



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2022

JANUARY MEETING CANCELLED:

FIELD TRIPS WILL RESUME

Due to the rapid spread of the omicron variant of COVID19 (not to mention that our scheduled speaker had to back out because he's leaving town), the BBC board voted to cancel the January meeting. Given the variant's ability to infect even fully vaccinated and boosted people, the board felt the level of risk at this time is just too great.

Early indications are that the omicron variant infects everyone it can very rapidly, hits a peak and then declines almost as quickly. If that proves to be the case in our community, we think it may be possible to hold our February meeting and are very hopeful that the March dinner meeting will proceed as scheduled. We will provide updates via the newsletter and the website.

Field trips will resume in January. Please see the schedule in this newsletter. If you attend a field trip, please practice social distancing to the extent possible. We request that unvaccinated people wear masks or refrain from attending.

We are as tired of this ongoing uncertainty and disruption as you are. It has been a long two years. Let's all hope the omicron variant is the last troublesome iteration of this pandemic.

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.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW FOR 2022.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Falls of the Ohio – November 27 Three members turned out on a partly cloudy day with light winds and temperatures in the 30s and 40s. The day started at Ashland Park with 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, a Peregrine Falcon and a few other common ducks being the highlights. As Jeffersonville overlook and the river near Towhead Island appeared dead, we moved on to Garvin Brown where land birds were relatively uncooperative in the light wind, but the sun shone nicely on the Northern Shovelers that were feeding just 40 feet from us, and a few Green-winged Teal closer to the preserve seemed unconcerned by our presence. After a flyover Rusty Blackbird sighting, we ventured into the preserve eventually finding a few things, but most were uncooperative, 15 Brown-headed Cowbirds being an exception; Swamp Sparrow and flyby Red-winged Blackbirds were also detected. Walking to a spot that has been productive in recent years, we detected many sparrows, but none would perch up, except the Song, but brief views and calls of White-crowned and more Swamps provided highlights. A Palm Warbler might have called, but could never confirm with a sighting. Made one last stop at LWC ponds, where little was seen, but found the one bird we hoped would make an appearance by the end of the day: Bald Eagle, who was then unceremoniously chased off by a flicker. With 44 species, all in all a quiet day for this trip, with a few unusual highlights for this time of year.

Wendall Moore Park - November 28 BBC Field Trip - 4 members and 1 guest ventured out on a chilly clear late afternoon. Highlights were very good looks at Double Crested Cormorant and a pair of Mute Swans. A flock of Sandhills also flew over after sunset after returning from Bennett Lane (see notes from this Bennett Lane checklist) . Before departing, Lee, Stacey, and Donovan went looking for owls and flushed a large one, but they were not able to determine if it was Barred or Great Horned. Despite low numbers of birds and species diversity, a fun time was had by all. **Bennett Lane BBC Field Trip** - highlights pair of northern harriers, eastern meadowlarks, and several white crowned sparrows. Birded during last hour of sunlight. Windy and cold.

Beckley Creek Park –Grand Allee – December 7 Two members turned out for a weekday trip. Conditions - mid 20s and overcast - made for slow birding. Highlights included a Bald Eagle perched in a snag over the creek and an unusual congregation in a small bare tree - four Northern Flickers, a Blue Jay and an American Kestrel. Good numbers and variety of sparrows as well – six species in all.

Long Run Park – December 12 Seven Birders met on a cold and clear December morning to search for waterfowl and winter residents. Temperature at the start was 26 degrees rising to 42 degrees by the end of the trip. The birding was a little slow, but it was a beautiful morning to be out. Highlights include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Pintail, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and multiple flocks of Cedar Waxwings.

CAPERTON SWAMP – GOOD NEWS

If you bird Caperton Swamp you know how terrible the parking lot situation is. But good news it has been graded and the park's department have a purchase order in place to pave the parking lot with asphalt. The work is scheduled for this spring when the asphalt plants reopen. Thanks to the district 16 Councilman Scott Reed and his assistant Debbie Carroll for contacting the park's department.

BBC Conservation Report Websites December 2021

[Advocates: Court Deal A Win For Endangered 'I'iwi Bird - Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

[DIY: Outdoor Holiday Decorations That Double as Delectable Treats for Birds | Audubon](#)

[Who Wins the Feeder War? | Audubon](#)

[When 136 Bird Species Show Up at a Feeder, Which One Wins? | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[What Do Crows Eat? \(And the Crafty Tricks They Use To Gather Food\) \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[How Songbirds Evolved a Sweet Tooth | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[Patterns in Nuthatch Migration Emerge from Citizen-Science Data | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[How many birds are there in the world? More than 600K citizen scientists helped to find out | CTV News](#)

[Bezos Earth Fund Bets on Birds: Invests \\$12 Million in New Latin America-U.S. "Conserva Aves" Partnership to Address Climate and Nature Crises in the Tropical Andes - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

The Great Backyard
Bird Count



We are less than two months out from the count! Join the count on February 18-21, 2022.

DECEMBER BIRDING

Nothing unusual turned up this month. The Anna's Hummingbird which is a rarity continues. Sandhill Cranes increased in number and could be heard as they flew over different sections of the county. Many cranes are still north of us so keep a look out for them. Waterfowl still have not appeared, with only a few birds seen on the river or lakes. The Merlin can still be seen at Cox Park. A good number of Bluebirds were reported at the Grand Allee. Hopefully this is a sign that they are recovering from the past winter. Large numbers of Cedar Waxwings are taking advantage of all the fruit on the trees.



Snowy Owls are on the move so

keep an eye out for them. There are no confirmed reports of one in Kentucky but two are being seen just a little over an hour's drive in Indiana. Several local birders have made the trip to see them. A possible owl may have been seen at the airport but has not been confirmed. Short-eared Owls and Loggerhead Shrikes are still being seen on Bennett Lane in Oldham County. Maybe you will find the next rarity. So go birding on your own or on a field trip. You never know what will turn up.



GOOD BIRDING IN 2022