



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

AUGUST 2019

## BIRDING CUBA



Eight Kentuckians, including six BBC members, visited Cuba in March of this year with Rockjumper Birding Tours. Cuba is the exclusive home of the world's smallest bird and 23 other endemic species including the cutie pictured here. Join us on **Tuesday, August 13** at 7 pm when Carol Besse will give a presentation on the trip with assistance and photographs from her fellow travelers.

Our meeting is at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, - 85.689458. 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.

Cuban Tody - Photo by Rich Lindie



## **THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

You should check Beckham Bird Club web site and birdKY for **every field trip** to make sure there is not a change or cancellation.

Some reminders –

1. Read the guidelines before coming on a field trip.
2. Be sure to stow your valuables in the trunk or carry them with you. Do not leave them in the front of the car.
3. Just remember mosquitos, chiggers, ticks and biting flies are waiting for you. Don't forget to bring insect repellent.
4. Have a bottle of water and maybe a snack.
5. Bring your sunscreen lotion.

## **AOS SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIRDING CHECKLIST**

The sixtieth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's checklist has a few changes that will be of interest to you.

1. The Blue-throated Hummingbird is now the Blue-throated Mountain Gem.
2. Ground-doves lose their hyphens.
3. Three-way split of White-winged Scoter – White-winged, Velvet and Stejneger's. White-winged is the only one found in North America.
4. There are new sequences for several species of birds – sparrows, swallows, plovers, and frigatebirds. Just when you thought you finally knew where to look on the checklist for those birds.
5. eBird's annual taxonomy update is scheduled for 7 August.

To read more of the changes made and changes that were not considered go to –  
<http://blog.aba.org/2019/06/aos2019.html>



### **Duck Stamp – Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Availability: June 28, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also) known as the Duck Stamp is now on sale. The stamp sale supports the conservation and protection of wetlands and other habitat in our national wildlife refuges that are critical to birds and other wildlife. Please support this cause

by purchasing a stamp.

What a good way for birders to help preserve our dwindling bird habitat. Consider purchasing it through American Birding Association ([www.shop.aba.org](http://www.shop.aba.org)). By purchasing your Duck Stamp(s) through the ABA, you will be showing your support of bird conservation in our National Wildlife Refuge System and your voice as a birder will be heard! Remember, *98 cents of every duck stamp dollar* goes directly to the purchasing of vital bird habitat! Tell your friends. Think of all the habitat that will be bought for birds via this program! Birders are the best conservationists!

## **HOUR OF POWER CONTEST**

The first three-month segment – March, April, May - in the Hour of Power contest has ended and it's time to submit your entries. A reminder about the contest: submit one (or more) eBird checklists covering a one-hour (or shorter) interval from anywhere in Jefferson County or any adjoining county. Most species wins.

Leader in the clubhouse with 24 is contest coordinator Andrew Melnykovich, who would appreciate someone bettering that total. Please send him your entries to [estiles74@gmail.com](mailto:estiles74@gmail.com), with a link to the checklist.

And don't forget that the next quarterly contest has begun, covering June, July and August. Trophies will be awarded to the quarterly winners and the overall winners at the annual dinner in March 2020.

## **BIG DAY RESULTS**

The pain has finally worn off enough that we can discuss the results of the 2019 Big Day Contest.

For the second year running, Jefferson County was edged out by Fayette County, this time by a mere two species – 152 to 150. (In 2018 the margin was 160 to 157.) That was despite vastly better organization this year, thanks to James “Mr. Spreadsheet” Wheat and Michael Callan. Once again, the overabundance of rain proved our undoing. There was precious little shorebird habitat at the usual spots, and high water on the Ohio River kept waterfowl away, so we had fewer species of both than in past years.

Unlike 2018, Jefferson County didn’t record any exceptional rarities this year (no Harris’s Sparrow, for example). The best bird of the day was a Henslow’s Sparrow at the Anchorage Trail. Fayette County rarities included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mute Swan, Red-throated Loon, and White-winged Dove, as well as Black-billed Cuckoo.

Well, there’s always next year – if only the weather would cooperate.

### **BBC Conservation Report Websites July 2019**

Bird Migration

<https://abcbirds.org/blog/five-fantastic-bird-migration-facts/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c40b5e17-1135-416b-998d-fea4c53ec462>

Black-capped petrels

<https://abcbirds.org/article/historic-first-for-mysterious-seabird-achieved-with-net-launcher-perseverance-and-chum/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c40b5e17-1135-416b-998d-fea4c53ec462>

Roseate terns

<https://abcbirds.org/blog/roseate-terns-take-turn-for-better/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=ebab82b7-8f2c-4b93-9fc9-077e87aa9ad6>

Arboreal forests and toilet paper

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/jennifer-skene/issue-tissue-how-us-flushing-forests-away>

How birds see the world

<https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/article/unique-camera-enables-researchers-to-see-the-world-the-way-birds-do>

A Plague of Plastics

<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2019/June-July/Conservation/Ocean-Plastic>

Bernheim Forest

[www.bernheim.org/forestunderthreat](http://www.bernheim.org/forestunderthreat)