

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

MARCH 2010

Beckham Bird Club, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

Louisville, KY

ANNUAL 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. **The deadline for making reservations is Friday, March 5.** Sorry walk-ins can not be accommodated. Refunds are not guaranteed after March 5. **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 elder hostel 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."**

Please remember to wear your name badge. Reservation form is on page 3.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note the February 14 trip to Riverport that was canceled has been rescheduled to March 14 and there is a new field trip on Monday, March 15 to Tom Sawyer State Park.

Saturday, March 6 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 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
Saturday, March 13 8:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.	LAKE MONROE – Meet at McDonald's in Brownstown. From Louisville, take I-65 North to exit 41, turn left onto Hwy 250, go about 16 miles and turn right onto US 50. McDonalds is one block on the right. Bring lunch.	Gary Dorman 944-7406
Sunday, March 14 9:00 a.m. - Noon	RIVERPORT – Directions: Go west on I-265; continue on Greenbelt Highway, turn right at Trade Port Dr; after bridge, park at first parking lot on right.	Ryan Ankeny 727-7233
Monday, March 15 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	TOM SAWYER PARK – For Woodcocks. Meet at the Hurstbourne parking lot south of the model plane airfield.	Carl Bochmann 618-0574
Saturday, March 20 8:00 a.m. - Noon	GARVIN-BROWN PRESERVE - For waterfowl and early spring residents. Meet at the parking lot of Hayes-Kennedy Park off Upper River Road.	Michael Autin 773-0598
Saturday, March 27 8:30 a.m. – Noon	IROQUOIS PARK - For early spring residents. Meet at the Amphitheater Park & Tarc lot	Barbara Woerner 485-9017
Sunday, March 28 8:30 a.m. – Noon	JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – For spring migrants. Meet at Welcome Center, 11311 Mitchell Hill Rd.	Sandy Brue sbrue@windstream.net 270-358-5159
Saturday, 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 Trevillian Way	Win Ahrens 228-5800
Sunday, April 4 9:00 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.	Paul McAlister 290-4732
Saturday, April 10 8:30 a.m. – Noon	TOM SAWYER PARK – For early spring migrants. Meet at the second parking lot on Freys Hill Rd near archery field	Carl Bochmann 618-0574
Sunday, April 11 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

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Bernheim Forest, January 23 - It was a slow day for 6 Beckham members with little bird activity. The group managed to pish up 7 species of sparrows, including Fox, White-crowned, and American Tree. The outing ended with two species not seen earlier – Cedar Waxwing and a Black Vulture. In all the group observed 32 species. The unusual tree that the group noticed was identified as a hybrid of an English Oak know as “fastigiata” and Swamp White Oak. The trademark name is Regal Prince Long.

River Road, February 6 and Riverport, February 14 - Cancelled due to weather.

Peabody Wildlife Management Area, January 24 - Seven observers ignored the unpromising (and accurate) forecast and explored the strip mines of Ohio and Muhlenberg Counties. Birds and observers may have sheltered more than usual, given the misting rain and wind, but the group tallied 58 species, including Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush, and Great Horned Owl. One observer even spotted a LeConte's Sparrow at the end of S5 Road. Waterfowl numbers were unusually low, however, and local specialties, such as Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk, managed to stay off the trip list.

BIRD ALERT

An alert was started for a Little Gull on Sunday, January 24. The gull was seen on Honker Bay in Land Between the Lakes in western Kentucky. This bird is an extremely rare visitor to Kentucky with only a few records.

On Tuesday, February 2 an alert was started for eight Whooping Cranes in Jefferson County. They were being seen in a field in the southern part of the county. There was one adult with seven juveniles. Apparently the cranes had been present for more than two weeks before birders knew about them.

A Rough-legged Hawk was the next alert on February 18. It was sighted over the landfill off of Outer Loop. It is a winter visitant to Kentucky with only a few records of it being seen in Jefferson County.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Number attending _____ **@ \$27.00 ea.** _____

Children 11 and under _____ **@ \$13.50 ea.** _____

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 mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd,
Louisville, KY 40242-3492.**

ODDS AND ENDS

- With all the cancellations due to weather this is a good time to read the guidelines for field trips. If there are any questions about a field trip call the leader.
- Never been on a field trip – join us for a fun experience. One of many ways to learn bird identification.
- Spring is right around the corner – we hope! This is the time to clean out nest boxes.
- Sandhill Cranes will be migrating.
- Woodcocks will be performing their courtship flights at dusk.
- Look for Louisiana Waterthrush at the end of the month.
- The Kentucky Ornithological Society spring meeting is at Jenny Wiley State Park, April 23-25. Call the park for reservations and tell them you are with KOS.
- Have you cleaned your binoculars or scope lately? They may need a spring cleaning.

Don't forget to send in your reservations for the dinner meeting!