



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: At our last meeting Roger Mayhorn showed video and pictures of the birds around his yard. The antics of our feathered friends were fabulous.

HAPPENINGS: Bob Riggs and Roger & Lynda Mayhorn made a trip to Dublin, Virginia to see the Henslow Sparrow. This spot may be the last breeding habitat in the state. They saw and heard many of these birds in the grass lands, along with other species. They also saw many deer with large antlers.

July 6th, found Wallace Coffey, Dave Worley and our newest member, Rack Cross at Whitetop Station, where they picked up the Alder Flycatcher and dozens of Cedar Waxwings. Northern Bobwhites were calling the whole time they were there. At Alvarado they got the Acadian Flycatcher then on to Shady Valley, Tennessee for the Willow Flycatcher. Rack got 6 lifers that day. Rack and his wife Carol are looking forward to birding with us in the future. We might even get the 3 children into the act.

On July 13th Dave Worley, Janice Martin, Ruth Smith and Bob Quillen joined up with Larry McDaniel and Sybil Williams of the Bristol club for another trip to Whietop Station. The Alder Flycatcher was a lifer for several of this group also.

If anybody else needs this bird, I will be glad to guide a trip.

The weather must be keeping people indoors. I have not heard from anyone about any trips or sightings.

PRESIDENTS` CORNER: The birds were perched on the fence in unusual numbers for passerines of different species. Northern Cardinals, Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, American Robins and Carolina Wrens were spaced along the chain link fence around my yard like I have never seen before as I pulled into my driveway. My first thought was they were after the cat or a snake that threatened their young. But one thing was missing, the loud raucous calling that helps drive away a predator. I sat in the car and watched as first one then another would leave the fence and pick off and insect in flight then return to the fence. Sometimes several would be in the air together. I have occasionally seen Song Sparrows and cardinals do this, but nothing like the birds on this day. The flying insects were providing a feast for the hungry birds as they hatched and took flight. What a great service the birds were providing, eating the bugs before they could bug me. Just one of many interesting behaviors observed in the field.

I have a quiz. While canoeing down the Clinch River between Carterton and Saint Paul, I observed three heron species. Can you guess which ones?

See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

ATTENTION!!!!!!

Our next meeting has been changed to a field trip. On Tuesday July 23rd, we will meet at Dave`s shop in Rosedale. We will then bird the Clifton area. Several of our members need the Blue Grosbeak for a life bird and it is being seen in that area. Expect to also see Loggerhead Shrikes. 7:30 pm at Satellite Man Electronics, Route 19 in Rosedale.

Call Dave with news or articles. 276-880-1373.