



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2018

## **BBC IS MOVING – NEW PLACE FOR MEETINGS**

Starting with the **Tuesday, January 9 meeting**, BBC will move to **St Mark's Episcopal Church**, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, -85.689458 for our monthly meetings. 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.

## **WILD BORNEO**

For the January program, we invite you to journey with us as we explore Wild Borneo, presented by Beckham Bird Club member Joanne Luyster. Joanne will regale us with tales of the adventure she took last July, and she will have lots of photos of everything from oriental darters to orangutans, swiftlets to sun bears, eagles to elephants. Please join us for the premiere program in our new location at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Frankfort Avenue.



## **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 2018 MEMBERSHIP.**

If you have not sent in your 2018 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](#).



## **Announcing the BBC 2018 (Friendly) Birding Competition**

*It's the Hotspot Hustle.*

*The object is to bird the same site or sites intensively during 2018, building a clearer picture of where and when birds can be found in the Louisville metro area.*

*The rules are as follow:*

*1. Select one or more spots within the Louisville metro area to bird in 2018. The only restriction is that they must be hotspots designated on eBird as of December 1, 2017. (This is both for record keeping purposes and to encourage use of e-bird.) There is no limit to the number of people selecting any given hotspot. If a given location contains more than one hotspot, you should use the smallest subdivision (Muscatatuck NWR is a good example of such a location.)*

*2. Send an e-mail with list of your spots to Andrew Melnykovich - [estiles74@gmail.com](mailto:estiles74@gmail.com) - who will be the official scorer.*

*3. Bird the heck out of your spot or spots during 2018. Do it alone or with others. Shared checklists (such as BBC field trips you lead or attend) count. NOTE: stick to generally accepted hotspot boundaries. For example, for reporting purposes, Beckley Creek Park extends from the Floyds Fork bridge nearest the visitor center north to the paddling put-in parking lot (which is the southern boundary of the William Miles Park hotspot.)*

*4. In the same spirit of cooperation as the 2015 Jefferson County Big Year, rarities should be reported immediately to the bird-ky (and Indiana's as well, if appropriate) list serve. More birding leads to better birds, so let's share the wealth.*

*5. Wait for the results to be announced at the end of the year, with winners honored at the 2019 annual dinner.*

*The initial categories (we will likely develop more as we think of them) are:*

*1. Most species seen at a single hotspot.*

*2. Highest hotspot percentage: species seen divided by total species ever recorded at a hotspot (the year-end number).*

*3. Most checklists submitted at a single hotspot.*

*4. Most species added to a hotspot by a birder in 2018.*

*5. Best bird of the year - this will be chosen after extensive deliberation by the BBC board.*

## **PAST FIELD TRIPS**

Cherokee Park, November 12 - Two BBC members and one guest enjoyed most of the resident and winter visitors one would expect in a Louisville city park. Highlights were six woodpecker species and two Eastern Bluebirds.

Beckley Creek – Grand Allee, November 25 - Six members and one guest enjoyed pleasant weather to tally 40 species. Highlights were two Wilson's Snipes, one of which provided extended looks in flight after it flushed, and six of seven possible woodpeckers, missing only Red-headed, with close-up views of a pair of Pileateds. Sparrows were abundant but notable misses included Mourning Doves, Dark-eyed Juncos and Canada Geese.

Spindletop, November 26 - Spindletop was awesome. The weather was near perfect for late November: sunny, not too cold, and light wind. Highlights included great looks at a merle of 30+ Rusty Blackbirds, 5 stationary Sandhill Cranes, a development of 50+ House Finches, at least 7 American Pipits, a Lapland Longspur, a Palm warbler, two Wilson's Snipe, and a Marsh Wren. Our group of 9 members and 4 guests totaled 48 species. Thanks to David Lang and David Svetich for their help and to everyone who came out for a wonderful morning of birding!

Hays Kennedy, December 2 - We began the field trip at Hays Kennedy on a chilly, partly cloudy morning with 11 members and 3 guests. There were many Mallards on the water, but highlights were American Wigeons, Gadwall & Green-winged Teal. Then off to Garvin Brown, where most birds were quiet. However, a highlight was an immature & a mature Bald Eagle spotted on Six Mile Island. On our way back out to Hays Kennedy, we were greeted by Eastern Meadowlarks and Eastern Bluebirds. We then made stops by the Louisville Water company reservoirs and Putney Pond. All ducks were absent at Mayfair except for 1 Mallard. We did however see a Bald Eagle sitting near the Lewis & Clark Bridge nest. Next, we were off to Putney Pond where we briefly saw 5 Hooded Mergansers. We also got to observe a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers foraging in the berries with some Cedar Waxwings. It was a great day to be out enjoying the birds!

Freeman Lake, December 10 - Ten members and 2 guests, most carrying scopes, made quick work of birding Freeman Lake on a chilly and breezy afternoon. Although a great number of waterfowl departed from the lake just hours before the trip, a good number of waterfowl species stayed in small numbers. Highlights included good looks at two American Black Ducks, a Horned Grebe, a few Green Winged Teal and Bufflehead, small flocks of Greater White Fronted Geese and Hooded Merganser, a Common Loon, an American Wigeon, and a small flock of Sandhill Cranes flying relatively low over the lake. We totaled 38 species in just 2 hours of birding. Thanks to Bill Friel and Jennifer Snyder for providing guidance and to everyone else who came out for a fun afternoon of birding.



***HAPPY 83<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
BECKHAM BIRD CLUB  
JANUARY 11, 1935***

## DECEMBER BIRD ALERTS

December had three rare bird alerts . A King Eider was seen just east of Cincinnati on December 2. It swam out far enough into the Ohio River to make it the first record of a King Eider in Kentucky. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was located at Dale Hollow State Resort Park on December 8. The third bird was a Snowy Owl that was seen at the Kentucky Speedway on December 13. Thanks to Tom Becker for the picture of birders viewing the eider and to Jamie Baker for the pictures of the birds.



King Eider – first record for Kentucky



Ash-throated Flycatcher – second record for Kentucky



Snowy Owl