



THE DRUMMER

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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: Our last meeting was the 4th anniversary dinner at Bonanza. We had a great crowd to hear Sarah Cromer speak. Everyone got a prize and seemed to enjoy the evening.

HAPPENINGS: Bob Riggs reports that this fall was good for hawk watching at Mendota. He got 4,672 Broadwings, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 N. Harriers, 13 Sharp-shinned, 18 Coopers, 1 Red-shouldered, 8 Red-tailed, 2 American Kestrels, 1 Merlin and 2 Peregrine Falcons. He missed the Swallow-tailed Kite that was seen on Sept. 16th. It was the 3rd record for southwest Virginia.

Dave & Diana Worley just returned from two weeks out west. At Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, they got 5 new lifers, Clarks Nutcracker, American Dipper, Black-billed Magpie, Brown-capped Rosyfinch and Mountain Chickadee. In the Yellowstone area, between Wyoming, Idaho and Montana they got 5 more lifers. They were Cinnamon Teal, Clarks & Western Grebes, Barrows Goldeneye, and Blue Grouse. They saw lots of Elk, Bison, Antelope, Big Horn Sheep, Coyotes, Red Foxes and even 1 Mountain Goat. The goat was seen in South Dakota at Mount Rushmore. The weather was very nice, it only snowed when they were above 10,000 feet.

Roger Mayhorn & Charles Kennedy each hosted bird watching events at their home recently, but I have no reports on them.

October is a good month for studying sparrows, as the little brown birds move south.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER: A guy called and complained about the buzzards that were hanging out around his house and wanted to know how to get rid of them. I arrived at his house the next morning to witness 341 vultures perched on an old oak tree, a mixture of Black and Turkey Vultures. The large recently dead tree was providing a perfect roost or perch for the vultures. The smaller limbs had broken off leaving only large stout limbs that could support the birds weight. Just as important was the location. It sat in a field on the southeastern slope, right where the first rays of the morning sun would warm them up. The birds had their wings spread to the morning sun. As the sun warmed and dried them, they floated off and soared into the distance. I really enjoyed watching them and hated telling the landowner that if he cut down the tree, they would probably leave the area. A perfect perch for the birds, but a nuisance to the landowner because of the closeness to his home. They were making a mess and his wife failed to see the beauty of the soaring birds. I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

MEETING: Our next meeting is Oct. 23rd, at 7:30pm. Dave Worley will do a program on Virtual Birding. He will cover the use of Birds of North America CD, Birders Diary CD, and birding sites on the internet.

I need more articles each month for the newsletter. Please call me at 880-1373 or 1374.

November is election time. We need a new president and newsletter editor. Speak up if interested.