

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 2010

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

NEXT MEETING

Join us on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, in the Community Room for our program on “Antpittas and a Quetzal in the Andes.” Michael Hamm, from Centre College, will talk about his birding trip to Ecuador with emphasis at Las Galarias, along the equator in the Andes. Las Galarias means “the antpittas” and this is where a local farmer has learned to call in these elusive birds. Michael will also include photographs of Andean species including the Plate-billed Toucan and the Golden-headed Quetzal.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 6 9:00 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
Sunday, February 14 9 a.m. – Noon	RIVERPORT – Directions: Go west on I-265; Continue on Greenbelt Highway, turn right at Trade Port Dr.; after bridge, park at the first parking lot on right	Ryan Ankeny 727-7233
Saturday, February 20 8:30 a.m. – Noon	CAVE HILL CEMETERY – For winter birds and waterfowl. Meet inside the front gate on Baxter Avenue.	Michael Autin 773-0598
Sunday, February 21 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
Saturday, February 27 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
Saturday, March 6 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 7 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

2010 BBC MEMBERSHIP

This is reminder to all who have not renewed their 2010 membership. This is your last newsletter. A membership form can be found at beckhambirdclub.org if you have misplaced your dues envelope. Don't miss out on all the meetings and field trips by not being a member.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Cave Hill Cemetery, January 9 - Cancelled due to weather.

Jefferson Memorial Forest, January 10 - Cancelled due to weather.

Bernheim Forest, January 16 - Brainard Palmer-Ball led a group of 16 to the backside of Bernheim Forest in search of Golden Eagles. Good looks were had of the targeted birds as well as two Bald Eagles. Brainard's keen ear and pishing added Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Field and Swamp Sparrows. In all, the group located 37 species.

BIRD ALERT

The first bird alert for 2010 was for a first-winter Harris's Sparrow. The alert was started on January 8. This extremely rare sparrow was coming to a feeder in Crestwood, KY.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

Our dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9 at Masterson's Restaurant (1837 S. Third Street) in the Nicholas Room on the first floor. 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 \$27.00. For children 11 and under the price is \$13.50. Please extend your hospitality to our members who may need transportation. Please wear your name badge. **The deadline for making reservations is Friday, March 5.** Sorry walk-ins can not be accommodated. Refunds are not guaranteed after March 7. **Only reservations with payment will be accepted.**

Our speaker for the evening is Al Batt of rural Hartland, Minnesota, a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al has been featured in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, the *Star Tribune*, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Writer's Digest*, on WCCO Radio, on KFAN Radio and on Agri-Talk. He does commentaries for public radio. He writes a weekly "Nature's World" column and a weekly "Tales from Exit 22" humor column for a number of newspapers, and does a regular show for numerous radio stations. He writes a number of daily cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally. He is a regular contributor to nature and birding magazines, newspapers, and farm periodicals.

He is a tour leader for tours of Alaska. Al leads field trips, works with elderhostel groups, does in-school programs, teaches community education, is a tour guide on a sightseeing boat, teaches classes on birding, leads bus tours, volunteers at several state parks, disappears into the woods whenever he is able, usually on the pretext that he is "taking the dog for a walk" and speaks to anyone who will listen.

Al is President of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Past President of Albert Lea Audubon Society, on the board of the Friends of Hormel Nature Center, Vice-President of the Audubon Foundation, Christmas Bird Count Compiler, member Iowa Ornithologists' Union, American Birding Association, and the Mankato Bird Club.

You will not want to miss his talk entitled, "Bird Stories: Finding wings of joy and feathered miracles. Snippets from a life gone to the birds."

FIELD TRIP WITH AL BATT

Again this year our featured speaker, Al Batt, will join us on Wednesday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. at Bernheim Forest for a field trip. Meet in the Garden Pavilion parking lot. This trip is for members of Beckham Bird Club only. No guests. Send in your reservation by February 27.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Number attending _____ @ \$27.00 ea. _____

Children 11 and under _____ @ \$13.50 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) _____

Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club and bring to February meeting or mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492.

**Field trip with Al Batt
Wednesday, March 10
Members Only**

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492 or email
patjanebell@bellsouth.net. Deadline February 27.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place on February 12-15. For details and to enter your sightings go to birdsource.org/gbbc. You have a chance to win one of several prizes that are being given to participants of the GBBC. Good Luck!