

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JULY 2017



Guyana October 2013

Wanda and Ren Bilkey visited Guyana for a birding trip in 2013. Guyana, a small South American country nestled on the Atlantic Coast East of Venezuela and West of Suriname, is one of the last unexplored wild places on earth, yet offers incredible access to a variety of pristine habitats. The lure of Guyana is its true wilderness and amazing wildlife with many sought after species. We visited spectacular Kaieteur Falls and found some rarities such as the Sun Parakeet, Cotingas, Parrots, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Harpy Eagle, Blood-coloured Woodpecker and the

Capuchinbird in one fabulous trip.

Hope you can join us at the Clifton Center on **Tuesday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m.** to find out about this exciting birding trip to Guyana.

FIELD TRIPS

There are no field trips in July.

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



PAST FIELD TRIPS

Indiana May Day, May 13 - Several BBC members participated in the Indiana Audubon Society May Day Bird Count on May 13, 2017 and compiled 105 species, including 18 warblers and the day's highlight- a Dickcissel.

Broad Run Park, May 20 - Twelve members and a guest enjoyed a warm and sunny May morning at Broad Run Park, birding mostly on the trail along Floyd's Fork. Fifty-six species were recorded, although only 47 were seen, thanks to tall trees and dense vegetation. Eastern Bluebirds were very much in evidence, as were Indigo Buntings and Baltimore Orioles. Other highlights were good looks at a Prothonotary Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a Louisiana Waterthrush, which stayed in view for at least five minutes.

Morgan Conservation, May 21 - Eight BBC members joined together on a sunny late Sunday afternoon. Highlights included great looks at many resident summer warblers - including a breeding pair of Blue-Winged Warblers (caught in the act) as well as Prairie, Kentucky, Northern Parula, Yellow-Breasted Chat, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Other highlights included good looks at Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, and Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. At dusk we were able to call in Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills for some tantalizing flybys. Unfortunately, the Chuck-Wills-Widows were absent for the second year in a row, but we managed to end on a good (nightjar) note as a couple of our members sighted a Common Nighthawk as they were leaving the park. Many thanks to everyone who came out for a very enjoyable evening of birding

Beckley Creek Park – Grand Allee, June 11 - A nice summer-like morning brought together nine members of the Beckham Bird Club for this late spring field trip. Birds were quite active, busy at their nests and searching for food for their little ones. The group located an Eastern kingbird, a Warbling Vireo and Cliff Swallows nests. Mallards were swimming in the creek; Red-headed Woodpeckers were flying back and forth all over this part of the Parklands; Indigo Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles added color to the forest; two species of warblers made their presence known - Yellow-breasted Chat and Common Yellowthroat. At the end of the trip a lone Cedar Waxwing was seen and a Red-tailed and a Red-shouldered Hawk appeared high in the sky. In all 52 species were recorded. A great total for the time of year.

Bernheim Forest – June 17 - Ten members joined on a warm, sunny, and slightly humid morning of birding. Our day began with lots of mimics, swallows, songbirds, and a warbling vireo along the lake shore. As we transitioned between the lake and prairie habitats we came across some signing Bobwhites that came out into the open for good looks and photos. Highlights included a male ruby-throated hummingbird displaying his courtship flight. We found several species of songbirds on their nests including blue gray gnat-catcher, red-eyed vireo, and a singing yellow-throated vireo. Before the afternoon heat and growing hunger drove us to visitor's center for lunch, a pair of beautiful blue grosbeaks made for a happy ending. We totaled a respectable 60 species. Thanks again to all who came out!

GOOD WAYS TO HELP BIRDS

Do you want to help our birds? Here are some ways that you can give back to the birds that we love.

1. Purchase a Federal Duck Stamp - this stamp helps with purchase and protection of habitat needed for birds. The 2017-2018 stamp will be coming out soon.





2. Keep cats indoors. Cats, whether they be domestic or feral, are a serious threat to birds. For more info go to www.abcbirds.org.



3. Take a beginner birding. The future of bird conservation depends on keeping the next generation tuned to nature. Volunteer to lead walks for kids or adults.

I am visiting your city or area and spending money here because I am a birder who travels to see birds.

4. Leave a birder's calling card. Let people know that you are in the area because of the birds there. You can make up your own card.

5. Don't release balloons or sky lanterns. They are "litter." Balloons are a waste of helium, a finite resource. They can pollute the most remote and pristine places. More info can be found at www.balloonsblow.org.



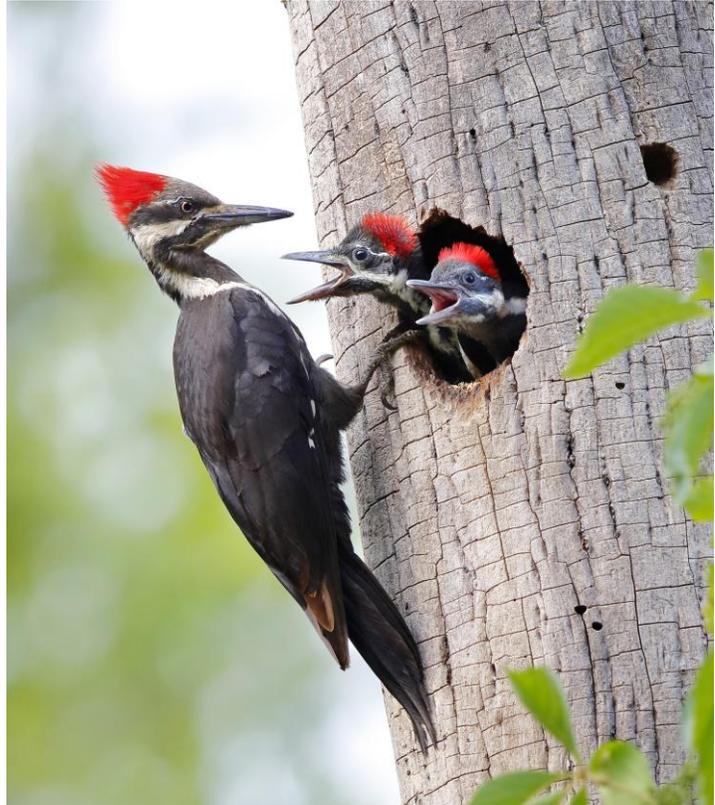
6. Donate to an organization such as the Beckham Bird Club Birdathon who helps support birds and habitat in Kentucky.
7. Pick up discarded fishing line. Birds can get entangled in fishing lines and die from drowning, starvation or strangulation. It is a hazard to birds and should be disposed of in a safe manner.



8. Drink bird-friendly coffee. Drinking certified shade-grown coffee helps to support bird habitat conservation.

ANNUAL PICNIC

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, twenty-two members arrived at Creasey-Mahan Nature Preserve to participate in the BBC annual picnic. It was a most pleasant sunny day so we enjoyed eating our dinner outside under the trees. We feasted on fried chicken and the many wonderful dishes brought by the participants. Everyone had to think hard as the game of the afternoon tested his or her knowledge of birds whose names began with the letters in the word BECKHAM. Then it was time for our bird walk. The paths at the preserve are great, passing through wildflower gardens and a pond with many frogs and a Green Heron. The group would tally 33 species with the highlight being a Pileated Woodpecker mom coming to feed her babies. Thanks to Pam Spaulding for the picture of this amazing family. Mark your calendar now for next year's picnic – the first Sunday in June, 2018. You don't want to miss it.



Kentucky Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society is at Kenlake State Resort Park, September 15-16. It is not too early to make reservations as the deadline to get KOS rates is Sunday, August 6. The room rate is \$80.96 plus taxes and a fee. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-0143 or can be made on-line under the Group Block using Group Booking Code 1465.

The Saturday night talk will be given by Al Batt, of Hartland, Minnesota, who is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al speaks to anyone who

will listen.