



THE DRUMMER

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RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Editor-Diana Riggs

MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH TUESDAY

AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM

AT 7:30 PM

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

MEETING: The annual banquet will be held on Tuesday 23rd at 7:00 PM, location will be Bonanza restaurant on the east end of town. Our speaker will be Dr. Phil Shelton, a well traveled professor of the University of Virginia College at Wise. He has studied high elevation birds in our area for years, leading many trips up Mount Rogers and surrounding areas. His program for the evening will be Birds of the Pacific. He will entertain any questions about Southwest Virginia and discuss high elevation birds time permitting. Plan to join us for an evening of good food, good friends, and a great program.

HAPPENINGS: Roger Mayhorn reported a great turnout for his and Linda's backyard warbler trip, 21 people attended the event and as usual Linda worked her magic and the warblers appeared. I don't think there is a yard in Virginia as birdy as Roger and Linda's yard. Roger said the hotdogs were not bad either.

Jean reported the annual picnic was a big success with 12 people turning out for some great food at a beautiful location. No Eagles this year but the weather was wonderful and who can fuss about being at Laurel Bed Lake with such good people.

Bob Riggs reports on Common NightHawk migration this year one flock observed at Castlewood numbered 57. One in Lebanon had 14 and one seen at Clifton had 3.

Roger Mayhorn reports the warblers are still passing in good numbers. Anyone wanting to bird watch in his yard is welcome.

September is Broad-wing Hawk migration, Bob Riggs, Tom Hunter, Bob and Jean Montgomery, Judy Settle checked out a new location on Brumley Mountain on Tuesday 16th. A great view but not many hawks were seen.

19th Bird Event at Hungry Mother State Park
8:00am.

20th Bird Event at Natural Tunnel State Park.
7:30AM

20th Hawk watch at Mendota Firetower.
22nd Bob Riggs takes school children to Mendota
you are welcome to come along.

Bird Stories: The Best Of The Month Submitted By Ed Talbott

Sunday was a day that will go down as one of my top birding days ever. It all started with a trip out to Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain. Rick Knight was out there banding birds and I got to watch the entire process. Kenn Kaufman was up there with the group also and led a birding hike up the road towards the summit. He had been the guest speaker the night before at the Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally. Anyway, we all got good looks at the Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Juncos and other high-altitude species. Kenn was identifying sub-species by the call notes so I kept my mouth shut - but did ask a few questions. Several species of warbler were migrating through the gap - Tennessee's could be seen in just about every tree it seemed like.

After lunch, Rack Cross and myself decided to head up to Musick's Campground to see what shorebirds might be there. As we pulled up the gravel drive we saw a boldly marked gull working it's way up the lake. We both jumped out of our vehicles and starting thinking Kittiwake right away. The gull then made another pass and we decided that the only bird that fit what we were seeing was a Sabine's Gull. I didn't have my phone or camcorder so by this time I was sick. Luckily Rack had his phone with Wallace's number programmed in. He called Wallace, who showed up just in time to get about a minute of long range scope looks before the gull flew out of sight. We then jumped in our vehicles and chased the bird up the lake. We didn't find the gull but did have a Bald Eagle and Osprey in an aerial dogfight about 75 yards away. We made our way back to Musick's and by this time Janice Martin had shown up with her camcorder (Bert Hale has placed an alert on the Bristol list after Wallace's phone call). I spotted the bird again while scanning the opposite shore and immediately began to film as the gull came to within 60 yards and landed next to some Caspian Terns. Wallace had brought his shorebird guides so by this time we had nailed the ID. What a day.

What a day good job Ed.

The warblers are migrating in what appears to be good numbers. A group was at Hidden Valley on Tuesday 16th and it looked like thousands feeding in the treetops until about 2:00 PM.