



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: I am not sure who showed up for the camping trip, as I was not present, and have not had a report on it. I do know that Wallace Coffey and Mary Erwin were there. It rained out the Mt. Rogers trip so they took everyone on a car trip to Whitetop. Birders were present from across the state.

Happenings: Wallace Coffey, Ron Lapp and Dave Worley went on a TOS foray to the Western Highland Rim recently to help conduct a bird survey on 129,000 acres of land owned by Willamette Industries. They were joined there by ten other members of TOS. A great time was had by all.

Bob Riggs and Dave Worley hosted our newest members, Ron & Rose Lapp on their recent Russell County trip. We went to see the Bobolinks, and were not disappointed. We saw several dozen males and females at their usual nesting site on Rt. 80 near Elk Garden. These were life birds for the Lapps, who reside in Sneedville, Tennessee.

Wallace Coffey has been busy this year. You saw above, one of his trips, but he also spent 12 days, 68 hours, birding with his friend Ron Harrington. They were surveying 7 regional sites for Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the U. S. Forest Service. "Birds in Forested Landscapes" was the name of the project. They had sites in Virginia and Tennessee. Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area was the closest to Russell County.

Get ready for the August shorebird influx. Check those ponds and streams carefully.

There are lots of fledglings out now, so do not be surprised by all the strange looking feathers on some birds.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: I was sitting on an old log after a morning of birding, eating a can of sardines, when I saw two eyes pop above the surface of the water about ten feet away. They belonged to an American Alligator and I wondered if I might be too close. The eyes were big so I figured the alligator was also. If the outline of his head under the water was any indication then he was definitely BIG. Maybe he wanted lunch also, so I kept an eye on him as I ate mine. I have had a lot of fun encounters with wildlife while seeking out the winged wonders. Plenty of snakes, a few bears, bobcats and even chased by a few skunks. The wildest was when I was at Savannah NWR in South Carolina a few years back. I was watching some Ibis and other long legged waders along a canal on an old rice plantation. I heard some splashing and wondered about the big fish making the noise, but I was too engrossed to look down. When I did look down, I saw I was standing beside ten alligators, ranging in size from four to six feet. WOW, not fish, I thought as I looked at the car and wondered if I could leap 20 yards. Stepping carefully, I did make it to the car. What a fun encounter. Just another reason I enjoy visiting Americas wild places in search of birds and wildlife. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

Meeting: Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 24th at our usual place, at 7:30 pm. Bob Riggs will have the program. We would love to have **you** at our next meeting. Our club can only operate if we have active members.

Newsletter Articles: Call Dave Worley at 880-1373. We need your input to be successful.

Anniversary Banquet: As usual, we will have a banquet in September. If you have input please attend this meeting to help us plan for it.