



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MAY 2019

FROM MEXICO TO MOSTAR: A YEAR OF BIRDING ON THE FLY

In 2018, BBC member Andrew Melnykovich flew more than 65,000 miles internationally – the equivalent of more than two-and-a-half times around the equator. He submitted Ebird checklists from six foreign countries on three continents – all without ever travelling with the specific purpose of birding. Join Andrew as he explains how he came to be on the fly so much and how he worked birding into his travels, and shares photos of the places he visited and the birds he saw. Our meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14 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. See you there.

VOTE ON MAY 14 FOR 2019-2020 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND A CHANGE TO THE BBC BY-LAWS



Officers and Directors

President - Andrew Melnykovich

Vice-President - Carol Besse

Secretary – Jean Jones

Treasurer – Judith McCandless

Directors – Karen Bonsell and Pam Spaulding

Jamie Baker will remain on the board as past-president. Joanne Luyster and Pat Bell have another year to serve as directors.

Dues increase to be voted on at May meeting

It's been over 20 years since we increased membership dues, and the ever-rising costs of running our club (rent, postage, printing, insurance, etc.) have finally caught up with us. To better cover expenses, we'd like to increase dues in January 2020 as shown below.

Type of membership	Current	Proposed
Regular	\$10	\$15
Family	\$15	\$20
Contributing	\$25	\$30
Student	\$8	\$10
Lifetime	\$500	No change

Because dues amounts are currently specified in the club by-laws, the board proposes the following amendment. (Current language shown struck through, proposed language in bold.)

ARTICLE IV – DUES

<u>Section A</u> – The annual dues for	regular membership shall be \$10.00
	Family membership 15.00
	Contributing membership 25.00
	Student membership 8.00
	Life membership 500.00

Section A - The annual dues for each membership category shall be established at an Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Any proposed changes to the annual dues shall be sent to every member not less than seven (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Please plan to attend the May meeting to vote on this important proposal.

THERE IS NO MEETING IN JUNE.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE BBC BIRDATHON? HELP US REACH \$20,000 THIS YEAR.



The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be at CREASEY-MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE on Sunday, June 2 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 May 31**

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.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 4	GLOBAL BIG DAY - See April newsletters for all the details.	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, May 5 7 – 10:30 a.m. easy	CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – For dawn migrant chorus. Meet at the foot of Maple Road Bridge 5. GPS: 38.239446, -85.694137	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Tuesday, May 7 9 a.m. - noon	HAYSWOOD NATURE RESERVE, CORYDON IN For spring migrants. Paved trail, easy walking, 2 miles. Take I-64W to Exit #105 Corydon, IN. Turn right take SR135 South 2.5 miles. Entrance on left, drive down to Indian Creek Trailhead. GPS: 38.205780, -86.146019	Del Striegel 502-338-5702
Thursday, May 9 9 a.m. – noon Easy	ANCHORAGE TRAIL – Residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot behind Anchorage Presbyterian Church. GPS: 38.267802, -85.542014	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610

Saturday, May 11 8:00 a.m. - noon	TURKEY RUN PARK – Brown-Forman Silo area. Residents and migrants. Directions: From I-265 exit (19) Biltown 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. GPS: 38.115846, -85.533371	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Sunday, May 12 3:30 p.m. – Dusk Moderate	MORGAN CONSERVATION PARK – LAGRANGE, OLDHAM COUNTY – For spring migrants, residents, and nightjars. Bring insect repellent, Snacks, and a Flashlight. GPS: 38.496115, -85.383058	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Saturday, May 18 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	HARRODS CREEK PARK – For late migrants, summer birds. 6530 Montero Dr., Prospect. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. GPS: 38.340941, -85.600052	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Sunday, May 19 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. easy	BERNHHEIM FOREST – For migrants and 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	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Sunday, May 26 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. easy	SHIPPINGPORT ISLAND – For residents, summer birds. Access is via North 27 th Street from Northwestern Parkway. Follow signs for McAlpine Locks. Meet at the visitor center. GPS: 38.276637, -85.792553	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
Saturday, June 1 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Easy	CAMP NELSON HERITAGE PARK / SHAKER VILLAGE – For open area birds, late migrants, and summer residents. Meet at the Camp Nelson Interpretive Center Parking Lot off Danville Rd Loop 2. Approx 1.5 hour drive from Louisville. GPS: 37.797186, -84.601298	Mike Callan 502-592-7008

BBC DONATION

The BBC Board made a donation of \$550 to Bob and Judy Peak. Bob and Judy are well known in Kentucky for the many Bluebird and Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes they have constructed and maintained over many years in western Kentucky. Their newest endeavor is called Project SOS: Save Our Salia. It will involve building, repairing, installing and monitoring nest boxes, as well as educating the public about the importance of providing habitat for cavity nesting birds.



BOOK REVIEW Submitted by Bob Brown

North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring
Bruce Beehler 2018 Smithsonian Books

This is the book for those of us who have wished to take one of the great bird trips: following migrant songbirds in the early spring from their US landfall in Texas or Louisiana, up the Mississippi Flyway, one such path, to northern US and (in some cases) into Canada in later spring and summer. The author, a Research Associate at the Smithsonian, embarks alone with a car, tent, kayak, bike and binocs. His interest is not limited to birds, but includes all types of wildlife, flora, history (including human) and culture (past and present). Interesting, well-written accounts of the birds, ecology (rural, suburban and urban) and so on are included. Human history: Trail of Tears, Mound builders; conservation failures: clear cutting most of southern Illinois and successes: re-introductions of White-tailed Deer, American Beaver, Wild Turkey are described. One can travel with

Bruce vicariously as he writes of the migration patterns of songbirds, both on their path to and then arriving on their breeding grounds. He has a “Quest” list of 37 warblers, and his 100-day search makes good reading. Beginning April 2015 on the Texas coast and ending July 5 in the Adirondacks, Bruce camps, bikes, birds and kayaks.

He has many contributors, professional and amateur birders like you. We learn through them such birdy topics as:

1. Just how does this or that bird manage to survive such a treacherous trip, of various lengths and destinations?
2. What perils do they face- weather, cats, buildings, light, so forth?
3. What happened to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker?

The author describes well his path, chosen campgrounds, approximate dates (Late April) to follow his route, at least in part, if one wishes to do so. It is likely many will want to do just that.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Bernheim Forest and Arboretum, March 31 - The Beckham Bird Club had a very nice outing to Bernheim this morning. It started out very cold and windy, but by noon the sun made it quite pleasant. It was a nice birdy day with plenty of lingering winter birds along with some welcome early migrants. Highlights were Louisiana Waterthrush, 7 Pine Warblers, many Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and 3 cooperative Hermit Thrushes.

Garvin Brown/Hayes Kennedy/Louisville Water Company, April 7 - Our target species, Rusty Blackbird, was found. A pair of Wood Ducks was seen high in a tree. Several groups of Double-crested Cormorants flew overhead. Lots of Eastern Towhees were both seen and heard. Two Bald Eagles, one immature and one adult, startled a Sharp-shinned Hawk who dropped its prey and flew off.

Sloughs WMA, Saturday, April 13 - Sixteen people participated in the BBC trip. At the Sauerheber Unit the group birded the Hardy Slough Unit, Shorebird Unit, and Anderson Pond platform, with a few side trips out along McDonald Landing Road, West Franklin Road, and out to Horseshoe Road. Marsh bird highlights were limited to lots of rails with at least 30 Soras and 5 Virginia Rails. The group also heard and got some brief looks at a Marsh Wren. No unusual sparrows. Dipped on bitterns. Other than a stunning Black-necked Stilt at the shorebird unit, only common shorebirds and waterfowl were observed. The major highlight was the TRICOLORED HERON that Mark Monroe noticed way down one of the lingering pools of water at Sand Slough. The group got much closer with a few of the participants getting some very nice photo-documentation. This is about a 16th state record but only the 3rd during spring. A Prothonotary Warbler was heard at Anderson Pond. A few Fish Crows were found out along KY 268, but the day was not too great for passerine migrants.

Mammoth Cave National Park – Monday, April 22 - Earth Day, 2019 found a group of 12 observers taking part in the spring Mammoth Cave National Park Field Trip. Traveling the roads and walking the trails we tallied 57 species. The wildflowers were an extra added bonus as they covered the forest floor. The group located and identified 17 species of warblers, three species of vireos, gorgeous Scarlet Tanagers, and a most accommodating Barred Owl. The songs of the Wood Thrush, the Kentucky, Hooded and Ovenbird filled the air. The observers had great fun trying to keep tabs on the number of Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. Come join us as we pursue the birds on a new field trip.

BBC Conservation April 2019 Report Websites

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjojeqrhp7hAhUMGt8KHUqqCi4QFjADegQIBhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.savingcranes.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2019%2F02%2F2019-FEB-ICF-Bugle.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3bpMt_cp7dIlmwQ9TZVbj7

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiOqJPThp7hAhVsUd8KHZ4TCdkQFjABegQIBBAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fissuu.com%2Fnrdc%2Fdocs%2Fnature_s_voice_spring_2019%2F1&usg=AOvVaw3ILMFeS0hNik3ZuC_tUBxa

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjK3LCdh57hAhXmQd8KHePKAB0QFjABegQIBRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sierraclub.org%2Fsierra%2F2019-2-march-april%2Feditor%2Fanimals-are-persons-too&usg=AOvVaw2eAC668utxXj0-TOIDkUhn>

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<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjUp8KDi7hAhVvUt8KHQp1AUYQFjAAeqQIARAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nwf.org%2Fen%2FMagazines%2FNational-Wildlife%2F2018%2FApril-May&usg=AOvVaw1-twVc7F4qR1Jb3vpGoZ8z>

http://riverfields.org/the-breakers-at-prospect-update/?blm_aid=43575

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/11871/the-ocean-plastic-crisis/>