



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

NOVEMBER 2024

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

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Bernheim Forest and Arboretum: Strategies for Bird Conservation in the 21st Century



Join us November 12 at the Beckham Bird Club meeting for a discussion with Andrew Berry, Bernheim's Director of Conservation, who will be presenting on Bernheim Forest's strategic efforts towards protecting birds through conservation of land, water, and biodiversity. Learn about ongoing projects including golden eagle research, stream and wetland restorations, and wildlife corridor conservation. Also learn about ongoing efforts in fighting the proposed LGE Gas Pipeline and new opportunities for connecting with nature at Bernheim.

Andrew Berry is a Kentucky native that has worked for over 16 years at Bernheim developing long term projects for conservation. He is a graduate of University of Kentucky with a BS in Natural Resource Conservation and Management and an MS in Biology. His experience ranges from implementation of restoration projects, large landscape conservation, and biodiversity protection and research.

CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER

The club is also having an added program presented by Ava Beckley. Ava Beckley joined Cub Scouts at age 9 and Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) at age 11. Now 17, she has only her Eagle Scout project left to complete before becoming one of the first girls to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, and the first girl from Troop 110 in Anchorage.

For this important project, Ava chose to help local birds by building a Chimney Swift Tower along the Anchorage Trail. She obtained the necessary approvals and a contract from Evergreen Real Estate Company, which owns and operates the trail. The installation day was August 17.



In her presentation, Ava will discuss her motivations for choosing this project, the process she and her family went through to build it, and the valuable lessons she learned along the way.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, November 12 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2024 BIRDATHON DONATIONS



A BIG THANK YOU to our BBC members and friends for donating to this year’s Birdathon. The money requested (\$44,579) by the fifteen organizations this year far exceeded the amount donated (\$22,830.76). The BBC board donated money(\$3,347.24) from the club’s general fund and gave each group a percentage of what the organization requested

for a total of \$26,178. The following chart shows what each group received. More information about the recipients can be found at beckhambirdclub.org – click on activities. Again thank you for your generosity.

Organizations	Amount Rewarded
Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest	\$2,750
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve	\$1,805
Floracliff Nature Sanctuary	\$1,361
Jefferson Memorial Forest	\$880
Josephine Sculpture Park	\$2,000
KY Conservation Committee	\$1,375
KY Natural Lands Trust	\$1,375
KY Resources Council	\$1,650
Louisville Nature Center	\$1,733
Office of KY Nature Preserves	\$2,750
Raptor Rehab	\$2,000
Sunnyside Master Gardeners Blue Bird Team	\$550
The Nature Conservancy in KY	\$2,750
Parklands of Floyds Fork	\$1,550
Woods and Waters Land Trust	\$1,650
Totals	\$26,178

Birdathon 2025 AND NOTECARDS

So what do Birdathon 2025 and notecards have in common. Stephen Sebree, a Kentucky print maker, is selling these beautiful cards of Kentucky birds for \$15 per box and \$7.50 of the price will be donated to the 2025 Birdathon. They were available at the October meeting and they were selling like hotcakes so if you want some cards for yourself or as gifts or stocking stuffers come to the November meeting. These cards are only on sale at the meetings. If you pay by **check** please make out the check to **Beckham Bird Club**. If paying by **cash** please have the **correct amount**.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Reminder to check every field trip to see if there is a cancellation on the BBC website or birdKY. Also please read the field trip guidelines.

Sunday, November 3 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	HARRODS CREEK PARK – For late migrants, residents, winter birds. 6530 Montero Dr., Prospect. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. GPS: 38.340941, -85.600052 https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1540198	Win Ahrens 502-500-1175
Thursday, November 7 8:30 a.m. – noon moderate	MILES LAKES SECTION – BECKLEY CREEK PARK – Residents, winter visitors, maybe waterfowl. Meet at the paddling put-in parking lot about a half mile from the park entrance on Shelbyville Road. We will walk up the hill and loop back down via the fishing lakes trail. GPS: 38.230555, -85.467853 https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1462737	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

Sunday, November 10 8:30am- noon easy	JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – For residents, winter birds. Meet at visitor center near Tom Wallace Lake. From Gene Snyder Freeway, take New Cut Road exit south to Mitchell Hill Road. GPS: 38.08524, -85.76749 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L662168)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Saturday, November 16 8 a.m. – ?? easy	OHIO RIVER - INDIANA SIDE – Waterfowl and others. Meet at the Falls of the Ohio SP, from which we will move to other spots along the river. Bring a scope if you have one, but there will be scopes to share if you don't. GPS: 38.277145, -85.763528 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L271501)	David Bailey 720-648-1493
Sunday, November 24 8:30 am – ??? p.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 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1307600) (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2034604) (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L768475)	Pat Bell 502-419-5262
Saturday, November 30 8:30 a.m. – noon. easy	LONG RUN PARK – For residents and waterfowl. From intersection of Shelbyville Road and Flat Rock Road, about 2 miles north on Flat Rock Road to park entrance, then ¼ mile to first fork and left at fork and then first right to boat launch ramp parking area. GPS: 38.266796, -85.419667 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091)	Christine Hayden 502-640-3445
Saturday, December 7 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	LAKE SHELBY – For residents, winter birds, waterfowl. Meet at parking lot at back part of lake. Time permitting, may bird along Greenway Trail. GPS: 38.234242, -85.216331 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L13518697)	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826



PAST FIELD TRIPS



Turkey Run Park- September 29 Ten members met on a cloudy morning after two days of rain and wind from the remnants of Hurricane Helene. The birds were slow to become active, but we still had some good looks at Swainson's Thrush and a Brown Thrasher. A flock of Cedar Waxwings in some bare branches was a nice addition to our walk. A highlight at the beginning of our walk was a large mixed flock of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds moving through the trees near us. We estimated 500 of each, but

an exact count was not possible.

We stopped our birding here and moved on to the Entrance Area of Turkey Run Park.

After birding at the Silo Center on the hilltop, we decided to move to the valley area near the creek. We were rewarded with seven warblers, a Philadelphia Vireo, a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager, and a group of at least seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks foraging in the trees around us. The birds seemed as happy as we were to see an end to the rain and wind.

Pope Lick Park – October 13 Six BBC members met at Pope Lick Park on a warm and breezy October morning. The birds were active early on with large mixed flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles flying over us on their way south. Other highlights included a Hermit Thrush, a group of foraging Cedar Waxwings and three warbler species (always fun to see!). As the wind picked up while we walked, the birds went down out of the gusts. It was still a beautiful day to be out.

Beckley Park- Grand Allee – October 20 Beckham Bird Club outing starting at a chilly 38 degrees with 8 hardy birders. Much activity from the start on the sunlit tree canopy and fields, with many sparrows, woodpeckers and RWBBs. Highlights included a female pileated flying over the group and landing in a tree directly in front of us, a Red-shouldered Hawk also giving the group a very close flyover, and a beautiful siting of a lingering White-eyed Vireo. So nice to have the voices of the white-throated sparrows in the meadows again! We came up with 6 woodpecker species, but never could find a Redhead to complete the Kentucky jackpot. We sure tried!

Sloughs, WMA, Henderson – October 26 Six folks gathered for the annual fall trip to the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA in Henderson County on Saturday. The day was bright and sunny, but a relatively stiff north wind made birding for marsh sparrows pretty rough. Like elsewhere, there has been no rain in the area since the remnants of Hurricane Helene came through last month. Pumping and flooding of various management units had just been started a week or so ago, so there wasn't much water around either. Between the wind and lack of water, we got skunked on every last marsh bird species we were after; this included NO Sedge/Marsh wrens, NO rails, NO marsh sparrows, and NO bitterns . . . :-)

We kept at it, though, and ended the day with a list of 52 species. Not really any highlights, although a pair of adult Bald Eagles in a spectacular chase in the late afternoon blue sky was really neat. Also a few butterflies of interest including a couple of Dainty sulphurs.

I scheduled this trip later than normal to try to avoid any conflicts with hunting seasons, but we might try to squeeze in a trip earlier in October next year.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5



BBC Conservation Report Websites October 2024

[Rare Triller Re-discovered in Bismarcks | Birding Wire](#)

[Committee weighs sandhill crane hunt, other solutions to prevent crop damage \(tmj4.com\)](#)

[Local Advocates Rally to Bring Back Declining Tree Canopy in North Carolina | Audubon](#)

[New Study Confirms Building Collisions Kill Over One Billion Birds Annually in U.S. - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Limpkins Are Everywhere All of the Sudden. What Is Going On? | Audubon](#)

[The Push to Save Horseshoe Crabs Is Gaining Momentum | Audubon](#)

[Flocks of Flamingos Returned to a Rejuvenated Everglades. Are They Back for Good? | Audubon](#)

[Where Have All the Common Grackles Gone? | Audubon](#)

Happy
THANKSGIVING
Day

