern Bluebird. The big black bird with the slight upturn to the wings that is a Golden Eagle. The little brown bird that pumps the tail and holds it at an angle that is a Song Sparrow. Jizz, the first characteristic overall impression given by a bird. Used by many birders to make field identifications when they see a bird, or at the very least put them in the right species range. The word comes from an acronym, G.I.S.S., a military term that stands for General Impression of Size and Shape. When watching a bird try and remember the general impression it gives you, put this impression into your own words. I find it a lot easier to remember when you relate it in your own terms. Use it the next time you see the busy little bundle fluttering and bouncing from limb to limb, call it a kinglet and then put your binoculars on it to confirm the call.

Do not forget the Christmas Bird Count on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Even if you can not help count, come out and join us for dinner at Bonanza at 7 pm and just see what we found.

Bob Riggs

On December 12, Dave Worley was honored by the Bristol Bird Club, by being selected Birder of the Year. He received a plaque and the coveted Daffy Duck toilet seat.

**Trips:** Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Bird Count, see Dave or Bob if you want to help.

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Community Room at 3pm, look for sparrows until dark, then try to find some owls.

Feb. 4-7<sup>th</sup>, pelagic trip from Va. Beach, see Dave or Bob for details.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**