



# 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:** Our last meeting was our annual banquet, and those of you who missed it were very unlucky. Wallace Coffey put on a great program. I am amazed every time I hear Wallace, the man could not bore you if he tried. I noticed the members while Wallace was speaking and they seemed to hang on every word. The steaks were cooked to perfection and just fell apart with the fork, no need for a knife. If you were not there, make plans to join us next year.

**Happenings:** Dave Worley reports that he still has Ruby Throated Hummingbirds coming to his feeder, as of Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

He was in Bath County Oct. 8-10, and saw Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Screech Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Raven and numerous warblers.

There is a report of a Rufous Hummingbird visiting a feeder in Bluefield, WV. I may have more info later if you want to see it.

Bob Riggs reports a lot of winter residents are back, he has seen Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows.

Osprey are passing thru the area.

October is a great month for sparrows, keep your eyes open for a Lincoln`s, as they are often overlooked.

Laverne Hunter reports three Great Horned Owls visiting her yard.

Tuesday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Bristol Bird Club meeting, Wallace Coffey and John Shumate will be present to sell and autograph copies of their new book. "A Bird Study of Shady Valley, Tennessee" has just been published and released.

**Next Meeting:** October 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Lebanon Community Room at 7:30 p.m. We will be planning our field trips for the next few months and viewing the video on our visiting Selasphorus Hummingbird.

Call in your sightings to Dave at 880-1373 or 1374.

**Presidents` Corner:** The last couple of days have been fun because of a passing storm front. I saw Merlins all over Russell and Buchanan counties. Suddenly appearing as they chase birds just above the ground, these muscular falcons are some ornery birds of prey. I believe they are born with a mean disposition toward other birds. I saw one at Stuart`s pond chasing a Turkey Vulture. I wonder what that Merlin would have done if he found that vulture suddenly in his talons. They just seem to love bullying other birds even if they are much larger. After it tired of bothering the vulture, the Merlin headed west looking for a meal or to bully someone else. If you get the chance to study one of these birds in the field, just enjoy the show. They usually just appear out of nowhere and do not hang around long. You barely have time to think Merlin, then it is gone. They are slightly larger and darker than a Kestrel, they fly low to the ground, usually in pursuit of another bird, the flight is direct with a constant wingbeat. Go out and find a few of these powerful falcons while they are passing thru and witness first hand why they are the bad birds of the raptor world.

See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

The VSO has a new web site at [www.ecoventures-travel.com/vso](http://www.ecoventures-travel.com/vso).

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club has one at [www.members.xoom.com/roanokebird](http://www.members.xoom.com/roanokebird).

**Special Report:** Russell County has its first reported Selasphorus Hummingbird. Unable at this time to say either Rufous or Allen`s. It is visiting at the Rosedale home of Homer Gene and Eva Stevens. Homer Gene mentioned it to Dave and Bob on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> but did not notice the brown until Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. We have lots of video and some photos. To see it, go north on Rt. 19, pass the Rosedale post office and continue until you see the Virginia Hillbilly store. Just past the store you turn right on Easy St. Go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> house on the right, it is visiting a feeder hanging out back on the gazebo. To check status before you go, call 880-1128. Visitors so far, Dave Worley, Bob Riggs, Jean Montgomery, Tom & Laverne Hunter. This may be your last chance to see a western hummingbird in Russell County. It is extremely rare.

Bob Riggs is trying to arrange for its capture and banding. This is the only way to get a positive id.