



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY 2022



Birding Panama During Covid

Ren and Wanda Bilkey will tell us about their adventure to Panama during Covid. Their trip was September 11 to 16, 2021 and included areas in the Canal Zone, including Pipeline Road, with short excursions into the mountains east and west of Panama City. They describe this trip as a perfect trip to return to international birding during the Covid pandemic as it was familiar, short, relatively safe and inexpensive.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, February 8 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.

Please renew your membership if you have not done so. We want to include you in our membership directory. This will be your last newsletter if you do not renew for 2022.



Last month on January

celebrated its 87th anniversary. We are glad you are part of our club.

11 Beckham Bird Club

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please check the BBC website for the procedures for going on a field trip so everyone will have a safe and enjoyable time on our field trips.

Saturday, Jan. 29 8:30 am-noon easy	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014	David Bailey 720-648-1493
Sunday, February 6 8:30 a.m.-noon easy	FALLS OF THE OHIO/OHIO RIVER INDIANA SIDE – For wintering and resident waterfowl and others. Meet at the Falls of the Ohio visitor center. GPS: 38.27712, -85.76368	Michael Callan 502-592-7008
Sunday, Feb. 13 9:00 a.m. – noon easy	HARRODS CREEK PARK – For winter birds, residents. 6530 Montero Dr., Prospect. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. GPS: 38.340941, -85.600052	Win Ahrens 502-500-1175
Saturday, Feb. 19 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – For residents and winter visitors. Meet at the Welcome Center at 11311 Mitchell Hill Road in Fairdale. GPS: 38.08513, -85.76714	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Saturday, Feb. 26 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, March 6 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE – For waterfowl, cranes and others. Meet at the Muscatatuck visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Directions: I-65 north from Louisville to Exit 50 (Seymour). Take US Highway 50 east about 3 miles to refuge entrance. About 1 hour north of Louisville. Bring a two-way radio if you have one. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610

PAST FIELD TRIPS

CREASY-MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE – JANUARY 15 - Six members came out under an overcast sky with temperatures just above freezing all morning. Had to work to find birds, especially in the wooded areas, but eventually tallied 31 species, with the last few at the feeders at the end of the walk. Finding a Winter Wren was surprisingly difficult given the number of brush piles on the property, but we finally got one. Didn't have so much as a hint of a Red-breasted Nuthatch, which are usually reliable here in winter. Best bird of the day was a Merlin, which flew over as we were birding the grasslands at the start of the walk. First eBird record at this location - another indicator that this species is becoming increasingly common in our area in winter.

POPE LICK PARK – JANUARY 23 -Ten brave members and guests met on a cold, cloudy and windy January day to see what birds we could find. Although the birding overall was quiet and slow, we found pockets of mixed flocks foraging along our walk making up for the slower sections. We managed to get 32 species in almost 3 hours. Highlights include getting 6 of the 7 possible woodpeckers (no red-headed), 7 species of sparrows (including Fox), and a very good look at a Barred Owl sitting on a tree stump close to the ground. All agreed it was a good birding day, especially for January!

MARCH DINNER MEETING

Owls are arguably the most widely recognized group of animals in the world. We recognize 268 species worldwide. They occur on all continents except Antarctica and have populated even the most remote islands, including Hawaii. Owl fossils date back to the Paleocene era and native cultures around the world are rich with stories and myths surrounding them. Yet, despite their worldwide distribution and cultural popularity, owls can be rather difficult to find—in fact most people will never see a wild owl in their lifetime. Why are they so hard to find? Adaptations. Owls have evolved many specialized traits and adaptations to help them survive.



Please join us for the March dinner meeting as world-renown owl expert Denver Holt uncovers and explains

these many adaptations. Mr. Holt is the founder and president of The Owl Research Institute based in Charlo, Montana. He has been studying owls and their ecology since 1978 and is one of the world's leading experts in the field. He has published over 100 research papers and has contributed to documentaries, books and magazines for *National Geographic*, BBC's *Planet Earth* series, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine* and PBS. In 2018, he received the prestigious Chandler S. Robbins Award from the American Birding Association for his lifelong dedication to owl conservation, education, and research.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 8 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchman's Lane. A cash bar will be available from 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. The price for the dinner this year is \$42.

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 9 at 9:00 a.m. for BBC members. Location AND TIME TBA later. **Reservations are required.** See the reservation form.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEAD LINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2. ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.



DINNER MEETING - Tuesday March 8, 2022

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$42.00 ea. Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**.

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 Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

CONSERVATION

Here is link to a story on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, that restored the original policy and added some aspects to strengthen the policy.

https://www.audubon.org/news/bird-protections-restored-and-key-process-advances-strengthen-rules?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-engagement_20220113_advisory&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220113_advisory&emci=3d3404e7-8974-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=b2b70b01-9e74-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=1314690

The Great Backyard
Bird Count



Join the count on February 18-21, 2022.

JANUARY BIRDING

The weather for January has been cold, windy and snowy. Waterfowl species pick up

maybe due to the weather with sightings of two nice species – Tundra Swans and Cackling Geese. Thanks to Jackie Elmore for his pictures of the swans and geese.

Even though there has been an increase in the number of



species of waterfowl seen there has not been an increase in the overall number of birds on our lakes and river. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy are being seen along with Greater and Lesser Scaup, Canvasback, Ring-necked, Black ducks and Green-winged Teal. The Anna's Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike and Short-eared Owls are still being



seen. The Merlin at Cox Park can be seen sitting on a snag of a tree next to the river. The Bald Eagles are still working on their nest at the Water Company ponds. A Gray Catbird was seen near the zoo. A Snowy Owl is being seen near Owensboro, KY. Next month look for Woodcocks displaying and Sandhill Cranes gathering near Cecilia, KY.