



# 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 the picnic at Laurel Bed Lake, and it was a good day. We had 17 people present. No eagles, but we had lots of warblers. The food was **GREAT!!!!**

**HAPPENINGS:** Roger and Lynda Mayhorn held a warbler watch at their home on Sept. 14. 13 people attended for some great birds and a fabulous meal. We got 43 species that day.

Mendota Hawk watch is finding good birding. Over 400 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 3 Osprey, 2 Northern Harriers, 1 Coopers Hawk, 1 Bald Eagle and 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks have been seen so far, along with numerous warblers and other species. 2 Philadelphia Warblers were seen on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Clifton has huge flocks of Palm Warblers totaling in the hundreds. Be sure to check the ponds while you are there for Least, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers.

Roger and Lynda Mayhorn are seeing fantastic numbers of warblers and other migrants at their home every day. Recently when they left early to go to Mendota, Ed Talbott went up early to check migration for the day.

Rack Cross had a Least Tern at South Holston Lake recently.

Many of our members are also members of the Bristol Bird Club and they got to see and hear a fabulous program by Jeff Wilson (Ol Coot), of Bartlett, Tennessee. He was their banquet speaker at Greenway Haven on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Worley and Rack Cross spent Saturday morning, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at Mendota with a few others. No hawks that morning, but we got 9 species of warblers.

Bob Riggs has spent a lot of time at Mendota this year, I saw a big "Thank You Bob" from Ron Harrington, who is running the event.

**PRESIDENTS` CORNER:** Late summer and fall mean one thing to birdwatchers, migration. This time of year we are talking about the southward movement of birds, birds that gather into huge feeder flocks of mixed species, shorebirds, passerines and my favorite, raptors. Sitting on a mountain ridge watching the top predators soar past is one of the best birding experiences for me. Sunny or cold I enjoy the view, large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks, looking a Peregrine Falcon in the eye as it soars back and forth across the ridge, the huge silhouette of a Bald Eagle as it first comes into view then passes to become a distant speck, and the excitement of a mystery bird as it appears in the distance. These are the experiences that will last a lifetime. Sitting on a rock at Mendota after everyone had left recently, I thought about the years I have been excited by the passing raptors, the people I have talked with while waiting for the birds, the solitude I enjoyed when no one else showed up, and I just thanked God for the blessings. If you have not been to the hawk watch, what are you waiting for? See you in the field.

Bob Riggs

**MEETING:** This months meeting is our anniversary dinner at Bonanza on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Our speaker will be Jerry Via, one of Virginias` top birders and field trip leaders. If you want, bring a gift to exchange with someone else.

I would love to have articles from each of you to include in the newsletter. Call me at 880-1373 days or 880-1374 evenings.

Ben and Ellen Ames are out west, near Las Vegas, they contacted me before leaving to check on some good birding spots. Sounds like a future program to me.

**DON`T FORGET THE BANQUET.**