



# THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Dave Worley  
MEETINGS ARE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY  
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM  
AT 7:30 PM  
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**MEETING:** We did not have a December meeting since it was so close to Christmas.

**Happenings:** Bob and Jean Montgomery had a hawk eating a Mourning Dove at their feeder on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Present at Worley feeder most days during the snow storm were: Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Junco, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch and American Goldfinch. For several days we had a Fox Sparrow, but it left before the CBC. Several Eastern Bluebirds have been roosting in a birdhouse and frequenting the watering hole.

January 12<sup>th</sup>, Dave Worley and Bob Riggs did some birding around the area and found:

Northern Harrier-3  
Red-tailed Hawk-6  
American Kestrel-25+  
American Robin-500+  
Northern Flicker-6

And lots of Goldfinch, Junco, Song, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Crows, Mallards and a Great Blue Heron.

Tom and Laverne Hunter saw 6 Hermit Thrushes on Dry Branch on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January then went to Musicks` campground and saw 2 Common Mergansers and 3 Sandhill Cranes.

January 15, Bob Riggs and Dave Worley went to Augusta County and saw 2 Trumpeter Swans, then on to Louisa County and saw 5 Northern Harriers, then when the harriers left, they were replaced by 6 Short-eared Owls. The owls were seen perched and flying. Sometime flying with in 50 feet of us. If you would like to go on some of these trips with us, call Bob or Dave. We would love to have a full car.

**PRESIDENTS` CORNER:** I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas Bird Count was a lot of fun. This was the coldest count day ever, but the species count was in the range we normally get. A big **THANKS**, to those of you who braved the cold and snow. Like past years, each party contributed to the total species count. You are the folks who make this count such a success. You will get more details and a comparison with other years at the next meeting.

Tom and Laverne Hunter and myself were out birding recently and found what I would call a Harrier hole. Actually it was a reclaimed strip job that sits between mountains and ridges. We saw five, two males and two females and one that could own be identified by shape as it flew by overhead. It was a surprise to see that many in this area at this time of year. The habitat here was perfect for observing harriers, grassy hillsides to go with the flat area between the hills. There was snow on the ground and we could see tracks of prey species, mice to rabbits. There were lots of wet marshy spots, just what the harrier ordered. In this habitat, you can get a different view than normal. You not only see them flying low over the grass, but see them up high as they cross from one high spot to another. This gives a view of wing shape that you cannot see from the side. This was a good find and I am excited about this spring and the species we may find breeding in this area. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

**Next Meeting:** Hope to see you on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the usual time and place. The program will be about feathers and the birds they hang around on.

**DUES:** 2001 dues are now past due. If your name is highlighted on this newsletter, make out a check to Diana Worley and mail to PO Box 153 Rosedale, Va. 24280. Dues are \$8 and are used to pay for this newsletter, postage and an occasional special event.

**FIELD TRIP:** February 17<sup>th</sup>, we will go to Burkes Garden for our annual trip. Expect to see Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Do not miss this great trip.