



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2022



MARCH DINNER MEETING

Owls are arguably the most widely recognized group of animals in the world. We recognize 268 species worldwide. They occur on all continents except Antarctica and have populated even the most remote islands, including Hawaii. Owl fossils date back to the Paleocene era and native cultures around the world are rich with stories and myths surrounding them. Yet, despite their worldwide distribution and cultural popularity, owls can be

rather difficult to find—in fact most people will never see a wild owl in their lifetime. Why are they so hard to find? Adaptations. Owls have evolved many specialized traits and adaptations to help them survive.

Please join us for the March dinner meeting as world-renown owl expert Denver Holt uncovers and explains these many adaptations. Mr. Holt is the founder and president of The Owl Research Institute based in Charlo, Montana. He has been studying owls and their ecology since 1978 and is one of the world's leading experts in the field. He has published over 100 research papers and has contributed to documentaries, books and magazines for *National Geographic*, BBC's *Planet Earth* series, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine* and PBS. In 2018, he received the prestigious Chandler S. Robbins Award from the American Birding Association for his lifelong dedication to owl conservation, education, and research.

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

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 8 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchman's 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 \$42.

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.

Because COVID19 still poses a threat and in order to protect our members and guests, it is **respectfully and strongly recommended** that masks be worn at all times when not eating or drinking.

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

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2. 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.

DON'T DELAY IN SENDING IN YOUR RESERVATION JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT THE US POSTAL SERVICE WILL DELIVER IT ON TIME.

DINNER MEETING - Tuesday March 8, 2022

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$42.00 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) _____

Mail to **Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492.**

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 26 8:30 a.m.-noon easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For winter visitors and permanent 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 Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Sunday, March 6 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE – For waterfowl, cranes and others. 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	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, March 12 8:30 a.m – noon easy	POPE LICK PARK – For residents, winter birds and early migrants. 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 parking lot. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park) GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Saturday, March 19 8 am – noon easy	HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Residents and winter visitors. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354 NOTE: TIME IS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	Maria Koukoulas 469-500-4781
Saturday, March 26 8:30 am-noon easy	TURKEY RUN PARK – Residents, early migrants, lingering winter visitors. We will meet at the Seaton Valley parking lot and walk the Louisville Loop toward the Sky Meadows area. Directions: 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; parking lot is on the right. GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Sunday, March 27 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	CHEROKEE PARK/NETTLEROTH – Residents, early migrants, lingering winter visitors. Meet at the base of Maple Road. GPS: 38.23947, -85.69420	Carol Besse 502-387-5971

PAST FIELD TRIPS

FALLS OF THE OHIO - January 8 Ice skaters greeted the 5 intrepid birders as they arrived at Hayes Kennedy Park. Once assembled, we set off for Garvin Brown where a Winter Wren played hide and seek and 7 species of sparrow stole the show. We got nice looks at Savannah, White-crowned and a fleeting view of a shy Fox Sparrow. Other notable species included Brown Thrasher, Sharp Shinned Hawk, and Golden Crowned Kinglet. Next we made a brief stopover at a frozen Putney Pond where Piliated Woodpecker calls were heard echoing through an otherwise silent forest. We

continued on to the Louisville Water Company Ponds and were dazzled by a great variety of waterfowl species coming in to roost for the night. Highlights included Gadwall, American Wigeon & Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green Winged Teal, Hooded and Common Mergansers along with hundreds of Mallards and Canada Geese. Other notables included Northern Flickers, a Herring Gull, more White Crowned Sparrows, and the nesting Bald Eagles, who were "caught in the act". The excitement of finding 50 species of our feathered friends kept us feeling warm inside.

ANCHORAGE TRAIL – January 29 - The January 29 trip to Anchorage Trail turned out to be on the cold side with temperatures below 15 degrees when we started off. While the four participants who showed up did not encounter any particularly rare or unusual birds, some notable sightings for the morning included at least fifty Mourning Doves (most of which were sitting in or under the same tree), ten White-Breasted Nuthatches (again with half of them chasing each other around the same tree), and a single Yellow-rumped Warbler (because it's always fun to see warblers in the snow).

FALLS OF THE OHIO – February 12 Seven members and six guests joined for a chilly morning of birding along the river. A walk through the woods at the falls produced good looks at Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Carolina Wren and fleeting views of a Winter Wren. One adult bald eagle was seen from the FOTO overlook sitting on its nest on Shippingport Island. Ashland Park lacked the waterfowl diversity of recent reports, but still yielded a raft of 33 Canvasbacks, a handful of Common Goldeneye and a few Ring-necked Ducks. A surprise juvenile Bald Eagle flew almost directly overhead and another adult bald Eagle was spotted in a tree overlooking the river. A battling of Mallards was also seen in a wetland north of the floodwall. Another raft of waterfowl containing about 33 Lesser Scaup and a handful of Redhead was spotted in the river near the Jeffersonville Overlook/Boat Ramp along with a few more Goldeneye. Along the shore, a beautiful Red-shouldered hawk posed for pictures at close range. Our last stop was at the Radisson Hotel Pond which gave nice looks at a sizeable team of Ring-necked Ducks, 4 Great Blue Herons and a Belted Kingfisher. Thirty-three must have been the magic number for the day as it turned out to also be the number of species recorded for the day.

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – February 19 A hardy group of 9 birders met at the Welcome Center at Jefferson Memorial Forest for a morning of bird watching. While it was sunny and dry, the temperatures remained in the low 30s with a slight breeze making for a chilly morning. Apparently, the birds also thought it was too cold as we could only eke out 18 species over 3.5 hours in two different spots! We spent about an hour and a half at each spot--around the Welcome Center and Tom Wallace Lake and at the Horine Reservation section. Our highlights were good looks at a Hairy Woodpecker on the first walk and a fleeting glimpse of a Pileated Woodpecker on the second walk. Although the birding was slow and the temperatures chilly, it was still a nice day to be out in a beautiful spot enjoying all of nature.

BIRDING ETHICS

As you may have noticed if you are a close watcher of the Beckham Bird Club website, the BBC board recently placed a statement on the homepage endorsing the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics.

This decision was prompted in part by the large numbers of people who have been drawn to birding during the COVID19 pandemic. As indoor activities have been limited over the past two years, many people have sought outdoor pastimes, leading to a surge in interest in birding.

One of the core values of birding is that we should observe birds while disturbing them, and our fellow humans, as little as possible. Both new birders and veterans should always be mindful of the need to follow good birding ethics. Birds have enough problems surviving without birders adding to them.

The full text of the Code of Birding Ethics may be found here: <https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>

The code is organized around three guiding principles, summarized below:

1. Respect and promote birds and their environment.

This includes adhering to practices such as keeping cats and other domestic animals indoors or under control, landscaping with native plants and supporting bird conservation. Avoid stressing birds, particularly by getting too close to nest sites, or through excessive use of recordings. Minimize habitat disturbance by staying on trails.

2. Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members.

Be a role model by birding ethically. Report and share sightings in an accurate and ethical manner. Respect other outdoor users. Be helpful to other birders, especially to those who are new to birding. Promote ethical birding in your interactions with others and when birding in groups.

3. Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.

Never enter private property without permission. Respect the interests of other and interact positively with people who live where you bird. Be aware of and abide by restrictions on birding on public lands, especially entry restrictions into nesting areas and prohibitions on playback or feeding in order to attract birds.

Over the next several issues of the Beckham Observer, I will present in more detail certain issues related to birding ethics, including nest sites, photography, use of recordings, and feeding and baiting.

Andrew Melnykovich, President

INTRODUCTORY BIRDING CLASSES

Both the Louisville Free Public Library is offering in-person introductory birding classes in March. The instructor is Beckham Bird Club President Andrew Melnykovich.

The LFPL classes are as follow:

A three-part series on the first three Wednesday in March - March 2, March 9 and March 16 - will be held at the Portland and Iroquois branches of the Louisville Free Public Library. The Portland Branch classes will be from 4 pm to 5 pm, and the Iroquois Branch classes will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A concluding field trip for participants will be scheduled for a date following the classes.

A one-day session, organized through the Southwest Regional Library, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, at the Riverside at Farnsley-Moorman. Following a two-hour classroom session, participants may take a guided bird walk around the property.

For details and registration, contact the branch libraries:

[Portland](#)

3305 Northwestern Pkwy
Louisville, KY 40212
(502) 574-1744

[Iroquois](#)

601 W. Woodlawn Ave.
Louisville, KY 40215
(502) 574-1720

[Southwest Regional](#)

9725 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40272
(502) 933-0029

BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2022

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/meet-the-birder-who-runs-a-christmas-bird-count-500-miles-north-of-the-arctic-circle/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/are-cardinals-brighter-in-winter/>

[Female Cardinals: Identification Tips, Rare Color Variants, And More | ABC \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/european-study-shows-bird-declines-similar-to-north-americas-3-billion-birds-lost/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/cornell-lab-to-advise-federal-government-on-safest-places-to-develop-offshore-wind-power/>

[New York's Heritage Wind Decision Aims to Reduce Project's Impact on Birds - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Conservationists Pen Action Plan to Protect Extremely Elusive and Endangered Seabird - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Improved Land Management Helps Swallow-tailed Kites Rebound \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Cranes and Avian Influenza Update - International Crane Foundation \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

[A Splash of Hope: Cherry-throated Tanager Gets New Protected Area in Bid to Dodge Extinction - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[This Wonder Bird Flies Thousands of Miles, Non-Stop, as Part of an Epic Migration | Science | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

[World Migratory Bird Day | 2022 Featured Species](#)

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

[Don't worry, birds won't become dependent on you feeding them, OSU study suggests | Oregon State University](#)

KOS SPRING MEEETING

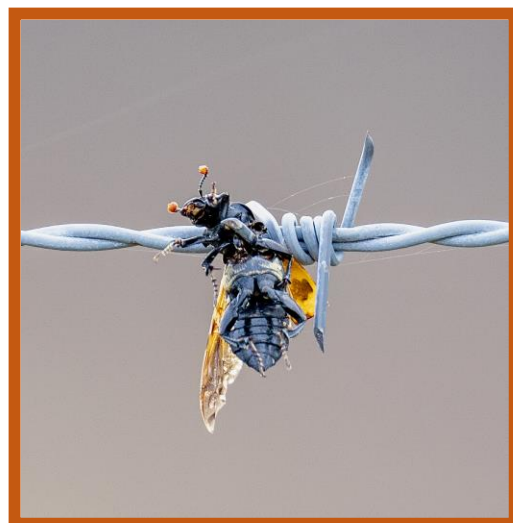
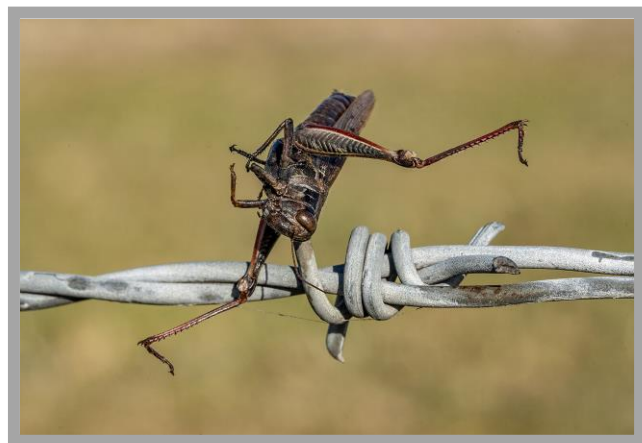


The Kentucky Ornithological Society spring meeting will be over the weekend of April 22-24, 2022, at Barren River State Resort Park. Check the KOS website, birdky.org, for more info.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

The Loggerhead Shrike is rare to uncommon resident of Kentucky. We here in Jefferson County are lucky because we have one in Oldham County just a short distance away. It has been there all winter. The LOSH with its bold black, white and gray pattern is easy to spot as it sits on treetops, fences and wires. With its sharp beak the loggerhead is sometimes called the butcherbird as it impales its prey on barbed wire and thorns. It prefers open grasslands as it preys on insects, small birds and rodents. Another place to look for the LOSH is at Shakertown as it has been nesting there the past years. The population of the LOSH is declining mostly due to human land-use practices and it is not easy to find in Kentucky. Tennessee Wildside has a segment on their TV show about the shrike. You can view it at https://youtu.be/XpXtB_tyOZs

Thanks to Pam Spaulding for her pictures of the shrikes at Shakertown, the impaled insects, and the other picture that shows birders are not the only one interested in seeing a shrike.





FEBRUARY BIRDING

If you have been out birding you know that spring is not far behind because the Red-winged Blackbirds can be heard and seen setting up their territories. Grackles may be returning to your yard to feed. Sandhill Cranes have been flying north. Great Horned Owls have nests with young owlets. Chickadees are singing their spring songs. Woodcocks are starting to display as evening approaches. As the month progresses waterfowl will be returning north. Be on the lookout for loons on the river or lakes. Lots of species have been seen this month by the many birders who are out enjoying a great pastime. Hope you are one of them.

By the middle of March Purple Martins should be arriving in Kentucky and by the end of the month Louisiana Waterthrushes will arrive.