



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

APRIL 2018

## APRIL PROGRAM



BBC member Andrew Melnykovich will provide an update on the 2018 Hotspot Hustle birding competition; discuss plans for this year's Global Big Day effort, which will pit the BBC's birders in Jefferson County against Fayette County birders; and provide an overview of the new BBC birding slide show, which members can use when making presentations to outside groups. Come join us on Tuesday, April 10 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, -85.689458 for our monthly meeting. St. Mark's is at the corner of Frankfort Avenue and Kennedy Ave. Please enter by way of the back door near the parking lot.

### 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 Melnykovich 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.

Check the BBC web site or [birdky.org](http://birdky.org) for the status of a trip.

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

## 2018 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 2018 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. Last year we collect over \$18,000, let's make it \$20,000 this year.

The following are the recipients of the 2018 BBC Birdathon:

ORGANIZATION	PLAN FOR GRANT
Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team	Grant will be used to purchase building materials for 400 Bluebird boxes.
Earth & Spirit Center	To make a 21-acre nature preserve to promote birding, education and wildlife habitat enhancement. Purchase bird boxes and wildflowers around a wetlands.
KY State Nature Preserves Commission	For active management of grasslands to promote suitable habitat for many birds.
KY Natural Lands Trust	For land acquisition in the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor.
Raptor Rehabilitation of KY, Inc.	To present educational programs to schools.
Bernheim Forest	To continue Golden Eagle tracking and research, continue monitoring and data collection.
KY Conservation Committee	For land protection funding education & KY biodiversity education projects.
Louisville Nature Center	To provide educational programs on-site & off-site for schools, senior homes and libraries.

### BBC Retired Projector is Being Auctioned Off

The Beckham Bird Club's old projector is being auctioned off by a sealed bid auction. It is a Dell 2300MP, 2300 lumens, DLP bulb and includes an extra bulb and all the needed cables.. Here is a link to the projector's manual.

[http://downloads.dell.com/manuals/all-products/esuprt\\_electronics/esuprt\\_projector/dell-2300mp\\_user%27s%20guide\\_en-us.pdf](http://downloads.dell.com/manuals/all-products/esuprt_electronics/esuprt_projector/dell-2300mp_user%27s%20guide_en-us.pdf)

Please send your name, address, phone number and your maximum bid on a signed and dated sheet to: Beckham Bird Club, Inc., Attn: Projector Auction, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, Kentucky 40255-0301. **Bids must be received no later than 5PM Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** and the winning bidder will be contacted on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. In the case of a tie, the winner will be selected randomly from the highest bids.

### PAST FIELD TRIPS

Ohio River – Kentucky/Indiana, February 10 - Intermittent light rain and plenty of fog did not deter 13 birders from going out along the Ohio River. The best finds of the day included a Ruby-crowned Kinglet flitting on the ground a few feet from us and a large group of ducks on the river, including Canvasbacks, Redheads, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and a female Red-breasted Merganser. A total of 47 species was found, including 14 species of waterfowl.

Pope Lick, Sunday, February 18 - Eight BBC members took advantage of unseasonably pleasant weather to record 37 species at Pope Lick Park. Good numbers of raptors, sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Eastern Bluebirds were seen. Highlights included: two groups - about 30-35 each - of Sandhill Cranes overhead and a smaller group of four Sandhills kettling with Red-tailed Hawks and vultures; the first recorded sighting at Pope Lick of a Ring-billed Gull, spotted cruising overhead by Mike Callan; and, finally, what were initially identified as a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds (other possibility is Rusty Blackbird), which are quite infrequent in Jefferson County. Photos were obtained of the male bird and a final determination by ebird reviewers is pending. A good sighting either way.

Bluegrass FWA, Sunday, February 25- Twelve members joined this trip on a soggy morning after recent heavy rains. The rain flooded the agricultural fields surrounding the BGFWA, which in turn brought in 13 species of waterfowl including Bufflehead, Greater & Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-Winged Teal. Other highlights included 5 Bald Eagles, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, a large flock of 80+ Killdeer, Horned Larks, Rusty Blackbirds, White Crowned & American Tree Sparrows, and many large flocks of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds. Unfortunately, the Long-eared Owls did not make an appearance at their nearby winter roost. However, at the roost, we were treated to a very pretty sunset and displaying American Woodcocks. We finished the day with 48 species and a great deal of good memories. Thanks to everyone for coming!

Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake, March 3 - Perfect weather was the order of the day for the Beckham Bird Club field trip to Muscatatuck and Hardy Lake. Sandhill Cranes streamed overhead as the 11 observers traveled the roads of the refuge searching for as many birds as possible. Signs of spring were everywhere as Tree Swallows had returned from the south; Phoebes were singing; many species of ducks were swimming on the lakes; a Northern Harrier flew low over the grasslands searching for food; and Red-winged Blackbirds were setting up territories. Eight species of sparrows were tallied. Sixty species made the list at the end of our visit to the refuge. Then it was on to Hardy Lake. Birding was slow there, but the lake was so blue and pretty. We counted 20 species, but the only new bird was a Kestrel bringing our total to 61. Come join us on our next outing.

George Rogers Clark Park, March 10 - Eleven members and one guest turned out on a cool and mostly cloudy morning for a circuit around this under-birded urban park. Nothing particularly unusual among the 22 species recorded but did get good looks at some lingering winter visitors, including two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Dark-eyed Juncos and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. No early migrants yet, so it would have been a quiet morning but for the 100 or more American Robins (they were everywhere!) and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks calling overhead.

Cherokee Park, Sunday, March 18 - Eight Beckham Bird Club members enjoyed a nice two-mile stroll through Cherokee Park with resident and winter birds. Highlights were good views of Fox Sparrows and a Great-Horned Owl.

### **BBC GIVES DONATION**

BBC has donated \$500 to *Louisville Grows* for two "Breakfast with the Birds" workshop events for inner-city residents. This donation will help to introduce a group of people to the wonders of birds.

**THANKS TO PAM SPAULDING FOR THE PICTURES.**



**BBC DINNER AND FIELD TRIP**

A great program, good food, and friendly people made for a very enjoyable evening at our March dinner meeting at Big Spring Country Club. A large group attended this year's event with 109 reservations made to hear Alvaro Jaramillo speak about "Birding and Birder Brains." On Wednesday morning despite cold and snow eighteen members met to walk the Anchorage Trail with Alvaro. The birds soon became active and a total of 35 species were located by the observers. Highlights included Gadwall and Pied-billed Grebe on the lake, a Hermit Thrush, a Brown Thrasher and Chipping Sparrows. Great fun was had by all the participants at both the dinner and the field trip.