



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JULY 2019

## JULY PROGRAM

### *Uncommon Birds in Unexpected Places.*



Pam Spaulding will talk about birds found in several Jefferson County locations that are on the less trodden track with the theme that any bird can be found in any location by any one. So don't miss our monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 9 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, 38.254256, -85.689458, to see some outstanding photography and maybe find out about some new places to bird.

## FIELD TRIPS

*There are no field trips in July.*

A schedule for August and September field trips  
will be in the August newsletter.



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Jim Pasikowski, a former member of Beckham Bird Club, who served as president for multiple terms. Jim died on May 23.

**PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TO THE 2019 BBC BIRDATHON IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH \$20,000.**

**THANK YOU!**

### [BECKHAM BIRD CLUB CAPS](#)



You may have noticed some of our members wearing a nifty cap with a Kestrel surrounded by Beckham Bird Club and Louisville, Kentucky. Are you wondering where you can get such a great hat so you could let everyone know you are a proud member of BBC. You can purchase the hat at our monthly meeting for just \$15.00. You can also get other apparel with the same logo. To find out how, come to our meeting for all the details.

### [PAST FIELD TRIPS](#)

[Iroquois Park, May 5](#) - The songs of Wood Thrushes and Tanagers greeted the group of 5 observers as they started out on their walk at Iroquois Park. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and warblers soon added to the chorus, including several Cape May and Tennessee and a few Chestnut-sided, Yellow and Nashville. Along a woodland path, the group found several Swainson's Thrushes and a Veery. The group found a total of 48 species.

[Turkey Run, May 11](#) - Six members enjoyed a clear, calm and cool day to walk from the silo to the Sky Dome area and back. A dozen species were tallied before we left the parking lot, including a flyover Great Blue Heron. First really good bird of the day was a Black-billed Cuckoo, which showed briefly on the paved path behind the event barn. Subsequent highlights included a very cooperative Kentucky Warbler, a couple of Yellow-throated Vireos and several Summer Tanagers. A Scarlet Tanager was heard singing from a lofty perch, but was never located. Amazing how a bird that bright can be so hard to see.

[Harrod's Creek, May 18](#) - Eight members and one guest enjoyed a summer-like morning birding the Orange trail. Highlights included a very vocal pair of Yellow-throated Vireos and several Prothonotary Warblers giving nice looks. Not many other warblers were around. The group also had looks at a vocal Acadian Flycatcher and Eastern Wood Pewees, which were numerous. Forty-eight species in all were tallied.

[Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, May 19](#) - Eight Members tallied 75 species and dodged some mid-afternoon thunderstorms in a fun-filled day at Bernheim Forest. There were lots of birds seen building and occupying nests including Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Eastern Bluebirds, and Baltimore Orioles. We observed the drama of nature as one European Starling ousted a pair of Northern Flickers from their nest cavity not far from where a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was performing his spectacular advertising flight display. We found 12 species of warblers including Kentucky, American Redstarts, Pine, Worm-eating, Hooded and a surprise Wilson's Warbler! Despite some of the prairie habitat having been recently mowed we (eventually) were able to find some birds in the small patch

that remained including Northern Bobwhite, Yellow Breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler, a Blue Grosbeak and a surprise - one very handsome and accommodating singing Henslow's Sparrow

Camp Nelson/Shaker Village, June 1 - A happy accident was discovered upon arriving at Camp Nelson. We found we were not the only birding group who scheduled a walk there that morning. Thanks to CKAS/ASK members and trip leaders for accommodating the combination of our walks at Camp Nelson. We had a great time birding with you guys! Now onto the birds! There were Bobolinks everywhere, mostly males were seen, but we also got nice looks at some females. Other highlights included a performing Grasshopper Sparrow that let us get incredibly close to it, as well as many Dickcissels and Eastern Meadowlarks. We also got to see some American Kestrels, a couple of Blue Grosbeaks and we heard a few Henslow's Sparrows singing in the fields. After lunch we stopped in at Shaker Village, hoping to see the one species that we dipped on at Camp Nelson - Loggerhead Shrikes. After getting a bit turned around on the trails in what had turned into a blisteringly sunny afternoon, we eventually found the trail we wanted (The West Lot Loop) and low and behold a whole family of Shrikes! Other highlights at Shaker Village included many good looks at species mostly seen earlier at Camp Nelson. One more highlight - when we made it back to our trailhead a good Samaritan packing up his horses offered us some cold water which we gratefully accepted - thanks to you whomever you are! In total 68 species were seen and a great time was had by all. Thanks again to the CKAS/ASK and BBC members who participated!

Otter Creek, June 15 - Six members enjoyed an excellent day of birding at Otter Creek Park in relatively mild mid-June temperatures and overcast skies. Our trip started at the Blue Hole where we hoped to see Cerulean Warblers. We heard at least 2 Cerulean Warblers but, despite giving ourselves warbler-neck trying, we could not see them in the canopy foliage. We did however get to see several Red Headed Woodpeckers, as well as Kentucky and Prothonotary Warblers. Our next stop was at Pine Grove Pavilion where, wouldn't you know it, there were Pine Warblers! After a quick lunch, we moseyed on down to the river where we met couple of friendly folks interested in some of the birds we were seeing - like a pair of Bald Eagles soaring, a pair of nesting Eastern Kingbirds, and a colony of 30+ nesting Bank Swallows along the Indiana bank (very cool). We then started making our way back to the main entrance, but on the way there we stopped at Morgan's Cave and hiked down to the cascades which flowed out of it both beautifully and noisily. After climbing out of the valley, we stopped and birded around the frisbee golf course where we found a small murder of crows feeding with young in a swampy area and noted the calls of the young sounded similar to fish crow, while the adult crows were clearly American sounding. One final stop was made at the area under the overpass where we got nice looks at the usually skulky White-eyed Vireo. All in total we tallied 70 species, including 5 swallow species, 11 warbler species, and many Yellow-Throated Vireos and Summer Tanagers. Thanks again to everyone who journeyed out!



## **KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING**

The KOS fall weekend meeting will be at Kentucky Dam Village State Park September 13-15. For more details check the KOS web site at [birdky.org](http://birdky.org).