THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB·ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2026

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

Join us at this month's meeting for cake as we celebrate the 91st anniversary of the founding of the Beckham Bird Club on January 13, 1935.

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY

"The Beauty of Showing Up"

For nearly a decade, Ellen Sears has greeted the sunrise at Beckley Creek Park. This familiar patch of land is where she quietly documents the ever-changing landscape, using only her phone. But "only a phone" hardly captures the astonishing beauty of her work.

Ellen's photographs invite us to slow down and truly see the fragile shimmer of a dewdrop clinging to a spider web, the intricate detail of a snail, or soft fog settling close to the ground as warm morning light

fills the scene. Day after day, she shows up, whether she's freezing or dripping with sweat. You will see how closely she observes the rhythms of the park and the life it supports.

In this presentation, Ellen will share her photographs and offer some of her most-used, favorite tips for creating compelling images with a phone camera. If you've ever believed that making art requires expensive equipment, this presentation will inspire you to rethink what's possible with what you already have in your pocket.

An art and math teacher for 33 years, Ellen sees no boundaries between disciplines. As she puts it, "Math, Science, Art—they're all the same to me." Ultimately, her work is less about the camera and more about attention, about returning to the same place with curiosity, patience, and care. *The Beauty of Showing Up* reminds us that creativity isn't found in chasing something new, but in noticing what's already there. Through Ellen's eyes, we discover how much beauty reveals itself when we simply keep showing up.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, January 13, 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.

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB HATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

See the December newsletter for details.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO.

Please consider using PayPal.

Info at https://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html under membership.

Don't delay do it today!!

Invite a friend to join or give a membership to someone!

BIRDATHON THANK YOU LETTERS

Through your generous support last year we gave many grants to organizations that help our birds. In recognition of these grants, organizations wrote thank you letters expressing their thanks to Beckham Bird Club. These letters can be viewed on our website at https://www.beckhambirdclub.org/birdathon-thank-you-letters.html. Hope you will take the time to view these letters and see what the BBC Birdathon has done to help our birds and the environment.

PAST FIELD TRIP

Beckley Creek Grand Allee – December 7 Five BBC members met on a chilly, overcast early December morning. The birds were quiet at first, but as the weather improved (clouds breaking up and even some sun!) they got more active. We ended up with 33 species at the Grand Allee, including a long look at a soaring Bald Eagle, five of the seven woodpecker species, six species of sparrows, a couple of Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Winter Wren.

After we finished at the Grand Allee section, we decided to head to the north end of the park to look for an Eastern Screech Owl. No owl, but we got a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to up our woodpecker count to six on the day and a Brown Creeper and Dark-eyed Juncos to add to our winter bird count. A great day to be out!

SAVE THE DATE, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING.

BBC Conservation Report Websites December 2025

Snowy Owls are on the Move South | Birding Wire

Safeguarding the Songs of Spring: The Outsize Value of the Five Great Forests | Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

https://abcbirds.org/news/signal-boost-motus/

https://blog.nature.org/2025/11/18/growing-seagrass-better-add-a-sprinkle-of-bird-poop/

BURR!! WHAT A COLD LOUISVILLE CBC!

It was a cold, cold day for our Louisville Christmas Bird Count, maybe the coldest, with temperatures in the minus and single digits but it was a beautiful day with the sun warming up the hardy birders who ventured out to count the birds. What was even more astonishing was that a record was broken with 102 species recorded. Since it was so cold some visitors from up north came down to be counted - Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and a Snow Bunting. Did you see the thousands of Sandhill Cranes as they migrated south?

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

A more detailed account will be available later in the KOS, *The Kentucky Warbler.*

Thanks to the hospitality of Win Ahrens and Debbie Hamilton the birders were treated to a fun evening of food and cheer as we counted the birds.

BIRDS OF 2025

The year 2025 has come and gone but it had some rare and exciting birds for us birders to see. The first record for Jefferson County of a Swainson Warbler was seen at the Anchorage Trail. Another first record bird for Jefferson County was a Pacific Loon on the Ohio River. Some other rare but not record birds turned up -Tundra Swan, Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Glossy Ibis, Red-Throated Loon, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Neotropical Cormorant, Lesser-backed Gull and Franklin's Gull. Hope you were able to see some of these special birds. Check out eBird for a complete list of birds seen in 2025. Looking forward to seeing more record-breaking birds in 2026.