

THE BECKHAM



OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2017



HAPPY 82nd ANNIVERSARY
BECKHAM BIRD CLUB
JANUARY 11, 1935



"Hiking and Birding
The Inca Trail and Machu Picchu"
Program by Jamie Baker

Two weeks in the summer of 2016 my wife, Penny, and I went to Peru primarily to hike four days and three nights on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. We spent a few days before and after the hike in Cusco and other towns in the Sacred Valley. While not exactly a birding trip I was never without binoculars and camera and managed to see some of the regional endemic and near endemic species of birds.

Join us to see the special places and birds of Peru on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center on Payne Street. See you there.



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 keep or make a copy of the schedule as a detailed schedule will not be printed each month in the newsletter, only a list of the field trips.

BOARD OF BBC HAS CHANGED

Rand Falls has resigned from the BBC board due to his job. The BBC Board appointed Andrew Melynkovich to fulfill Rand's term of office until the next election in May 2017.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP.

If you have not sent in your 2017 BBC membership you are 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](#).



IN SYMPATHY

Frank Gribble, from Stafford, England, a long time Beckham member has died at the age of 86. Frank visited Kentucky over 10 times and enjoyed birding with the club members. He was jovial and always excited to bird in the US, and several of our members visited with him and his wife Hilary in England. His ability to remember dates and places and where he ate and where he saw a certain bird was astounding. He also made certain we knew the way to make a "proper" cup of tea. He will be missed. Dona Coates, a special friend of Frank's



A BIRDER'S BUCKET LIST FOR 2017

1. Come to a BBC meeting if you have never been to one.
2. Join in on a field trip if you have never been to one.
3. Make plans to go to the March Dinner Meeting at Big Springs Country Club on Tuesday, March 14.
4. Join the Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS).
5. Go to one of the KOS weekends in April or September.
6. Plan a trip to Magee Marsh in Ohio around the first two weeks of May.
7. Donate to the BBC Birdathon.
8. Submit your bird list to ebird. It is so easy.
9. Subscribe to birdKY.
10. Take a child birding.
11. Keep your cat indoors and encourage others to as well.
12. Buy bird friendly (certified shade-grown) coffee.
13. Plant native species in your yard.
14. Donate your old/unused binoculars and scopes to nature centers, school groups interested in birding.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO LOCATE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will be participating in a multi-state and international effort to study the eastern population of Loggerhead Shrike, and we need your help. In Kentucky shrike populations have been declining at a 6.5% - 10% annual rate since 1980 – 2001. LOSH are listed as a species of greatest conservation need in Kentucky, and this winter we will be “kicking – off” our LOSH research project.

Locating shrikes can be quite the challenge in Kentucky because our population is so small, and most shrikes occur on privately owned farm/pasture land. There have been attempts to create a surveying protocol for locating shrikes, but again our constraints here in Kentucky make a standardized survey protocol very time consuming and not likely to produce many occurrences. Therefore, we are calling on our fabulous Kentucky Birders to help us locate wintering shrike.

You can contribute by sending me GPS coordinates of locations where you observe a LOSH, during your winter birding ventures. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count typically turns up a few shrikes, just remember to take a coordinate or estimate the location on google maps, during your count. Please do not trespass on someone’s property. If you locate a shrike on private property, our agency will get in contact with landowners for permission to access the area. If you do happen to know who the landowners are, please send that information to me with your coordinates, photos, and any other helpful information.

I have created a “Tips for locating and Identifying Loggerhead Shrike” document, and will be happy to provide it upon request.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask. I can be reached at (502) 564-3400 x 4475. Please send coordinates and information to loren.taylor@ky.gov . Thank you all in advance!

Loren Taylor *Avian Biologist, Nongame Branch
KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources*

Thanks to Pam Spaulding for the picture of the Loggerhead Shrike

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, November 27 - Seven members and 1 guest made the short drive to Bernheim Forest on a mild Sunday afternoon for late November. They were rewarded with good looks at nearly all of the 35 species found, including 9 Red-Breasted Nuthatches of which they saw 4-5 in one tree. Other highlights included many Golden-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, and Goldfinches. In addition, the group found Pied-billed Grebes, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers, and Yellow-rumped warblers. Thanks to everyone who came out and made for an enjoyable afternoon of birding.

Beckley Creek Park – Grand Alee, December 3 - Extended list included birds from the morning and the afternoon. Five members joined in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. Highlights included a massive flock of Bluebirds bathing in the stream, Winter Wren, all woodpeckers (including at least one Red-headed and a Yellow bellied sapsucker), 8 species of sparrows (including Chipping and American Tree), a brightly colored male American Kestrel, two Eastern Phoebes, and a pair of late Palm Warblers. The group tallied 44 species.

Cave Hill Cemetery – December 4 - Zillions of Robins greeted the 7 participants in the Beckham Bird Club Cave Hill Cemetery field trip. They seemed to be everywhere. The group managed to find and record 29 species. Cute little Red-breasted Nuthatches and one Winter Wren were nice additions to our list. The group located a Great Blue Heron and a Kingfisher on the quarry lake, but Mallards were the only duck species on the other lakes. Both species of Kinglets were seen and a large number of Juncos was found. It was a nice morning to be birding in the cemetery.

Ohio River, Indiana Side – December 10 - On a clear, sunny, cold morning, 4 BBC members didn't find many ducks on the river, but they did have a total of nine species of ducks. They also enjoyed scoped looks at a Peregrine Falcon and a Bald Eagle, thanks to Nancy for the initial finds. Only 13 Sandhill Cranes flew over our heads, but we were happy to see them! The birds of the morning however were an out of season Gray Catbird at Eagle Steel and the continuing Great Egret at the Falls of the Ohio.

The next GBBC is February 17-20, 2017

Good Birding in 2017!!