

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

MAY 2011

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

Join us on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, in the Community Room. Our January meeting was canceled so our speaker for that evening, **Dr. Mark Wourms**, the new director of the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, agreed to come back this month. Dr Wourms will talk on **The Importance of Large Forest Blocks and the Future of Bernheim**. Last year, Bernheim, one of the Louisville area's great natural assets, observed its 80th anniversary. Please join us for this interesting program and also for the election of officers for the coming year.

ELECTION OF BBC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Beckham Bird Club will hold an election for officers and directors at the May 10 membership meeting. The candidates offered by the nomination committee are:

President – Paul McAllister

Vice President – Jane Bell

Secretary – Wanda Bilkey

Treasurer – Carl Bochmann

Directors for 2 year – Barbara Woerner and Bonnie Avery

The term for an officer is one year; directors two years. Nominations from the floor may also be made at the May 10 meeting. Carol Besse will remain on the board as past president. Kathy Dennis and Pat Bell have another year as directors. The new officers will begin their duties on June 15.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note: Due to high water the May 4 trip to Loop Island has been changed. See below. The trip to Bernheim Forest on Saturday, May 28 has been cancelled.

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| Wednesday, May 4 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | MT. SAINT FRANCIS SANCTUARY, IN. - Meet in rear parking lot (near old water tower) for spring migrants. Take I-64 west to exit 119, follow Hwy 150 two miles through two traffic lights. Entrance is on left at third light. | Del Striegel 812-951-2368 |
| Saturday, May 7 8:30 a.m. – Noon | ANCHORAGE TRAIL - Meet at the trailhead in Anchorage at the intersection of Evergreen Rd and Station Rd just past the fire station. | Pat & Jane Bell 326-9610 |
| Sunday, May 8 8:30 a.m. – Noon | JOE CREASON PARK/BEARGRASS NATURE PRESERVE - For spring migrants. Meet at the Metro Parks Administration Bldg. off Trevilian Way | Barbara Woerner 485-9017 |

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| Wednesday, May 11 8:30 a.m. – Noon | ANCHORAGE TRAIL Meet at the trailhead in Anchorage at the intersection of Evergreen Rd and Station Rd just past the fire station. | Pat & Jane Bell 326-9610 |
| Saturday, May 14 8:30 a.m.- Noon | FLOYDS FORK PARK – For spring migrants. From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd, go toward Fisherville, go about a mile take a right on South Pope Lick Rd. Follow signs to Floyds Fork Park. Park in parking lot. | Eddie Huber 261-9698 |
| Saturday, May 14 | NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT Jefferson Co. Ky. - Contact Ben Yandell ; Clark Co. Ind. - Contact Stuart Jenkins. | Ben Yandell 594-3819 Stuart Jenkins 282-9798 |
| Sunday, May 15 8:30 a.m. – Noon | PUTNEY POND & PROSPECT - Meet at Prospect City Hall, east side of Hwy 42 after 2nd traffic light in Prospect. | Paul McAllister 290-4732 |
| Saturday, May 21 8:00 a.m. – Noon | TAYLORSVILLE LAKE STATE PARK – For spring migrants and summer residents – Meet at the picnic area before boat ramp. | Carl Bochmann 618-0574 |
| Sunday, May 22 8:30 a.m. - Noon | CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – Meet at the foot of Maple Road Bridge 5. | Barbara Woerner 485-9017 |
| Sunday, June 5 | BECKHAM BIRD CLUB PICNIC – More details in <i>May/June Observer</i> . | |

PAST FIELD TRIPS

March 20, Taylorsville Lake - Ducks were scarce on this overcast, yet warm, late winter day, but three Beckham members and one guest were treated to an Eastern Bluebird building a nest. Other highlights included a Barred Owl, and a few returning birds such as Field and Chipping Sparrows. The group totaled 37 species in all.

March 23, E. P. Tom Sawyer State Park - Thirteen observers came to look for displaying woodcocks in spite of threatening weather forecasts. The storms, with impressive lightning displays, could be seen in the distance but not a drop of rain fell on the field trip. Several woodcocks began “peenting” at dusk and this continued for at least 10 minutes. Finally one bird flew up in the usual display. After that all went silent and the group called it a night. While waiting for the woodcocks, the group managed to find 14 species including a Fox Sparrow and a Merlin.

March 26, Bernheim Forest - Eight members met for a morning of clouds, a cold persistent breeze, but a day filled with birds. Swallows were returning and were represented by Tree, Northern-roughed Winged, one Purple Martin, and a surprise Bank. Winter visitors were still present with Fox Sparrows, Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Purple Finches being seen. A good day with 55 species in all.

March 27, Cedar Grove - Despite the cold and wind, 4 Beckham members were lucky enough to find 36 species with great looks of Eastern Phoebe, a cooperative Yellow-rumped Warbler, a soaring Red-shouldered Hawk, and a brief look at a Tree Swallow. White-crowned Sparrows were numerous with 60-75 birds present.

April 2, Freeman Lake - Seven club members found 44 species on a cool, windy but sunny day. In addition to the numerous Tree Swallows and Coots, the group saw a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers and several Lesser Scaup. The day's specials were one Bonaparte's Gull and a pair of Common Loons in breeding plumage. All in all, a very good outing.

April 3, Joe Creason - Woodpeckers were abundant on this clear, warm day with good looks at several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The group of seven observers was treated to a symphony of dueling Brown Thrashers and nice flyovers twice by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. In all the group located 33 species.

April 10, Tom Sawyer Park - Six people participated on this beautiful, warm spring morning. Thirty-one species were observed. The highlights included an Eastern Towhee posing in the sunshine and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing his extraordinary full song and flashing his red crown.

MEETING ON SANDHILL CRANES

You are encouraged to attend the May 6th meeting of the Wildlife Committee at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Arnold Mitchell Building at KDFWR headquarters at 1 Sportsman's Lane in Frankfort. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife hasn't posted these details on their website yet but plan on doing so about a week before the meeting. This meeting will discuss the hunting of Sandhill Cranes before the proposal is sent to the full commission. This meeting of the full commission will begin at 8 a.m. at the same location on June 3. Please continue to write letters to the commissioners. See the special newsletter edition on the club's web site. KOS sent a letter to the KDFWR and it is posted on the KY. Ornithological Society website www.biology.eku.edu/kos/KOS_cranes.pdf.

BIRD ALERT

On Sunday, March 27, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen on the Ohio River from the parking lot at 8th Street and River Road. It was also seen at the Falls of the Ohio. This is a rare gull for this vicinity, but has been appearing regularly in western Kentucky at the lakes.

ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC AT BERNHEIM FOREST

This year we will return to Bernheim Forest at the Woodland Pavilion in Toms Town at 4:00 p.m. for our annual picnic on Sunday, June 5. Bernheim is a good place to bird as there are many nesting migrants in the forest. So come on out and enjoy food, fun, friends, and birding. The cost is \$3.00 per person (covers cost of chicken, drinks, etc.) or \$1.00 (no chicken but covers cost of drinks, etc.). Please bring a dish, lawn chairs, insect repellent, and your binoculars. We will not have refrigeration or an oven so plan on eating around 4:00 p.m. There will be a map on the club's web site at beckhambirdclub.org. Admission is free for BBC members attending the picnic. Just mention BBC at the gate.

PICNIC RESERVATION – DEADLINE JUNE 4

Name _____ Phone _____

I will bring ___salad ___vegetable ___dessert___ other (_____).

Number attending at \$3.00 ___ \$_____ ___Original ___Crispy ___Grilled

Number attending (no Chicken) at \$1.00 ___ \$_____ Total _____

Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club. Mail to Carol McAllister, 7102 Fox Harbor Road,
Prospect, KY 40059-9324

SPRING BIRD COUNT

You are needed to take part in the spring bird count on May 14 in Clark County, Indiana. You can count for a few hours or all day. Contact Stuart Jenkins (282-9798) for information and advise where you would like to count. Parts of such areas as the Falls of the Ohio, Charlestown State park, Henryville Forestry, Deam Lake, etc. are available. A potluck dinner will be held on the following Tuesday at the home of Scottie Theiss.