



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
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2001

MEETING: We had nine people at the last meeting and we enjoyed sitting around talking about recent sightings and future trips. Time just slipped away before we could really finish. More in the future.

HAPPENINGS: Tom Hunter has been busy, on the 4th, he saw 2 Gadwalls at Clifton, on the 17th he had Black Duck, Common Snipe and Western Sandpiper in the same area. Also on the 17th at Elk Garden, he had 2 Hooded Mergansers and a Loggerhead Shrike.

Bob Riggs reports Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaup and Ringed-necked Ducks at Laurel Bed Lake.

Wallace Coffey and Dave Worley birded together on March 11 and got to see an early record Pectoral Sandpiper at Rural Retreat Lake. They were shown the bird by Tony Decker, author of Birds of Smyth County, Louise Tilson, Judy Musick and Dick Moose. They later birded in Shady Valley and then on to Musicks Campground. Numerous people were at Musicks, including our Mary Erwin.

Dave Worley had a Great Horned Owl perched over Route 19 near the Belfast School, great looks for about five minutes. It was still light out.

Roger and Linda Mayhorn are planning a trip out west for this summer, hitting many states and finding lots of new birds.

The Burkes Garden trip was a huge success. We had 18 people show up from different clubs. Lunch was fabulous as usual. Sightings were, 5 RL Hawks, 9 RT Hawks, 5 Golden Eagles, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 1 N. Harrier and over 1000 Horned Larks.

Dave and Diana Worley will leave on April 21st for a birding trip to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. They plan to visit for 12 days and bird numerous areas. They have a target list of 38 birds, but will welcome any extras.

PRESIDENTS` CORNER: On a recent trip Dave had a high count of Bald Eagles for one day, but he was not the only one. Forty in one day, was a sight to see. Actually it was forty in about five or ten minutes, ever how long it took to count them. The group had gone to St. Louis to see a Smew, but watching the eagles was worth the trip. The Bald Eagle has made a comeback from a serious decline. The first major decline was in the 1800`s as people collected feathers and trophies. In 1940 the Bald Eagle Protection Act was passed, making it illegal to harm, harass, kill or possess any part of an eagle, such as feathers, eggs, body parts or nests. Then in the 1960`s the eagle population really declined as DDT was used by the farmers. This decline led to it being placed on the Endangered Species List in 1967. It was downgraded to threatened in 1995 and proposed for delisting in 1999. It has not been removed yet and even if it is, it will still be protected under other laws and regulations. What a great recovery story for a species that was almost gone. I am awed every time I see even one lone eagle soaring over our local lakes and streams and I am thankful that there are places where the eagle can be seen in large numbers. The Bald Eagles and Osprey are moving through the area now, on their way to the breeding grounds. **HEY**, get out there and find an eagle. See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

Next Meeting: March 27th at the Community Room in Lebanon. 7:30 p.m. Bob will talk about feathers.

Field Trip: March 24th, we will do a waterfowl trip to Musicks Campground and the Wier Dams at South Holston Lake. We will leave the Community Room at 9 am.

Bob Riggs and Dave Worley spent part of March 19th birding around the county. They were trying to find a Horned Lark nest. No success on the nest, but they did find several pairs on territory. Also saw 2 N. Harriers, male and female and a Red-tailed Hawk.