THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB·ORG

P·O· BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301 JULY 2026

HYBRIDIZATION IN BIRDS

Our speaker will be Libby Menga who grew up in Michigan. Libby has a Master's Degree and is working on hybridization in Cardinalidae (the family that includes Indigo Buntings and Northern Cardinals) for her PHD. Libby is currently teaching at Union Commonwealth University in Barbourville, KY and she is the vice-president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

Libby will talk about hybridization in birds, with a primary focus on songbirds--what it is and why it's useful to understand the formation of new species of birds. She will also talk a little about her research on predicting who hybridizes and who does not within the family Cardinalidae: the family of songbirds that includes Indigo Buntings and Northern Cardinals.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, July 14 at 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.

Happy 4th of July Everyone.

FIELD TRIPS

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 Melnykovych.

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.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Beckley Creek Park – May 31 Fifteen members and five guests met on a beautiful late spring morning. We had a wonderful morning getting 59 species on the day (could not locate number 60!) including all six woodpecker species, the three mimids (Grey Catbirds were especially numerous and active), and five swallow species.

BBC Picnic – June 7 Eighteen members and two guests took an after-dinner bird walk following the bird club's picnic. We managed 37 species on a hot and humid June evening. There was lots of activity with recently fledged birds demanding their parent's attention! A nice way to end the evening.

Thanks to Kimmi Springmeir and Jenny Bodenbender for organizing the picnic. You missed out on lots of good food and bird bingo(with prizes) if you didn't make it to the annual BBC picnic. Put it on your calendar for next year – June 6.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mary Cromer for winning The KOS Birding Blitz prize. Her prize was a $200 dollar gift certificate to a Kentucky State Park. This was the second time that a BBC member won the prize. The blitz was for four days, June 12-15, in which participants birded all of Kentucky's 120 counties during those four days. Birders totaled 154 species. Hope you took part as it was a lot of fun.

2026 BBC BIRDATHON

Thanks to all the many members and friends who have sent in their donations. Our dollar amounts are growing but we need everyone to donate to support the different organizations that need money. If you haven't donated yet, please do so to make our 2026 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!!!