

# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

JUNE 2011

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

## 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](http://beckhambirdclub.org). Admission is free for BBC members attending the picnic. Just mention BBC at the gate. **There is no meeting this month.**

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday June 12 8:00 a.m. CDT - ??? Moderate	<b>MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK</b> – For summer residents. Meet at the service center in the park just past the campground entrance. This is the parking lot just to the right of the gas station. Bring lunch.	Pat & Jane Bell 326-9610
Saturday, June 18 8:30 a.m. - Noon	<b>GARVIN-BROWN PRESERVE/HAYES KENNEDY</b> - For waterfowl and summer residents. Meet at the parking lot of Hayes-Kennedy Park off Upper River Road.	Paul McAllister 290-4732
Saturday, June 25 8:30 a.m. - Noon	<b>JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST</b> – For summer residents Meet at Welcome Center, 11311 Mitchell Hill Rd.	Barbara Woerner 485-9017

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

Jefferson Memorial Forest, April 16 - Rain, wind, and unseasonably cool temperatures did not deter six BBC members with spring fever. They birded from the covered porch of the Welcome Center until the rain abated; then ventured out to other areas. Highlights of the morning included the arrival of a male Baltimore Oriole, a male Scarlet Tanager, nice views of a Northern Parula, and a “slew” of Pine Siskins. The group found 50 species before ending their walk as rain soon returned.

Mount Saint Francis, April 17 - Eight BBC members met at Mount St. Francis on a cool but sunny spring morning. Birding was a little slow but the group managed to locate 46 species. Highlights included Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Brown Thrasher.

Mammoth Cave, May 1 - The birds were slow to become active but once the weather began to improve, the group would locate 73 species including 19 species of warblers. One of the first birds to be seen was a beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker followed by an equally stunning Scarlet Tanager. Eastern Wood-Pewees and Acadian Flycatchers had returned to the forest. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was located along with Swainson's Thrushes. Warbler highlights included Magnolia, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Hooded, Kentucky, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Mount Saint Francis, May 4 - Ten members hiked two miles through soggy, muddy trails on a very chilly morning at Mount Saint Francis Wildlife Sanctuary. Despite the cool, damp weather, the group was treated to some nice birds. Everyone got good looks a male Blue Grosbeak. A lone Spotted Sandpiper was moving across the dam at the lake. There was a strong movement of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. A nice day of birding with a good group of birders made up for the cool weather. The group located 59 species.

May 7, Anchorage Trail - A great morning to be birding. Warbler migration was in full swing. The 22 observers found 15 species, including Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, and several beautiful Blackburnians. A Cliff Swallow and a Blue Grosbeak were nice special finds. Warbling Vireos were busy building their nest. Resident summer birds included both Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroat, and Eastern Kingbirds. Sixty-nine species were recorded in all.

May 11, Anchorage Trail - Very few migrants could be found on the trail that day, but the summer residents were busy building nests and settling in for the summer. The 9 observers were delighted to find the nests of Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Warbling Vireos, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. A very late Red-breasted Nuthatch was discovered near the start of the trail. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was another good find along with an Olive-side Flycatcher. Only 7 species of warblers could be found with the warm, humid weather probably sending the birds straight on to the north. All in all, not a bad field trip with 61 species tallied by the group.

May 15, Putney Pond - The resident birds were busy with nesting and rearing young. The group of 5 BBC members found two Baltimore Oriole nests and a nest with very busy Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Other species already had fledglings. Three separate groups of Wood Ducks were seen with young, one having 9 ducklings. A juvenile Carolina Chickadee was seen being fed by its parents. A Kingfisher was nesting in a ravine at the entrance to the trailhead at Fox Valley Drive. In all, 42 species were located.

## **BIRD ALERT**

Fernald Preserve, northwest of Cincinnati, produced our next bird alert. A Garganey was seen on one of many ponds in the area. Several members traveled to the preserve to view this rare duck from Eurasia. Some were fortunate to view this teal very easily and others had to wait for hours before it appeared. The Garganey stayed for several weeks giving many an opportunity to see it. There are only a few records of the bird in North America.

## **2011 BIRDATHON**

Thanks to all who made a pledge to this year's birdathon. Your contribution will support seven different organizations that work to support birds and the environment. Check your email or snail mail for a report from the person(s) you sponsored this year and send in your pledge ASAP. If you were not contacted by someone please consider sending in a contribution. No amount is too small and it does help the birds. Send it to the BBC post office address.

## **MAY ELECTIONS**

The members in attendance at the May meeting unanimously elected the slate of nominees presented by the nominating committee. They will take office on June 15. Thanks to our outgoing officers, Anne Caudill and Bob Johnson, for their work this past year.

## **HUNTING SANDHILL CRANES**

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources voted at the May 6 Wildlife Committee meeting to defer the decision to hunt Sandhill Cranes to the full commission meeting on June 3. The decision whether or not to initiate a season on the cranes this December will be made at this meeting. Now is the time to send letters/emails of opposition to the commissioners and governor if you have not yet done so. Please urge others to do the same and please be respectful in your letters. Addresses and other contact information for the commissioners and governor can be found here: <http://kyc4sandhillcranes.wordpress.com/call-to-action/>

If you are opposed to hunting Sandhill Cranes in Kentucky, plan to attend the commission meeting in Frankfort if possible. More details on the commission meeting will be announced on the Kentucky list serve as they become available or check the KDFWR web site.

## **JULY MEETING**

Dick Dennis, a member of Beckham Bird Club, will give a program on Aldo Leopold, who was influential in the development of modern [environmental ethics](#) and in the movement for [wilderness](#) conservation. His ethics of nature and wildlife preservation had a profound impact on the environmental movement.

**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

*See you at Bernheim Forest On Sunday, June 5!*

