



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: I did not attend the last meeting or receive a report of what happened.

HAPPENINGS: From all the reports rolling into BristolBirds Net, we are having a great fall in our area. You need to get out there and look for our feathered friends.

If you need a Rufous Hummingbird for your list, there is an adult male coming to a feeder at Hummingbird Hill on Roan Mountain.

Larry McDaniel has a *Selasphorus* hummingbird coming to his feeder in Johnson City.

Our newest member, Rack Cross of Blountville, is a very active birder as you will see below. He is also writing a paper on his find of a Least Tern in Sullivan County, Tennessee. This paper titled "First Sullivan County Record: Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) has been accepted for publication in *The Migrant*. *The Migrant* is published quarterly by the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

2 Nov. Roger Mayhorn and members of the Buchanan County Bird Club had a Henslow's Sparrow.

2 Nov. Rack Cross had Ring Billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, Buffleheads, American Widgeons, Common Loons and Canada Geese at Holston Lake.

6 Nov. Rack Cross got a lifer, a Brown-headed Nuthatch at Kingston steam plant in Tennessee.

8 Nov. Rack and Sammy Cross got a Sandhill Crane at Musicks campground. They observed it in Tennessee and Virginia.

9 Nov. Roger and Lynda Mayhorn had a female Purple Finch and 10 Wild turkeys at their feeder.

14 Nov. Roger Mayhorn saw 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and lots of sparrows, including a Fox Sparrow on Boyd's ridge in Buchanan County.

18 Nov. Rack & Carol Cross and Wallace Coffey had a Snow Bunting at Musick's Campground.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: Little brown blurs darting from one location to the next, is the way most people describe sparrows. What kind of bird is that? Oh that is a little brown bird. Once I actually heard this conversation as I stood with two birders. I could not help but chuckle as I listened to them discuss the sparrows feeding in the grasses. We were watching Field and Song Sparrows on a National Wildlife Refuge. I thought about this as I sat in tall grass surrounding a mud hole in a pasture. The brown blurs were busy deep in the grass and tough to see clearly. After a while they worked out into the shorter grasses so I could enjoy their shades of brown, yellow and gray. The Song Sparrows were the boldest, first perching on the grass stems, then hopping onto the ground. Then the buzzy call note of the Field Sparrows could be heard just before they appeared out of the grasses. They were soon followed by Savannah Sparrows running along the ground. Even some Swamp Sparrows showed up, they were splendid in their fall feathers, even the gray on the head was brilliant in the evening sun. When a Lincoln's perched on a stalk and posed for me, I thought what a bird, what a place. It was great to have five species in such a small area. Take the time to learn these difficult birds and you will soon see the beauty of these little brown blurs.

Bob Riggs

MEETING: NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER!!!!

Our regular dates are too close to the holidays so Bob decided against meeting.

Our banquet in September was a huge success. Jerry Via and Bill Akers did a great program.

ELECTIONS: We will hold our elections for new officers in January. Come prepared to nominate and vote for officers. We will also have to have a new newsletter editor. December will be my last newsletter.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Dick Peake just got back from a birding trip to Australia, he picked up almost 400 life birds.

There was not a newsletter for October.