



# 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:** Laverne and Tom Hunter did a great job on the Golden-winged Warbler program. We got lots of information on their habitat and habits. Since everyone was so interested, I bet Tom & Laverne will have some help next year.

**Happenings:** Tom Dye, Roger Mayhorn and Bob Riggs made a recent trip to Rich Mountain. It was a smoky day but they did find two immature Golden Eagles.

On Sunday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Dave Worley, Jean Montgomery, Roger Mayhorn, Mary Erwin, Judy Roach and Mike & Mary Evans went to Clinch Mountain Wildlife Area for a special program by George Bumann. George is involved in a study of the Ruffed Grouse. He traps, tags and tracks grouse to determine how they are doing in our area. He finds nests and counts young to determine their survival rates. This program is on going through out the Appalachians. He demonstrated the tracking equipment and even took us to a trap to show how it worked. It was a great program. Thanks George!

Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, Tom & Laverne Hunter and Dave Worley birded the Clifton area. They found numerous sparrows including, Song, Field, Chipping, House, Swamp, White-throated and White-crowned. The find of the day was a Lincoln`s.

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, Tom, Laverne and Dave birded Shady Valley, Tn. with Wallace Coffey. They met up with Larry McDaniel, John Shumate and Ron & Rose Lapp while there. They found lots of sparrows including, LeConte`s, Henslow`s and Nelson`s Sharp-tailed. Later in the day they went to Musicks Campground, where they found Mary Erwin and Judy Roach. They saw Horned, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes, and a Surf Scoter that really put on a show. It walked on water, floated on its back, which gave a good look at its bright orange feet, and amazed us with its mastery of the water.

Bob Riggs reports a Rough-legged Hawk near Elk Garden on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PRESIDENTS` CORNER:** Winter is on the way and plenty of raptors have arrived. I really look forward to watching the Golden Eagles hunt our mountain meadows. Seeing the big predator appear suddenly over a ridge top, then drop onto its prey species, is always exciting. Red-tailed Hawks are more abundant this time of year. I could never get tired of watching these raptors as they hang in the air along the ridges, tuck into a stoop and sink out of sight. When the sun hits these birds as they soar round and round, WOW, what a sight. Lots of Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks can be seen hanging around feeders, waiting for a chance to dart in and pick off an unsuspecting bird as it feeds. Remember, accipiters also have to eat. It is nature`s way. Try to watch them if they land in a nearby tree, identity can be still be hard to determine after years of practice. The occasional Rough-legged Hawk will make me dance a jig as I watch him soar over the fields. Count yourself blessed if you see one of these guys hunting from the air. We do get a Northern Harrier occasionally, it is fun to watch them weaving back and forth over the fields. If you are really lucky you might get to see a Northern Goshawk hunting among the trees along the fields. It is a rare sight, but it can be seen. Who could miss the American Kestrels perched on the wires along the highway? I love to watch the males when the courting hormones start to kick in. These small falcons will strut up and down a limb trying to impress all the females, at the start of their dance they will do a bounce or two. All this behavior along with the different raptors can be observed only in the winter. It really can heat up a cold winter day. HEY! Just get out there and enjoy them.

Bob Riggs

**West Nile Virus** has made it to Virginia. A crow tested positive recently in Farmville. This first case this far south was a surprise to lots of people.

**MEETING:** Dave & Diana Worley will show a video and slides of their trip to Nova Scotia. November 28<sup>th</sup> at the regular time and place.

Selasphorus hummingbird is still at Rosedale.

Addendum: Tuesday, November 21, 2000,  
Mr. Fred Moore of Birmingham, Alabama,  
banded an adult female Rufous  
Hummingbird at the home of Homer Gene  
and Eva Stevens, in Rosedale, Virginia.

This is a first record for Russell County.

Dave Worley made a video of the whole  
procedure and will submit documentation  
to the Virginia Bird Records Committee.