



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

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

MAY 2024

Bird watching through the lens of your camera



Mike Matthews' passion for bird photography began over fifty years ago and he has been shooting professionally for over twenty years. His images have been published in numerous magazines like *Birds&Blooms*, *Gulf Shore Life*, *Kentucky Home and Garden*, and *Bassmasters* to name a few. Many of his images have also been used by universities for articles relating to specific topics like human/wildlife interaction. Being an avid outdoorsman, his passion for photographing

wildlife is ever present when he is in the field. Mike utilizes his skill to get very close to birds and other wildlife and he captures stunning images that bring the audience along as if they were there with him. Mike is also a master falconer and has trained birds of prey for over fifty years. He also offers a variety of guided bird and nature photography tours in both Florida and in Kentucky. He also enjoys macro photography, which enables him to capture the small but beautiful world of insects, reptiles and amphibians. He has been a Keynote speaker throughout the US on this topic as well as on nature and bird photography. Mike hopes that you will enjoy his passion for capturing nature in its truest form through inspirational images, giving God all the credit for enabling him to fulfill his dream.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, May 14, 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.

LIGHTS OUT LOUISVILLE

The BBC board is supporting the effort by Louisville Audubon Society to encourage people (and downtown businesses especially) to turn off all unnecessary lights both inside and outside during peak migration (mid-April through May) and again in the fall (September and October). We have sent a letter to the editor at the CJ and also sent a letter to the entire Metro Council, encouraging the Council to



support the initiative and also pass legislation making lights out during peak migration mandatory.

We encourage each of you to contact your Council member and express your support. This link (<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/metro-council/districts-1-26>) will give you the contact information for each council member. When you select the email option, you will be directed to another page to complete a "form letter" to complete and send. You can attach your letter or write in the comments section of the form.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The field trip schedule for May and June are on the BBC website at beckhambirdclub.org.

VOTE

It is time to vote at this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 14 for the officers and directors of Beckham Bird Club.

Candidates for 2023-2024 are the following.

President – Meg Brown

Vice-president – Christine Hayden

Secretary – Pam Spaulding

Treasurer- Steve Brown

Directors for Two Years – Donovan Jones and Carol Besse

Director for One Year replacing Christine Hayden - Kevin Flowers

Karen Bonsell 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.

The members will also be voting on by-law changes that were in the April newsletter and the changes are on the BBC website at beckhambirdclub.org.

Birdathon

We are depending on you, our members and friends, 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 9 at 4:00 p.m. at
Creasey Mahan. Nature Preserve*

Join us for a fun afternoon of birding, food and friendship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and ,of course, your binoculars. We encourage you to bring your own cloth napkin, plates, cups and utensils. That is non-disposable items. GPS: 38.400504, - 85.590233

There are three ways to make reservations –mail the reservation form below, bring to the May meeting or text Carol Challus at 502-649-0522. State your name(s) , what you are bringing and if you want chicken.

PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 6

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

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Creasey Mahon Nature Preserve – March 24 Ten birders (2 guests and 8 members) braved exposure to cold temperatures and high winds that lasted through most of the trip. However, even with the bad weather, the group managed to see 46 species with highlights being a nice look at a Pine Warbler that was singing, an Osprey, and 4 Sandhill Cranes.



Draut Park – April 3 -Three Beckham Bird Club members met at Arthur K. Draut park! The temperature was cool at about 43 degrees. The weather was also cloudy and rainy at times, then partly cloudy with beautiful sun. We were treated to a few FOS (first of season) such as a Great Egret and Field Sparrows. We also had a Brown Thrasher singing to us from atop a tree, and several Northern Flickers. We are always excited to see raptors. We had 2 Cooper’s Hawks and 1 Red-shouldered Hawk! Despite being cold and rainy, it was an enjoyable morning of birding and a great reminder that spring migration is well under way!



Harrods Creek Park – April 7 Ten members and two guests enjoyed a beautiful Sunday morning of birding. Forty-one species were recorded. Highlights included 4 warbler species with excellent looks at Yellow-throated, Northern Parula and Yellow-rumped. A Hermit Thrush was a nice lingering winter bird. Five separate large flocks of cormorants flew over. Red-shouldered Hawks were working on their nest. A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was a harbinger of the coming spring migration. Great mix of winter and spring birds.



Turkey Run – April 13 Eleven birders met at Turkey Run Park on a beautiful spring morning. We walked from the Silo Center to Boulder Pond and Sky Meadow and back. The birds were quite active and singing. We had five species of Warblers, two Ospreys, and a White-eyed Vireo. The winter species also put in an appearance, being represented by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and numerous White-throated Sparrows. What a wonderful time of year!

Nettelroth Sanctuary - April 17 On Wednesday morning April 17th, eight BBC members gathered at Cherokee Park. It would appear that migration is in full swing!! We heard more than we were able to see unfortunately! Many warblers were singing, including Nashville, Parula, Black-throated greens and Yellow-throated warblers. We also had many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers working hard in the trees! We were also delighted to see a Great-horned Owl in the pines in Nettelroth as well as our FOS Swainson's Thrush! Despite the rain and storms from previous days, it turned out to be a beautiful day to look for birds!



Beckley Creek - Grand Allee – April 20 Six members and two guests came out on a beautiful, sunny and comfortable day. Birds were plentiful, but quiet and harder to locate, in the first hour. As the temperature warmed the singing and birding both picked up quickly. Highlights included a group of five Solitary (or not) Sandpipers at the fluddle, both orioles, great looks at Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas and Yellow-throated Warblers in song, five species each of swallows and woodpeckers and several FOY birds for most in the group. Migration is definitely cranking up.

Sloughs – April 21 -Six members and guests birded mostly at the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA on Sunday. The morning was quite brisk with a stiff northwest breeze. We tallied about 80 species on the day, 73 on the WMA. There weren't many rails in evidence, although we flushed one Sora and heard maybe 8-10 total. One Marsh Wren was heard as well. We had 10 species of shorebirds highlighted by 5 Black-necked Stilts, a few Stilt Sandpipers, and one Dunlin. Songbirds also weren't in great abundance, but we had several species of warblers including Yellow-throated, Palm, Northern Waterthrush (heard), and Pine. Unfortunately, we should have had Julia along to find us a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which she discovered nearby the following day.

BBC Conservation Report Websites April 2024

[Southwestern willow flycatcher \(biologicaldiversity.org\)](https://biologicaldiversity.org)

[D.C. federal judge keeps protections for southwestern willow flycatcher \(tucsonsentinel.com\)](https://tucsonsentinel.com)

[Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary's Crane Camera | Explore.org](https://explore.org)

[Natal Dispersal and Whooping Crane Conservation \(savingcranes.org\)](https://savingcranes.org)

<https://www.galapagos.org/newsroom/one-species-of-flycatcher-in-galapagos-appears-extinct/>

[Mosquito Control Project to Save Honeycreepers Underway on Maui and Kaua'i - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[BERNHEIM-TRACKS-NEW-GOLDEN-EAGLE-PRESS-RELEASE-032124.pdf](#)

https://digital.sierramagazine.org/publication/?i=816504&article_id=4732050&view=articleBrowser

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/a-single-night-of-bird-collisions-in-chicago-points-to-the-need-for-window-safety/>

[Lights Out - BirdCast](#)

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-it-so-hard-keep-cats-indoors>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/diy-treat-your-cat-perks-outdoors-minus-pitfalls-catio>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/ready-made-catios-ensure-purr-fect-fit-any-owner>



Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join the Jefferson County birders on 11 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), 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](#). 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.

Let **Meg Brown** (smbrown316@gmail.com) know you are participating and where you will bird. Join the fun and let's find more birds than Fayette County.