



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

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

JUNE 2021

GLOBAL BIG DAY: BIG SUCCESS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

With 74 observers in Jefferson County submitting 155 checklists, Global Big Day on May 8 yielded the second-best total number of species seen in the county on a single day: a whopping 151!

That is second only to the record of 157 seen in 2018. We likely would have beaten that number had it not been for a woeful lack of shorebird and gull/tern habitat. Recent rains led to inundation of the fossil beds at the Falls of the Ohio and turned Melco Drainage Basin into a lake. We ended the day with eight total species of shorebirds and gulls/terns (not counting American Woodcock), versus 18 species in 2018.

The most notable birds of the day were an Evening Grosbeak at a feeder in the Beechmont area and no fewer than three (!) Bell's Vireos, two found by Michael Autin at a small wetland southwest of Melco and another located at Melco itself by James Wheat and Jamie Baker. But a Big Day success hinges on finding most everything that should be around, including the ones that you'll get only if you know exactly where to look. Thanks to a knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and hard-working team, we managed to check nearly every box.



James Wheat had the highest count of species, with 103. Eleven observers tallied at least 75 species and another 17 folks saw at least 50. James Wheat and Meg and Steve Brown each submitted eight checklists, and five other people submitted at least five.

And (DRUM ROLL.....) we swept our friendly rivals over in Fayette County, who had 142 species (their lowest total since 2017) from 146 checklists submitted by 59 observers.

Thanks to everyone who participated in making the Big Day a big success.

Andrew Melnykovich, President/Field Trip Chair

Thanks to Jamie Baker for his picture of the Bell's Vireo.

MAY ANNUAL MEETING

Using a combination of in-person voting on May 11 and a subsequent supplemental vote by email, the Beckham Bird Club selected officers and directors for 2021-2022.

The following slate of officers and directors was approved by acclamation:

President: Andrew Melnykovich

Vice-President: Carol Besse

Treasurer: Judith McCandless

Secretary: Meg Brown

Director: Karen Bonsall

Director: Pam Spaulding

BBC members also approved two changes to the by-laws. One amendment empowers the board to suspend club activities in the event that circumstances beyond its control make it impossible or unsafe to meet; the other allows the board to conduct remote elections by email or other means in similar circumstances. These changes formally allow the board to act as it had to in the face of the COVID19 pandemic.

We all fervently hope that these new by-laws will never have to come into play again.

THE BBC BOARD

BIG NEWS OF THE MONTH: WE ARE RESUMING FIELD TRIPS!!!!

It's a bit earlier than we originally planned, but the BBC board has decided to conduct a limited number of field trips during the first two weeks of June.

The field trips will be subject to the following restrictions:

1. They will be limited to 12 participants, plus the leader(s).
2. Advance sign-up is required. Contact the leader(s) by email to register.
3. In keeping with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, masks and social distancing will not be required. However, participants who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

The field trip schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 4 **Beckley Creek Park – Grand Allee Section** **8 am – 11 am**

Leader: Andrew Melnykovich estiles74@gmail.com **502-608-4655**

FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS. Rather than trying to see as many species as possible, we will move slowly to focus on identifying those we do see. Meet at the "Port- a-Potty" parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. **GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110**

Saturday, June 5 **Pope Lick Park** **8 am - noon**

Leader: Andrew Melnykovich estiles74@gmail.com **502-608-4655**

MAY BE STRENUOUS. Trail conditions permitting, we will walk the Big Beech Trail, which has a number of fairly steep sections. From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd toward Fisherville, go about a mile, & take a right on South Pope Lick Rd. Follow signs to Pope Lick Park, part of the Parklands. Meet in the main parking lot. **GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095**

Saturday, June 12 **Mammoth Cave National Park** **8 am - ?? CDT**

Leaders: Pat and Jane Bell patjanebell@bellsouth.net **502-326-9610**

NOTE TIME ZONE. Meet at the service center in the park just past the campground entrance. Bring lunch. **GPS: 37.184006, -86.09774**

Saturday, June 19 **Turkey Run Park** **8 am – noon**

Leaders: Meg and Steve Brown smbrown316@gmail.com **502-435-3967**

From I-265 exit (19) Billtown Road, go south and turn left at the T; go 1.5 miles and turn right into Turkey Run Park entrance; continue through the park to the Brown-Forman Silo parking lot. **GPS: 38.115846, -85.533371**

We will take our usual midsummer break from field trips and plan to resume a normal and full schedule during the second half of August. If circumstances permit, we hope to do so with no restrictions or requirements. Stay tuned and hope for the best.

Andrew Melnykovich

Field Trip Chair

2021 BIRDATHON

Your donations are very important to the different groups BBC have accepted as recipients of our birdathon money. Even if you did not receive an email or phone call, please consider giving a donation - **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL**. Make your check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. If you have not been contacted, send your contribution to the post office box address: Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Otherwise send it to the person you sponsored. **Help us reach \$20,000.** Thanks so much!!! Thanks to all who have all ready sent in a donation.

BBC Conservation Report June 2021

Whooping Cranes are nesting in Texas for the first time in over a century:

[Whooping Cranes Are Nesting in Texas for the First Time in Over a Century – Texas Monthly](#)

New York renewable energy project threatens birds including Bald Eagles:

[New York Fast-Track Renewable Energy Regulation Paves Way for High-Risk Wind Project | American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

When you should- and shouldn't- rescue baby birds, a primer:

[When You Should—and Should Not—Rescue Baby Birds | Audubon](#)

Looking for something to do on a rainy day? Check out the Cornell live nest and feeder cams!

[Cornell Lab Bird Cams | Cornell Lab Bird Cams Cornell Lab Bird Cams \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#)

Amid urgent drought conditions across the West, senators reintroduced bipartisan legislation to advance the scientific foundation needed to benefit saline lakes and their wetlands in the Great Basin:

[U.S. Senators Re-Introduce Science-based Program for Unique Saline \(Salt\) Lake Ecosystems | Audubon](#)

New technology is making wind farms safer for birds:

[How New Technology Is Making Wind Farms Safer for Birds | Audubon](#)

Boreal forests can help protect birds from climate change:

[How the Boreal Forest Can Help Protect Birds from Climate Change | Audubon](#)

MAY BIRDING

You might say May was kind of topsy-turvy. It started out slow because of unfavorable wind conditions. But on Monday, May 10, the winds turned and the migrants flooded in to our area. Our local birders were reporting a landfall of birds. With warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, etc., coming they were treated to a spectacle of color and song. Hope you were out enjoying our migrants and resident birds as they decorated the trees and sang their song. Have you heard the happiest bird of all singing it heart out wherever it goes even while setting on its nest – the Warbling Vireo?

If you go out you will see a few late migrants and of course our resident birds like Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Common Yellow-throat, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, Eastern Kingbird just to mention a few.

If you would like to venture out from Louisville there are places to go like Camp Nelson for Dickcissels and Bobolinks, Mammoth Cave National Park and Bernheim Forest have many nesting warblers.

Even though it might be hot there are still lots of places to explore and see the many birds that call Kentucky home.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - HOW TO JOIN

*To join the Beckham Bird Club, visit our website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. The membership fees are: regular \$15, family \$20, contributing \$30, student \$10 and life \$500. Mail to P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. **If you use Pay Pal don't forget to send an email to the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list.***

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS