

THE BECKHAM



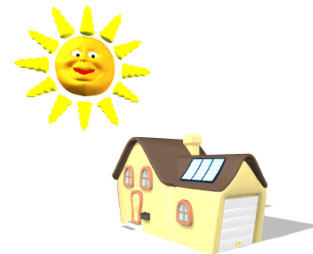
OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2015

Renewable Energy

A healthy future for our Community



Tim Darst is the Executive Director of Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit organization that works to help people make the connection between theology and ecology. He is currently finishing up a Masters in Environmental Education from the University of Louisville and a Masters in Sustainability and Environmental Management from Harvard University. Tim will discuss the connection between clean air and water and the health of people and animals and how we can build a healthy future for our community through conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. He will include in his presentation a discussion of the impact of solar and wind energy on bird populations.

Join Beckham Bird Club at the Clifton Center on Payne Street at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8 to find out more about renewable energy.

2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES



You should have received a post card to renew your 2016 membership. If not please go to the BBC web site and download a copy. Please fill in the postcard and return it with your renewal check (if it applies) to our post office box address, Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301 or turn it in at the meeting. Please help us out by returning the renewal notice by December 31 or sooner. **All members including life members must return the renewal notice.**

Upcoming Field Trips

Sunday, November 29 9 a.m. - noon	CAVE HILL CEMETERY – Meet inside the front gate on Baxter Avenue.	Bob Johnson 502-896-9638
Saturday, December 5 9 a.m. - noon	JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – Meet at the gravel parking lot of the Horine Section. Exit Gene Snyder at National Turnpike and go south to Fairdale Road. Turn right and follow through jog at Manslick Road to Mitchell Hill Road. Follow brown signs to Horine Section turning left onto Holsclaw Hill Road. Take a very sharp right into the forest and follow the road past several houses to the large gravel parking lot.	Jamie Baker 502-403-9845
Thursday, December 10 9 a.m. – noon	FREEMAN LAKE – For waterfowl. From Louisville go south on I-65 to exit 94, go right on Rte 62, in about a mile turn right on Ring Road and go about 5 miles to Freeman Lake. Meet at the parking lot on the LEFT with the lake in view. Bring scopes.	Bill Friel 502-203-4109

2016 EMAIL BIRD ALERT



This past year during the Jefferson County Big Year the participants used emails to alert each other about a new or rare bird in the county. The BBC board decided to continue this email alert for next year for everyone in the club who is interested in finding out about first of season birds or rare birds in Jefferson County. We would like this email alert to be for people who are really interested in going to see the bird or birds. If you only want to know what is being seen you can check out birdKY or ebird. Beginning on January 1 to the 10th if you are interested in receiving bird alert emails, email Carol Besse at csbesse@bellsouth.com to add your name to the list. After January 10 you will receive an email that will include the emails of the group. You will use that email to send out your sightings as you should be an active participant by sending your findings to the group.

Statewide alerts can still be found on birdKY.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



1,2,3

This year marks the 116th Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. There are no fees. Your participation is needed in one or more of these counts this year. The dates for the local counts are listed below. Since these dates could change due to weather conditions you should sign up to participate at least one week before the count in case the compiler needs to contact you in the event there is a change in the date.

If you participated in the Louisville count last year your group leader will be contacting you or you can contact him or her. New participants should contact the compiler.

LOUISVILLE Sunday, December 20	All new participants contact compiler by email or phone. Compiler: Pat Bell – patjanebell@bellsouth.net or 326-9610
BERNHEIM FOREST, Sunday, December 21	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com
OTTER CREEK	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball for date. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com
PARADISE Sunday, January 3	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com

Louisville CBC Compilation Potluck Dinner

Those participating in the Louisville CBC are invited to attend a potluck dinner and compilation of birds at Win Ahrens' home at 21 Autumn Hill, Prospect at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. Please RSVP at winahrens@aol.com. Hope to see everyone there!



ODDS AND ENDS:

- ❖ **SNOWY OWLS ARE ON THE MOVE** -Ebird is already seeing signs of another Snowy Owl invasion this fall, with early reports of birds in the northern states that are far exceeding what was seen by this time in 2013. Will the numbers continue to grow and will they come down to Kentucky? Keep a look out for them. Report any sightings to birdKY and ebird.



- ❖ **BOOK CELEBRATES THE 100 ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY** - An intimate exploration of North American species, the new hardcover *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature* shares our joyful and complex relationship with birds. Through imagery and original essays, award-winning photographer **Gerrit Vyn**, along with leading naturalists and bird enthusiasts, takes readers on a visual and experiential journey, revealing the essence of the century-long work done by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. **Possible**



Christmas gift?

- ❖ **THE MESSENGER** - A new documentary by award-winning filmmaker Su Rynard (Dream Machine, Kardia) will be released in theaters this December by Kino Lorber, which has acquired all U.S. rights to the film. The film chronicles the struggle of songbirds worldwide to survive in turbulent environmental conditions brought about by humans and argues that their demise will signify the crash of the global ecosystem, akin to the disappearance of honey bees and the melting of the glaciers. Beautiful slow motion photography illustrates the power and beauty of these delicate winged creatures that have been praised and eulogized across cultures and throughout time. Check out the trailer on YouTube. Not sure if it will be released in Louisville but will be on DVDs next year.
- ❖ **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT** - Mark your calendars for the 19th GBBC, coming up **February 12 through 15, 2016**. The GBBC is integrated with the eBird program. It is easy to put your count on eBird. Just go to ebird.org to join others who record their sightings every day.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

October 25, E. P. "Tom" Sawyer Park - On a beautiful fall day, the group of 4 members had a great start. From the parking lot, they watched a Red-shouldered Hawk catching its breakfast on the ground on an adjacent soccer field. After that, the birding was rather quiet and the group primarily saw the local residents. In all, they tallied 28 species.

November 1, Ohio River – Indiana Side - Nine members scoured the river for birds without a lot of luck on this unseasonably warm and overcast day. Small rafts of Lesser Scaup, Double-crested Cormorants and Coots along with a single Common Loon were observed from Ashland Park. The Falls of the Ohio State Park produced Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, more Cormorants, a pair of Ring-billed Gulls and a pair of Bald Eagles sharing a fish. A walk through the woods added both

Kinglets, Brown Creepers, other expected land birds and a young Red-shouldered Hawk sitting cooperatively on a low branch. In stops at the lake behind the Holiday Inn and Perrin Park, the group added White-throated Sparrows, Wood Ducks, and a single American Wigeon.

November 7, Hayes Kennedy/Garvin Brown - Eleven participants birded the Garvin-Brown Nature Preserve and the pond of the adjacent Hays-Kennedy park in Louisville. Conditions were pleasant - cool and clear - but birding was fairly quiet. Highlights included both kinglet species, a few Horned Larks, an immature Bald Eagle perched in a tree across the river, and a leucistic American Robin. The group also got nice views of Swamp and Field Sparrows. Warblers were absent.

November 19, Freeman Lake - Seven members and one guest enjoyed nice weather and an average birding day. The best birds of the day were concentrated in one location with both Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The rest of the 31 species were no surprises with birds typical for the time of the year – Great Blue Herons, Pied-billed Grebes, Coots, woodpeckers, sparrows, and one Red-tailed Hawk. However, it was a good day with a congenial group.

November 22, Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake - It was a beautiful cold day for the four observers. The feeders at the visitor center were quite active with several species of sparrows including Fox and White-crowned, nuthatches, woodpeckers, chickadees and titmouse. One Purple Finch was also discovered among the House Finches. As we proceeded through the roads of the refuge, Sandhill Cranes flew overhead, Bald Eagles soared over the lakes creating havoc among the waterfowl. Eight species of ducks were identified. A Northern Harrier was a nice find at Endicott Marsh. Other highlights include a Phoebe and Hermit Thrushes. Hardy Lake produced some nice finds including a Tundra Swan, 2 White-winged Scoters, rafts of Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks and one Common Loon. A total of 54 species were tallied at the end of the trip.

JCBY – ONE MONTH TO GO

The Jefferson County Big Year is counting down with only one month to go to find new birds for the final total. This past month the group passed the 250 mark with the addition of a Black-throated Gray Warbler and Saw-whet Owls on Brainard's farm, a Whooping Crane fly over and lots of Franklin's Gulls on the river. Lots of us are still looking for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Barn and Short-eared Owls, Rufous Hummingbird, Snow Bunting, Ross's Goose, both crossbills, Tundra Swan, Eared Grebe, Golden Eagle and Eurasian Collared-Dove. If you see any of these birds in Jefferson County let us know.



Brainard Palmer-Ball's picture of the Black-throated Gray Warbler taken on his farm. It was first seen on November 4 and was still present at press time. This is only the second record of this warbler in Kentucky.