

THE BECKHAM



OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
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Fighting to Flutter: Monarchs in Mexico 2016 with Tavia Cathcart Brown

In March of this year, Tavia visited all four of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserves in the volcanic belt of the Sierra Madre Mountains on the border of [Michoacán](#) and the [State of Mexico](#). She will speak about her adventures when she visited the butterfly overwintering grounds and the storms that killed millions of Monarchs. Her stories will be accompanied by her photos and videos. She also will cover Monarch butterfly migration and what we can do to help them survive. Tavia Cathcart Brown is Executive Director of Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve in Goshen, Kentucky, where she has established a two-acre Woodland Garden that highlights native wildflowers and ferns. She has created three Certified Monarch Waystation gardens with two at the Nature Preserve and one at her home garden. Tavia is part of the Kentucky Monarch Summit to help write a statewide management plan to save the Monarch butterflies.

Join us at the Clifton Center on Payne Street at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE 2016 BBC BIRDATHON BY SENDING IN YOUR
DONATION TO YOUR SPONSOR OR TO THE POST OFFICE BOX.
THANK YOU!!!**

FIELD TRIPS

There are no field trips in July.

A schedule for upcoming field trips
will be in the August newsletter.



ANNUAL PICNIC

It was a lovely day for a picnic. This year the weather cooperated and we enjoyed clear skies and cool breezes. Twenty-eight members and guests gathered at the Community Center in Pope Lick Park to enjoy good food and each other's company. And, of course, we traveled the path at the park to look for as many birds as we could find. Following a short bird quiz the group feasted on fried chicken, pot-luck dishes, and lots of delicious desserts. As we set forth on our walk the first birds to greet the observers were an Eastern Kingbird and an Orchard Oriole. Down by the bridge an Eastern Phoebe, lots of Tree Swallows and an Eastern Wood-Pewee were seen. Everyone had good looks at a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a Wood Thrush, a Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Summer Tanagers and Indigo Buntings. Thanks to Pat and Jane Bell for organizing the picnic. Plan now to attend next year's picnic on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Mark your calendar.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

May 22, Beargrass Creek

Eight members enjoyed nice weather and 44 species of birds, though very few warblers and vireos. The highlight was a Black-billed Cuckoo that all were able to see, and a very close view of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the parking lot as we were leaving.

May 29, Anchorage Trail

The morning started out very slowly but the group of seven birders ended up with good looks at several birds including a pair of courting Orchard Orioles, a Pileated Woodpecker sunning

himself on a branch, two hummingbirds, and a singing Common Yellowthroat. The group tallied 43 species.

June 12, Beckley Creek

Eight members of the Beckham Bird Club gathered to walk the trail along the creek on this late spring morning. It was a HOT, HUMID day, but the birds were quite active and we ended up with 46 species. Mallard and Green Herons were observed on the water. Bobwhites were calling, but were impossible to see. Several Red-headed Woodpeckers were spotted - such a beautiful woodpecker. Cliff Swallows were busily tending nests under the bridge. Thirty nests were counted in all. Only one warbler was seen and heard - Common Yellowthroats. Other birds of interest include Meadowlarks, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings and both species of Orioles.

MIGRATORY BIRD/DUCK STAMP IS ON SALE



Joseph Hautman's painting of Trumpeter Swans will be on the 2016-2017 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly called the Duck Stamp. The stamp went on sale June 24, 2016.

Trumpeter Swan, represents a real American conservation success story. The species historically suffered huge

population declines. By 1933, fewer than 70 wild Trumpeter Swans were known to exist, and extinction seemed possible. Aerial surveys, however, discovered a Pacific population of several thousand trumpeters in Alaska. Increased conservation efforts have resulted in native western populations recovering. Also, reintroductions to the central part of the continent – mostly around the Great Lakes – have also proven to be highly successful.

The money from the sale will go to conserve and protect wetlands and other habitat in our national wildlife refuge system. This year's stamp depicts Ruddy Ducks. The cost is \$25.00. What a good way for birders to help preserve our dwindling bird habitat. Consider purchasing it through American Birding Association (www.aba.org). There is a shipping fee of \$4.95 up to 5 stamps so get a group together and share the cost of the shipping. By purchasing your Duck Stamp(s) through the ABA, you will be showing your support of bird conservation in our National Wildlife Refuge System and your voice as a birder will be heard! Remember, 98 cents of every duck stamp dollar goes directly to the purchasing of vital bird habitat!