THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB·ORG

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2025

PRESENTATION BY BBC MEMBERS

Our December meeting will have a slightly different look. After our business meeting, we'll have an auction of four donated optical items. Andrew Melnykovich will act as auctioneer with all proceeds benefiting Birdathon 2026. Auction Items (cash, check or PayPal only, please) are- Bushnell 8X25 Binoculars, Rode External Microphone for Phones, Nikon 8X42 Binoculars, and Vortex 8X25 Monocular. Check the BBC website for enlarged pictures of items.

After the auction concludes we will have a photo presentation from some of our members. Ten members - Terry Anderson, Jamie Baker, Chris Curl, Kelli Eder, Barbara Eilert, Christine Hayden, Fran McCarty, Lynn Morgan, Lee Payne and Nonnie Riney - have agreed to share some of their favorite photos with the club. We have many talented photographers in the Beckham Bird Club–come join us for a fun evening! Thanks to Kelli Eder for the picture of the Yellow-breasted Chat.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, December 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.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Sunday, December 7 8:30 a.m. – noon. easy	**LONG RUN PARK –** For residents, winter birds 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. **GPS: 38.266796, -85.419667** (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-4864 502-435-3967

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Louisville Christmas Bird Count, sponsored jointly by *KOS* and the *Beckham Bird Club*, is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, 2025.

Anyone interested in participating should contact James Wheat by reaching out by email, or by contacting any BBC board member who is participating themselves. If you can't be in the field on Count Day, let James know if you can help out by watching your feeders in the Count Circle. We're hoping for a great count day, and our section leaders are already planning to scout their areas!

If you happen to go birding within the Count Circle during Count Week *(Dec 11 - 17)*, please use eBird to record your checklists, so we can track Count Week species.

Email: james.a.wheat@gmail.com
Count Date: 12/14/2024

If you are interested in the Christmas Bird Counts at Otter Creek and Bernheim Forest contact Michael Autin and Jim Scout for details.

Otter Creek Park
Compiler: Michael Autin
Email: mauniquity@gmail.com
Count Date: Please contact Michael for the date.

Bernheim Forest
Compiler: Jim Scout
Email: menomenop@hotmail.com
Count Date: 1/1/2026

CBC Compilation Potluck Dinner

Those participating in the Louisville CBC are invited to attend a potluck dinner and compilation of birds at Win Ahrens's home at 21 Autumn Hill, Prospect at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. Please RSVP at winahrens@aol.com and mention what dish you are bringing. Hope to see everyone there!

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve, Nov 1, 2025 - Six members braved a cool morning to search for late fall migrants, early winter arrivals, and resident species. Thirty-six species were observed with numerous Yellow-rumped warblers, a few Juncos, a Brown Creeper, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker being highlights of the trip. Weather was nice with temperatures ranging from 45-54 degrees and partly cloudy to sunny skies with little to no wind. 36 species

Turkey Run Park – November 8 – This BBC field trip covered two hotspots: Turkey Run Entrance area (two checklists - out and back) and Frog Pond/Sky Dome area (one checklist). Nine birders came out on a cool and foggy morning that turned first to cloudy skies and then mostly sunny and much warmer by midday. The first leg began with the paddling put-in, where American Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds were everywhere. Highlight was a Bald Eagle that flew overhead briefly before vanishing into the fog over the creek. Moving up the Louisville Loop toward the Sky Dome, we saw many sparrows, a minority of which gave good looks and were identified. Also had six species of woodpeckers, including great looks at several Pileateds. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet actually lived up to its name! The Sky Dome area was less lively, although Dr. Sunil, arriving ahead of us, saw and photographed a Swainson's Thrush, an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Fox Sparrow, none of which could be relocated. (sigh). Coming back down the hill, clearing skies had finally brought out the vultures and Red-tailed Hawks, but other birds were sparse. A nice day to be out birding.

Draut Park – November 12 - Our morning started out relatively slow. Then we finally had a small group of White-throated Sparrows entertain us with their song! Toward the end of our trip, we were treated to our FOS Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper, as well as several active Yellow-rumped Warblers!
While bird activity was slow, it gave us more time to catch up and enjoy the company!

Ohio River – November 15 In November when you bird the Ohio River you hope for bad weather, but the 10 birders who joined this trip instead were met with a beautiful day and a high of 70 degrees. The river didn't hold anything too special although a Common Loon did give us good looks at Ashland Park. After a dearth of diving ducks on the river, we headed to Perrin Park in Jeffersonville and were able to enjoy some fun winter passerines including Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Pine Siskins.

Pope Lick – November 15 Eight members and two guests met at Pope Lick Park on a sunny fall morning. Highlights of the 42 species included two Eastern Screech Owls (one heard, one seen roosting in a tree near the creek), and several of our winter residents -- Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglets, to name a few. Our surprise species on the day was a hatch-year Indigo Bunting observed foraging among Swamp and Field Sparrows! A beautiful day to be out.

Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake- November 23 It was a beautiful day for the 13 members and 3 guests to bird the areas. The group had a total of 48 species. Duck species were disappointing with only 4 species observed – Ring-necked, Gadwall, Mallard and Ruddy. Sparrows were plentiful including 14 American Tree Sparrows. The group saw 27 Sandhill Cranes but many more could be heard in the distance. After lunch 8 birders continued to Hardy Lake. There were 11 Common Loons, 27 Pied -bill Grebes, and 1 Horned Grebe on the lake. Many kinglets and at least 12 Reb-breasted Nuthatches were seen in the pine trees around the lake. Sorry you missed out on the cookies if you didn't join us! Hope to see you next year on this fun trip.

BBC Members,

The board has decided to purchase baseball caps with the BBC logo embroidered on them. The hats are on order now and should be available very soon. The initial purchase includes 50 hats (25 khaki and 25 gray). Photos of what the embroidered logo looks like and the hats are attached. Cost of the hats will be $30.00. Hopefully the hats will be available at the December meeting. Make checks payable to Beckham Bird Club and please have exact amount if paying by cash. See the last page of the newsletter for pictures of the caps and the BBC logo.

Don't forget to renew your 2026 membership

The renewal period began on November 1, 2025. We encourage you to renew before December 31, 2025, to avoid a reminder postcard thus saving paper, postage and **a larger carbon footprint**.

You can renew three (3) ways:

- Print the renewal form from the website (http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html), complete it and mail it along with a check to the P.O. Box.
- Bring your completed renewal form and cash or check to the December meeting.
- On the website, using Paypal (NOTE: You do NOT need a Paypal account to use this payment method. If you don't have a Paypal account, simply click through the Paypal screens and you will be allowed to enter your credit card information as a guest). PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR PAYMENT BY A DOLLAR OR TWO. THIS WILL OFFSET THE FEE - AROUND $1 or $2, DEPENDING ON THE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY - PAYPAL CHARGES FOR EVERY TRANSACTION.
    - If you choose this method, please be sure to also send your address, phone number and email to bbcky1935@gmail.com. This allows us to keep our membership rolls current.

Thank you for your continued membership.

BBC Conservation Report Websites November 2025

Over-summering of Migratory Whooping Cranes on their Wintering Grounds - International Crane Foundation

A Field Mission to Track and Protect Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes in Zambia's Wetlands - International Crane Foundation

Common Birds Are Declining the Fastest, and Habitat Loss Is to Blame, a New Study Finds | Audubon

In Africa, Nesting Superb Starlings Get Help From Family Friends | All About Birds

The Rise of Easy-Does-It Birding | All About Birds

Just a reminder that the BBC ornament and notecards are still available. Purchasing these items help with 2026 Birdathon. Ornaments are $10 and notecards are $15.00. They make great gifts and stocking stuffers. They will be available at the meeting. Make checks payable to Beckham Bird Club and please have exact amount if paying by cash.

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Merry Christmas

And

Happy Holidays