



# 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 had a great meeting at Dean, Nina and Sean Gates home. The Worleys presented a program on their Texas birding trip. Thank you Gates.

**Directions:** To get to Grindstone Campground, take Exit 45 off I-81 at Marion. Go south on Rt. 16 to Troutdale. Turn right on Rt. 603 and continue to the campground. Hope to see you there.

**Happenings:** The nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were successful and raised 4 fledglings. They are still feeding around the nesting area.

Green Herons have a nest along the Clinch River, and the female is sitting on eggs.

Bob Riggs says we have Meadow Winks nesting in the county. Can you guess what birds are called Meadow Winks?

Tom and Laverne Hunter found two Black Bears on June 2<sup>nd</sup> while bird watching on Laurel Branch and Screaming Eagle strip mines. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Laurel Bed Lake, they and Bob Riggs found lots of Magnolia Warblers. At the archery range they found a Golden-winged Warbler.

On Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Janice Martin, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Dave, Diana & Lisa Worley, Ron & Rose Lapp, John Hay, and Don Holt were led by Larry McDaniel on a hike from the top of Whitetop Mountain to Elk Garden. This is about a 2 mile downhill hike. They heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl and saw lots of good birds, including Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wild Turkey, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Veery and Red Crossbill. They then had a picnic at the top of the mountain.

**PRESIDENTS' CORNER:** One of the things I enjoy about birding is the places I end up when I make a trip to watch birds. I started the month of May on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, searching the salt marshes and shoreline. The barrier islands were isolated, wild and awesome. Then it was home again to the beautiful mountains of Southwest Virginia. I do not think anything can compare to standing on Rabbit Ridge listening to a Cerulean Warbler sing. Recently while traveling to Virginia Beach, I took the southern route, Hwy 58. I stopped in Brunswick County and looked for the Bachman's Sparrow. No luck on the sparrow, but the vivid green of the grass under the tall pines made for a Kodak moment. The sun was penetrating the pines at the perfect angle, transforming the grass into a glowing memory. One evening while at the beach, I walked the west dike road at Back Bay NWR down to False Cape State Park. The birds were worth the four mile walk. There were long legged waders, bitterns and shorebirds all along the marsh walk. Stopping on the landward side of the barrier dunes to warm up dinner, I found one lone Northern Mockingbird singing with the ocean waves. I will never forget that moment, stark sand dunes, constant waves and the singing mockingbird in the setting sun. As I walked back to my car, I thanked God for the beauty.

Hey, see you in the wild places, watching the birds.  
Bob Riggs

**Next Meeting:** This months meeting will be our camping trip with the VSO. We are going to Grindstone Campground at Mt. Rogers on June 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Schedule: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3 pm Bird Walk  
8 pm Owl Calling

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 am Hiking trip to Mt. Rogers  
7:30 am Car trip up Whitetop Mt.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 7 am Birdwalk in Grindstone  
8:30 am Car Trip to Whitetop Mt.