



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

P.O. BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

MAY 2022

## *THE BASICS AND JOYS OF BIRDING*

What do I need to do to become a better birder? How can I learn to identify those flighty little warblers? How do I acquire the apps and tools that other birders have? If these and other questions often cause you sleepless nights, then do we have the program for you! This



month a panel of experienced birders will be discussing The Basics and Joys of Birding.

Birding is so much fun but we need a few tips to help us know the **BASICS** and **JOYS** of birding. Our program this month will review some of the **BASIC** techniques we need to know to become better birders. Even long-time birders may need to be reminded or refreshed about some of the fundamentals of birding. Our program will help us in identifying birds in the field. We will look at the different tools from **BASIC** to technical aids that are available to birders. Hope you will join Carol Besse, Meg and Steve Brown and Pat Bell as they help you become better birders. If you have questions about birding, we will try to answer them. We want to help you increase your enJOYment of birding.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, -85.689458. St. Mark's is at the corner of Frankfort Avenue and Kennedy Ave. Please enter by way of the back door near the parking lot. Just as a reminder Frankfort Avenue near the Louisville Water Company is under construction so you may need to find an alternate route.

## **VOTE**

It is time to vote at this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 10 for the officers and directors of Beckham Bird Club.  
Candidates for 2022-2023 are the following.

**President – Andrew Melnykovych**

**Vice-president – Carol Besse**

**Secretary – Meg Brown**

**Treasurer- Steve Brown**

**Directors – Donovan Jones and Lee Payne**

Karen Bonsell and Pam Spaulding will continue on the board for another year. Jamie Baker will continue on the board as past President. Their duties will begin on June 15.

### **Birdathon**

We are depending on you, our members, to support our annual Birdathon. Please make a pledge to help us have another successful year. Last year we raised \$24,000. Your pledge will count to help us equal or surpass last year's amount. Emails were sent out asking for your pledge. if you did not receive one you can still support the Birdathon by mailing in a check made out to Beckham Bird Club and mail to P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Check the BBC website for more information about the Birdathon.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday, May 1 8 a.m. CDT – ??? Easy	<b>MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK</b> – For spring migrants. Meet at Little Hope Cemetery inside the park. Bring lunch. <b>GPS: 37.154126, -86.053762</b>	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, May 7 8:30 a.m. – noon Easy	<b>TURKEY RUN PARK</b> – Brown-Forman Silo area. Residents and migrants. 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; continue through the park to the Brown-Forman Silo parking lot. <b>GPS: 38.115846, -85.533371</b>	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Sunday, May 8 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Easy	<b>ANCHORAGE TRAIL</b> – Residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. <b>GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014</b>	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, May 14	<b>GLOBAL BIG DAY</b> - See April and May newsletters for all the details.	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, May 21 7:30 a.m. – noon Easy	<b>CAPERTON SWAMP</b> – Late migrants, residents, summer birds. Meet at parking lot on River Road. <b>GPS: 38.290297, -85.681192</b>	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Sunday, May 29 8 a.m. - noon Easy/moderate	<b>POPE LICK PARK</b> – For residents, breeding birds and late 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. <b>GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095</b>	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**Harrods Creek – April 2** Cold and cloudy, wind S at 8 mph. Fourteen birders hiked the Orange Trail this morning. A good mix of winter birds and spring migrants. Green-winged Teal were on the creek. Great collection of raptors with 2 Bald Eagles flying over and a Red-shouldered Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Northern Harrier circling together. Watched a Red-shoulder being harassed by a Mockingbird. Three Pileated Woodpeckers were seen together. White-throated Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Hermit Thrush represented some of the lingering winter birds.



**Bernheim Forest – April 10** BBC field trip. Clear and cold to start with temps in the low thirties, rising to low sixties. Twenty birders met at Bernheim Forest for a morning of birding. We had a few summer birds (Louisiana Waterthrush and Swallows) and quite a few lingering winter species (Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and both Kinglets). We tallied 47 species on a chilly spring morning.

**Sloughs – April 16** Ten birders spend a pleasant morning in Hardy Slough, and afternoon in the Shorebird Unit. The weather was mostly clear with temperatures rising quickly from the low 50s to the low 60s, with breezy conditions in the morning to mostly light winds in the afternoon. Water levels were high in both sloughs, so very little time was spent walking the wetlands to flush rails and sparrows - indeed no rails were observed, and relatively few sparrows. But we had good numbers of Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers, plus some Wood Ducks, American Wigeon, and Hooded Merganser. There were some shorebirds, but not big numbers. Highlights were a Stilt Sandpiper and a Long-billed Dowitcher that we saw at both places (likely the same birds as they stayed close to each other both times we saw them, and the properties are adjacent). Most numerous were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, which afforded us a few well-lit side-by-side comparisons, but also both were calling so we could compare voices, too. Wilson's Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, and Killdeer were there as well. Four Bald Eagles soared above us, though the number of raptors was fairly low. We found a Little Blue Heron that had been at Hardy Slough since Charlie Crawford reported it two days earlier. Tree Swallows were out in force but we were pleased to get decent looks at all the expected swallows (as decent as swallows permit!).

**Beckley Creek Grand Allee – April 23-** The ten members who ventured out on a glorious spring morning were rewarded with a nice variety of lingering wintering birds (Purple Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler) and summer arrivals (breeding warblers, both orioles, Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting, etc.). Not many passing-through migrants seen. Highlights of the day were 10 Broad-winged Hawks catching thermals and heading north over a period of about 30 minutes, presumably from a nearby night roost, and a pair of Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers busily constructing their tiny lichen-encrusted nest. Great day to be out birding.



The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be on Sunday, June 5 at 4:00 p.m. at the Education Center at Beckley Creek Park.

The club is resuming its annual picnic this year so join us for a fun afternoon of birding, food and friend ship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent

and, of course, your binoculars. There is no cost but the BBC asks you to donate to the BBC Birdathon when you come to the picnic. We encourage you to bring your own cloth napkin, plates, cups and utensils. That is non-disposable items. There will be a bird quiz with a prize to the winner. Hint: study your field guide of NA birds.

**PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 3**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring \_\_\_\_ salad/vegetable \_\_\_\_ desert \_\_\_\_ other(\_\_\_\_\_) )

Number attending who want chicken\_\_\_\_

Number attending at who do not want chicken\_\_\_\_

Mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492 or bring to May meeting.

**BBC Conservation Report Websites April 2022**

[Audubon's Florida Scrub-Jay Program Enters 20th Year | Audubon Florida](#)

[Nesting Season for Coastal Birds Has Begun! | Audubon Florida](#)

[Winds of Change: Balancing Birds, Wind Turbines, and Climate Change - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[A Bounty for Birds: Wetlands of North America - American Bird Conservancy](https://www.abcbirds.org/bird-conservancy/a-bounty-for-birds-wetlands-north-america)  
[\(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/bird-conservancy/these-seven-bird-species-are-most-likely-to-collide-with-windows)

[These Seven Bird Species are Most Likely to Collide with Windows | ABC](https://www.abcbirds.org/bird-conservancy/aid-for-a-struggling-galapagos-seabird-on-private-lands-in-artificial-burrows)  
[\(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/bird-conservancy/aid-for-a-struggling-galapagos-seabird-on-private-lands-in-artificial-burrows)

[Aid for a Struggling Galápagos Seabird — on Private Lands, in Artificial Burrows - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/bird-conservancy/aid-for-a-struggling-galapagos-seabird-on-private-lands-in-artificial-burrows)

[The Bald Eagle's Soaring Return Shows That the U.S. Can Change for the Better | Science | Smithsonian Magazine](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-bald-eagles-soaring-return-shows-that-the-u-s-can-change-for-the-better-180975752/)

[These Delightful Photos Highlight How Native Plants Support Birds | Audubon](https://www.audubon.org/article/these-delightful-photos-highlight-how-native-plants-support-birds)

<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2022/April-May> This is a list of nest webcams to watch [https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/back-office-these-bird-webcams-will-keep-you-soaring?utm\\_source=insider&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/back-office-these-bird-webcams-will-keep-you-soaring?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)



### GLOBAL BIG DAY

Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](https://www.ebird.org/globalbigday) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are on 14 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](https://www.ebird.org/worldmigratorybirdday), and share the birds you find with eBird.

Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our [free eBird Mobile app](https://www.ebird.org/mobile). If you have more time, submit several checklists of birds throughout the day. You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations.

## **GLOBAL BIG DAY 2022: THE CASUAL APPROACH**

Because the Beckham Bird Club's usual Global Big Day coordinators are all otherwise engaged this year, we are foregoing the comprehensive planning and precision (not) that usually accompanies the local effort in the annual Jefferson/Louisville versus Fayette/Lexington birding smackdown.

Instead, BBC members are encouraged to just get out and bird on May 14 and to record all observations in eBird. If you have been a regular Global Big Day birder in the county, hit your usual spots. If you haven't participated before, you are encouraged to visit eBird hotspots or other locations with which you are most familiar.

Consider this a test of the efficacy of disorganization.

Global Big Day has been around since 2015, when the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology encouraged birders around the world to spend the day trying to see as many species as possible. Global Big Days are held on the first or second Saturday in May, to coincide with the northward spring migration in the northern hemisphere. In 2018, an October date was added, picking up the tail end of fall migration in the northern half of the world and spring migration south of the equator.

The eBird website compiles data from the planetary level down to the county level.

Global Big Day has sparked friendly competition among birders in many areas, including Kentucky. The Beckham Bird Club and birders in the Lexington area have been striving to outdo each other in the number of species seen on the spring Global Big Day in Jefferson and Fayette counties. The results through 2021, with county and statewide record high counts of species in red:

	Jefferson	Fayette	Statewide
2021	151	142	196
2020	141	148	190
2019	150	152	<b>209</b>
2018	<b>157</b>	<b>160</b>	193
2017	137	113	177
2016	117	102	168 (Pulaski County - 119)
2015	129	107	176

Note that Jefferson County hold the narrowest lead possible (4-3) and that the numbers have been very close since 2018

## **APRIL BIRDING**



WOW! Migration has started. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, catbirds, shorebirds, grosbeaks, tanagers, orioles, kingbirds, hummingbirds, etc. have arrived and more are arriving every day. Check the ebird lists for Jefferson County for all the wonderful birds that birders are seeing whether it be in the Parklands, Cherokee Park, Garvin Brown or even in their own backyard. An American Bittern made an unusual appearance as it set for hours among the tombstones in Cave Hill Cemetery. The cemetery workers were kind enough to close off the road and stop mowing so birders could watch and enjoy it. A Purple Gallinule has visited a yard in Lexington for weeks. You never know what may show up next. Don't let spring migration go by without seeing all the birds that

are out there. Join one of the field trips or go out to one of the parks. You will probably run into a fellow birder enjoying spring migration.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON MAY 17 IN THE PRIMARIES.**