



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JUNE 2018



The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic
will be at CREASEY-MAHAN NATURE
PRESERVE on Sunday, June 3 at 4:00
p.m.

Join us for a fun afternoon of food, birding and friendship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent, a chair and, of course, your binoculars. Cost is \$3.00 per person (includes chicken, drinks, etc.) or \$1.00 (no chicken, but covers cost of drinks, etc.) *Creasy Mahan Visitor Center, take highway 42 east and left at route 1793, drive about a 1/2 mile to sign on the right. GPS: 38.400384, -85.590180*

BBC is going *green* so we are asking you to bring your own *cloth napkin*. If you like you may also bring your own utensils, etc.

Reservation Form on page 5.

2018 BBC BIRDATHON

This year 125 species were counted on birdathon Sunday, May 6. The birds have been counted so check your email or US mail to get an account from the person(s) you sponsored. 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. Thanks so much!!!

THERE IS NO MEETING IN JUNE.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 26 8 a.m.- 11 a.m. easy	GEORGE ROGERS CLARK PARK – For residents, late migrants. Park is on Poplar Level Road opposite Norton Audubon Hospital. Entrance off Thruston Avenue. Meet in main parking lot. GPS: 38.216020, -85.728548	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Saturday, June 2 9:00 a.m. – ??? Easy	CAMP NELSON HERITAGE PARK / SHAKER VILLAGE – For open area birds, late migrants, and summer residents. Meet at the Camp Nelson Interpretive Center Parking Lot off Danville Rd Loop 2. Approx 1.5 hour drive from Louisville. GPS: 37.797186, -84.601298	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Saturday, June 9 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For summer 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. Bring lunch if you would like to picnic after the walk. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Sunday, June 10 8:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m. Easy	BERNHEIM FOREST – For summer birds. Meet at the Bernheim Forest Arboretum Way parking lot, next to Lake Nevin and the old education center rotunda. Directions: I-65 south from Louisville to exit 112. Bernheim entrance is about one mile east on KY 245. About 30 minutes from Louisville. GPS: 37.918889, -85.669087	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Saturday, June 16 8:30 a.m. – ??? easy/moderate	OTTER CREEK PARK – Summer Residents – Take I-265W to US31/US-60 W, turn left onto KY1638W (Old Mill Rd), and right onto Otter Creek Rd. We will meet at the parking area on the left at entrance gate. There is a \$3/person fee to enter the park. Bring lunch. I also recommend insect repellent. GPS: 37.924739, -86.038077	Mike Callan 502-592-7008



We wish to thank Tom Ackerson for his years of service to the club as treasurer. Also many thanks to all our committee chairs and the BBC board.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Jack Still who passed away on May 4. Jack was an active member of BBC and active in the group of birders who met on Wednesday morning at Draut Park.

A Huge Global Big Day in Jefferson County



Global Big Day 2018: The weather was terrible, but the birding was spectacular. A storm front that knocked birds out of the sky and clouds and rain that kept them earthbound made for a record-setting Global Big Day for the Beckham Bird Club. A migrant fallout that several long-time Jefferson County birders described as the best ever contributed to a total of 157 species being recorded on the day. While historic records are a bit murky, that total is likely the highest-ever single day species count for Jefferson County. It topped last year's Global Big Day tally by 20 species.

At least 29 soggy birders braved the weather to submit 58 complete checklists. Michael Autin and Michael Callan led the way with 104 species each, with James Wheat close behind with 99 species. Andrew Melnykovich submitted the most complete checklists – eight. The best bird of the day was a Harris's Sparrow found by Karen Bonsell, exactly 60 years and a day after the only other recorded sighting in Jefferson County. The bird was seen later in the day by James Wheat and Andrew Melnykovich, and the next day by several other birders. Other notable birds were a Laughing Gull (Michael Callan), a Willet (Rob Lane) and three Forster's Terns (Rob Lane), all at the Falls of the Ohio. There were 31 species of warbler (not counting Yellow-breasted Chat), many of them in large numbers. Thrushes also were abundant and 10 species of sparrows were recorded.

Although the weather was generally helpful, heavy rains in the afternoon kept raptors out of sight and made it hard to find water birds on the Ohio River. Notable misses included Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk and Eastern Screech Owl.

The weather in Lexington was a bit better, with less rain. That allowed our friendly rivals Fayette County to record an incredible 162 species for the day. Maybe moving Global Big Day to Derby Day wasn't such a bad idea after all.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Haywood Nature Preserve, April 21 - Twenty birders (14 members and 6 guests) hiked the two mile loop trail at Hayswood Nature Reserve in Corydon IN searching for migrant birds on a cool morning. Fifty-two species were found but only 3 species of warblers were seen: No. Parula, Yellow-throated and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Misses on the warblers this time of the year were Prothonotary Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. Some new guests really enjoyed the birding and decided to join Beckham Bird Club.

Mammoth Cave, April 22 - Spring seemed to be slow in coming to the Park. So on the Beckham Bird Club's annual spring field trip birds were not as plentiful as in previous years. But not to worry the 13 observers searched high and low and were able to record 58 species in all. Seventeen species of warblers highlighted the trip. Other nice finds included Wild Turkey, Broad-winged Hawks, Great Crested Flycatcher, three species of vireos, Wood Thrushes, and both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. It is always special to explore the above ground forested and open areas of Mammoth Cave National Park.

George Rogers Clark Park, April 28 - Eighteen members and two guests enjoyed a very pleasant morning, recording 45 species, including several new to the location. Highlights were great looks at Scarlet Tanager at eye level in the white flowers of a cherry tree and a number of warblers including two Northern Waterthrush.

Hayes Kennedy, April 29 - Ten birders met on a rather cool morning in late April at Hays Kennedy Park. Four of them were new to BBC and we were happy to welcome them! We started by checking the water by the parking lot and were treated to several shorebirds including 2 Greater Yellowlegs. We then moved to the west side of Hays Kennedy to check the water that has been held behind the houses since the flooding. We were treated to several species of Swallows, including Barn, Cliff, Northern Roughed-winged, and Bank. What a Treat! We also had several songbirds on this side, including Yellow warbler, House Wren and a pair of singing Warbling Vireos! The south side of Hays Kennedy yielded a family of Wood Ducks in the marsh area. Garvin Brown was a little slow. We did have a calling Flicker and several Eastern Towhees teasing us with their calls, but not showing themselves. The best bird flew over at Hays Kennedy after the field trip was over and most had left, unfortunately. It was definitely an Ibis, but it happened so quickly and unexpectedly that we were unable to ID which type of Ibis.

Anchorage Trail, May 10 - Wow! Spring or should I say summer had arrived as it was hot and humid as the nine observers walked the trail. The Beckham Bird Club field trip to the Anchorage Trail yielded 53 species. Birding was rather slow and we had to work hard to find the birds. Highlights include eight species of warblers including a Mourning Warbler. On the lake a beautiful male Wood Duck was found along with a Great Egret and both Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. Baltimore Orioles and Warbling Vireos were seen high in the sycamore trees. The observers were glad to see that Cedar Waxwings had returned to the trail. What a joy to be outdoors with good birding companions.

References from May 2018 Conservation News

For information on native plants for your yard www.yardmap.org

For information on Project FeederWatch and the expansion of Northern Cardinals

https://blog.nature.org/science/2018/03/20/bird-feeders-help-cardinals-expand-range/?src=e.nature.loc_b&lu=2325690&autologin=true&ds=y&sus=n&md=n

For information on Rusty Blackbirds

Cornell's Living Bird, Spring 2018, Volume 37, Issue 2

PICNIC RESERVATIONS – **DEADLINE June 1**

NAME _____ PHONE _____

I will bring __salad/vegetable __desert __other(_____)

Number attending at \$3.00 ____

Number attending at \$1.00 ____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492 or bring to the May meeting.