



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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MEETING: There was no meeting in December since the regular date fell on Christmas Day.

CBC: Tom & Laverne Hunter, Bob & Jean Montgomery, Bob Riggs, Roger & Lynda Mayhorn, Ed & Michelle Talbott, Janice Martin, David Raines and Dave Worley all took part in the Blackford Christmas Bird Count. We all had a great time.

HAPPENINGS: Roger & Lynda Mayhorn and soon to be new RCBC members Ed & Michelle Talbott helped not only with the local CBC, but also with the Breaks Park and McDowell county, WV counts. Some notable species seen by this group were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rough-legged Hawk, Gray Catbird and a Common Loon. BTW Michelle owes us a life bird dance for the Golden Eagle she got on Beartown Mountain. She did one in the snow, but they only count if on tape or done at a meeting.

Tom Hunter had a Rough-legged Hawk at the intersection of Rt. 80 and 656 on January 5th. He had Purple Finches at his feeders on January 12th.

Roger & Lynda Mayhorn have had an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk making regular visits to their feeders. So far they have only seen it catch one songbird. They also had 2 Red-shouldered Hawks stop by for a few minutes. On New Years Day a check of their feeders produced 22 species, including 14 Purple Finches, 13 Northern Cardinals and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

The recently formed Buchanan County Bird Club invites you to their meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month. It is held at the Buchanan County Public Library at 6:30 pm. You are also welcome to attend their activities. Their web address is:

www.bcplnet.org/birdclub/birdclub.htm

They have a very nice site with pictures of some of the birds seen by Roger Mayhorn, and links to other great sites.

Dave Worley saw 17 Snow Geese fly over Elk Garden.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: Driving around a bend and over a small rise in the road I suddenly thought I was in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, *The Birds*. European Starlings came at me in what seemed like thousands; luckily I was in my vehicle. They had been feeding on the ground but my arrival caused them to take sudden flight, which means they dumped all unnecessary weight. The fallout was like rain. The huge flock circled a few times and came right back to the road. I was amazed by the sight, sound and numbers of starlings. It was a very huge flock and they were so bright. The birds had recently molted and were dressed in bright new feathers. They were bright black with shining tan to gold feather tips. The sound as they would circle overhead was deafening and the maneuvers were stunning as they circled, rolled, turned and flattened out in perfect precision. I tried to find the center or focus bird, but it was impossible in the suddenness of the moves. I enjoyed the huge flock even though I know it means trouble for the cavity nesters, Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Bluebirds, etc.

A big **“THANK YOU”** to all you who helped with the CBC this year. It was cold but fun. We got a total of 60 species. A Brown Creeper and Winter Wren were new to the list. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

MEETING: The meeting is January 22nd at 7:30pm at the usual place. Hope to see you there.

Dues: If you have not paid dues for 2002, you are now delinquent. We have had problems recently cashing checks made out to the club, so make your check out to Diana Worley and in the memo section put RCBC dues. Mail \$8 to Russell County Bird Club, PO Box 153, Rosedale, Va. 24280.

We have a great club and we want all of you to participate in our meetings and activities. I know that some times we just forget about events. I am going to start sending an e-mail reminder to everyone that is on my list. To be sure you get it, send me an e-mail at trooper@mounet.com and give me your address. Call me at 880-1373 with reports for the newsletter.