

# THE BECKHAM



## OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

APRIL 2017



## SCOTT MARTIN The Director The Parklands of Floyds Fork

Our April program will be given by Scott Martin who serves as the Park's Director for The Parklands of Floyds Fork. Tasked with operating the park, Scott serves as member of the leadership team that seeks to reapply the metropolitan planning and development lessons of Fredrick Law Olmsted in the new century with the wrinkle of the new model being a private/public partnership. Scott joined The Parklands team in 2010. Scott will speak about the work Parklands is doing to maintain, create and restore native habitats, specifically wetlands and grasslands, which are greatly diminished in Jefferson County. Join us on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center on Payne Street.

### FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The field trip schedule for April, May and June is included in this newsletter for those receiving it by mail. For members receiving it by email there will be a link to the schedule. Thanks to Andrew Melynkovich for organizing the trips and thanks to all the leaders.

### GUIDELINES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are open to our members. Guests are invited to join us on a trip to find out about BBC and to become members of this group of enthusiastic birders.

Please arrive a few minutes before the field trip begins to sign in and be ready to go.

## 2017 BBC BIRDATHON

This year we need your pledge to help the following organizations that the Beckham Bird Club Board selected as recipients of grants from the 2017 BBC Birdathon. You will be contacted either by email or a phone call so please say YES. Just make a pledge of a set sum or an amount for every bird that is counted on birdathon day by the person you sponsor. After birdathon day you will receive an account of the day and information about where to send your pledge.

The following are the recipients of the 2017 BBC Birdathon:

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PLAN FOR GRANT</b>
Creasy Mahan	To purchase an "interactive Document Camera" to allow students close views of items like feathers, eggs, nests etc. without passing them around.
KY State Nature Preserves Commission	For active management of grasslands at Eastview Barrens SNP.
KY Natural Lands Trust	For land acquisition in the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor.
Raptor Rehabilitation of KY, Inc.	To present 10 educational programs to schools
KY Resources Council	To support work on environmental & energy policy
KY Conservation Committee	For land protection funding education & KY biodiversity education projects.
Jefferson Memorial Forest	For educational programs and to replace invasive with native plants on one acre.
Louisville Nature Center	To provide educational programs on-site & off-site & general overhead costs.
The Mary E. Wharton Nature Sanctuary at Floracliff, Inc.	To aid in campaign to purchase 60 acres to fully protect the last quarter mile of Elk Lick Creek as well as forest land along the KY River Palisades, an important corridor for migratory birds.

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

### Creasey Mahan, January 21

An unseasonably warm day produced a good variety of residents and winter visitors. Highlights were Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatches (several very cooperative) and Red-shouldered Hawk enjoying unidentified breakfast. The group tallied 35 species.

#### Miles Lake/Beckley Creek, January 29

Eight people met in the snow and sleet to bird William F. Miles Park. After almost 3 hours, we ended up with 30 species. Thankfully the wind was fairly calm, or the cold temperatures and precipitation would have been tough. We didn't see any remarkable birds, but we did get five sparrow species. Toward the end of our walk, we were graced with an energetic little Winter Wren in a brush pile near the parking lot.

#### Ohio River, February 4

Seven BBC members found 14 species of waterfowl while birding along the Ohio River, including Common Goldeneyes, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Lesser and Greater Scaup and a Common Loon. A Black-crowned Night-heron at the Marriott pond in New Albany was a surprise find. The resident pair of Peregrine Falcons made a brief appearance atop the Big 4 Bridge. Seven Bald Eagles, including 3 immatures, swooping over the basins were an unexpected find at Mayfair Ave., a perfect ending bringing the trip total to 47 species.

#### Cherokee Park, Feb.5

Three members and one guest spent a cold winter morning observing resident and winter species. Highlights of the walk were fantastic looks at a cooperative Brown Creeper and several Golden-crowned Kinglets. Twenty species were seen in all.

#### Cox's Park/Caperton Swamp/Putney Pond, February 11

Five members enjoyed the unseasonably warm "winter" conditions. The birding was slow starting at Cox's Park but was highlighted by a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet and a few duck species on the river. At Caperton Swamp the group had good looks at a male Wood Duck and a small flock of Yellow-Rumped Warblers. Stopping briefly at the flooded fields on River Road the group found Red-Winged Blackbirds, a Pileated Woodpecker, and a pair of American Kestrels. A side trip to the Louisville Water Company Ponds provided the group with two nesting adults as well as two juvenile Bald Eagles, as well as a few Hooded Mergansers, a Red-Tailed and a Red-Shouldered Hawk, and a flock of about 60 Sandhill Cranes flying north. At a quick trip to Hays Kennedy, the group located a couple of Eastern Meadowlarks feeding near the edge of the water. The last stop at Putney's Pond gave them 4 Green-winged Teal, a fishing Belted Kingfisher, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a Hermit Thrush who was not at all shy about having his/her picture taken. All in total the group tallied 47 species.

#### Hayes Kennedy/Garvin Brown, February 19

Seven members and two guests, including one young birder, birded Garvin Brown Preserve. Birding was slow, but the group did manage to find a few highlights. The day started out very foggy but it lifted as the morning wore on. Meadowlarks were singing and a couple of Red-tailed Hawks were hunting the fields. One posed nicely on a fence post. Highlights were 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a single Brown Creeper, and a Lesser Scaup on the river. The group also visited the Water Company ponds off Mayfair Avenue where they added a Common Goldeneye, 3 Ruddy Ducks and a Bald Eagle.

The last stop was Putney Pond where they found a Belted Kingfisher and a dozen Green-winged Teal.

#### Beckley Creek Park, February 25

Birding conditions were difficult with cold temperatures, overcast skies and 15-20 mph winds. However, the group did manage 28 species with a decent assortment of sparrows including several Fox Sparrows. Other sparrow species included American Tree, Chipping, Field, White-throated and Song. Red-headed Woodpeckers were also seen.

#### Muscatatuck NWR, March 4

Ravages of the storm that came through the area recently were quite evident. With the exception of Ring-necked Ducks there were very few ducks on the refuge. Several small flocks of Sandhill Cranes flew overhead. A Bald Eagle and a Northern Harrier were seen by some of the observers. American Coots had returned to the refuge. Tree Swallows were flying over the big lakes. The participants worked hard to add many land birds to the list - Phoebes, both species of kinglets, an Eastern Towhee, several species of sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. Forty-eight species were tallied by the observers. Traveling on to Hardy Lake the group encountered a road block (a fallen tree across the road) and were unable to enter the park.

#### Anchorage Trail, March 15

Bitter cold didn't deter the 13 members of the Beckham Bird Club from venturing forth to walk the trail. Five species of ducks and a Pied-billed Grebe were found on Willow Lake. An Eastern Phoebe didn't seem to mind the cold at all. Eastern Bluebirds and a Hermit Thrush made the list. Lots of sparrows were foraging in the grasses. Red-winged Blackbirds were proclaiming their territories. Chickadees, Juncos and Goldfinches were high in the trees feasting on the new growth. Forty species were located by the hardy birders.

### **MARCH DINNER MEETING AND FIELD TRIP**

Eighty-seven members of the BBC and the Louisville Audubon Society gathered for our annual dinner meeting on March 14. The dinner was held at the Big Spring Country Club. Nice large windows provided a nice view of a lake and the golf course. After dinner our guest speaker, Pete Marra, head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, gave an interesting program which focused on why so many of our migratory birds are declining. He emphasized the severe ecological damage caused by feral cats and outdoor pet cats. We would like to thank those members of Beckham Bird Club who work so hard to make this meeting a special event for our club.

On Wednesday, March 15 despite an extremely cold day thirteen members walked the Anchorage Trail with Pete to find as many species of birds as possible. Forty species were tallied by the end of the trip.



## NEW USA FOREVER POSTAGE STAMP

To celebrate Nebraska's 150<sup>th</sup> statehood anniversary the post office issued a stamp with Sandhill Cranes flying over the Platte River at sunset.

