



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

OCTOBER 2021

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

## Snatchers, Jabbers, Divers, Plungers, and Thieves

The open ocean is arguably the harshest environment on Earth. No fresh water. Blistering sun. Frigid cold. Hurricane winds. Dead calm air. Torrential rain. Nowhere safe from predators. Land rarely in sight. Food scarce and constantly on the move. Yet birds have evolved and managed to survive and thrive there.

Who are the pelagic birds? Although we commonly call gulls, seagulls, only two and their two kittiwake cousins are considered pelagic. Likewise, only three of all the terns are pelagic and the Arctic tern is not one of them. Two of the three phalaropes are pelagic! Sea ducks? Penguins? Seabird or seaside bird?



Thirty miles off the Hatteras barrier islands of North Carolina, the warm Gulf Stream and the cold, southerly flowing Labrador Current collide. Deflecting off the continental shelf, the upwelling of nutrient rich waters creates a feeding highway for migrating seabirds and a 'food island' in a desolate ocean during non-breeding season.

Rarely pelagic birds come to visit our neighborhoods—Jaegers and Shearwaters at Land-between-the-Lakes; a Long-billed murrelet, a Black-legged kittiwake, a Band-rumped storm-petrel, and a Sabine's gull at the Falls of the Ohio; a Petrel on the

Ohio River near Cincinnati, and a Magnificent Frigatebird on Taylorsville Lake are a few of the sightings reported in eBird.

Thom Barnell, at our October meeting, will share some highlights and learnings from his trip off Cape Hatteras this past May. Then maybe, board a boat and head out to sea, beyond the horizon, to discover and marvel at a few of the pelagics in their neighborhood.

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, October 12 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.**

Thanks to all the members (including several new ones!!) who came to the September meeting. It was good to see so many of you after such a long interruption in our regular activities. Those in attendance stayed safe - masked and socially distanced - which should help everyone's comfort level when it comes to attending future meetings.

We hope to see an even better turnout for our October meeting.

Good birding!

THE BBC BOARD

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Just a reminder always check birdKy before going on a field trip for any changes even on a nice day.

Saturday, Oct. 9 8 am – 11 am easy	<b>EARTH AND SPIRIT CENTER</b> – For residents and fall migrants. 1924 Newburg Road. <b>GPS: 38.220520, -85.710275</b>	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Saturday, Oct. 16 8:30 am – noon easy-moderate	<b>TURKEY RUN PARK</b> – Brown-Forman Silo area. Residents and early 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>	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Saturday, Oct. 23 8 a.m. CDT - ?? moderate/strenuous	<b>SLOUGHS WMA, HENDERSON CO. KY</b> — Meet at the observation platform on Highway 268. For directions check DeLorme Atlas page 44 quadrant A 2&3. Bring lunch, shoes for wading, & extra clothes. <b>GPS: 37.850231, -87.742674</b>	Brainard Palmer-Ball 502-330-3998
Saturday, Oct. 30 8:30 am – noon easy	<b>POPE LICK PARK</b> – For residents and 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. (Formerly called Floyds Fork Park) <b>GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095</b>	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**Sunday, September 5 – Anchorage Trail** – Canceled due to rain and more rain.

**Saturday, September 11 – Beckley Creek Park** - BBC field trip. Ten members turned out on a pleasantly cool day that ranged from sunny to overcast to sunny again. Half a dozen warbler species seen, as well as a good selection of other species, including the mimid trifecta and all the resident woodpeckers. Highlights were a Golden-winged Warbler and an Osprey.

**Sunday, September 12 – Mammoth Cave NP** - Driving through the woods at Mammoth Cave National Park is a treat in itself. But add to that 64 species of birds that we found throughout the park and you have the making of a spectacular day. The weather couldn't have been better. The 11 observers ( 6 members and 3 guests) were a fun group and made for an even more enjoyable day. Would you believe that we had 19 species of warblers including a beautiful male **Golden-winged**, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Hooded,



Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Pine, and Yellow-throated? We were alerted by the call of the Red-breasted Nuthatch and sure enough 3 birds were seen. Tanagers, Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and numerous thrushes eating on the red berries in the park were all highlights of the trip. As we left the park, we looked up on the utility wires and there were two Eurasian Collared Doves. A nice end to our trip.

**Sunday, September 19 – Hays Kennedy and Garvin Brown** - A group of seven birders and

one guest birded Hays Kennedy and Garvin Brown Preserve on September 19. We had a total of 38 species at the two parks; there were a few Great Egrets and Great Blues at Hays Kennedy, and dozens of flyover Double-Crested Cormorants and Canada Geese at Garvin Brown. There were four warbler species with the highlights being a pair of Black-and-White Warblers. Other highlights were a pair of American Kestrels and 11 bluebirds; the group was in agreement that this was the most bluebirds any of us had seen since that late hard frost in March.

## SEPTEMBER BIRDS

Migration really begins with the first days of September. More and more birds were flying in from the north – warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, shorebirds, etc. Depending on the north winds migration on a particular day could be slow or have many birds as shown in the field trip reports. Hope you joined in on one of the BBC field trips or went out birding on your own to experience fall migration. Several rarities have shown up around the state – Sabine Gulls, Clay-colored Sparrow - and many birders ventured over to Indiana to see the Vermillion Flycatcher. In October birds will continue to migrate into our area but instead of neotropical birds they will be our winter residents - sparrows, ducks, Winter Wren, and Juncos. At the end of the month Sandhill Cranes could begin to migrate south. Anytime of the year is good for birding so join one of our field trips or bird on your own. Birding is too much fun to miss by not getting out. See you on the birding trail!



Mark your calendars for [October Big Day](#)—**9 October 2021!** Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far.

Wherever you are on 9 October, take a few minutes to join the world of birding on October Big Day. By taking part in October Big Day you're also joining the second-ever [Global Bird Weekend](#) and celebrating [World Migratory Bird Day](#). Be a part of the global team, and help set a new record for birding.

### **How to participate**

- **Get an eBird account**
- **Watch birds on 9 October.**
- **Enter what you see and hear on eBird:**

### **BBC Conservation Report Websites September 2021**

[Re-discovered Flycatcher! | Birding Wire](#)

[Vanishing: Song for the Bobolink • The Revelator](#)

[Birdwatching Tips: It's Summer... Where Did the Birds Go? | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[What Is a Songbird, Exactly? | Audubon](#)

[Why Heat Waves Amplified by Climate Change Are a Big Problem for Baby Birds | Audubon](#)

[16 Tips to Enhance Hummingbird Migration | Birding Wire](#)

[Whooping Cranes Tiki and Torch Proud Foster Parents at the Milwaukee County Zoo - International Crane Foundation \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

[10 Fun Facts About the Northern Mockingbird | Audubon](#)

[French Corporation Destroying Habitat of Endangered Brazilian Parrot | American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Why Are Owl Legs So Long? The Science Behind Those Lengthy Limbs \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Piping Plover chick successfully treated for life-threatening injury at Toledo Zoo \(13abc.com\)](#)

### **FEEDING BIRDS IS GOING TO GET A LOT MORE EXPENSIVE**



Audubon is reporting that this year feeding birds is going to be especially expensive. Much of the food crop for birds is grown in the west where there has been a significant drought. With the drought, high shipping cost and rising demand the prices are rising. Many farmers planted less sunflowers and instead are growing soybeans that have higher prices so there will be fewer sunflower seeds. Other feeds such as white millet are also costing much much more. As an example, last winter, the price of millet in Louisville for 50 pounds was about \$17 today it is \$48. There is also a surge in demand for bird seed brought on by the pandemic of Covid. Many people have turned to feeding birds as a source of entertainment.

Audubon suggests grow bird friendly native plants to feed our birds.

