

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

AUGUST 2010

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Beckham Bird Club will be on Tuesday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, in the Community Room. **Jonathan Valenti**, a biologist and member of BBC, will give a program on “**Avian Use of Department of Defense Lands: Addressing Unique Challenges and Conservation Concerns.**” Jonathan will talk broadly about the role the Department of Defense properties play in providing bird habitat at various stages of their life cycles, and discussing some of the challenges associated with balancing the functionality of such places and promoting quality bird habitat. He will explain some of the specific research being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and how to integrate the information gathered into future conservation efforts. This will be a fascinating topic as some of the best birding spots in the U.S. are on military bases. **Bring a friend.**

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The fall field trip schedule is included in this month's newsletter. **The guidelines should be read before attending a field trip.** Thanks to Eddie Huber for organizing the trips and to all the leaders for volunteering to lead trips.

BIRD ALERTS

An alert was started for a Mottled Duck at McElroy Lake in Bowling Green on July 3. This is a rare duck for Kentucky with only a few records. Mottled Ducks are found from Texas to Florida.

A juvenile White Ibis was seen at the Falls of the Ohio on July 8 and was still present on the 21st. This bird is being seen more frequently during the summer months but it is still considered a rare bird for our state.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – TOM SAWYER/ANCHORAGE TRAIL

The annual Breakfast with the Birds is Saturday, September 11 at 8:00 a.m. The breakfast will be held at Tom Sawyer State Park off of Lakeland Road. Afterwards we will proceed to the Anchorage Trail to look for birds. Reservations are required and you can sign up at the August meeting or RSVP to Marsh Biven, 361-0200 or email her at marshabiven@hotmail.com. Let Marsha know what dish or drink you would like to bring. Reservations are due September 10. Don't miss out on one of the best times to bird for fall migrants. Join us for food, fun and birding. There will be a map on the web site and at the meeting for directions to the Tom Sawyer State Park picnic pavilion site.

PAST FIELD TRIP

July 18, Anchorage Trail - A most enjoyable walk on a warm mid-summer day! A nice breeze kept hot air and humidity bearable. Beautiful male Indigo Buntings put on quite a show for the 19 observers. Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Great Crested Flycatcher were present. Three species of Herons were found at the lake along with Mallards and Wood Ducks. Purple Martins were flying over head and perching on dead snags. Other highlights of the 44 species seen include Eastern Wood Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Kingbirds, and Orchard Oriole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Yew Dell Botanical Gardens' 3rd Annual Hummingbird Festival will take place on Saturday, August 28, 2010 from 3-6PM at Yew Dell Gardens, located at 6220 Old LaGrange Road, Crestwood, KY 40014. The cost of attending is included in the entrance fee, which is \$7 for adults and free for children under 12. Held at the height of the hummingbird migration through Crestwood, the Hummingbird Festival features hummingbird experts who catch, band and release hummingbirds and for any shutterbugs, nationally-renowned photographer Russ Thompson will offer tips and advice on how to capture the perfect snapshot. The Hummingbird Festival is both a serious bird-watching experience as well as a casual family outing.
- ❖ The September program will be presented by John Brunjes, biologist with Kentucky's Fish and Wildlife. John will show us some of the beautiful pictures of nature that he has photographed. Mark your calendar now for what promises to be an outstanding program.