



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2018

Bernheim's Golden Eagle Project: Understanding our Rarest Winter Resident

Join us to learn about the Golden Eagle tracking project at Bernheim Forest. Several years of data have shed light on migration routes, breeding range, summer behavior, winter range within Bernheim, and intricacies of long distance flight. Andrew Berry and Cadell Walker will discuss life history of the eastern golden eagles, critical habitats, and conservation initiatives of these magnificent apex predators.

The Beckham Bird Club meeting is on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, 38.254256, -85.689458. Bring a young birder!



2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

You should have received a post card to renew your 2019 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 and consider joining as a contributing member. **All members including life members must return the renewal notice.**

*Happy
Holidays*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



This year marks the 119th Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. 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. New participants should contact the compiler. See birdky.org for other CBC in the state.

There will be a compilation potluck dinner but details are still being work out. More information will be sent to the group leaders and participants as soon as possible.

LOUISVILLE Sunday, December 16	All new participants contact compiler by email or phone. Compiler: James Wheat (CP)904-608-3406 or james.a.wheat@gmail.com
BERNHEIM FOREST, TBA	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com
OTTER CREEK Saturday, December 29	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com
PARADISE Sunday, December 30	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, December 1 9 a.m. – noon easy	OHIO RIVER - INDIANA SIDE – Meet at Ashland Park. Bring a scope if you have one. GPS: 38.271889, -85.757341	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
Sunday, December 2 8:30 a.m. – noon Easy/moderate	TOM SAWYER PARK – For winter birds and residents. Meet in front of Recreation Building - 3000 Freys Hill - large parking lot. GPS: 38.286500, -85.557326	Patrice Pittman 502-235-8046
Saturday, December 8 8:30 am – noon easy	POPE LICK PARK – For residents and winter visitors. From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd toward Fisherville, go about a mile, & take a right on South Pope Lick Rd. Follow signs to Pope Lick Park, part of the Parklands. Meet in the parking lot. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park) GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Sunday, December 9 8 am – 1 pm easy	BERNHEIM FOREST – Winter residents, esp. finches, waterfowl, & Golden Eagle. Meet in the parking lot next to Lake Nevin. From Louisville, take I-65 south to exit 112, then east on KY 245 about a mile to entrance. GPS: 37.918675, -85.668639	Michael Callan 502-592-7008

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Beckley Creek, October 27 - As the eight observers arrived to begin the Beckham Bird Club field trip to the Grand Allee Wetlands in Beckley Creek a Bald Eagle flew overhead. An especially nice way to start our count. Despite a cold, damp, misty day birds were out in number. Eastern Bluebirds seemed to be everywhere. Several species of sparrows were located including Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp and Song. Red-Tailed Hawks and Northern Flickers decorated the trees in the park. Another highlight was seeing Ruby-crowned Kinglets along the trails. It's always a good day to be birding. Come join us.

Pope Lick Park, Saturday, November 3 - Fog and chilly conditions made for a slow first hour of birding for 14 Beckham Bird Club members, but the pace picked up as the sky cleared. Highlights included a large concentration of Eastern Bluebirds south of the bridge, nice looks at both kinglets, an almost side-by-side comparison of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and three Sharp-shinned Hawks high overhead - presumably migrants. Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers were frustratingly heard, but unseen.

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge and Hardy Lake, November 17 - Muscatatuck National Wildlife refuge and Hardy Lake were the destinations for our annual fall field trip. Starting at the feeders at the refuge the 12 observers would find a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrows and many other species. Traveling the roads of Muscatatuck produced a total of 57 species. Four Tundra Swans including a family of 2 adults and a juvenile made for a special find. There were very few ducks on the refuge. Despite checking every possible pond and lake we could only find 4 species. Sandhill Cranes were flying over the refuge and along the roads as we traveled from the refuge to the lake. Another nice find at the refuge was a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker. After eating lunch and observing the birds at the visitor center, it was time to head for Hardy Lake. Five Common Loons were on the lake along with two Horned Grebes. An Osprey was still present along the shore. Two adult Bald Eagles flew overhead. A very late Nashville Warbler was seen by one observer. Both Kinglets were seen on the field trip. Good birds and a happy friendly group of birders made for a nice day afield.

BBC Conservation Report Websites November 2018

<https://www.savingcranes.org/whooping-crane-eastern-population-sees-the-best-year-yet-for-wild-hatched-chicks/?bblinkid=121694043&bbemailid=10131617&bbejrid=782573315>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/31/science/king-penguin-decline-antarctica.html>
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/11/181101133733.htm>
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181019120718.htm>
<https://blog.nature.org/science/2018/09/26/this-bird-predicts-hurricanes-better-than-meteorologists/?src3=e.gp.nat.Nov2018.National.readmore>