



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH TUESDAY
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 7:30 PM

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 98

MEETING: We had a very nice planning session for our last meeting as you can see by the trip list. Bob Riggs also showed a movie of Virginia birds, put out by the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries.

We also elected officers for 1999 with the following results: President-Bob Riggs, Vice President-Nina Gates, Secretary-Diana Worley, Treasurer-Tom Hunter, Scrapbook Editor-Jean Montgomery and Newsletter Editor-Dave Worley.

HAPPENINGS:Janice & Fred Martin had a visitor show up at their feeder on Oct. 29, it turned out to be a hatching year female Rufous Hummingbird. It was captured, measured and identified on November 8th. It was seen by numerous members of our club, but left last Wednesday the 11th. This was one of very few sightings ever recorded in the mountain and valley region of Virginia.

On Nov. 1st., Bob Riggs found 2 Golden Eagles, 1 adult and 1 immature had arrived back at Rich Mountain.

Dave Worley, Larry McDaniel and Wallace Coffey birded together from Abingdon to South Holston on Oct. 26th. Saw Eared Grebe, Black-crowned Night-herons, Widgeons, Ringed-neck Ducks and a Blue-winged Teal, just to mention a few.

November 15, Bob Montgomery and Eric Toul birded Walters Woods in Lebanon. They found 2 Brown Creepers, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and numerous other species. Bob reports they had a possible Three-toed Woodpecker. Eric is familiar with this species and was positive of the id, but no pictures were taken.

November 16th, Tom & Laverne Hunter, Bob Riggs, Bob Montgomery and Dave Worley saw 15 Snow Geese, 10 Blue Morphs and 5 white, and 1 Ross's Goose at Stuarts Pond at Rosedale. Video and pictures were taken by Dave.

Nov 14, Tom & Laverne Hunter saw 8 Hooded Mergansers, 3 males and 5 females at the pond on Rt. 603 near Elk Garden.

Articles: I still need articles each month for the newsletter. Call 540-880-1373 or 1374, or send them to PO Box 153, Rosedale, Va. 24280

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: I spent this past weekend doing some training. We were inside from Friday evening until late Sunday. I had not realized that during this period, I had not seen a single bird, until a Red-tailed Hawk flew across in front of me on the way home. It gave me a thrill to see this big buteo soar across in front of the vehicle.

Then I started wondering why I spend so much time watching birds. Was it the competition of being the one who saw the most species or the rarest bird? I do not think so, because my life list is small and even though I have seen some uncommon birds, I have nothing really rare. I think it is the time spent with good people seeing some of the most spectacular animals on earth go about their daily business of survival. Whether the bird is a Bald Eagle migrating along the mountain tops, or a Song sparrow hanging around a feeder, there is always some type of behavior worth watching. The White-throated Sparrows shoving and pushing to decide their pecking order at the feeder or a male Cardinal wooing the female with gifts of sunflower seeds that he has already hulled. The action is non-stop until some predator moves into the area and all the birds disappear in a blur. The scenes are always changing and I seem to get a surprise every time I watch. Join the fun, get out and bird with us this fall. We have some excellent trips planned.

Bob Riggs

TRIPS:22 Nov. 1pm Meet at Lebanon Community Room. Dave Worley will lead trip to Musick's Campground and the weir dams at South Holston Lake. See grebes, ducks and possibly even an Eagle.

19 December, Christmas Bird Count. We need many counters. Details at meeting.

16 January, 3pm Lebanon Community Room. We will look for sparrows until dark then find some owls.

21-24 January, Eastern shore trip, 23rd will be a pelagic trip with Brian Patteson out of Va. Beach.

Dick & Martha Peake have left for Texas for the winter, we will be sending their newsletter there. Dick is currently birding in Argentina.

Don't forget 1999 dues must be in by the end of December. \$8 to Tom Hunter at Rt. 1 Box 413 B, Lebanon, Va. 24266