

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 2012

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Beckham Bird Club will be on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street in the Community Room. **Stratton Hatfield**, an American that was born and raised in Sub-Saharan Africa, began birding when he was seven years old in Zimbabwe. Since then he has birded extensively in many areas in Africa, most recently in Kenya where his family now lives. He is currently studying conservation, biology and economics at the University of Kentucky. Stratton is going to give **an introduction to birding in Kenya** by looking at many of the major habitats and birding hotspots in the country. He will be focusing primarily on endemic and localized species. He will also at the end of the program introduce to birders some of the **opportunities available to them for birding in Kenya**. Hope everyone can join us for what looks to be an interesting and informative program.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 48:30 a.m. - Noon	RIVER ROAD For waterfowl and winter birds. Meet in the lower parking lot of Ramada Inn at I-71 and Zorn Avenue.	Bob Johnson 896-9638
Saturday, February 11 9:00 a.m. - Noon	GARVIN-BROWN PRESERVE/HAYES KENNEDY - For waterfowl and winter residents. Meet at the parking lot of Hayes-Kennedy Park off Upper River Road.	Paul McAlister 290-4732
Wednesday, Feb. 15 9:00 a.m. - Noon	BERNHEIM FOREST - For winter residents and waterfowl. Meet at the Bernheim Forest arboretum parking lot.	Bill Friel 502-348-8159 Cell - 502-460 0503
Saturday, February 18 8:30 a.m. - Noon	OHIO RIVER, INDIANA SIDE - For winter birds and waterfowl. Meet at Falls of the Ohio State Park parking lot.	Tom & Colleen Becker 812- 923-0145
Sunday, February 19 9:00 a.m. - Noon	CREASEY MAHAN / REFORMATORY LAKE - For winter residents and water fowl. Meet at Creasy Mahan, Highway 42 to Route 1793, about .5 mile to sign on the right.	Paul McAlister 290-4732
Saturday, February 25 8:30 a.m. - ??	BEEHUNTER MARSH & GOOSE POND - Meet at McDonald's on Highway 54 in Linton, IN for waterfowl and raptors. It is a 2 ½ drive from Louisville - We will be leaving McDonald's at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Bring lunch or eat in town. Call Tom to let him know that you are coming on the trip.	Tom & Colleen Becker 812- 923-0145
Saturday, March 3 9:00 a.m. - Noon	FARNSLEY-MOREMEN LEVEE WALK - For winter birds. Meet at the Farnsley-Moremen parking lot to walk the levee trail.	Bob Johnson 896-9638
Sunday, March 4 8:30 a.m. - ???	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, March 11 8:30 a.m. - Noon	CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – Meet at the foot of Maple Road Bridge 5.	Rob Lane (205) -276-9580
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PAST FIELD TRIPS

Cave Hill Cemetery, January 7 - The really good birds were all airborne: a Red-tailed Hawk soaring effortlessly over the cemetery in the morning sun; a Sharp-shinned Hawk cruising high in the sky; and from a distance, the call of a Red-shouldered Hawk. The birds on the ground were less striking: a pair of American Coots paddling on the quarry lake; a Great-blue Heron at rest near the edge of the main lake; a Yellow-breasted Sapsucker at work nearby; and Brown Creepers seen at two locations. There was a surplus of Cardinals and Blue Jays. Perhaps the most unusual sighting was a Downy Woodpecker busy on the ground on what might have been an acorn. Nine Beckham members recorded 28 species.

BIRD ALERT

On December 24 an alert went out for a Calliope Hummingbird that was visiting a feeder in Mount Vernon, Indiana. It was banded and photographed and the pictures were sent to Bob Sargent, the hummingbird expert from Alabama, who confirmed it as a Calliope Hummingbird. It is a first record for Indiana.

GBBC - 2012

The 2012 GBBC will take place Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Get more information at birdsource.org/gbbc.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

Our dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at The University Club on the University of Louisville campus. A social hour with a cash bar will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a buffet at 7:00 p.m. The price of the dinner is \$30.00. Please extend your hospitality to our members who may need a ride. The deadline for making a reservation is March 8. Refunds are not guaranteed after March 8. Only reservations with payment will be accepted.

Richard Crossley is an internationally acclaimed birder and photographer who has been birding since the age of seven. He was born in Yorkshire, England, and has traveled the world to follow his passion. He settled in one of North America's birding meccas, Cape May, New Jersey, in 1991. Mr. Crossley is a birder who lives by the motto, "a picture is worth a thousand words." His revolutionary new book, *The Crossley ID Guide*, was created using a method he calls "reality birding." It shows birds closer to the way we actually see them – small, fast-moving, often at a distance, behind leaves or flying away from you. Each page of the book offers a full color plate with multiple photographs of a species in various plumages and poses, in flight, on the ground, in the water or in a tree, indicating how and

where the bird is likely to be seen. He is the co-author of *The Shorebird Guide* and has several other projects in the works, all with the goal of popularizing both birding and a love of the outdoors, particularly among young people.

Richard's program for Beckham is titled *Past, Present and Future*. He will share tales of lessons learned while growing up in the wild British birding scene and from his travels around the world to living in Cape May. With humor and depth he will highlight the thoughts behind his revolutionary *Crossley ID Guide* series. As he recounts his past, he hopes to change how you look at the future.

PRICE OF DINNER

In 2010 the club had to look for another place to have our annual March Dinner since Masterson's was no longer providing this service. We checked many places that could accommodate us but there was a high fee for rental of a room plus the cost of the dinner. It would have made the price for the dinner probably around \$45 for each person. The club was fortunate to find the University Club since it did not charge a fee for a room. The \$30 only covers your dinner and a service fee. The club pays for the speaker, bartender's fee, use of any audio-visual equipment, etc. Considering what other places would have charged the club is able to provide a reasonable price for our annual dinner meeting.

FIELD TRIP WITH RICHARD CROSSLEY

Richard Crossley will lead a field trip at the Anchorage Trail on Wednesday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at Station Road and Evergreen Road. This trip is for members of Beckham Bird Club only. No guests. You are also invited to go to lunch with the group at a local restaurant. Richard Crossley will not be able to lunch with the group due to his early airline departure time. We need reservations to let the restaurant know how many will be there.

FIELD TRIP WITH RICHARD CROSSLEY AND /OR LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Name(s) _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Number attending field trip _____. **Number attending lunch** _____.

Deadline: March 8. Mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492.

MARCH 13 DINNER MEETING

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

Number attending _____ **@\$30.00 ea.** _____ **Total** _____

Print names of all included in this reservation. _____

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8) _____

Deadline: March 8. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club and mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492.

__Please check if you have special dietary needs and indicate what those needs are.