



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2021

## DECEMBER PROGRAM CHANGE

Due to a family emergency, Maina Handmaker will be unable to join us on December 14 to share the incredible story of the discovery of the massive Whimbrel roost at Deveaux Bank off the coast of South Carolina.

Instead, our speaker will be BBC member Win Ahrens, who will share photos and stories from his birding trip earlier this year to Ecuador. Ecuador is a small nation with a lot of birds and an amazing diversity – 1,655 species, or 1,672 species per 100,000 square miles of land area. The United States, in contrast, has 1,175 species, or roughly 33 per 100,000 square miles. So a birding trip to Ecuador is bound to be exciting.

Thanks to Win for filling in on such short notice.

We are hoping that Maina Handmaker will be able to join us for a meeting next year.

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, December 14 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.**



**Don't forget to renew your 2022 membership!**

If you have not renewed your membership, you will receive a postcard in the mail. Please use the postcard to renew or go to the Beckham Bird Club website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. For more information go to the November newsletter to get all the details for renewing your membership.

**If you used Pay Pal don't forget to mail your postcard or email the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list. All life members should do the same.**

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**Please note:** Beckley Creek Park field trip has been rescheduled to December 7.

Sunday, Dec. 5 8 a.m. - noon easy	<b>HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE</b> – For residents and winter visitors. Meet in the east parking lot. Address: 7003 Beachland Beach Rd. Prospect, KY 40059 <b>GPS: 38.3527, -85.6303</b>	Maria Koukoulas 469-500-5781
Tuesday, Dec. 7 8:30 a.m. - noon	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> - For residents and winter birds. Meet at the “Port- a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b>	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, Dec. 12 8:30 a.m. - noon	<b>LONG RUN PARK</b> – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. From intersection of Shelbyville Road and Flat Rock Road, about 2 miles north on Flat Rock Road to park entrance, then ¼ mile to first fork and left at fork and then first right to boat launch ramp parking area. <b>GPS: 38.266570, -85.419823</b>	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967 (Steve) or 502-435-4864 (Meg)

***CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS***



This year marks the 122nd Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Your participation is needed in one or more of these counts this year. The date for Louisville is listed below. Please email the compiler for the dates of the other counts. The CBCs could change due to Covid-19 or weather conditions so you should sign up to participate in case

the compiler needs to contact you in the event there is a change. New participants should contact the compiler. See [birdky.org](http://birdky.org) for other CBC in the state.

If you can't participate in the Louisville CBC, consider being a feeder watch counter. If you live in the count area all you need to do is count the birds that come to your feeder. There are protocols for counting the birds. Please let James Wheat know you will count the birds at your feeder and get the detail of how to participate.

<b>LOUISVILLE</b> Sunday, December 19	All new participants contact compiler by email or phone. Compiler: James Wheat (CP)904-608-3406 or james.a.wheat@gmail.com
<b>BERNHEIM FOREST,</b> Sunday, January 2	All participants call or email compiler Michael Callan 502-592 -7008 or mikesindahouse@gmail.com
<b>OTTER CREEK</b> TBA	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com
<b>PARADISE</b> TBA	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com

### PAST FIELD TRIPS

Trips to **Pope Lick Park on October 30** and **Hays Kennedy/Garvin Brown Preserve on November 7** were canceled.

**Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson County, 23 October.** – Twelve participants on a partly cloudy morning which turned all cloudy with rain showers that moved in about 2:00 pm took part in the field trip. Water had only recently begun to be pumped into the Shorebird Unit and into a couple of the Hardy Slough pools. Without some "old" water around, there weren't many marsh species. In fact, \*one\* Sora was the only rail we flushed. Pam Spaulding got photos and a couple of others got glimpses of the best bird of the trip, a Grasshopper Sparrow. We also all had great looks at both Sedge Wren and Marsh Wren. Three species of swallows were still around (Tree, Barn, Northern Rough-winged). There were a few species of waterfowl around highlighted by a couple of small groups of Greater White-fronted Geese. When the rain began, we tried a loop out towards Horseshoe Road but really saw nothing of interest.

**Turkey Run Park – November 13** - Seven members turned out on a sunny but chilly morning to walk the Louisville Loop from the north entrance of Turkey Run Park up to the Sky Dome area, with a return via the Seaton Valley Trail. The grasslands along the Loop were loaded with sparrows (mostly Song) and American Goldfinches, with several overflights of blackbird flocks as well. A highlight was a flock of six Eastern Bluebirds, a happy sight after a largely bluebird-less summer. At the top of the hill the group found more sparrows and a laggard Orange-crowned Warbler which gave good looks to all. Alas, nobody had a camera. The Seaton Valley Trail was fairly quiet, but the raptors were up and soaring by late morning, so several species were added, bringing the trip total to 31 species, and one warbler that defied identification.

**Popelick Park, November 13** Temps started in low 30s rising to low 40s. Skies started cloudy, then some sun and back to cloudy. Highlights included Purple Finches and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

**Harrods Creek Park – November 20** Four intrepid birders braved the cold temperatures and rainy forecast. It began to drizzle at the end of the walk with a south wind at 11 mph. Birds were scarce with the approaching wintry mix but we had a good mix of the common winter birds. Both Kinglets, Song and White-throated Sparrows and several flocks of Robins and Blue Jays were seen by the group.



**Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake – November 26** On this beautiful but cold day three BBC members set out to see what birds they could find on the refuge and in the park. Waterfowl was hard to find at Muscatatuck, but Sandhill Cranes calling and flying overhead were a sight to behold. Common Loons were on Hardy Lake along with Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks. Some other great finds were Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, both Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, and Tree, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows. Our grand total was 54 species for the two locations.

## **BBC November 2021 Conservation Report Websites**

[Native Trees With Incredible Fall Foliage—and the Birds That Love Them | Audubon](#)

[How to Go Birding by Tree | Audubon](#)

[SpaceX Destroys Habitat of Endangered Species, Defies Federal Approval Process - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Eastern Golden Eagle: The Appalachian Mountains' Little-known Apex Predator - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Eastern Whooping Cranes Reach 81 | Birding Wire](#)

[New World Record Migration Flight! | Birding Wire](#)

[An Artificial Island May Be the Lifeline Maryland's Common Terns Need | Audubon](#)

[Pumpkin Bird Feeder Makes a Happy Harvest For Birds | Audubon](#)



## NOVEMBER BIRDING

What a great month for birds in our area -first record of an **Anna's Hummingbird** in Kentucky, seldom seen Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Shrike and Loggerhead Shrike showed up! A few warblers were present including Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Palm, Pine, Wilson's and Yellow-rumped. The Cox Park Merlin has returned. It has been seen at the park for the past several years. Sandhill Cranes have started their migration south. Have you heard them high overhead? Three species of gulls have been reported – Ring-billed, Herring, and Bonaparte. White Pelicans were seen on the river. Waterfowl have been slow to return and only a few rafts have been seen on the river. Garvin Brown has both American Tree and Savannah Sparrows. There are a few Red-breasted Nuthatches around but nothing like last year. Several Saw-whet Owls were banded again this year. Hope you have been out birding and have seen some of the many special birds that are here. There have been over 120 birds reported in Jefferson County and the surrounding area this November. Join one of the field trips this coming month to get out and see the wonderful birds we have here in our area.



Thanks to Jamie Baker for the picture of the Anna's Hummingbird, Pam Spaulding for her picture of the Merlin , and James Wheat for the picture of the Fox Sparrows.