



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MAY 2020

## MEETING AND PICNIC

Due to the continuing need for social distancing in order to combat the coronavirus outbreak COVID-19, the board of the Beckham Bird Club is canceling the May meeting and June picnic. Also, there are no BBC field trips but for birders, one way to get through this is to continue birding and enjoying the outdoors. Whether you are birding in the park or in your backyard there are a few safety tips you should employ. Just remember keep safe and healthy. Take precautions to ensure the wellbeing of you and those around you.

- **Keep your optics to yourself.** Don't share your scope, binoculars, or camera with others; disinfect the eye caps of your optics after each birding trip.
- **Maintain distance.** If you are birding near others (whether they are birders or not), maintain at least 6 feet of space between yourself and other people at all times.
- **Avoid touching communal surfaces.** This includes railings, doorknobs, handles, and other frequently used areas of public sites. If you touch these surfaces, wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer immediately.
- **Respect restrictions and closures.** Check if your favorite park, trail, or wildlife refuge is still open before heading outside. Plan your birding trips in accordance with the latest recommendations of your local authorities.
- **Share checklists, not phones:** eBird Mobile users should avoid passing phones to review checklists for the time being. Confirm lists verbally before submission and if you need to make changes after you submit, it is easy to share and correct lists on the eBird Mobile app!

Birding and interacting with nature provide us with hope.

If you haven't checked out the KOS Spring Virtual Meeting – here is a link. It has lots of fun activities, great pictures, and other birding info that will help you get through the Covid-19.

### [2020 KOS Spring Virtual Meeting](#)

You want to go birding but don't KNOW when birds will be at the peak of migration in your area check out Cornell Laboratory BirdCast at <https://birdcast.info/> Real-time bird migration maps show intensities of actual bird migration as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network. All graphics are relative to the Eastern time zone.

Another link you might find interesting is the by-monthly newsletter that has information on many topics – birding gear, bird feeders, rare bird sighting, interesting bird reports from the editor as he journeys in his home state of South Dakota and other good birdy info. [Birdingwire.com](http://Birdingwire.com)

## **IT IS GOING TO BE A VERY DIFFERENT GLOBAL BIG DAY THIS YEAR** **AND BIRDATHON**

Wouldn't you know it – after Global Big Day gets moved back to the Saturday AFTER Derby, the coronavirus comes along and makes a mess of everything.

So Global Big Day this year is not going to be the all-out, super-coordinated, defeat-Fayette-County effort that it has been the past few years. In the interest of safe distancing, the competition has been called off for 2020. No assigned locations, no nagging emails, none of that.

But that does not mean you should not get out there and bird as much as you can on May 9. Because you should.

Instead of a competition, the cooperative goal is to best last year's total of 209 species seen in Kentucky on a single day.

On a related matter, the Beckham Bird Club members who get together in early May for the annual Birdathon won't be able to do so this year. BUT BIRDATHON CONTRIBUTIONS ARE STILL NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF MANY DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO PRESERVE HABITATS AND PROTECT KENTUCKYS BIRDS.

Therefore, the Beckham Bird Club board is suggesting and encouraging members to make Birdathon pledges based on the number of species found statewide on Global Big Day. This year, for the first time, you will be able to make your Birdathon contributions online via PayPal. Just go to the link used to pay for your BBC membership: <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership.html> and be sure to select Birdathon from the pull-down menu.

So, get out and bird on Global Big Day, add to the total number of species, and support Birdathon. And please stay safe.

**Please send a report of your Big Global Day and pictures if you have them to**  
**patjanebell@bellsouth.net**

### **Conservation News**

Here are some positive conservation news.

- 1) fewer people driving has cleared smog filled cities around the world- at least for now,
- 2) since there are no zoo visitors, a pair of pandas has started breeding after being together for 10 years,
- 3) the pandemic has brought the illegal wildlife trade into focus which is a good thing.

A belated happy 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day. Keep working to save our planet and all its inhabitants.

**HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR 2020 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE?**