

# THE BECKHAM



## OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY 2017

TOM FITZGERALD

### *Environmental Issues before the KY Legislature*

Tom FitzGerald is an environmental attorney and is Director of the Kentucky Resources Council, a nonprofit organization focused on Kentucky's environment and natural resources. As Director of the KRC, he informs the public about environmental issues and lobbies the Kentucky legislature. He has won several awards, including the Heinz award, the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission "Lifetime of Service Award", the Biological Diversity Protection Award, and the "Cleaning Air Award" from the American Lung Association. In 2014 he was appointed by President Obama to serve on ORSANCO, the commission that establishes water quality standards for the Ohio River. He is an alumnus of the UK College of Law.

Tom will be at our February meeting to discuss environmental issues before the Kentucky legislature. Join us on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center on Payne Street.

#### **REMINDERS:**

- **The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12-15, 2017, [BirdCount.org](http://BirdCount.org)**
- **Please send in your 2017 BBC Membership (with check and form) if you have not done so.**



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please refer to last month's schedule or go to the club's website for detailed information about the trips.

Saturday, February 4 – 8:30 a.m. –OHIO RIVER- KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SIDE - Barbara Woerner 502-485-9017

Sunday, February 5 -9 a.m. - CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – Jamie Baker 502-403-9845

Saturday, February 11 - 8:30 a.m. COX'S PARK / CAPERTON SWAMP / PUTNEY'S POND - Mike Callan 502-592-7008

Sunday, February 19 - 9 a.m. HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Carol Besse 502-387-5971

Saturday, February 25 - 8:30 a.m. BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655

Wednesday, March 1 6 p.m. TOM SAWYER STATE PARK – Carl Bochmann 502-618-0574

Saturday, March 4 8:30 a.m. MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE - Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610

Saturday, March 11 10:00AM - GOOSE POND FWA (INDIANA) Mike Callan 502-592-7008

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

### Cave Hill, January 7

Three intrepid members of the Beckham Bird Club braved 7 degree weather on a sunny, clear morning. Both White and Red-breasted Nuthatches were spotted. A puffed out Great Blue Heron stood in the middle of one of the few non-iced ponds. Huge flocks of American Robins dined on holly berries in several spots. Twenty-one total species were observed.



## MARCH DINNER MEETING

Our speaker for the March Dinner meeting is Pete Marra, head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. He received his Ph.D. from Dartmouth College in 1998 and has been a conservation scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Biology Institute since 1999. Pete's research in avian conservation science focuses on discovering why so many species of migratory birds are declining. His research examines the roles of climate change, habitat destruction, food and disease as well as other direct sources of mortality (cats, buildings) on bird survival. Pete has founded several large science initiatives including Neighborhood Nestwatch and the Migratory Connectivity Project. Communicating his science and his excitement for the conservation of wildlife to as wide an audience as possible, especially to children and the general public, is a high priority of his overall program. Pete has published close to 200 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as Science, Nature, PNAS, and Conservation Biology and has authored two books. Pete is an avid fly fisherman, gardener and cook. He lives in Takoma Park, MD with his wife, two kids and dog Boudreaux.

**The club wishes to recognize and thank the Louisville Audubon Society for its generous support of the dinner meeting.**

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 14 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. when dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. There will be a field trip on Wednesday morning, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. at the Anchorage Trail for BBC members. Reservations are required.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate on the reservation form.

**PLEASE NOTE THE DEAD LINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS. ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE.**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.**

**DINNER MEETING**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Meeting -\$32.00 ea. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club.

Please list any special dietary needs. \_\_\_\_\_

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

\_\_\_\_\_

Reservation for field trip. Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

**DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**



*Thanks to Jamie Baker for the picture of the Say's Phoebe that is being seen in Nelson County just south of Bloomfield.*

## A BUCKET LIST OF PLACES TO BIRD

In the January newsletter there was a bucket list of things to accomplish in 2017. Hope you are working on them. This month there is a list of places to visit in the coming years that are important birding places to see birds that are not found in Kentucky. They are not listed in any particular order but the seasons do affect the time you need to go to have the best opportunity to see certain birds of a region. Many birding companies offer tours to these places but it is not necessary as you can go on your own.

1. Duluth, Minnesota – For owls like Great Grey, Hawk, Boreal, and Snowy. Other birds would include grouses, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, and the list goes on. Best time is winter.
2. Southeast Arizona – Arizona has many unique birds but the many hummingbird species are what draws birders to Arizona in August. May is another good time for owls that are special to the region.
3. Pelagic Trips – In order to see pelagic (sea) birds you will have to take the plunge and go on a boat trip (not a cruise) on the Atlantic and/or Pacific Oceans. This will help you add to your life list.
4. Rio Grande Valley – Any time of year is good to see their specialties but the returning migrants in late April can be wonderful to see.
5. Cape May, New Jersey – Good place to see hawk migration.
6. Platte River area of Nebraska – To see the thousands of cranes that congregate there in February and March.
7. Colorado – To see all the grouses and prairie chickens. April is a good time to go.
8. Don't forget Central and South America. Unless you are very adventurous a tour group would be best.
9. Magee Marsh, Ohio – This place was mentioned in last month's bucket list but it is worth mentioning again. May is the month to be there for warbler fall outs.

But whether you can travel to distance places or not the important thing is to get out and explore the area right here in Louisville, Kentucky, and Indiana to discover birds.



Photo by Pat Bell