



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

P.O. BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

JULY 2023



JULY PROGRAM – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

If you want to see birds-of-paradise, you pretty much have to go to New Guinea, which is home to the vast majority of these spectacular species.

That is what Beckham Bird Club members Wanda and Ren Bilkey did last year, visiting Papua New Guinea with the Partnership for International Birding.

Papua New Guinea is a sovereign state that occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea. (The western half is part of Indonesia.) It is the second largest island on Earth and the last inhabited island to be explored by Europeans. Even today, many areas have little exposure to Western influence.

With 178,700 square miles of mostly undeveloped tropical habitat, Papua New Guinea hosts an incredible diversity of birds, including 20 species of dazzling birds-of-paradise, Flame Bowerbird, Crested Pigeon, fruit doves, figbirds, jewel-babblers, pitas, and berrypeckers.

Papua New Guinea is among the most exotic birding destinations in the world. Join us as Wanda and Ren tell us about their visit to a birders' paradise. **Our meeting is on Tuesday, July 11, 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.**

BBC Donates to Organizations That Support Birds and Birding

In recent months, the Beckham Bird Club board has been discussing ways to use club resources to assist groups in Kentucky that are engaged in preserving habitat for birds and that create opportunities for birding and welcome birders.

The BBC is fortunate to be on solid financial footing and the board believes that some of the club's financial resources could be used to assist these organizations in achieving their missions.

The board identified eight organizations – five in the Louisville area and three with broader statewide missions in Kentucky - that it will support this year with donations of \$250 each. The organizations are:

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Creasey Mahon Nature Preserve

Louisville Nature Center

Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy

The Parklands of Floyd's Fork

Kentucky Chapter – The Nature Conservancy

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

Kentucky Wild

Although most of these groups are past recipients of BBC Birdathon grants, these donations were not solicited by the organizations. Nor are the donations being made in place of Birdathon support or using funds collected specifically for Birdathon grants.

The donations are coming from BBC general funds. They are not a multi-year commitment. But it is the board's hope and intent that such donations will be made in coming years, to these or to other or additional worthy organizations, contingent on the status of the club's finances.

However, those decisions will rest with future BBC boards. The board welcomes suggestions from members regarding future contributions in support of groups that provide habitat for birds and birders.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Black Acre NP - On May 21 nine spry and energetic birders participated in a field trip to Black Acre Nature Preserve. Weather was a little cool starting out but it turned into a sunny day with light winds. A total of 48 species was observed but unfortunately very few warblers or sparrows were seen. Amazingly, not a single Song Sparrow was observed or picked up by Merlin. The highlight of the day was a Barred Owl observed by a few members. I believe all had a good time.

Harrods Creek Park May 27 - 61* and partly cloudy, wind E at 7 mph. Fifteen members and guests walked the Orange Trail at Harrods Creek Park on a beautiful, cool late spring morning. We saw and heard lots of great birds. A Red-shouldered Hawk sat in the field below the parking lot for an extended time period affording a great photo opportunity. The Hawk was joined by its partner later in the walk circling in the sky above the trail. We saw several woodpeckers including Red-headed and Pileated. Photos were taken of an Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush and Louisiana Waterthrush which were heard in 2 separate locations. Wood Thrushes continuously serenaded us as we walked the trail. A great morning to be out in the park!!

PICNIC

Thanks to Anna Perry, Carol Challas, Carol Besse, Charlene Freeman, Linda Flatt, Christine Hayden, Donovan Jones for organizing our annual picnic at Joe Creason Park on June 4. About 25 members enjoyed a birding game, good food and a bird walk to top off a Sunday afternoon in June. Plan on coming next year if you missed this one.

KOS 2023 Fall Meeting



The fall meeting will be held at John James Audubon State Park from September 15th through the 17th. Preparations are underway and, as usual, we have secured a group discount for a block of rooms for attendees. The discounted rooms are reserved at the Henderson Comfort Inn. Here are some details: 30 rooms are reserved with the group code "KOS" at the Comfort Inn. The group rate is \$99 plus tax per room per night. There are 20 doubles (queens), 8 kings, and 2 ADA rooms in the block. The rooms must be reserved and paid for by the attendees 30 days prior to the arrival date. The contact is Cindy and the number is 270-827-8191. Refrigerator & micro in rooms (except for one ADA room), and continental breakfast provided. No pets allowed.

- Location: John James Audubon State Park in Henderson, Kentucky
- Dates: September 15-17, 2023
- Hotel Discount Code: **KOS**

More information will be posted as it becomes available on the KOS web site at birdky.org.

NEW OFFICERS OF BBC

At the May meeting new officers and directors were elected for the new year 2023-2024. The board of Beckham Bird Club are: President – Meg Brown; Vice-president – Carol Besse; Secretary – Pam Spaulding; Treasurer- Steve Brown; and directors for two years - Karen Bonsell and Christine Hayden. Andrew Melnykovich will remain on the board as past president. Directors Donovan Jones and Lee Payne will continue their terms of office. Thanks to Jamie Baker for serving on the board. The new board took office on June 15.

If you have question or concern, please use the BBC email address (beckhambirdclub@gmail.com) to address the issue.

BIRDING TV PROGRAM

Christian Cooper has a new TV birding series, *Extraordinary Birders* with Chris Cooper, on National Geographic Wild. It is also out on Hulu and Disney+ as well. It is a six-episode documentary which can be seen on Saturday night on Nat Geo Wild. You may remember that Chris Cooper gained fame for his episode with a woman and her unleashed dog in Central Park.

FIELD TRIPS

There are no field trips scheduled for July. The field trip schedule for August and September will be in next month's newsletter. The club is always looking for field trip leaders so if you would like to lead a trip, please contact Andrew Melnykovich.

Even though there are no field trips that doesn't mean you stop birding. There are many places to explore to find that next rarity that might show up in our area.

2023 BBC BIRDATHON

Thanks to all the many members and friends who have sent in their donations. If you haven't donated yet, please do so to make our 2023 Birdathon a success. Make your check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Send your contribution to the post office box address: Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Thanks so much!!!

HAPPY JULY 4TH!!!!