



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2020

JANUARY MEETING



Bernheim has a 90-year history of bird conservation including educational hikes and programs, bird surveys and counts documenting 229 species, golden eagle research and tracking, bird reintroductions for turkey and quail, and most recently songbird tracking with Lifetags in collaboration with MOTUS. Director of Conservation Andrew Berry will discuss our first year of the MOTUS bird tracking partnership, the future of the project, and discuss the potential this research has for

understanding migrations and movements. We will discuss dates of departure for our tracked birds and plans for 2020 and beyond. The Beckham Bird Club sponsored project for golden eagle tracking will be covered and new information about the pair at Bernheim will be presented. We hope to see you all there!

The Beckham Bird Club meeting is on Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, 38.254256, -85.689458. Bring a young birder!





*HAPPY 85th ANNIVERSARY
BECKHAM BIRD CLUB
JANUARY 11, 1935*

IT IS PAST TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP.

Go to the Beckham Bird Club website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. For more information go to the November newsletter to get all the details for renewing your membership. If you receive your newsletter by mail, your renewal form was in your November newsletter.

If you used Pay Pal don't forget to send an email to the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list. All life members should do the same.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The field trip schedule for January, February and March is included in this newsletter for those receiving it by mail. For those receiving by email there will be a link and it is also available on the BBC web site.

LOUISVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Louisville KY CBC was held Sunday, December 15. It was mild but afternoon overcast made it feel much colder than the number on our weather apps. We have a preliminary total of 98 species! We had several remarkable birds, all noted in eBird and some on birdKy posts including an Orchard Oriole, the continuing Western Tanager and a Prairie Falcon found at the Louisville Water Tower. Both tanager and falcon are first records for Jefferson County. Thanks to all the awesome section leaders and their participants for a full day of birding! As always, thanks to the gracious hospitality of Win Ahrens and Debbie Hamilton for the compilation dinner!

PAST FIELD TRIPS

November 24 – Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake - The trip to Muscatatuck NWR and Hardy Lake started with a short walk with many species of sparrows abundant along the way including Tree, White-crowned, White-throated, Song, Fox, and Swamp Sparrows. Ducks were somewhat scarce on the refuge. The call of Sandhill Cranes could be heard as we traveled along the roads of the refuge. Approximately 500 Cranes were seen. Arriving at Stanfield Lake the observers witnessed a Peregrine Falcon's attempt to capture a Gadwall Duck. No luck! Then what should appear but 3 Bald Eagles soaring with the falcon.

After eating lunch and watching the birds at the bird feeders at the Center we left the refuge having seen a total of 52 species. Hardy Lake produced Loons, Horned Grebes, and five species of ducks including Redheads, Gadwalls, Bufflehead, Ruddy Ducks and Ringed-necks. There we would also find many species of land birds. The observers recorded 27 species at the lake. It was a great day to be outdoors enjoying all of nature. Total number of birds seen including two recorded as we drove to Hardy Lake - 64 species.

December 1 – Bernheim Forest - Eleven birders started out on a cool sunny Sunday morning. Three inches of rain had fallen in the 24 hours prior to the trip and so we were informed that the Golden Eagle hotspot would be inaccessible. Instead we covered around 5.5 miles on foot and tallied a modest 41 species. Highlights included flyovers of a Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a Northern Harrier. We also got good looks at a Winter Wren, Hooded Mergansers, all 6 woodpecker sp., many Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers, and a Hermit Thrush. Surprisingly, we didn't see a single warbler and unsurprisingly many conifer dependent migrants were absent due to the good food crop up north. Perhaps the best highlight of all was observing a Carolina Wren making itself at home in the nose of one of the forest giant sculptures. Thanks to all who came and made for a very enjoyable day!

December 7 – Pope Lick Park - Seven members and one guest came out on a chilly but sunny morning. Birding was generally slow, although we finished with a flurry of winter visitors, including Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Dark-eyed Junco in the last 30 minutes. Other winter birds included Swamp Sparrow and American Tree Sparrow. Nothing out of the ordinary, but a nice morning to be out.

December 8 – Long Run Park - Eight BBC members met on a cool late fall morning at Long Run Park. We could only find Mallards, Canada Geese and 2 Pied-billed Grebes on the lake. Walks around a couple of meadows and woods edges proved more fruitful with six species of sparrows, a calling, wheeling flight of Sandhill Cranes overhead and a female Kestrel hunting over a field.

The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 14-17, 2020

BirdCount.org

BBC Conservation Report Websites December 2019

Winter bird irruptions - <https://www.birdguides.com/articles/do-birds-pay-a-price-for-winter-wandering/#>

CBC in Texas - <https://www.audubon.org/news/impending-wall-construction-looms-over-bird-count-us-mexico-border>

Crane news - <https://www.savingcranes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Bugle-November-2019.pdf?bblinkid=190253954&bbemailid=17368191&bbejrid=1254024584>

Eco-friendly Christmas trees - https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/ask-ms-green/whats-most-sustainable-way-have-christmas-tree?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter