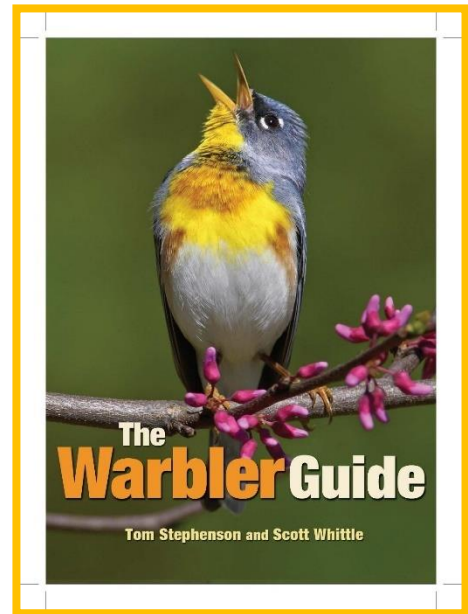


THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2020

MARCH DINNER MEETING



What's a Warbler?

As the co-author of *The Warbler Guide*, I get to introduce people to one of the most beautiful families of birds in the world. These small wonders, with their often-bright colors and melodic songs are equally at home in the tropical rainforest as they are in the northernmost forests of Canada. So, you'd think that it would be easy for me to respond to the most basic of questions - "What makes that bird a warbler?" In order to answer that, however, we'll have to take a brief trip through time to see how people from cave-dwellers to Darwin have evolved in organizing the world, and how we do it today.

Then we'll take a look at these fascinating birds and discover why a warbler is, well, a warbler - and why any bird is that bird, and nothing else.

Scott Whittle has over 25 years of experience as a professional photographer and educator. He has an MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, is a fellow of the MacDowell Colony, has held the New York State Big Year record, and has birded throughout the United States. He has been published in many magazines, newspapers and books. He lives in Cape May, NJ where he pursues his passion for birds.

The club wishes to recognize and thank the Louisville Audubon Society for its generous support of the dinner meeting.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 10 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available from 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate them on the reservation form. The price for the dinner this year is \$40.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the Anchorage Trail for BBC members. **Reservations are required.** See the reservation form.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEAD LINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS. ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.

DINNER MEETING - Tuesday March 10, 2020

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$40.00 ea. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club.

Please list any special dietary needs. _____

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

Reservation for field trip. Name(s) _____

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note date changes for Tom Sawyer SP and Beckley Creek Park.

Sunday, February 23 8 a.m. – noon easy	LONG RUN PARK – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. From intersection of Shelbyville Road and Flat Rock Road, about 2 miles north on Flat Rock Road to park entrance, then ¼ mile to first fork and right to parking lot near lake. GPS: 38.264517, -85.418571	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Sunday, March 1 8 am – 1 pm easy	BERNHEIM FOREST – Winter residents, esp. Golden eagles, finches, & waterfowl. Meet in the parking lot next to Lake Nevin. From Louisville, take I-65 south to exit 112, then east on KY 245 about a mile to entrance. GPS: 37.918675, -85.668639	Michael Callan 502-592-7008
Sunday, March 8 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE - Meet at the Muscatatuck visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Directions: I-65 north from Louisville to Exit 50 (Seymour). Take US Highway 50 east about 3 miles to refuge entrance. About 1 hour north of Louisville. Bring a two-way radio if you have one. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258 NOTE: TIME IS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday March 14 8:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	TOM SAWYER PARK- Meet at 2201 Lakeland Road, park on left side of Sawyer Hayes Community Center. Marsh, Pond, and Falls areas - time and route can be extended if there is interest.	Patrice Pittman 502-235-8046 Nancy Vance 502-893-7354
Sunday, March 22 8 am – noon easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For winter visitors, early 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	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, March 28 8:30 am-11:30 am easy	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Sunday, March 29 8 am - noon	BROAD RUN PARK – For migrants and residents. South on Bardstown Road from Gene Snyder Expressway. Park entrance is about 4 miles on the left. Meet at south entrance GPS: 38.089188, -85.550621	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967



The club wishes to extend sympathy to the family of Scottie Theiss who passed away on January 15. Scottie was a long-time member of BBC and was president of the club.

Beckham Bird Club also wishes to extend sympathy to the family of Eileen Wicker. Eileen was founder and director of Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky. Eileen was responsible for taking care of many sick and injured raptors through the years and providing education about raptors to many children and groups. Eileen died February 6.

Conservation Action Items for BBC Members

NY Times Article that appeared on Birdky:

The Trump administration recently moved to drop the threat of punishment to oil and gas companies, construction crews, and other organizations that kill birds “incidentally,” arguing that businesses that accidentally kill birds ought to be able to operate without fear of prosecution.

That interpretation has already had significant consequences for migratory birds. According to internal agency documents, the Trump administration has discouraged local governments and businesses from taking simple precautionary measures to protect birds, and federal wildlife officials have all but stopped investigating most bird deaths.

Under the current legal guidance and the proposed regulatory changes, episodes such as Deep Water Horizon would no longer trigger criminal liability because the birds were killed unintentionally. Illegal acts are also protected under the plan. For example, a farmer who sprayed a banned pesticide that killed birds would not be held liable as long as the birds were not the “intended target.” The rule appeared in the *Federal Register* on Monday February 3 and the public will have 45 days to comment on it. Link

below:<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/30/climate/trump-bird-deaths.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage§ion=Climate%20and%20Environment>

Kentucky Wild

A branch of KYFWS, Kentucky Wild is devoted entirely to the monitoring and study of animals that are not hunted, fished or trapped. Bats, lizards, snakes, frogs, salamanders, mussels, songbirds, raptors, and darters make up over 90% of the state’s wildlife. Membership is \$25 annually and proceeds fund survey and monitoring projects, purchase research equipment, enhance habitat necessary for shelter, feeding, and nesting, and protect and improve habitat for pollinators and migrating birds.

<https://app.fw.ky.gov/kywild/>

KOS SPRING MEEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society spring meeting will be over the weekend of April 17th - 19th, 2020, at Carter Caves State Resort Park. To reserve a room or a cabin, call 606-286-4411, select "1" from the menu, and tell them our KOS group number is 3202. The block of rooms will be released to the public on March 16th, so don't wait too long. Room cost is \$84.95 a night, plus taxes and fees. Two-bedroom cabins are \$189.95 a night, plus taxes and fees.

The fall meeting will be at Kenlake S.R.P. over the weekend of September 18th - 20th, 2020.



BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2020

Sierra Club *Overstory*: Birding for Change

https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/overstory?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Toxic Wastewater Discharges in Ohio River <https://wfpl.org/we-mapped-out-the-toxic-wastewater-discharges-along-the-ohio-river-heres-what-we-learned/>

Atlantic Puffins <https://www.audubon.org/news/audubon-scientists-uncover-winter-home-maine-atlantic-puffins>

Snowy Plovers <https://www.audubon.org/news/floridas-shorebirds-saw-big-breeding-bump-after-hurricane-michael>

Dark-eyed Juncos <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-juncos-changed-their-migration-behavior-and-plumage-in-a-matter-of-decades/>

Barn Owls <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/under-a-full-moon-pale-barn-owls-can-freeze-voles-in-their-tracks/>

Robins <https://abcbirds.org/blog20/do-robins-migrate/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=5d187db7-d386-4a22-b684-4a59d8d88116>

Cranes <https://indianaeconomicdigest.com/Content/Most-Recent/Infrastructure/Article/Whooping-crane-chick-released-at-Goose-Pond-doing-well/31/67/98390?bblinkid=201724250&bbemailid=19029171&bbejrid=1355811054>

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2SAABLEQ4GN42?ref=wl_share&bblinkid=201724336&bbemailid=19029171&bbejrid=1355811054



UPDATE ON BARN OWLS IN KENTUCKY

Kate Slankard, avian biologist with the KDFWR, has passed on the results of the 2019 barn owl inventory. KDFWR documented 77 barn owl nests and 31 non-breeding locations during 2019. This was more barn owl locations than found during past efforts! About half of the nests and roosts were in nest boxes provided by KDFWR. More details about the results can be found here: <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Barn-Owls-in-Kentucky.aspx>

Thanks to all who supported the barn owl project this year! We will plan to repeat the effort in 2022. In the meantime, please feel free to pass on info to Kate regarding nest locations and she is still looking for barn owl specimens [e.g. freshly dead roadkills] for our contaminants/disease surveillance.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

January 12 – Garvin Brown Nature Preserve - Seven birders traversed muddy trails to record 27 species. Highlights were 7 sparrow species, notably Fox Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow. Two Bald Eagles were seen across the river. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062496>

January 25 – Oldham County: Reformatory Lake, Wendell Moore Park, Bennett Lane fields

Eight birders gathered on a cold, cloudy morning at lake's edge. Highlight at Reformatory Lake was a group of Northern Shovelers flying over and around the lake before settling on the lake. The participants walked along the lake and into the park. Cold, cloudy weather kept most of the birds down, but it was still a nice outing with fellow bird lovers. Then the group traveled along Bennett Lane, where we could bird from the cars. Snow Geese in with a flock of Canada geese was a highlight!

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062494>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062492>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062486>

February 2 – Turkey Run Park - Ten members and one prospective member enjoyed a sunny, breezy and not-too chilly day. Highlights were three Red-tailed Hawks stirring up a very large murder of American Crows, a most cooperative Golden-crowned Kinglet, a very furtive Swamp Sparrow, and a couple of nice mixed flocks of small songbirds. The participants walked from entrance area to Sky Dome and back. It was not terribly birdy on top of the hill. Highlights were raptors, most notably great looks at an adult Bald Eagle overhead.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062564>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S64062566>

February 16 – Pope Lick Park - Four members turned out on a chilly morning. Very cold (teens) to start. birds active, but often staying down in the weeds and hard to see. Nothing unusual - typical array of residents and winter visitors, for a total of 27 species. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S64504153>



Spring is almost here! Sandhill Cranes are returning north. Woodcocks will be doing their aerial displays of courtship. Louisiana Waterthrushes will be returning by the end of March. Hope to see you on a BBC field trip.