



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

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

MAY 2023

MAY PROGRAM

"Birding The Rock"

Journey to Newfoundland through the pictures of Pam Spaulding. Last summer she photographed birds from northern songbirds to some of the largest seabird colonies in the world. Her road trip to this easternmost province of Canada took her to birds in stunning landscapes including sheer cliffs, glacial barrens and boreal forests. Her experiences will inspire you to put a visit to "The Rock" on your bucket list.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, May 9, 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.



VOTE

It is time to vote at this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 9 for the officers and directors of Beckham Bird Club.

Candidates for 2023-2024 are the following.

President – Meg Brown

Vice-president – Carol Besse

Secretary – Pam Spaulding

Treasurer- Steve Brown

Directors – Karen Bonsell and Christine Hayden

Donovan Jones and Lee Payne will continue on the board for another year. Andrew Melnykovich 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 \$22,000. 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.



The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be on Sunday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m.

at Joe Creason Park in the Gazebo. Join

us for a fun afternoon of birding, food and friendship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and, of course, your binoculars.

There is no cost but the BBC asks you to donate a minimum of \$5.00 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.

PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 2

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: Carol Challas, 325 Blankenbaker Lane, Louisville, KY 40207-1234

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday, April 29 8 a.m.-noon easy | HAYS-KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Residents, spring migrants. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354 | Michael Autin 502-298-2456 |
| Saturday, May 6 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. easy | Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve. Residents and migrants. Meet at Creasey Mahan Visitor Center, Highway 42 to Route 1793, about a 1/2 mile to sign on the right. GPS: 38.400384, -85.590180 | Michael Callan 502-592-7008 |
| Sunday, May 7 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy | BROAD RUN PARK – Migrants, summer breeding bird birds, residents. Meet at the Cliffside Center Parking Lot. GPS: 38.098800, -85.554607 | Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826 |
| Wednesday, May 10 9 a.m. – noon easy | DRAUT PARK – For migrants and residents. Level paved trail suitable for anyone with mobility issues. GPS: 38.24273, -85.62942 | Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526 |
| Saturday, May 13 | GLOBAL BIG DAY - See April and May newsletters for all the details. | Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655 |
| Sunday, May 14 8:30 a.m. – noon | BERNHEIM FOREST – For migrants and residents. Meet at the Bernheim Forest Arboretum Way parking lot, next to Lake Nevin and the old education center rotunda. Directions: I-65 south from Louisville to exit 112. Bernheim entrance is about one mile east on KY 245. About 30 | Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967 |

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| easy | minutes from Louisville. GPS: 37.918889, -85.669087 | |
| Saturday, May 20 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy | ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Late migrants, residents, summer birds. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014 | Michael Callan 502-592-7008 |
| Sunday, May 21 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy | BLACKACRE NATURE PRESERVE – Residents, late spring migrants, summer birds. Meet in main parking lot. GPS: 38.195344, -85.533690 | Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826 |
| Saturday, May 27 9 a.m. – noon easy | HARRODS CREEK PARK – For late migrants, residents, summer birds. 6530 Montero Dr., Prospect. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. GPS: 38.340941, -85.600052 | Win Ahrens 502-500-1175 |
| Sunday, June 4 | BECKHAM BIRD CLUB PICNIC – Details in newsletter. | |

PAST FELD TRIPS

MARCH 25, ANCHORAGE TRAIL - Ten birders walked around the Anchorage Trail in hopes of seeing a mix of early spring migrants and continuing winter residents. The morning started out quite pleasant but later in the morning the wind picked up and the bird activity slowed down. While we did not find any Louisiana Waterthrushes as we had hoped for, we got to enjoy a show put on by four boisterous Red Shouldered Hawks. Other highlights of the morning included a group of Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Brown Creeper, a few Eastern Phoebes, and a nice collection of ducks on the pond.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S131796600>

LAKE SHELBY – APRIL 14 Seven BBC members and 3 guests enjoyed about a 3 hour trip around Squire Boone Trail Loop which is adjacent to Shelby Lake. Weather was pleasant with temperatures starting in the 50s and ending up in the 70s with partly cloudy skies and little wind. Thirty-nine species were observed including a Green Heron which was a FOS for most of the group, along with a few Wilson's Snipe. A few other migrants observed were Tree and Barn Swallows along with a single Chipping Sparrow. Unfortunately, warblers were still scarce with only Yellow-Rumps being observed. But all had a good time and were surprised at the beginning of the trip with the appearance of a rainbow with no observed rainfall. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S133771158>

APRIL 15, BECKLEY CREEK - Sunny skies; temps in the 60s to start, rising into the 70s with a few clouds by the end of the outing.

Seventeen members and guests met at Beckley Creek Park on a beautiful early spring morning. Highlights of our walk included large groups of migrating Blue Jays, a late female Purple Finch and a FOS Orchard Oriole. We totaled 53 species -- a wonderful day to be out! <https://ebird.org/checklist/S133872364>

APRIL 15, SAUERHEBER UNIT, HENDERSON COUNTY - Twelve folks birded the Sauerheber Unit in Henderson County. Weather was very nice with warm, sunny conditions all morning. We finally got kicked out by rain showers about 4:00 pm. The marsh bird habitat was *great* but we could only manage about 10 Soras and no bitterns. However, shorebirds put on a pretty good show with 10 species including 5 Black-necked Stilts, several hundred Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers, a few Least Sandpipers, Dunlin and Long-billed Dowitchers, and a single Stilt Sandpiper. Decent numbers of dabbling ducks were still around including both teal, Gadwall, and Northern Shoveler. Nice to see and hear the returning songbirds including Prothonotary Warblers; I think Bald Eagle was the most commonly seen raptor in the sky.

TURKEY RUN PARK- APRIL 22 - BBC field trip. Eight birders met at Turkey Run Park on a cool spring morning. The skies were cloudy to start, but quickly cleared. Most of our walk was under sunny skies, but the clouds returned and the wind picked up by the end. Highlights included two Kentucky Warblers, numerous vocal Prairie Warblers, Eastern Kingbirds, White-eyed Vireos, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle and a beautiful singing Blue Grosbeak near the parking lot at the beginning of our walk. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S134626774>

TOM SAWYER PARK – APRIL 23 - Seven birders set out on a chilly spring morning and were delighted to find over 50 species of birds. Highlights included both Oriole species, many singing Ruby Crowned Kinglets, a Hermit Thrush, 4 warbler species including many singing Yellow-rumps, a few Northern Parula, Nashville Warblers, and a very pretty Prairie Warbler. Other highlights were FOS indigo bunting and Eastern Kingbird. Finally we observed 3 wren species - Carolina, House, and a very pretty, but skulky Sedge Wren. Thanks to everyone for coming out for a fun morning! <https://ebird.org/checklist/S134783097>

MAMMOTH CAVE NP – APRIL 25 On a beautiful spring day eleven observers traveled to the park to search for returning summer residents and returning migrants. We would wander through the woods searching the trails and roads for newly arriving species. Our first find was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo perched high in a sycamore tree. Fourteen species of warblers were added to our ebird list. All had fabulous views of an extremely

cooperative Cerulean Warbler. The calls of Vireos, Wood Thrushes, Hooded, Kentucky, and other birds filled the air. At the end of the day we found that we had a total of 49 species. A fun day was had by all! <https://ebird.org/checklist/S135101589>

BBC Conservation Report April 2023 Websites

[New Research into Vagrancy in Rare Birds | Birding Wire](#)

[Out of Sync \(nwf.org\)](#)

[Mysterious Songbird Rediscovered in Madagascar After Eluding Scientists for 24 Years - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Five Fastest Disappearing Grassland Birds Species in the U.S. \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[First Siberian Rubythroat at Google | Birding Wire](#)

[For the Love of Bluebirds | Birding Wire](#)

[When You Should—and Should Not—Rescue Baby Birds | AudubonSierra Magazine : Spring 2023](#)

[The Bird Flu Blazes On, Amping Up Concerns for Wildlife and Human Health | Audubon](#)

[Shelter from the Storm \(nwf.org\)](#)

GLOBAL BIG DAY IS MAY 13

The annual May (thankfully, it's no longer on Derby Day) birding extravaganza is fast approaching. On May 13, birders around the globe will participate in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's effort to record as many species as possible in 24 hours.

The Beckham Bird Club has been coordinating the effort in Jefferson County since 2017, engaging in a friendly rivalry with the folks in Fayette County.

We are going to need birders in every capacity, from listening for nightjars and owls at dawn and dusk to scouring the best hotspots in the county to hiking into the hills in search of elusive species (Worm-eating Warblers at Jefferson Forest, for example). You can put in as little time as you wish (tick your local Mississippi Kites) or spend all day.

Michael Autin has graciously agreed to serve as the coordinator for this year's effort, keeping track of who is going to bird where and what areas still need coverage. If you plan to be out on the 13th, please contact him at mauniquity@gmail.com and let him know where you will bird or to request an assignment.

Also, in a further effort to make sure things don't fall through the cracks, James Wheat has established a text message group via the GroupME app. This is the link to join to keep up with events on the day: https://groupme.com/join_group/87017411/n6Tgl6Cl

The official tally will be kept via eBird, so it is vitally important that **all Global Big Day observations are entered as eBird checklists**. Unlike the Christmas Bird Count, on Global Big Day eBird does the compilation automatically.

So mark your calendars for the 13th, let Michael know where you'll be birding and get out there and find some good birds.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON MAY 16 IN THE PRIMARIES.

