



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2023

MARCH DINNER MEETING Please Read CAREFULLY



Derek Lovitch and his wife Jeannette live in Durham, Maine and own Freeport Wild Bird Supply. The store caters to birders and serves as a vehicle for Derek to continue to share his enthusiasm for birds, birding, and bird conservation. The store is also the home base for a growing tour guiding operation, focusing on Maine's specialties. He is the author of How To Be a Better Birder and Birdwatching in Maine: A Site Guide. His writing has appeared in *Birding*, *Birder's World*, *Bird Observer*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *NJ Audubon*, *North American Birds*, and others.

Using the phenomenon of the "Morning Flight" as a case study, Derek's presentation will share tips and takeaways for birders of all levels who want to improve their skills. With stories and photographs, we'll learn how geography, weather, and habitat combine to provide outstanding birding opportunities for everyone to enjoy year-round.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 14 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.

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.

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

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. for BBC members at the Anchorage Trail. Please meet out front. **Reservations are required.** See the reservation form.

Dinner payment information - The price for the dinner this year is \$45. In an effort to limit the cost of the annual dinner, payment for the annual dinner will be by check only. Both PayPal and credit cards charge a processing fee, which the BBC would have to recoup by increasing the price of the dinner from the current \$45 per person. Please follow the instructions in the newsletter and on the website when making reservations and payment.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS IS Tuesday, MARCH 7. 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 14, 2023

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$45.00 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 -TUESDAY, MARCH 7

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

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, February 26 6:30 p.m. until dark	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For woodcocks. Meet at the entrance end of the soccer field/“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	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Sunday, March 5 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 11 8:30 a.m – noon easy	BERNHEIM FOREST – For waterfowl, winter residents and very early migrants. Meet at the Lake Nevin parking lot. Directions from Louisville: Take I-65 South to exit 112 (Clermont), follow signs for Bernheim. GPS: 37.91868, -85.66865	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Wednesday, March 15 9:00 a.m.	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Field trip after dinner meeting; for BBC members only; reservation required. See reservation form in this newsletter. Meet out front.	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Saturday, March 25 8:30 am-noon easy	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – For early migrants and winter residents. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267820, -85.542149	David Bailey 720-648-1493

PAST FIELD TRIPS

BECKLEY CREEK – GRAND ALLEE – JANUARY 28 Nine members and two guests came out on a sunny and warm-for-January morning in hopes that nice weather would lead to bountiful birds. It was not to be. A relatively paltry 29 species were seen. Notably reliable species that went missing included Mourning Dove, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and White-crowned Sparrow. Astonishingly, only a single White-throated Sparrow was observed. On the other hand, there was an abundance of Eastern Bluebirds and Northern Flickers. Other highlights included a Wilson's Snipe and an American Tree Sparrow that ultimately gave everyone in the group a good look. A Belted Kingfisher and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker also were quite cooperative. Despite the slow birding, it was an enjoyable morning under blue skies.

TURKEY RUN PARK – FEBRUARY 12 Six members and two guests came out on a sunny cool morning that turned steadily warmer and windier. Birding was best early in the trip along the creek, and became slower as the wind picked up out on the flats. "Sparrow Alley" produced a mere three species and fewer individuals than usual. The best birds of the day were an elusive Winter Wren that eventually yielded a good look and a pair of American Kestrels. They were first seen early, on a dead tree along the creek, with one enjoying a small rodent for breakfast. The trip ended with both kiting overhead in the strong winds, looking for lunch. We ended with 31 species on a very pleasant morning of birding.

POPE LICK PARK- FEBRUARY 18 Clear skies, temperature at the start 29 rising to 40. Very light breeze for part of the morning. Eight hardy birders met for a morning of birding on a sunny and cold February morning. The birds were active at the start of our trip, but quieted down as the trip progressed. We managed 26 species on the day. We were rewarded for our labors by a large group of Spring Peepers calling as we neared the parking lot at the end of our walk.



The Beckham Bird Club wishes to extend our sympathy to the family of Kathy Dennis who passed away on February 17. Kathy and her husband Dick were active members of the club with Kathy serving as its president. Kathy was also very active with the Louisville Audubon Society, Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky, and Creasy Mahan Park in Oldham County.

CONSERVATION REPORT

[Harsh Mountain Winters Have Made Chickadees Smarter | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dee Alarm Calls Are a Lingua Franca of the Bird World - Forest world \(wildequus.org\)](#)

[Whooping Cranes Face New Threat From Agricultural Fungicide \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Wintering Eastern Whooping Cranes | Birding Wire](#)

[New Research: As "Connector Species," Birds Are Essential to the Health of Both Islands and Oceans - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[View the Action at Tropical Feeding Stations | Birding Wire](#)

[Where's the White? A Simple Question can be the Key in Waterfowl ID | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[Many Songs Lifting Spirits \(nwf.org\)](#)

[Woodpeckers' giant acorn stash found stuffed inside walls of California home | CNN](#)

[Golden Eagle Athena Finds a Second Chance at Love \(bernheim.org\)](#)

BIRDING

Have you noticed a change with the birds as you step outside? Chickadees are singing their spring song. Red-winged Blackbirds are beginning to set up their territories and Sandhill Cranes are flying north. Woodcocks are swirling up into the air trying to attract a mate. Things are beginning to slowly change. We still have winter species around or passing through our area. Lots of reports of Greater White-fronted Geese are coming in from here in Jefferson county, the Western Tanager is still here, and the Trumper Swan returned to Reformatory Lake after a short absence. While birders went to see the swan a White-winged Scoter was found on the lake. As the days pass into March be on the lookout for Tree Swallows, Purple Martins and our first returning warbler in late March – the Louisiana Waterthrush. Join the club on one of the field trips to discover the wonder and fun of birding.

Thanks to Christine Hayden for the pictures of the White-winged Scoter at Reformatory Lake.

