



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

September 14 meeting program: You went birding where exactly??

According to birding guru Pete Dunne, the ideal birding location is near water, has some big trees, understory, some open areas and a nice trail or two. He doesn't mention warehouses, vast parking lots, shopping carts half-buried in the mud and other accoutrements of the sub/urban environment.

Yet some seemingly unlikely locations can yield surprisingly good birding. Our September speaker, adventurous BBC member Andrew Melnykovich, will offer a few local examples in his talk "Looking for Birds in All the Wrong Places." Please come prepared to share some of your favorite unlikely birding spots.

The meeting will begin at 7 pm, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206. (corner of Frankfort Ave. and Kennedy Ave.)



THE OBLIGATORY COVID NOTE – MASKS REQUIRED AT MEETINGS

The experts are saying that, thanks to the delta variant, we have another six to eight months or so of COVID-defined life ahead of us. Maybe by the time spring migrations begins next year, we'll be able to relax, but not just yet.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where we hold our monthly meetings, is requiring that masks be worn at all events on their property. The BBC Board is respectfully requests that all those attending our meetings wear a mask at all times, unless you are speaking.

The board further requests that those who are **NOT FULLY VACCINATED PLEASE WEAR MASKS AT ALL BBC EVENTS – BOTH INDOORS AND OUT.** We want everyone to feel safe at meetings and field trips.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please read the guidelines for field trips in last month's newsletter.

**Note changes to Mammoth Cave NP field trip.

Sunday, Sept. 5 8:00 a.m.-noon easy	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – For residents and early migrants. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, Sept. 11 8 am-noon easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For residents, early fall migrants. Meet at the "Port-a-Potty" parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, Sept. 12 8 a.m. CDT - ???? easy/moderate	MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK – For fall migrants. Meet at Little Hope Cemetery inside the park. Bring lunch. GPS: 37.154126, -86.053762 Please email leaders if you are going. patjanebell@bellsouth.net .	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Friday - Sunday Sept. 17-19	KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING – Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park	Details at birdky.org
Sunday, Sept. 19 8 a.m. – noon easy	HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – For residents, migrants, shorebirds. Meet in the east parking lot. Address: 7003 Beachland Beach Rd. Prospect, KY 40059 GPS: 38.3527, -85.6303	Maria Koukoulas 469-500-4781
Sunday, Sept. 26 8:00 am – noon easy	CAPERTON SWAMP – Residents and migrants. Meet at parking lot on River Road just east of Indian Hills Trail. GPS: 38.290273, -85.681180	Michael Callan 502-592-7008

<p>Sunday, Oct. 3 8:00 am - noon easy</p>	<p>HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – For residents, migrants, shorebirds. Meet in the east parking lot. Address: 7003 Beachland Beach Rd. Prospect, KY 40059 GPS: 38.3527, -85.6303</p>	<p>Michael Callan 502-592-7008</p>
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BLUEBIRD BOXES DONATED FOR PROSPECT PARKS



Thanks to contributions from Beckham Bird Club members, City of Prospect public parks are more bird friendly than ever with 8 beautiful new bluebird boxes erected along the Orange Trail in Harrods Creek Park and another one soon to be added to Putney Pond Park.

The impetus for the addition of these boxes was a generous donation from Win Ahrens, a Prospect resident, avid birder and member of the bird club. Although no strings were attached to the donation, the city’s Parks and Recreation Committee, chaired by Linda Wardell, wanted to honor Win’s wishes for

the donation to be used for the betterment of the parks, and knowing Win’s love of birds, the idea of placing bluebird boxes along one or more of the trails quickly won approval from the committee.

But where to get them and how best to locate them became the next question. Committee member, Carolyn Embry, knew just the person to consult – friend and Beckham member, Judith McCandless, and Judith knew just the person to advise the committee – Beckham member, Phil Tamplin, a bluebird enthusiast who was known for constructing numerous bluebird boxes. So, earlier this summer, Phil, along with several committee members and Prospect Director of Public Works, Ron Cundiff, walked the Orange Trail and with Phil’s advice, chose appropriate locations for the boxes. The next surprise came when Phil not only offered to make the boxes but also to donate them! Using a portion of Win’s donation, Ron purchased the poles and hardware for the boxes and they have now been installed in various spots along the Orange Trail. Win also helped to revise information for a “Birds of Prospect Parks” brochure for the park kiosks.



The City of Prospect Parks and Recreation Committee is most grateful to members of the Beckham Bird Club for their generous contributions used to encourage nesting in our parks and increase park users’ interest in birding.

- Carolyn Embry and Phil Tamplin are pictured with a new Bluebird box.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

MELCO – AUGUST 22 -Four members and a guest made their way to the shade less Melco retention basin on an extra hot and sticky morning, which has been a hallmark of climate change in the Ohio valley this summer. Grass had taken root in much of the basin but a few sizable shallow pools were still present in towards the center. Our intrepid group of birders started out using high-powered scopes to get some decent views of many of the shorebirds, but grew restless and wanted more satisfying looks and so hiked to the middle of the south side. Our efforts were rewarded with great looks at waders and shorebirds gathered around the pools. Highlights were a trio of less common but very accommodating species: Wilson's Phalarope, a Short-Billed Dowitcher, and a Stilt Sandpiper to go along with 5 other sandpiper species. We were also graced with the presence of a couple of adorable Semipalmated Plovers and got very nice looks at belted kingfisher and a family of 4 Blue Grosbeaks. The number of killdeer present approached 100 and was exceeded only by - you guessed it - a flock of Starling. We had 4 species of Egret/Heron and 3 species of duck. Most of the males in the 3 species of duck observed were in eclipse plumage, but we managed to discern a pair of Green Winged Teal in the very back pool. We observed a total of 30 species including 11 species of shorebirds. As the morning wore on the searing heat and humidity took a toll on the group and the songbirds, who fell quiet by 11am as the temperature climbed toward 90°F and so we decided to end early to cool off and rehydrate. Despite the weather the first post-pandemic field trip was a great success.

CHEROKEE PARK – AUGUST 29 -Five members and one guest birded Cherokee Park on August 29. The day was hot and humid, starting out cloudy and clearing to blue skies by 10. The group found 29 species, including six species of warblers. Everyone had good looks at Canada, Parula, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted warblers and fleeting looks at a Magnolia. Nine hummingbirds and a Summer Tanager were other highlights. Birds quieted considerably by 10:30 so the group called it a day. Everyone was invited to visit Melco after the trip to try to see the Buff-breasted Sandpipers being reported at that restricted access hotspot.

2021 BBC BIRDATHON

Many thanks to all the generous supporters of the 2021 BBC Birdathon who helped us reach our goal of \$20000 and more. Even though we have reached our goal we still need more donations to cover what our grant recipients need. We cover only a portion of what they requested. If you have not given to the Birdathon you can still make a donation to the 2021 BBC Birdathon. Send a check to the BBC address and mark 2021 Birdathon on your check.

Please see below how your donations is helping one recipient.

BIRDATHON DOLLARS AT WORK

Below is a letter received from the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust for the donation KNLT received from our annual Birdathon.

Subject: KNLT News: Warbler Ridge Preserve Expands

Dear Beckham Bird Club,

We have some great news that I wanted to send along to you and please share the email below with the members of the Beckham Bird Club. Thanks for your continued support to make these important acquisitions possible!

We rolling out news today about our latest Pine Mountain-land acquisition, a 139-acre tract in Harlan County near Cumberland, KY. This tract combines with land protected by KNLT in 2017 and 2020 bringing Warbler Ridge Preserve to 2,595 acres. The expansion was made possible by landowners who believe in KNLT's mission to protect wildlands and who wished to see their family legacy preserved.

The Henry and Delia Blanton Creech Addition is located on the north face of Pine Mountain adjacent to the Pine Mountain Settlement School (PMSS), a longtime KNLT partner and flagship of environmental education. It protects vital habitat for endangered Indiana and northern long-eared bats and many other species. Protecting this tract will also enable expansion of PMSS activities and safeguard the forests surrounding the campus.

Read the full press release for more details: knlt.org/warbler-ridge-expands2021/

This conservation success is made possible by the power of partnership. We are grateful for support from individual donors, foundations, partners and the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky Field Office). Together we are making Kentucky a wonderful and wild commonwealth!

In the coming months, KNLT hopes to protect and connect additional tracts nearby to continue to grow the Warbler Ridge Preserve. Look for information about how you can support the Warbler Ridge Preserve Expansion Project in emails and on our social media in September.

Angie Allman, Development Coordinator
Kentucky Natural Lands Trust





Fulvous Whistling-Duck

BIRDS OF AUGUST

August started off with a bang! Jefferson County's first record (Kentucky's fourth) of a Fulvous Whistling-Duck at the Falls of the Ohio had everyone scrambling to get to the Falls. But we were in luck as the duck stayed around for twelve days hanging out with the Mallards. Thanks to David Bailey for a great find.

As the days of August moved to the middle of the month migration started picking up with shorebirds, warblers and many other species making their way south. Already over 20 species of warblers have been seen this month – Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Magnolia, Canada, Mourning, Redstart, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Ovenbird – just to name a few. More species will be on eBird. Olive-sided, Least and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have been reported. Shorebirds have been arriving especially at Melco, Falls of the Ohio and Hays Kennedy Park. Least, Semipalmated, Stilt, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, both Yellow-legs, Wilson's Phalarope, Ruddy Turnstone and Semipalmated Plover were some of the different species observed this month. Many Nighthawks can be seen flying through the night sky heading south.

Don't let migration pass you by. Join one of the field trips or go to the many parks to look for our neotropical migrants as they head south to their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

Thanks to Rev. Lee Payne for his photos of the Fulvous Whistling-Duck.