



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2019



MARCH DINNER MEETING

A Journey into a Career of Bird and Wildlife Photography

By Melissa Groo



Melissa Groo is a wildlife photographer, writer, and speaker. She writes a regular column on wildlife photography for *Outdoor Photographer* magazine, and is a contributing editor to *Audubon* magazine. Her photographs have been published in numerous books and magazines, including *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, *Birdwatching*, and *National Wildlife*. She speaks and writes frequently on issues of ethics and conservation in wildlife photography. Melissa is a Fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers and is represented by Nat Geo Creative. She shows regularly and her prints are in personal and corporate collections all over the world. She lives in upstate New York with her husband Matt and 13-year-old daughter Ruby.

Melissa will tell the story of her journey into the career of bird and wildlife photography, sharing some of her favorite stories and photos along the way.

The club wishes to recognize and thank the Louisville Audubon Society for its generous support of the dinner meeting.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar (no credit cards) will be available from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. when dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate them on the reservation form.

The price for the dinner has increased this year to \$40 due to raise in the price of the dinner that Big Spring is charging and sales tax that we have not paid in the past as a non-profit club. The Kentucky legislature changed the law concerning non-profit organizations.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 13 at 9:00 a.m. at the Anchorage Trail for BBC members. **Reservations are required.** See the reservation form.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEAD LINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS. ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.

DINNER MEETING - Tuesday March 12

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$40.00 ea. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club.

Please list any special dietary needs. _____

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

Reservation for field trip. Name(s) _____

Mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

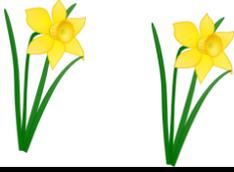
DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

UPCOMING APRIL MEETING

Our program in April is going to be a workshop on how to use eBird on your smart phone. James Wheat, our presenter, wants to know if you have any questions about eBird that you'd like answered in this presentation. If so, send an email to James Wheat at james.a.wheat@gmail.com and include "eBird Presentation" in the subject. Ebird is a tool that is easy to use and hopefully birders of all levels will use to help ornithologists study birds.

BBC OFFICER NEEDED

BBC is in need of a candidate for president. The election is in May and if you are interested in this great job or would like more info about the duties of president please let the BBC board know by sending an email to the beckhambirdclub@gmail.com.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS



<p>Sunday, February 24 9 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>OHIO RIVER – KENTUCKY SIDE – Waterfowl, gulls, etc. Meet at Ramada Inn at Zorn Avenue and River Road. Bring your scope. GPS: 38.277081, -85.697900</p>	<p>Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526</p>
<p>Sunday, March 3 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy</p>	<p>MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE - 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. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258</p>	<p>Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610</p>
<p>Saturday, March 9 8:30a.m.-noon easy</p>	<p>POPE LICK PARK – 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) GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095</p>	<p>Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655</p>
<p>Saturday, March 16 8:30am CT - ??? strenuous</p>	<p>SLOUGHS WMA, HENDERSON – For waterfowl & migrants. Bring lunch, shoes for wading and extra clothes. Meet at the observation platform on Hwy 268. For directions, use GPS/Google or call trip leader. GPS: 37.850231, -87.742674</p>	<p>Mike Callan 502-592-7008</p>
<p>Sunday, March 24 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. easy</p>	<p>CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – Residents, winter visitors, early migrants. Meet at the foot of Maple Road at the bridge. GPS: 38.239490, -85.694147</p>	<p>Jamie Baker 502-403-9845</p>
<p>Saturday, March 30 8;30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. moderate</p>	<p>HARRISON-CRAWFORD STATE FOREST – For early warblers and other migrants. Isaacs Bottom trailhead and go along Blue River, then we will drive a short distance (1/8th of a mile) and continue with a hike up on the bluff overlooking Blue River. Directions: Head west on I-64 and get off at the Corydon exit. Make a right onto highway 135. Go through 4 stoplights, making a right at the 5th stoplight onto Indiana State Route 62. Go about 8 miles until you see the entrance sign for Harrison Crawford State Forest. Make a left over the bridge over Blue River. This is State Route 462. Go about 1/8th of a mile up the hill. Isaac's Bottom trailhead parking lot will be on your right. GPS: 38.225774, -86.249733</p>	<p>Anne Cabaniss 812-725-5690 annecabaniss@att.net</p>
<p>Sunday, March 31 9 a.m. – noon moderate</p>	<p>BERNHEIM FOREST AND ARBORETUM. Hike Rock Bridge trail for early migrants. Meet at the first parking lot on the right near Lake Nevin and the Garden Pavilion (octagonal building). Directions: About 14 miles south on I-65 from the Gene Snyder Freeway. At exit 112, take KY 245 East towards Bardstown. Bernheim main entrance is about a mile on the right. Tell gatehouse attendant you are there for BBC field trip. GPS 37.918670, -85.668740</p>	<p>Carol Besse 502-387-5971</p>

Announcing the BBC 2019 Birding Competition: It's the BBC Hour of Power!

This year's BBC birding competition is very simple: see or hear as many bird species as you can in one hour. Start a checklist. One hour later, stop the checklist. Start another one, if you wish. Repeat as many times as you like.

There are a few rules:

1. Checklists submitted for the competition must be recorded in eBird. Checklists may be travelling or stationary. For sake of accuracy, use of the mobile eBird app is encouraged, but not required.
2. There will be four seasonal competitions: Spring (March, April, May) Summer (June, July, August) Fall (September, October, November) Winter (December 2019, January 2020, February 2020), as well as an overall winner. Winners will be announced at the 2020 annual dinner.
3. Checklists from the following counties are eligible:
Kentucky: Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Bullitt
Indiana: Clark, Floyd
4. You may submit multiple checklists for an hour period. However, the ending time of the last checklist has to be no more than an hour after the start time for the first checklist. For example, you may submit two checklists that include birds seen within the same hour in both the Indiana and Kentucky portions of the Falls of the Ohio.
5. To submit a checklist for the competition, send a link to the eBird checklist to BBC Field trip Coordinator Andrew Melnykovich at estiles74@gmail.com. Please wait until each season has ended to submit your best checklist.
6. Species may be seen or heard. Only birds fully identified as to species will be counted, as per eBird species v. "other taxa" counts. (Yes, that means that silent empids will be a frustration; but silent empids are a frustration well beyond the bounds of this competition).
7. You're on the honor system.

KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of KOS will be at the John James Audubon State Park in Henderson on the weekend of April 26-28. Hope you can join us for a fun weekend of field trips and speakers. The Saturday night speaker will be Andrew Rothman, Migratory Bird Program for the American Bird Conservancy, who will speak on Conserving Birds through a Full Life-cycle Approach. Accommodations are at Comfort Inn, 2820 US-41, Henderson, KY 42420, [\(270\) 827-8191](tel:2708278191). Room rates are **\$80 per night** for a two-double bed room. Tell them you are with KOS. More info about field trips and activities can be found on the KOS web page at birdky.org.



Do you know a teenager interested in birds?

If so, please let him or her know about the Kentucky Ornithological Society's Kingsolver Scholarship to attend one of the American Birding Association's Young Birder Summer Camps. Candidates for the 2019 scholarship should be between 13 and 18 years old and reside in Kentucky.

Details and the application can be found on the KOS website [here](#).

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Turkey Run Park, January 26 - Five members turned out on a cold and overcast morning. Most noteworthy sighting was an American Kestrel in a sycamore along the creek. The group also was entertained by some inquisitive White-breasted Nuthatches and a very active pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Sixteen species were recorded. Ten species were recorded on the Skydome and Silo portion of the field trip. It was cold and not at all birdy. The highlight was a Cedar Waxwing flyover.

Reformatory Park/Wendell Moore Park, February 2 - Lingering fog did not keep 13 BBC members from finding a nice diversity of waterfowl at Reformatory Lake. Thirteen species of ducks were found including Ringed-necked, Canvasback, Redhead, and Common Goldeneye. A few Cackling Geese were observed among the hundreds of Canada Geese. Several passerines were found on the walk at Wendell Moore Park including a Fox Sparrow, a few Towhees, and several Juncos and White-throated Sparrows. A total of 44 species were found.

Jefferson Memorial Forest, February 3 - Eight birders enjoyed a Super Sunday morning of birding at Jefferson Memorial Forest. Although the species count was low (30), the group still managed to tally more than the Pats and Rams. Highlights included good looks at a Winter Wren, numerous Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Thanks to everyone for coming and to Autumn for letting us into the bird blind.

Long Run Park, February 9 - Eight members and two guests set out on a very cold morning, sixteen degrees with wind chills in the single digits. However, everyone was just happy to have a day with no rain and some sun! The group was excited to see a few interesting waterfowl on the lake. A beautiful male Pintail, a large group of Wood Ducks (13) and two American Black Ducks were observed! They also enjoyed the company of Eastern Bluebirds, White-throated, Song, American Tree (2) and Fox (1) Sparrows. Overall it was a great day, but most of the birds were smarter than the group by staying hunkered down and out of the wind!

Beckley Creek – Grand Allee Section, February 16 - Eight members came out on a chilly and windy day that seemed to have kept most small birds largely hidden someplace warm. Highlight was a display by a trio of circling Red-shouldered Hawks, joined at times by a Red-tailed Hawk and a Black Vulture. Nice to see a decent number of Eastern Bluebirds as well. Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows were singing and seemingly staking out territories. Twenty-four species were tallied for the outing.

BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2019

https://www.audubon.org/news/how-do-birds-spend-cold-winter-nights?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement-20190123-wingspan-medium&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement-20190123-wingspan&utm_content=medium

<http://www.birdsleuth.org/how-do-birds-survive-winter/>

<https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Policy/Recovering-Americas-Wildlife-Act>

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Threats-to-Wildlife/Disease>

<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2019/Feb-Mar/Gardening/Keep-Bird-Feeders-Clean>

http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/Cornell_Lab_FeederWatch_Cam/