THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG JUNE 2026

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

THERE IS NO MEETING IN JUNE. SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC.

The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be on Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m. at Creasey Mahan. Nature Preserve - PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 4

Join us for a fun afternoon of birding, food and friendship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and ,of course, your binoculars. We encourage you to bring your own cloth napkins, plates, cups and utensils. That is non-disposable items. GPS: 38.400504, -85.590233

There will be a Bird Bingo with prizes.

There are two ways to make reservations –mail the reservation form below or text Kimberly Springmier at 502-609-4058. State your name(s) , what you are bringing and if you want chicken.

PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 4

NAME(S)_____
PHONE_____

I will bring ___salad/vegetable ___ desert___ other(_____)

Number attending who want chicken___

Number attending at who do not want chicken___

Mail to: Kimberly Springmier, 8310 McKenna Way, Louisville, KY 40291-2773

The 2nd KOS Breeding Bird Blitz will happen from June 12 - 15.

Details will be on the KOS website at birdky.org.

KOS hopes to have birders in every Kentucky County for the Blitz and is offering a raffle prize again this year - a $200 gift card for KY State Parks.

Participants get one raffle ticket for each county they commit to birding for at least an hour during the Blitz time period.

As an extra incentive, they will get 2 tickets for any of the 6 counties that didn't have any coverage last year.

Sign up ahead of time on the KOS website. Save the email verification to make any changes. (add or subtract counties participants wish to cover.)

Migration season is drawing to a close, so this offers great opportunities for getting outside during the breeding season and helps expand our knowledge of Kentucky's breeding bird populations.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Louisville Water Ponds – May 2 Sixteen of us were fortunate enough to be provided access to the water company ponds off of Mayfair that are normally only visible from the road. Basin 4 (west of Mayfair) has been drained for some work for several years and had fantastic habitat but given the unseasonable cold, the birds weren't as prevalent as we had hoped. Still we were able to see a group of Lesser Yellowlegs, a handful of Blue-winged Teals, and some Killdeer with fledglings. neWe then were able to walk around the three basins east of Mayfair and saw many of the species one would expect to see in that habitat including all of our swallow species, Palm Warblers, Northern

Waterthrushes, and several shorebird species (Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper). The most unexpected species we can across was a young Common Loon that must have been taking his time on his journey up north.

Mammoth Cave – May 3 Sixteen members and two guests met at Mammoth Cave National Park to look for migrants, warblers especially! The day was sunny and cool with temperatures rising and little to no wind. The birds were singing and we had good looks at Cerulean Warblers, nesting Eastern Phoebes and Chipping Sparrows along with both Tanagers and FOY Acadian Flycatchers. A beautiful day to be out!

Pope Lick Park – May 5 Five members and a guest came out on a cool, cloudy and mostly windless morning. Passerines were quite active, with much singing and activity. However, conditions were not ideal, with poor light making it a challenge to identify smaller birds flitting about in the treetops. Nevertheless, 47 species were recorded, including 10 species of warbler - seven locally breeding species and three migrants. Prothonotary, Kentucky and Prairie afforded notably good looks. Also seen were both tanagers and many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, including a pair engaged in nest construction. The weather seemed to keep raptors on their roosts, as none were seen. Other odd misses included orioles and Red-winged Blackbirds. All in all, a successful outing.

Beckley Creek Park – May 10 It was a beautiful Mother's Day morning, with mostly sunny skies, only a light breeze, and temps ranging from 55F up to 72F by noon. A dozen of us started with some excellent "parking lot birding", with many good species being seen right from there, including m-f pairs of Blue Grosbeaks and Orchard & Baltimore Orioles, and warbling Warbling Vireos. Overall numbers of migrant warblers & vireos seemed quite low, with only 5 species of warblers and 2 species of vireos, but other species made up for it and we concluded with 64 species for the morning. A highlight for me was when one of the Merlin lists in the group flagged a Willow Flycatcher around 9am, and after a little by-ear audio sorting and locating, the entire group had great, prolonged views of a singing Willow Flycatcher. This was a lifer for a few people in the group, which is always exciting. Overall, it was a great morning to be out birding!

Nettelroth Sanctuary – May 14 It was a relatively quiet morning for mid-May at Cherokee Park. Wood Thrushes were silent and Red-eyed Vireos were seen long before any were heard. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were readily seen throughout our walk as they busily foraged in the trees. Warblers seemed scarce initially but eventually we came upon a couple of small mixed species flocks that included American Redstarts and Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted & Yellow-throated Warblers. A Canada Warbler was heard singing but managed to elude our best attempts to get a good look at him. Several Swainson's Thrushes were heard and briefly seen. However the thrush

that allowed all the best view was surprisingly a Veery perched in a sapling near the trail. Five BBC members and three guests found a total of 34 species.

Hays Kennedy/Garvin Brown – May 17 After postponing this BBC field trip from a rainy, blustery Saturday, we had a wonderful group of a dozen birders show up for a beautiful Sunday morning walk around Hays Kennedy/Garvin Brown. Our group included 1 guest, and the rest were BBC members. Skies were mostly sunny, with temps starting around 65F and rising to around 80F by the end of our walk. A light breeze was welcome much of the time, given the warmer temps. We started with the western loop around the ball-fields, which was very productive and full of bird song, and then headed east along the water-filled drainage area, through the small patch of woods, and out into the fields on the east side. Dozens of Mulberry trees were full of fruit all along our route, which the birds and some of our participants were enjoying. Other than the Common Yellowthroats, warblers and vireos were fairly scarce, but we still ended up with 62 species observed. There were several more species called out by participants' Merlin apps, but they were not included without visual/audible confirmation. Some of our highlights included a Little Blue Heron fly-over, excellent views of Lincoln's Sparrow & Savannah Sparrow, multiple Bank Swallow sightings, nice views of close/singing Willow Flycatchers & Least Flycatcher, singing Swainson's Thrushes in multiple spots, and great looks at Summer Tanager & multiple Indigo Buntings. There was an aggressively singing Worm-eating Warbler in the small patch of woods, but despite a focused effort we never got our eyes on the bird. Overall, it was a beautiful morning to be out birding with a great group of folks."

BIRDATHON

The birds have been counted – 1**10-111** in all. Now it is up to you to help make our 2026 BBC Birdathon a success. Can you do it? **Many members and friends have already made and sent in their pledge. But we need all our members to contribute and** help us raise the money to support the organizations that have asked for grants from BBC**. No amount is too small.** Please send in your contribution to the person you sponsored or mail to the BBC post office box. Help us. Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**.

Please, PLEASE, PLEASE SUPPORT THE BBC BIRDATHON!!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note date correction to the Camp Nelson field trip.

Sunday, May 31 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. easy	**BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION** – For lingering winter birds, migrants and residents. 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)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Thursday, June 4 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. easy to moderate	**CAMP NELSON NATIONAL MONUMENT,** – For residents and summer birds, especially grassland species. On US 27 about 7 miles south of Nicholasville. Allow at least 1 hour 45 minutes driving time from the Louisville area. GPS: 37.79728, -84.60069	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Wednesday, June 10 9 a.m. – noon easy	**DRAUT PARK** – For late migrants and residents. Meet in parking lot on Bowling Boulevard. GPS: 38.242791, -85.629445)	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526

There are **new guidelines** in regard to birding the **Louisville Water Company Water Tower** area. The details will be on the BBC website later in June. Please refer to the new guidelines before birding the area.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the picnic!!

Thanks to Margie Lehman for the picture of the young Killdeer taken at Beckley Creek on the May 10 field trip.

BBC Conservation Report Websites May 2026

Introducing Gwaihir Bernheim | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

Gwaihir Migrates West to Alaska | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

Warblers in New Hampshire's Forests Have Found an Ideal Way to Divvy Up Territories | Living Bird | All About Birds

Why Do Nuthatches Coat Their Nest Entrances With Sap? | Living Bird | All About Birds

Dark-eyed Junco Beaks Changed During COVID Shutdown in Los Angeles | Living Bird | All About Birds

Historic Oregon Bill Generating Conservation Funding Is Signed Into Law - American Bird Conservancy

Second Whooping Crane Poached in Evangeline Parish Louisiana in Weeks - International Crane Foundation

How Do American Robins Find Worms? Behold the Rich Sensory World of Birds | Audubon