

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2010

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Beckham Bird Club will be on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, in the Community Room. **Tom FitzGerald, director of the Kentucky Resources Council**, will offer his clarifying perspective on the disastrous Gulf oil spill at the November meeting. FitzGerald, the state's most effective environmental advocate, will assess the impact of federal regulation, the apparent indifference of the oil industry in general and BP in particular and the response of government at all levels, including that of President Obama. He will also assess what might be done to avoid a repeat of the disaster as well as the world's apparently endless dependence on oil. **Join us for this important meeting.**

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Enclosed is a dues envelope to renew your membership for 2011. Your membership runs from January to December so unless you are a new member and joined in October your membership needs to be renewed. Please pay your dues promptly either by mail or at the meeting. Use the dues envelope or a membership form found at beckhambirdclub.org. Please fill out the information carefully so that it is legible especially your email address. **Please consider joining as a contributing member.**

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

PLEASE NOTE:

- ❖ CELL PHONE USE, SMOKING, CONVERSATIONS ON FIELD TRIPS - One of the joys of birding is being outdoors and enjoying seeing the birds. But the experience can be ruined by cell phones, second-hand smoke, and excessive conversations. If you feel the need to use your cell phone, to smoke, or have a long conversation be considerate of the other members on the trip and step away from the group.
- ❖ FIELD TRIP CANCELLATION - With winter approaching this is a reminder that field trips can be cancelled due to weather. If in doubt check with the leader, go to [birdky](http://birdky.com), or birdingonthe.net/mailling_lists/KNTY.html.
- ❖ The November 14 field trip to Bernheim Forest has been cancelled.

Thursday, November 4 10 a.m. - ??	SPENCER COUNTY – BIRD, GATHER & EAT – Gather persimmons, pears and walnuts after birding. Light lunch will be served. Reservations requested. Directions will be given at the time of making reservations.	Dona Coates (502) 538 -4631 donacoates@aol.com
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Saturday November 6 8:30-Noon	FALLS OF OHIO- Meet at observation deck and bird to Duffy's Landing, for waterfowl and resident species.	Michael Autin 773-0598
Saturday, November 20 8:30a.m.-Noon	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Meet at the trailhead in Anchorage, which is located at Evergreen Rd. and Station Rd.	Paul McAllister 290-4732
Sunday, November 21 8:30 a.m. to ??	MUSCATATUCK NWR / HARDY LAKE - For waterfowl and resident species. Meet at the visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.	Pat & Jane Bell 326-9610
Sunday, November 28 9:00 a.m. - Noon	CAVE HILL CEMETERY —For resident species. Meet inside the front gate on Baxter Avenue.	Bob Johnson 896-9638
Saturday, December 4 8:30-noon	RIVER RD - For Waterfowl and winter residents. Meet in the lower parking lot of Ramada Inn at I-71 and Zorn Ave.	Bob Johnson 896-9638
Sunday December 5 8:30a.m.-11:30	GARVIN-BROWN PRESERVE - Meet at parking lot of Hayes-Kennedy Park off Upper River Rd	Paul McAllister 290-4732

PAST FIELD TRIPS

September 15, Anchorage Trail – A cool morning greeted the nine observers as they began their walk, but the temperatures would quickly rise. Swainson's Thrushes delighted everyone with their song as well as their presence. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was also seen. A nice array of vireos was seen – Yellow-throated, Philadelphia and Red-eyed. Warblers were rather scarce, but the group did manage to find eight species. Other highlights included Cedar Waxwings in large number hawking insects and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

September 18, Floyds Fork Park – Fourteen members met at Floyds Fork on a cool but sunny morning to be greeted by a couple hundred people attending a soccer tournament. The birding was slow along the edges of the field, in part due to the crowds. Birding picked up as the group moved on. Fifty species were located including 9 species of warblers. Highlights included several Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a Northern Harrier, and 5 species of vireos.

October 3, Taylorsville Lake - On a cool fall morning with some light drizzle, 6 people met at Taylorsville Lake. The group located 23 species, including 3 species of warblers. Highlights included a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwings, and crows mobbing a Cooper's Hawk.

October 9, Sloughs -There was virtually no water at the Sloughs in Henderson resulting in virtually no waterbirds. Eight people located 64 species nonetheless with the following highlights: Bald Eagle, Sora, Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Bobolinks.

October 10, Tom Sawyer State Park - Ten birders enjoyed a beautiful morning at E. P. Tom Sawyer State Park. They found 43 species including 5 warbler species (Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Yellow-rumped) and a Blue-headed Vireo. Other early winter visitors included a Red-breasted Nuthatch and White-throated Sparrow.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE 2010 BBC BIRDATHON

The Board of Directors of Beckham Bird club distributed the 2010 Birdathon funds. A total of \$13, 585 was collected and given to the following organizations.

The final allocation of 2010 Birdathon funds is as follows:

Operation Migration -- \$1,000

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission -- \$2,730

Kentucky Natural Land Trusts -- \$2,730

Kentucky Resources Council -- \$1,500

Raptor Rehabilitation -- \$900

Louisville Nature Center -- \$1,000

Kentucky Conservation Committee -- \$1,000

Bob and Judy Peak -- \$525

Woods & Waters Land Trust -- \$1,000

The Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind -- \$500

Wingspan of Kentucky -- \$700

Go to the club's website, beckhambirdclub.org, to read how each organization will use the money they were given. Click on birdathon. Thanks to all who generously contributed to this year's birdathon. Also thanks to all who took part in the birdathon and raised the money to help birds and our environment.

BIRD ALERT

An alert was started on Sunday, October 3 for a White Pelican on a farm pond on Highway 55 just north of Bloomfield. White Pelicans are common in western Kentucky but are rare in the central part of the state.

For the second year in a row a rare Mew Gull returned to Barren River Lake. It was seen on October 18 by several birders. This is the second record for Kentucky. Pictures of the gull can be seen on the Kentucky Ornithological Society web site.



ODDS AND ENDS

- ❖ Think about participating in next month's Christmas Bird Counts. More information will be available in the December newsletter. The Louisville Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, December 19.
- ❖ Don't forget! There will be a **silent auction of books** at the meeting to benefit the 2011 BBC Birdathon. See the October newsletter for a list of the books.
- ❖ Land fields can be very productive birding sites and the December program by Ryan Ankeny will tell us about all the birds that he has seen at the Outer Loop land field.
- ❖ Now available, *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity* with a foreword by Wendell Berry. Organized by a team from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, the book is an exploration of wild Kentucky that highlights species and natural communities found throughout the Commonwealth. This synthesis of the current state of biodiversity knowledge is accompanied by more than 250 photographs, maps, and illustrations that offer a means to visually explore wild Kentucky. Read more, view sample pages and learn how to get your copy by visiting <http://naturepreserves.ky.gov/pubs/Pages/kynaturalheritage.aspx>
The authors will be at Carmichael's Book Store on Frankfort Avenue on December 4.
- ❖ Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 8, for our annual dinner meeting. Laura Erickson, author of *101 Ways to Help Birds*, will be the guest speaker.