



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
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DUES: Dues for year 2000 are now past due. For only \$8.00 per year your whole family is a part of the Russell County Bird Club. Send a check to Diana Worley at PO Box 153, Rosedale, Virginia 24280.

Only a few families have renewed. If your name and address are highlighted on this newsletter, you have not paid your dues.

Happenings: Bob Riggs and Dave Worley checked out part of the circle for the Christmas Bird Count a few days early. They found a feeder flock at Pucketts Hole, on the Clinch River. It contained Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Song Sparrow, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and 2 Brown Creepers. They also saw 2 Loggerhead Shrikes that day. All these species except Brown Creeper were found on count day.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is taking nominations for spots on the Virginia Birding Trail. At this time they are only looking at locations east of I-95, but in the future will be adding the western part of the state. We need to have locations ready to submit when they get ready to add our region to the trail. Be thinking about what in our area you would want people to see, and lets start discussing them at the next meeting. The trail will take people to good birding spots throughout Virginia. Maps and pamphlets will be available to guide birders on what can be a wonderful experience. This will be based on a similar trail in Texas; that has received acclaim from the birding world. We need to be prepared and not let our area be left out.

Dean, Nina & Sean Gates just returned from a trip to San Diego, California. They report seeing many gulls, coots, terns, egrets and ducks. They did not have a western field guide, so many were not identified. But; they were able to identify a male Cinnamon Teal and some Marbled Godwits.

Many of our members have been down to Holston Dam to see a rare immature male Harlequin Duck that was found by James Brooks of Jonesborough Tn. and Audrey Hoff of Knoxville, Tn. It was found on January 1, 2000.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: It was more exciting than Christmas morning. Tossing and turning all night, raising up to look at the clock, trying to sleep, all with the knowledge that the next morning is the fourth annual Blackford Christmas Bird Count. It was a very rough night, I always sizzle with anticipation of what new species we will add to the count this year, or what regular species we will miss. Will the number be higher or lower? But that will only be know after the count is over.

Bob and Jean Montgomery, Judy Settle and Sarah Cromer worked a new route in the count circle this year. It showed, as we broke the species record with 60 this year. We added at least five new species, maybe more. I have not yet compared the species lists from previous years. When I left the dinner we only had 59; but someone who loves to brighten my counts each year called and told me they had forgotten to list Cedar Waxwing. What a great bird to put us up to a total count of 60 species.

A few of the regulars were not seen this year. We did not find Pied-bill Grebe or Savannah Sparrow, but that is how counts go. Those of you who did not participate missed a great day of birding.

Tom and Laverne Hunter and Dave Worley deserve special recognition as they and myself have taken part in all four counts. Diana Worley also helped out by counting at her feeders during the day, this added greatly to the total count. Thanks to every one of you. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

Check out this web site for Christmas Bird Count totals: www.birdsource.org

Meeting: The next meeting will be January 25th, at the community room at 7:30 p m. The program will be on Hawks in Flight, how to identify. Please come join us.

Field Trips: The next field trip will be Sunday, January 23rd. We will be checking out waterfowl. Meet at the community room in Lebanon at 1 p m.

February 19th, we will visit Burkes Garden to see eagles and hawks. Expect Golden and Bald Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks as the birds of the day. We always have a great time on this trip, so plan now to join us. Meet at the Community Room in Lebanon at 8 a. m.