

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

MARCH 2011

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

Our dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8 at The University Club on the University of Louisville Campus. Directions and a map can be found at uclublouisville.org - click on About Us then click Location. 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 transportation. Please wear your name badge. **The deadline for making reservations is Wednesday, March 2.** Sorry walk-ins can not be accommodated. Refunds are not guaranteed after March 2. Only reservations with payment will be accepted. **If you have special dietary needs please indicate it on the reservation form.**

Our speaker is **Laura Erickson**, the producer of "For the Birds," the longest running radio program about birds in the United States. It airs on several stations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and New York. She is the author of several books including *The Bird Watching Answer Book*, *Sharing the Wonder of Birds with Kids*, and *101 Ways to Help Birds*, which is the topic of her presentation for the Beckham March dinner meeting. **Laura's books will be available for purchase at the dinner meeting.** She worked at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for several years, editing their publication *BirdScope* and contributing to their award-winning website, **All About Birds**. She has written articles for most of the birding and conservation magazines including *Birder's World*, *Audubon*, and *Birding* and is a frequent speaker on birds, birding, and conservation. Her "blog" (a column on the internet), which promotes the love, understanding, and protection of birds, can be found at <http://lauraerickson.blogspot.com/>. Laura is a former bird rehabber and is currently licensed to keep an Eastern Screech owl named Archimedes who accompanies her on speaking trips unless they involve overnights. She lives in Duluth, Minnesota with her husband, Russ. Reservation form on page 3.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 5 9:00 a.m. - Noon	FARNSLEY-MOREMEN LEVEE WALK - For winter birds. Meet at the Farnsley-Moremén parking lot to walk the levee trail.	Bob Johnson 896-9638
Sunday, March 6 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
Saturday, March 12 9:00 a.m. - Noon	FREEMAN LAKE - From Lou. south on I 65 to exit 94...then go right on ST. 62 (also Mulberry St) about 1 mile (get in rt. lane) to light at Ring Road (st. 3005), turn rt. and go 7 miles. Small parking lot on LEFT at the lake. Meet at this parking lot, lake is in clear view. Bring scopes.	Bill Friel 502-348-8159
Sunday, March 20 8:00 a.m. - Noon	TAYLORSVILLE LAKE WILDLIFE TRAIL - Meet at wildlife viewing area- From I-64 to Taylorsville Rd. go toward Fisherville take a right at light onto Highway 155, go about 13 miles take left on Ky.44 keep straight onto 248 east (do not turn left on to High.44) go about 2 miles take right in to Taylorsville Lake State Park. viewing area is about 1 mile on left.	Bill Friel 502-348-8159

Wednesday, March 23 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	TOM SAWYER STATE PARK – For Woodcocks. Meet at parking lot on Hurstbourne Lane south of the airfield.	Carl Bochmann 618-0574
Saturday, March 26 8:00 a.m. - Noon	BERNHEIM FOREST – For Spring residents and waterfowl. Meet at the Bernheim Forest arboretum parking lot.	Michael Autin 773-0598
Sunday, March 27 8:30 a.m. – Noon	CEDAR GROVE COMMERCIAL PARK - Directions: Go south on I-65 and take exit 116; turn left onto Cedar Grove Rd; turn right onto Buffalo Run Rd. at Shell Station, park on side of road	Ryan Ankeny 727-7233
Saturday, April 2 9:00 a.m. – Noon	FREEMAN LAKE - From Lou. south on I 65 to exit 94..then go right on ST. 62 (also Mulberry St) about 1 mile (get in rt. lane) to light at Ring Road (st. 3005), turn rt. and go 7 miles. Small parking lot on LEFT at the lake. Meet at this parking lot, lake is in clear view. Bring scopes.	Bill Friel 502-348-8159
Sunday, April 3 9:00 a.m. – Noon Moderate	JOE CREASON PARK / BEARGRASS NATURE PRESERVE – For early spring migrants. Meet at the Metro Parks Administration Bldg. off Trevilian Way	Win Ahrens 228-5800
Saturday, April 9 8:00 a.m. CDT - ?? Moderate/Strenuous	SLOUGHS WMA, HENDERSON CO., KY —For waterfowl and migrants. Bring lunch, shoes for wading, & extra clothes. Meet at the observation platform on Highway 268. For directions check DeLorme Atlas page 44 quadrant A 2&3.	David Roemer (270)781-6190
Sunday, April 10 8:00 a.m. – Noon	TOM SAWYER PARK – For spring migrants. Meet at the second parking lot on Freys Hill Rd near archery field	Carl Bochmann 618-0574

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Creasey Mahon/Reformatory Lake, January 23 - It was a slow start with overcast skies and light snow. Six birders scanned the Canada Geese at Reformatory Lake but were unable to find any Cackling or Greater White-front Geese. Most of the lake was frozen but they managed to find 13 species of waterfowl, including Northern Shovelers doing their mating ritual. A Bald Eagle caught and ate a duck, likely a Mallard. Later in the field trip, a Northern Harrier made a big appearance flying low over the field. Song birds were the usual you would expect for this time of the year. In all, the group located 42 species.

River Road, February 5 - Quite a morning with rain, snow, and high winds. Gulls by the hundreds, mostly Ringed-bills but with a number of Herrings in the mix, swirled over the choppy Ohio River below the McAlpin Dam. A Peregrine Falcon labored against the gusting wind. A scoter bobbed in the choppy water, its specific identity masked by the elements. These were the highlights of nearly five hours of birding in uniformly miserable conditions -- cold rain, a biting wind, and finally snow showers. A list of 37 species also included a raft of about two dozen Canvasbacks as well as smaller numbers of Hooded Mergansers, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, and Ringed-necks, plus an American Kestrel, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes and a lone Belted Kingfisher perched on a partially submerged tree at the mouth of Beargrass Creek.

MARCH 8 DINNER MEETING

Name _____ Phone _____

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

Print names of all included in this reservation for place card. _____

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

Deadline March 2.

**Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club mail to
Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492.**

FIELD TRIP WITH LAURA ERICKSON

Laura Erickson will join us on Wednesday, March 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the Anchorage Trail for a field trip. Meet in the parking lot at Station and Evergreen Roads. This trip is for members of Beckham Bird Club only. No guests. Send in your reservation by March 3. You are also invited to go to lunch with the group at a local restaurant. We need reservations for the field trip and/or the lunch to let the restaurant know how many will be there.

**Field Trip and/or Lunch with Laura Erickson
Wednesday, March 9**

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number attending field trip _____. Number attending lunch. _____

**Mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492 or email
patjanebell@bellsouth.net. Deadline March 2.**

BIRD ALERT

Two Long-tailed Ducks were observed on the Ohio River at Garvin-Brown Preserve on Sunday, January 30. The two ducks drifted down stream and were seen on the river at Cox's Park on January 31 and February 1. Long-tailed Ducks are extremely rare in Kentucky.

MORE ON SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING IN KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' finalized Sandhill Crane hunting proposal was put up on their web site. It can be viewed at: <http://fw.ky.gov/sandhillcraneproposal.asp>

The proposal to hunt Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee was put off for two years so more study could be done. According to the Tennessee list serve the letter writing by people opposed to hunting the cranes was instrumental in delaying this hunt. Therefore if we want to change the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife proposal we need to send in lots of letters. Even one of Kentucky's commissioners is having second thoughts because of the letters he has received. See the special January edition of the newsletter for details.

Don't put off writing your letters. All letters should be sent by May 1.

COMING EVENTS

- Eileen Wicker from Raptor Rehab will give the April program and as usual there will be plenty of birds to view.
- Dr. Mark Wourms, has agreed to come and give his program at the May meeting, since the January meeting was canceled.
- Check out www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com for details about a birding festival on Lake Erie at Magee Marsh from May 5-15. One of the best places in the U.S. to see warblers up close. Many of our members have been there. Greg Miller, who was featured in the book, *The Big Year*, will be there.