



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JUNE 2017

The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be at CREASEY-MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE on Sunday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m.



Join us for a fun afternoon of food, birding and friend ship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent, a chair and, of course, your binoculars. Cost is \$3.00 per person (includes chicken, drinks, etc.) or \$1.00 (no chicken, but covers cost of drinks, etc.)

Creasy Mahan Visitor Center, take highway 42 east and left at route 1793, drive about a 1/2 mile to sign on the right. GPS: 38.400384, -85.590180

BBC is going green so we are asking you to bring your own cloth napkin. If you like you may also bring your own utensils.

PICNIC RESERVATIONS – DEADLINE June 2

NAME _____ PHONE _____

I will bring ___salad/vegetable ___desert ___other(_____)

Number attending at \$3.00 ____

Number attending at \$1.00 ____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492 or bring to the May meeting.

THERE IS NO MEETING THIS MONTH. SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

<p>Sunday, June 11 8:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Easy</p>	<p>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For summer residents. 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. Bring lunch if you would like to picnic after the walk. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</p>	<p>Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610</p>
<p>Saturday, June 17 8:00 a.m. – noon Easy</p>	<p>BERNHEIM FOREST – For summer birds. Meet at the Bernheim Forest Arboretum Way parking lot, next to Lake Nevin and the old education center rotunda. Directions: I-65 south from Louisville to exit 112. Bernheim entrance is about one mile east on KY 245. About 30 minutes from Louisville. GPS: 37.918889, -85.669087</p>	<p>Mike Callan 502-592-7008</p>



Thank you goes to Carol Besse, Rob Lane and Jane Bell outgoing officers of the club for their service to Beckham Bird Club the past year. Carol will remain on the board as past president. We also want to thank all the committee chairs and field trip leaders who make our club what it is. Thanks to all for volunteering your time and talent to BBC.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Beckham Bird Club wishes to extend its sympathy to Joe Chiles on the death of his wife, Louise. Louise was very helpful to the club as she sponsored BBC at the University Club for many years for our March dinner meeting.



TREES AT CREASEY MAHAN

As many of you know Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve was hit by an f-1 tornado that did severe damage to many trees on the property. Beckham Bird Club Board voted to donate money to help replace those trees. If you would like to help contact Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve. The picture was taken at the preserve.

GLOBAL BIG DAY IS BEHIND US AND THE NUMBERS ARE IN

Officially, as recorded in eBird, 20 observers submitted about 60 checklists (83 if you count duplicates) and recorded 137 species. Unofficially, there were one or two additional species seen, but not yet reported to eBird. By either measure, the Beckham Bird Club easily topped the original target of 125 species, and came tantalizingly close to the pie-in-the-sky goal of 150 species, which could well have been a single-day record for the county (records are a bit murky on this point). The total was achieved despite some notable misses, partly as a result of inadequate attention to the Ohio River. No Double-crested Cormorants or Ring-billed Gulls were recorded. Nor were there any reports of Northern Bobwhite, Henslow's Sparrow or Dickcissel – all species recorded in mid-May in recent years.

On the other hand, there were several unexpected sightings, notably Mike Callan's late Red-breasted Nuthatch at Iroquois Park and Jamie Baker's flock of 70 (!) Short-billed Dowitchers at Melco.

A detailed breakdown will come later, but here are some notable preliminary numbers:

Most species tallied by one observer – 90 - Michael Callan and James Wheat; 88- Barbara Woerner

Most checklists submitted – 11- Andrew Melnykovich

Highest count of any species in one location – 70- Jamie Baker, Short-billed Dowitcher, Melco

Most species of shorebirds seen – 10- Jamie Baker

Most species of thrush seen – 6- Barbara Woerner

Most species of warbler seen – 18- Barbara Woerner

Based on this year's results, it certainly seems possible – given favorable conditions for both birders and migrants – that a somewhat more comprehensive effort could net 150 species. If that's not enough of a challenge to get you thinking ahead, there is this: some of our birder colleagues in Lexington have hinted at a friendly competition for next year's Global Big Day. The Beckham Bird Club might just have to accept that challenge.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Anchorage Trail, March 19

Six observers braved a cold morning and found 40 species. Highlights were two harbingers of spring: singing Red-Winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows flying over the lake. A nice variety of ducks and a very cooperative Red-Shouldered Hawk, along with 4 Eastern Phoebes were seen. Sparrows were few and far between but we did manage 5 species including one Fox Sparrow.

Beckley Creek Grand Allee, April 29

Ten members and one guest braved the wet weather to tally an impressive 75 species. That was without access to the trails along the creek which were closed due to flooding. Floyds Fork rose at the least 3 feet during the morning. A brief but heavy shower forced the group to take shelter for about 20 minutes, but it got very birdy afterwards. Highlights were a low-level flyby by an adult Bald Eagle, which activated the alarm calls in a pair of Sora, one of which made an appearance; two Northern Waterthrush in a flooded area; four species of shorebirds and vireos; and a dozen species of warblers, including a Yellow-breasted Chat putting on a flight display. Several in the group got good looks at a pair of Bobolinks in flight. Notable misses included Downy Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrow.

Turkey Run, April 30

Seven members came out on a cloudy and windy morning. The silo parking lot was its usual productive self, yielding 15 species before the group set out. Best birds of the day were several Kentucky Warblers singing, one of which perched cooperatively in the open; a number of Louisiana Waterthrushes, also cooperative; many singing Prairie Warblers; numerous Yellow-breasted Chats singing in plain sight, and good looks at, among other spring arrivals, Wood Thrush, both Orioles, Summer Tanagers and Indigo Buntings. The only migrant warbler found was a Magnolia. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and White-eyed Vireos were everywhere.

Anchorage Trail, May 3

On this beautiful spring day nine members met to walk the trail. Working diligently the group located 61 species. Warblers were rather scarce, but ten different species were found including male Redstarts, Yellows and a male Cape May. Baltimore Orioles were flying all over the trail. Warbling Vireos sang to the group as we passed by their nesting sites. Down at the lake a Great Egret, baby goslings, and many other species waited to be counted. It was a fun day for all.



Beckley Creek Park, May 6

Four intrepid birders turned out at Beckley Creek on a soggy and chilly morning. Twenty-one species were seen in the 45 minutes before the rain became too heavy to continue. The highlights, such as they were, were good looks at both orioles.

Pope Lick Park, May 7

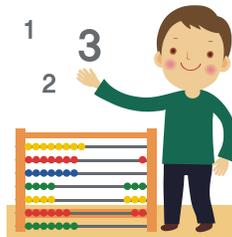
A sunny, though unseasonably cool, day drew a dozen birders to Pope Lick Park. A total of 63 species were seen or heard, though not all by all participants. Highlights were a Broad-winged Hawk directly overhead, good looks at both tanagers, a Barred Owl at eye level, and a number of warblers. A Cerulean Warbler frustrated the group by singing loudly at the far side of the creek but resisting all entreaties to show itself. Even more frustrating was a Black-throated Blue Warbler seen by one participant and searched for with no results by the others. Several singing Yellow-breasted Chats were much more cooperative.

Hayswood Nature Preserve, May 11

Ten birders enjoyed birding at Hayswood Nature Reserve in Corydon IN, walking a two-mile trail along Indian Creek. Habitats include open fields, river riparian and forests. Numerous Tree Swallows were nesting in bluebird boxes along the creek. Purple Martins were actively building nests in martin boxes near a lake on the property. Lots of Baltimore Orioles were singing, one of the residents Bald Eagles was observed. Highlights were both Louisiana Waterthrush and Northern Waterthrush, a single Black-billed Cuckoo. Eighteen species of warblers observed and/or heard. Total bird count was 76 species for the morning hike.



2017 BBC BIRDATHON



The birds have been counted so check your email or US mail to get an account from the person(s) you sponsored. Your donations are very important to the different groups BBC have accepted as recipients of our birdathon money. Please consider giving a donation – **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL**. Make your check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. If you have not been contacted send your contribution to the post office box address: Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Otherwise send it to the person you sponsored. Thanks so much!!!