



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 11 NOVEMBER 2001

MEETING: Our last meeting was out of kilter since Dave Worley was scheduled for the program, and failed to appear. A kidney stone attack on Dave's part left it to Bob Riggs to improvise. A good time was still had by all.

HAPPENINGS: Bob Riggs reports lots of waterfowl at Laurel Bed Lake.

White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows can be found in the thickets and edges of fields. Swamp Sparrows in the few remaining marshy areas.

Tom and Laverne Hunter were in Ormand Beach, Florida from Nov. 3rd through 10th. They managed to get in 2 days of birding during that time. One day was spent birding Merritt Island and the other day they attended the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in Titusville, Florida. They were able to add the following life birds to their list: Northern Caracara, Gull-billed Tern, Mottled Duck, Florida Scrub Jay and Snail Kite.

The highlight of the trip was an all day bus trip to central Florida to see the non-migratory population of Whooping Cranes. The trip included videos of the work being done at Patuxent National Wildlife Area in Maryland. A presentation was made by Kathy O'Malley who has worked with hatching whoopers for over 17 years. Several Whooping Cranes and lots of Florida Sandhill Cranes were seen. Other birds of interest: Anhinga, Reddish Egret, White and Brown Pelicans, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bald Eagle, Northern Gannets, Dunlin, Sanderling, Red-shouldered Hawk, Glossy and White Ibis, Wood Stork, Willet and Black-bellied Plover.

Roger and Linda Mayhorn and friends have really been seeing the birds. They have been seeing Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Ruffed Grouse, and lots of fall warblers, including a Kirkland's. They hosted a birding group on Sept. 29th, that included Bob Riggs, Jean Montgomery, David Raines and Charles & Alona Kennedy.

A White-winged Scoter has been found at the Weir Dams below South Holston Dam.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: An early **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all of you. Along with celebrating with family and friends, we include our birds at Christmas by holding a CBC, Christmas Bird Count. You often hear new birders say that they are finding birds in their area that are not in the field guide for their area. The reason for this is field guides use the CBC to make up their lists. Not all areas have CBC's. We have been doing the Blackford CBC for five years. During the five years we have counted 88 species. Some of these are rare and unusual, like the 18 Common Redpolls located last year at Honaker. Vultures are rare that time of year, only one year have we had both species, and that was an extremely hot day in January. We also have common species like European Starlings in the thousands and crow and robin in the hundreds. The CBC is a lot like Christmas morning, never knowing what you will find until you get there. I always get excited the night before the count.

The original CBC started over a century ago, this will be the 102nd. It started with 27 people doing 25 localities. Today there are over 1800 count locations using over 50,000 volunteers. The counts today show 2,485 bird species, (689 in North America), and a total of over 54 million individual birds. Our count day will be December 29th, midnight to midnight. Try something new this year, get out and join a group and help them count their part of the circle.

See you at the meeting.

Bob Riggs

MEETING: Our next meeting will be November 27th at the usual time and place. The program will be on the Whimbrel count. We will also finalize our CBC plans, since our December meeting would fall on Christmas Day.

ELECTIONS: It is time to elect officers for the year 2002. Bob and I think we should have new officers so someone could continue the club if something happened to us. Please put some thought into this and come prepared to vote.

Dave Worley, Ron & Rose Lapp and Wallace Coffey attended the TOS fall meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. One hundred people attended the event.