



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2024



BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

Join us at this month's meeting for cake as we celebrate the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Beckham Bird Club on January 11, 1935.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Many Beckham Bird Club members remember Tommy Quarles as almost always the youngest person on any field trip he attended. Although that is often still the case, Tommy has become one of the most adept and active birders in Kentucky. Join us to hear his story about falling for birds at a very young age and pursuing his passion ever since. Here's Tommy in his own words:

My name is Tommy Quarles and I am a current senior at the University of Kentucky studying Digital Media Design. My interest in birds began when I was 4 years old after I checked out a bird book from my preschool library. I proceeded to memorize a few of the birds, eventually picking out a Red-winged Blackbird in my backyard, and the rest is history. When I was 13, I got my first camera, and that began my interest in photography. Little did I know, that would spark what I now know I want to do with my career after graduation. Now, I am an intern photographer with the University of Kentucky athletic department, where I get to photograph all 23 varsity sports, and I hope to start my career in athletics photography after I graduate. Even though my free time to go birding has dwindled slightly since starting school at UK, my passion has not, and I get out when I can to find and photograph birds around Lexington and chase any rarities close by to add to my county or state lists.

Presentation Description: When I was younger, I counted down the years until I turned 13 and could apply for the Kentucky Ornithological Society's scholarship to send a lucky teen to a young birders' camp. I was lucky enough to receive the scholarship back in 2016 and chose

to attend the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado. I loved it so much that I also attended the ABA's Camp Avocet (now Camp Delaware Bay) the following summer. Every camp has an intern to assist the counselors and campers in any way they need. I admired both of my camp interns back when I was 13 and 14 at camp, and always knew I wanted to come back to fill that role once I was old enough. This past summer, I was the intern at Camp Delaware Bay based out of Lewes, Delaware. There, four other counselors and 17 campers birded the unique habitats of Delaware and New Jersey, where shorebirds and other specialty species breed and also stop along their migration paths. While my primary job was assisting campers in finding birds and helping with anything else they might need, I was able to bring my camera everywhere we went. Over the week, we saw 165 species total, including many lifers for the campers and one for myself!

If you know of someone who would like to go to a birding camp this meeting will be a great opportunity to learn more about the camp and the KOS scholarship that is available.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, January 9, 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.

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.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024 IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO.

PAST FIELD TRIP

Seven adventurous birders braved the blustery wind and cold on December 3rd to observe waterfowl on the lake and song birds at the edge of the forest of Sam Peden Community Park. While the strong winds reduced song bird movement, the group still managed to see close-up views of American Gadwalls, Ring-neck ducks, a number of Coots, several Bufflehead along with Mallards and Pied-billed Grebes. Many of the group had not seen the dark color morph of a snow goose but observed the single one that seems to be a mainstay at the park. A good time was had by all.



BBC Conservation Report Websites November 2023

<https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024>

[8 Great Fall Birding Trails | Audubon](#)

[Project FeederWatch Begins November 1st | Birding Wire](#)

[What Kind of Owl Are You? | National Audubon Society](#)

[Athena is headed back to Bernheim - Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest](#)

[Battling a Green Glacier: How a Native Tree Became a Threat to Nebraska's Grasslands | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

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

[10 Fun Facts About the Wild Turkey | Audubon](#)

BC Conservation Report Websites December 2023

[10 Gorgeous Shots Showcasing Birds and the Native Plants They Need | Audubon](#)

[Petition Urges Federal Protections for Eastern Golden Eagle - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Golden Eagle Athena returns to Bernheim after 1700 mile Fall Migration - Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest](#)

[Where Is That Bird Going With That Seed? It's Caching Food for Later | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

2023 BIRDING

This past year has been a great year for finding rarities across the state and Jefferson county. In January the Pink-footed Goose was still being seen even though it was first seen in 2022. Another Western Tanager was seen in Jefferson county not far from where one was seen a few years ago. Was it the same bird? Hope it returns but why wouldn't it with the smorgasbord of food it had to select from every day. A first for Jefferson County was a Roseate Spoonbill that made an appearance at the Falls of the Ohio and stayed for many days. When the hurricane came through the south, we were fortunate to get two record birds – a Clapper Rail and an American Flamingo. Unfortunately only one person saw the rail but not so for the Flamingo. There was a sighting of one at Cave Run but it did not stay long enough for birders to see it. But another flamingo turned-up on the Ohio River near Warsaw that stayed around long enough for many people to see and photograph it. The next rarity was the Allen's Hummingbird in Pulaski County and is still being seen. And then there was the Limpkin. The first sighting was in Todd County in 2022 and many birders rushed to see it not knowing that we would have an influx of sightings all over the state in 2023. The closest one was in Shelby County. We were all hoping that one would show up in Jefferson County. Maybe it will show up in 2024.

Hope 2024 will be as exciting as 2023. So go birding and maybe you will be the one to find a Townsend Solitaire. Thanks to Pam Spaulding for the picture of the Townsend Solitaire.

