



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

P.O. BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

AUGUST 2022

AUGUST PROGRAM

Come hear about Kentuckiana's newest park project (hint: it's on the Sunny Side). In 2017, the River Heritage Conservancy (RHC) began acquiring the land for the Origin Park project, a 400+-acre project along the Ohio River and Silver Creek in southern Indiana. To date, private donors have given more than \$6 million to acquire land for the park, and RHC is working with state and local governments to establish long-term leases on public land that is located within the park's future boundaries.

The land for the first phase of the park is already in hand, with some construction underway. The first 141 acres of the park are expected to be complete in 2026, and some areas will be opened to the public even sooner.

Our August speaker is the RHC's new executive director, Susan Rademacher. If that name seems familiar, it is because she spent 16 years (1991 to 2007) in Louisville as president of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and assistant director of Louisville Metro Parks.

Come hear her discuss the vision for Origin Park, some of the natural and cultural resources (including birds, of course!) within the park footprint, and the challenges of bringing that vision to reality.



Our meeting is on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m. 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. Just as a reminder Frankfort Avenue near the Louisville Water Company is under construction so you may need to find an alternate route.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BBC BOARD

In response to member concerns and after careful consideration, the Beckham Bird Club board has determined that field trips will now be no-smoking and no-vaping events. The current policy of asking participants who smoke and vape to step away from the main group has proven both ineffective and unworkable. Therefore, effective immediately, participants are asked to refrain from smoking or vaping for the duration of the field trip. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE 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 important reminders -

1. Read the guidelines before coming on a field trip.
2. Be sure to stow your valuables in the trunk before you arrive 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.

PLACES TO AVOID

Several parks will be having events so you might want to make other plans and go birding in other parks. These parks are having events:

Saturday and Sunday, September 3-4 Tom Sawyer Park
Saturday, September 17 – Broad Run Park
Saturday, October 1 – Beckley Creek and Tom Sawyer

2022 BIRDATHON

Thanks to all who have contributed to this year's Birdathon. We are close to meeting our goal of **\$20000**. We are over \$19000 so If you have not donated, please help us reach our goal by making a donation. Mail your check to Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301.



THE 2022-2023 FEDERAL MIGRATORY AND CONSERVATION STAMP

One of the easiest ways that anyone can support bird habitat conservation is by [buying](#) Federal Duck Stamps - among the most successful conservation tools ever created to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Federal Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps; 98 percent of the purchase price goes directly to help [acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements](#) for the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#). Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhance [outdoor recreation opportunities](#).

As a birder one of the ways that your voice will be heard is to buy your stamp from the American Birding Association. You will also be showing your support for bird conservation in our national wildlife refuges. More information and how you can purchase your stamp can be found on the ABA website at aba.org. You may also purchase the stamp at the post office.

BBC Conservation Report Websites July 2022

<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/05/18/u-s-judge-withdrawal-of-bistate-grouse-listing-was-illegal/?emci=74e32df3-e3d6-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&emdi=2ee36b51-aed7-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&ceid=453160>

<https://seaturtles.org/biden-administration-required-to-release-long-overdue-population-reports-for-manatees-sea-otters-and-walruses/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/endangered-species-act-donald-trump-rollbacks-judge-ruling/>

[Changes to Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Would Strengthen Efforts to Reverse Bird Declines - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Record-breaking Spoonbill Photographed in Florida Bay: Bird Banding Reveals Oldest Spoonbill | Audubon Florida](#)

[Headed to the Beach? Follow These Tips for a Bird-Friendly Visit - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[10 Common Bird Songs Made Less Confusing | Audubon](#)

[Kestrels’ Spring Nesting Synchronization | Birding Wire](#)

[Whooping Cranes are Increasing | Birding Wire](#)

[Whooping Crane Eastern Population Update June 2022 - \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

[When It's Okay \(or Not\) to Feed Birds | Audubon](#)

[Eastern monarch butterfly population shows signs of recovery | Stories | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](#)

[Spix's Macaw - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Brighten Your Day with Some Sweet Baby Bird Pics | Audubon](#) [Explore.org](#)

Special Invitation to Stand up for the Ohio River, Attend the Louisville Public Listening Session

Join us this summer in standing up for the Ohio River and our drinking water, public health, and quality of life. Please consider attending a listening session to help shape a regional plan to address water pollution issues and drinking water contamination in the 14-state Ohio River region.

The National Wildlife Federation, Ohio River Basin Alliance, and partners in the 14-state Ohio River region are hosting a series of public listening sessions this summer to get community input into a regional plan to restore and protect the Ohio River, its tributaries, and surrounding habitat for fish and wildlife – and for people – in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The sessions – both in-person and on-line – are free. You can register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/national-wildlife-federation-ohio-river-48144477663>

The Louisville session event will take place on Wed, August 10, 2022, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM EDT, Community Boathouse, Waterfront Park, 1321 River Road, Louisville, KY 40202.

JULY BIRDING

July was another hot month and birding started out slowly but as the month progressed you could see a change. More birds were active especially the new fledglings that were now out on their own. Birds were molting and getting their new feathers for the coming months or getting ready for their migration journey. You may have noticed more hummingbirds are showing up at your feeder. More reports were coming in for migrating shorebirds. Jefferson County had two Black-necked Stilts which was the third record for the county. Over one hundred species were reported for Jefferson alone. One of the great phenomena at this time

of year is the congregation of ten to twenty thousand Purple Martins on Rose Island Road in Prospect. It is a spectacular sight to see as the birds swirl about the area before they settle in for the night.

Next month, migration really begins to get in full swing as many neotropical birds start their long migration to Central and South America. This is a good time to study your field guides and be ready to bird with a friend or on one of the field trips.

Many of you may have the app Merlin but remember it is not 100% accurate. It does a great job but you should try to visually see the bird or verify it before adding it to your eBird list. Ask yourself is this bird in the right habitat or is it rare to Kentucky. As stated above this is a good time to get acquainted with the birds you will see during fall migration. As you may know eBird does not like you to add a bird to your list and state Merlin identified it.

Hope to see everyone out on the birding trail.



Just a few of the many Purple Martins on Rose Island Road

Safety Reminder:

Don't Lose It



Be **Smart**. Stay **Safe**.