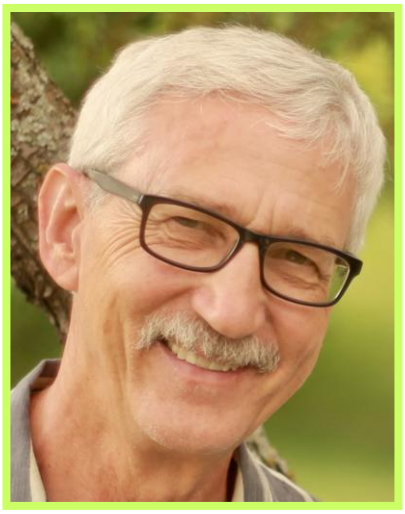
THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB·ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

February 2026



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Michael Hayman was a photographer at the *Flint Journal* in Flint, Michigan for 11 years, and at the Louisville *Courier-Journal* for 29 years.

In 1987, after a downburst destroyed 100 large trees in Seneca Gardens, his neighborhood of 300 homes, he replanted 900 trees in the decades since.

He has been the landscape director at Whitehall House and Gardens since 1995 where he has overseen the renovation of the gardens.

He has been a project manager for Trees Louisvlle for 10 years where he has installed plantings on highways, industrial parks, schools, and neighborhoods.

His presentation will show his tree work for these three groups, especially Trees Louisville. He searchs for unique and beautiful trees throughout the US. Part of his work is acquiring heat tolerant trees that will thrive in a warming climate.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, February 10 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.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Goose Pond – January 10-11 Nine BBC members braved the elements for an overnight field trip to Goose Pond FWA in Linton, IN. Although the temperatures remained on the low side and the winds on the high side, the marsh did not disappoint! We managed to see most of our target birds, including six Rough-legged Hawks, over 75 American Tree Sparrows, both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans and tens of thousands of Snow Geese in the air and on the ground. A wonderful way to spend a couple of days!

BBC members we are in need of volunteers.

Telephone Committee – Volunteers are needed to call our members to remind them to come to the March Dinner Meeting. The more volunteers the fewer calls you have to make. Very easy job. This is your chance to help the club. Email beckhambirdclub@gmail.com to volunteer.

BBC DISCORD

Discord is a great way to connect and communicate with the other members of Beckham Bird Club. By joining BBC's discord server you'll receive updates about meetings, field trips, and bird reports as well as the opportunity to share bird photos, talk about your favorite birds, or ask about birding spots. In Discord, members can communicate through messages or in an open voice chat, which can be useful for field trips. Join our discord server today! As a member of the Beckham Bird Club, you have the opportunity to connect with others through our Discord server. Please note that this server is for BBC members only. Once you request to join, you will be verified as a valid member before receiving full access.
To join our server click this link https://discord.gg/EphYQAwmBg

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Richard Cassell, a long-time life member of BBC. Richard passed away on December 24. Not only was Richard interested in birds but was very enthusiastic about wild flowers as he was able to identify many species for our members on birding trips.

MARCH DINNER MEETING INFORMATION

From Marvels to Moonshots: How birds and birdwatchers are reshaping how we see and conserve nature

Birds are extraordinary—they dance in brilliant plumes, make music, engineer nests, navigate thousands of miles, and achieve feats under water and above land that no human can. In this talk, Miyoko Chu will celebrate the marvels of birds and explore one of their biggest superpowers of all—their ability to transform how humans see and steward the natural world.

Take a look at the future of bird conservation with Miyoko Chu from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Miyoko will share how digital innovation, AI technology, and growing numbers of bird enthusiasts are generating unprecedented data and insights about birds in Kentucky and around the world—and how you can join the movement to protect birds and the fabric of nature that sustains us all.

Dr. Miyoko Chu is the senior director of Communications at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a nonprofit organization that engages people of all ages and backgrounds in the understanding and protection of birds and nature. An ornithologist and science writer, Miyoko led the team that developed and launched the Cornell Lab's free Merlin Bird ID app which has now been downloaded more than 33 million times, sparking connections with birds around the world. She is the author of *Songbird Journeys; Birdscapes;* and *America's Favorite Birds*.

DINNER DETAILS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 10 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate them on the reservation form.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 11 at 8:30 a.m. for BBC members to Beckley Grand Allee. **Reservations are required**. See the reservation form.

Dinner payment information - PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for making reservations for the dinner is Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Bring check and form to the February meeting or mail to:

Sherry Hurley 1012 Ellison Ave Louisville KY 40204 or pay by the Venmo app @Sherry-Hurley-3 and email the information below to sherry@farmtoforkfood.com

If Venmo asks for the last 4-digits of my phone number, it's 4880

****There is no fee to send money to people using your Venmo balance, debit card, or bank account.***

*****There's a 3% fee for sending money to people using your credit card.***

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

BBC DINNER MEETING – Tuesday, March 10, 2025

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO._____ Email_____

Dinner Meeting -$50.00 ea.

___Paid by Venmo

Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club** and mail or bring to February meeting.

Please list any special dietary needs.

_____

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

_____

_____

Reservation for field trip. Name(s)

_____

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Sherry Hurley, 1012 Ellison Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-1904

RESERVATION DEADLINE –TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATIION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.

BBC Conservation Report Websites January 2026

New 'remarkably tame' tinamou species discovered in Amazon mountains may already be at risk of extinction

A Year in the Life of a Golden Eagle: Athena's 2025 Journey | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

Dead Trees Support a Bounty of Birdlife, but Preserving Them Isn't Always Clear Cut | Audubon

Tufted Puffins Are Vanishing Across the Pacific Northwest—Can an Ambitious New Effort Save Them? | Audubon

Get to Know the Ancient Birds That Lived During the Age of Dinosaurs | Audubon

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Are you planning to take part in the GBBC? It is easy to do. Join one or more of the BBC field trips during February 13th and 16th. Can't make them! Just count the birds in your backyard or neighborhood or any place you may be on those days. Submit your list or lists on eBird. Anyway you do it just join the fun of seeing how many birds you can see during the GBBC.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 31 8:30 a.m. – noon(ish) easy	**OHIO RIVER - INDIANA SIDE –** Waterfowl, gulls and others. Meet at the Falls of the Ohio SP observation platform to scan the basin and fossil beds. From there we will move to other spots along the river. Bring a scope if you have one, but there will be scopes to share if you don't. **GPS: 38.277145, -85.763528**	David Bailey 720-648-1493
Sunday, February 8 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	**CREASEY-MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE** – For residents, migrants and winter birds. Directions: turn left from US 42 onto KY 1793 at North Oldham High School. Preserve is about 1.5 miles on Old Harmony Landing Road. Meet at parking lot near Education Building. **GPS: 38.400504, -85.590233)**	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

Friday, February 13 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	MILES LAKES SECTION – BECKLEY CREEK PARK – **Residents, winter visitors, maybe waterfowl. Meet at the paddling put-in parking lot about a half mile from the park entrance on Shelbyville Road. We will walk up the hill and loop back down via the fishing lakes trail**. GPS: 38.230555, -85.467853	Parklands staff Curtis Carman 502-592-7618
Friday, February 13 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. easy	TURKEY RUN PARK – SEATON VALLEY **Residents, winter visitors, especially sparrows. Meet at the Seaton Valley parking lot and walk the Louisville Loop toward the Sky Meadows area. Directions: From I-265 exit (19) Billtown Road, go south and turn left at the T; go 1.5 miles and turn right into Turkey Run Park entrance; parking lot is on the right.** GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, February 14 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - **For winter visitors and permanent residents. 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.** GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110)	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, February 15 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	POPE LICK PARK **– For residents, winter birds. 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 at the John Floyd Community Building next to the main parking lot. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park)** GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095 (	Parklands staff Curtis Carman 502-592-7618
Sunday, February 15 8:30 a.m. – noon moderate	**JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST** – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. Meet at the welcome center, 11311 Mitchell Hill Road. From Gene Snyder Freeway, take Manslick Road exit south to Fairdale. At the traffic circle in Fairdale, take Mitchell Hill Road 1.6 miles to visitor center. **GPS: 38.08588, -85.76758**	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Monday, February 16 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. easy	**BECKLEY CREEK PARK – Creekside area** – For winter visitors and residents. Meet at PNC Achievement Center. **GPS: 38.21735, -85.47685**	Parklands staff Curtis Carman 502-592-7618