

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

JULY 2011

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Beckham Bird Club will be on Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, in the Community Room. BBC member, Dick Dennis, will give a presentation on Aldo Leopold. Although Aldo Leopold lived in the 20th century, his *A Sand County Almanac* is more relevant than ever today. He makes a compelling indictment against man's misuse and abuse of the earth's resources. His powers of observation together with beautiful writing and scientific analysis rank him in the same tier with Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and Rachel Carson. Illustrated examples of his works will be shown and discussed. Join us for a very interesting meeting about a very important conservationist.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

May 8, Joe Creason Park

Nine BBC observers enjoyed a truly awesome morning of observing spring migrants. The group found 74 species, including 20 species of warblers, while birding in the vicinity of the Metro Parks Administration Building and sidewalk leading to Beargrass Creek. They enjoyed several good looks at Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Nashville, Cape May, and Blackburnian Warblers. Other highlights included Least Flycatchers, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Baltimore Orioles.

May 14, Floyds Fork

Eight birdwatchers visited Floyds Fork in search of spring migrants and were rewarded with 65 species, including 9 species of warblers including a Blackpoll. The flycatchers were well represented with 6 species including an Alder Flycatcher. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen visiting a nesting hole. Other highlights included both species of Orioles, Wood Thrushes and Cedar Waxwings.

May 21, Taylorsville Lake State Park

Finally, it was a warm sunny Saturday morning. Three club members found 43 species, highlighted by huge numbers of Orchard Orioles, and great looks at Prairie Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats.

May 22, Cherokee Park

There were few spring migrants, unusual for the time of the year. However, eleven observers enjoyed nice views of a Wood Thrush foraging along the edge of Maple Road, and a Black-crowned Night-Heron was a nice surprise. As the group ended the walk, a Barred Owl was heard and then spotted. In all, 49 species were found.

June 12, Mammoth Cave National Park

Great day to be birding! Turkeys with youngsters were found at several spots in the park. Wood Thrushes sang their melodious songs and 13 species of warblers were located: Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cerulean, Black-and white (feeding a fledging), Kentucky, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Ovenbird, and Hooded. Other birds of interest include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. The six observers sighted a total of 68 species.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The temperature was in the eighties with high humidity but this did not deter the 27 members who attended the BBC annual picnic at Bernheim Forest from having a fun time. The members enjoyed good food and fellowship. Afterwards they took a walk around Tom's Town and discovered several nesting warblers and resident birds of the forest. The warblers included Hooded, Kentucky, Pine, and Parula. Other birds of interest were Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Thanks to Carol and Paul McAllister for organizing the picnic. If you couldn't attend this year, mark your calendar for the first Sunday in June for our annual picnic in 2012.

CATS VERSUS CATBIRDS

When cats versus catbirds, the catbirds are the loser. Research done in 2004 and published in 2011 again show that free roaming cats are major predators of songbirds. Of 69 catbirds studied predators killed 33 birds before they reached independence. Of the 19 deaths in which a cause could be determined 47 percent were killed by cats. Predation was highest after the birds fledge. In the two areas where the study was conducted the area with cats had a survival rate of only 20 percent and in an area where there were no cats the survival rate was 55 percent. When birds fledge from the nest they are loud, parents are in constant attendance, and the fledglings are predator naive. These factors make them prone to being preyed upon by pet cats. This is another reason to keep cats indoor to protect birds. This information was taken from *BirdWatching*, the June 2011 issue.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

When you have a question about some function of the club the easiest way to get it solved is to go to the right person. Below is a list of the officers and some committee chairs for upcoming 2011-2012 year. Please save it so you can get in touch with the person who can help you.

President – Paul McAllister – 290-4732 – pcmcal@gmail.com

Vice – president – Jane Bell – 326-9610- patjanebell@bellsouth.net – **Chairs Bird Alert and March Dinner Meeting Committee**

Treasurer - Carl Bochmann – 618-0574- Bochjunk@nls.net

Secretary – Wanda Bilkey -599-7413 – wbilkey@yahoo.com

Past-president – Carol Besse -4545971 – csbesse@bellsouth.net – **Chairs Program Committee and Club's email site**

Directors :

Kathy Dennis – 426-9679 – denapple@yahoo.com – **Technical Support for club's electronic equipment and Club's Web Site**

Pat Bell- 326-9610 – patjanebell@bellsouth.net – **Editor of the newsletter, *The Beckham Observer*, and Christmas Bird Count**

Barbara Woener – 485-9017 – Barbara_woener@hotmail.com – **Copies and mails the newsletter**

Bonnie Avery741-2333 – bonavery@gmail.com

Other committee Chairs:

Field Trips – Eddie Huber 261-9698 – edandjenhuber@bellsouth.net; Colleen Craven-Becker - 923-0145 – cbirding@aol.com

Hospitality and Picnic– Carol McAllister – 290-4732 – pcmcal@gmail.com

Breakfast with the Birds – Marsha Biven – 361-0200

Membership and updates member's info – Steve Deetsch – 458-2963 – s_a_d00@yahoo.com

INDIANA MIGRATORY COUNT

The Indiana Audubon Society Big May Day bird Count for Clark County, Indiana took place on May 14, 2011 with ten observers in four parties. The morning was mostly cloudy with rain and thunderstorms occurred in the afternoon. A total of 107 species was counted. Twenty-two warblers species were counted versus 15 for last year. Total individual birds counted were 2,673. Notable observations included: 3 bald eagles, a blue grosbeak, and one osprey. A potluck dinner was held on the following Tuesday evening at the lovely home of Scottie Theiss. All participants had a wonderful time.

BIRD ALERT

A bird alert was started for an American White Pelican that was seen at from the observation deck of the Falls of the Ohio State Park on June 24. The White Pelican is rare in this area but very common in western Kentucky.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The fall schedule will be in the next newsletter. If you haven't been on a trip for awhile join us in the upcoming weeks. Migration will soon be in full swing again and this will be a good time to join a field trip.

LETTERS

- ❖ A letter on behalf of the Beckham Bird Club members was sent to John Schnatter (aka Papa John) to thank him for creating the Anchorage Trail and preserving this area in its natural state for all to enjoy.

- ❖ A letter was sent to the Migratory Bird Regulations Committee of the United States Fish and Wildlife service stating opposition to the hunt for Sandhill Cranes in Kentucky. It was signed by many different organizations including BBC.

Don't forget to send in your Birdathon pledge.