



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2019

JANUARY PROGRAM - BIRDING THREE CONTINENTS

Terry Anderson has been a casual birder since he was a teenager but really got serious about bird-watching since he retired in 2004. Since then he has traveled to over 20 countries on five continents in pursuit of birds, their environments and the interesting human cultures he observes along the way. His presentation will be focused on countries that are not the most traveled to by birders. Be prepared to visit Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan, Honduras, Guyana and Morocco. He often travels with Kay Harker, another Beckham Bird Club member.

The Beckham Bird Club meeting is on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, 38.254256, -85.689458. Bring a young birder!



HAPPY 84th ANNIVERSARY

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

JANUARY 11, 1935

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The field trip schedule for January, February and March is included in this newsletter for those receiving it by mail. For those receiving by email there will be a link and it is also available on the BBC web site.

IT IS PAST TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP.

If you have not sent in your 2019 BBC membership it is past due. **PLEASE SEND IT IN ASAP. Be sure to send your check with a membership form.** We need both. Make your check out to Beckham Bird Club and mail to Beckham Bird Club, PO Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301.

Think about joining the state birding organization, the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Details are on their web site at birdky.org.



We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Carol Hyatt, who passed away on December 6. Carol was an active member of BBC and chaired the telephone committee for many years. Carol was also a volunteer at Bernheim Forest.

BBC Conservation Report websites December 2018

https://www.audubon.org/news/theres-new-theory-why-downy-and-hairy-woodpeckers-look-so-alike?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-20170312_march_wingspan_medium

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180202140910.htm>

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/>

<https://oceanconservancy.org/blog/2018/11/26/5-awe-inspiring-ocean-discoveries-2018/>

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Melco Flood Retention Basin, Sunday, October 14

The 14 birders who ventured through the gate at Melco got to see 52 species of birds. Highlights included pairs of Blue-Winged Teal and Northern Pintail, a Snowy Egret, and a Merlin. Eight shorebird species were also present that included a Dunlin, both Yellowlegs, Sandpipers (Least, Pectoral, and Spotted), and Wilson's Snipe. If that weren't enough, we also had 7

species of warblers which included Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, and Black-Throated Green Warblers. Thanks to everyone who came out for a super day of birding!

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.

Spindletop Research Farm – Sunday, November 25th

Twelve hardy birders found their way to Spindletop Farm through the morning fog blanketing much of Kentucky. Their efforts were rewarded with good looks at Eastern Meadowlarks, a Fox Sparrow, some Rusty Blackbirds, American Tree Sparrows, White Crowned Sparrows, Horned Larks, and 5 American Black ducks. All total we had 44 species. Thank you to everyone for coming out for a great day of birding!

Bernheim Forest –Sunday, December 9th

As many as 17 birders joined the field trip at Bernheim Forest. Many came specifically to look for the Golden Eagles on a chilly overcast morning. While we were waiting on the Eagles to appear, we were treated to flyovers of Sandhill Cranes and a flyby of Pileated Woodpecker. After a chilly hour or so of waiting, the clouds parted, the sun started the thermals, and we witnessed a pair of Golden Eagles soar into the sky. Alighting near the Golden was a single Bald Eagle. Other highlights included a Northern Harrier, 19 Red-Breasted Nuthatches, some very friendly Golden Crowned Kinglets, and a photogenic Winter Wren. We totaled 41 species. Thank you to everyone for coming out for a fun day of birding! A great big thanks goes to Andrew Berry for his spot on advice on where and when to look for the Golden Eagles!