



# 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

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**MEETING:** Our December meeting was so close to Christmas that we had a very poor turnout. We missed all of you that were absent.

**SPECIAL TRIP:** Bob Riggs has a special trip planned for January 29 thru Feb. 1. He and anyone interested will leave at 4am for Virginia Beach, where they will join Dave & Diana to Bird at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Thursday night will be local, then Friday we will Bird the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and its islands. At dark we will move on to Chincoteague. We will Bird on Assateague Island and the surrounding areas until Sunday evening. Some will return home on Sunday, some on Monday. If you are interested contact Bob (889-5007) or Dave (880-1373 or 1374). You can see half a million birds on this trip. I expect to pickup 8 or 10 new *LIFE* birds.

**HAPPENINGS:** The Christmas Bird Count was a huge success. Participants were: Bob, Dave, Scott Whitcomb, Allen Boynton, Dean & Nina, and Tom & Laverne. We got 55 species. Make your plans to help next time.

Wallace Coffey recently documented the 1<sup>st</sup> recorded sighting of an Allens Hummingbird in Virginia. It was located in Bristol. Before it left the area, it was visited by people from all over the state. Our members who saw it were Janice, Bob, Larry, Rob, Dave & Diana and of course Wallace. We continue to discover new species for our area, because people are starting to report them to people who know what to do. People such as yourselves.

**WHERE & WHEN:** For the field trip on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, the Bristol area will meet at the Herald-Courier at 8 am, Abingdon will meet at the Chevron station at exit 14 at 8:20, Lebanon at Food City at 8:45, the Tazewell group at Hardees at 9:45. Hope to see you there.

For the owling trip on the 21<sup>st</sup> we will meet at the Lebanon Community room at 3 pm.

**COMPUTER BIRDING:** Any of you that have a computer and can receive E-mail can find out about birding in our region by joining Valley Birds. This net is owned and operated by Wallace Coffey and is free. To start receiving Valley Birds, send Wallace an E-mail message at [jwcoffey@tricon.net](mailto:jwcoffey@tricon.net), include your name and E-mail address and tell him a little something about yourself. How long you have been birding, what clubs or groups you belong to, etc. He will start sending you messages from other members telling about their sightings and experiences. It is a very valuable tool for serious birders. Most of our members are already on Valley Birds.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** I want to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Bird Count for the effort and the time that made the count a success. Dave put in the most miles, saw the most species and had the highest number of individuals. Scott and Allen put in the most miles on foot and came up with some great woodland species. Tom & Laverne really added some nice birds to the count with the Rough-legged Hawk and the Long-eared Owl. Dean, Nina and myself had a great time going to get the Golden Eagles, with plenty of Red-tail Hawks mixed in for fun.

We are starting the year off with a new twist on our club programs. Individual members will be giving programs on a particular group of birds. This will not only improve their skills, but the groups as well. The January program will be on owls, the presenters will be Dean, Nina & Sean Gates. I don't know exactly what they have planned but I'm sure it will be fun. One of our February field trips will be an owl outing. This is Bob Riggs wishing you "Great Birding in 98".

**WINTER FINCH ALERT:** BirdSource is using the Christmas Bird Counts and Project FeederWatch to launch a new website. They are now doing a survey on Winter Finches. Use the website at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu> to report sightings of Pine Siskin, Red or White-winged Crossbill, Pine or Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Common or Hoary Redpoll.

**EVENTS:** Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> -Regular meeting  
Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> -Burkes Garden Field Trip  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> -Owl outing