



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

February 2018

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB MEETING

Beckham Bird Club will meet on Tuesday, February 13 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, -85.689458 for our monthly meeting. 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.

OSPREYS IN KENTUCKY



Our program will be given by Kate Slankard, avian biologists for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Ospreys have made quite the rebound in Kentucky, bouncing back from a nearly non-existent population (1940's- 1970's). The Osprey's ability to adapt to human altered environments gave this species an advantage during a quick recovery over the past 30 years.

Kentucky's nesting population has been monitored extensively through statewide nest surveys. Kate will talk

to us about restoration and monitoring efforts for this once rare species.

Keep reading the March Dinner Meeting information is on page 3.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note there is a field trip on Sunday, February 4. It was originally scheduled on Saturday, January 27.

Saturday, February 3 9 a.m. – noon easy	HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Residents and winter visitors. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354	Win Ahrens 502-228-5800
Sunday, February 4 9 a.m. – noon easy	LONG RUN PARK – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. From intersection of Shelbyville Road and Flat Rock Road, about 2 miles north on Flat Rock Road to park entrance, then ¼ mile to first fork and right to parking lot near lake. GPS: 38.264517, -85.418571	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526

Saturday, February 10 8:30 a.m. - noon easy	OHIO RIVER – KENTUCKY/INDIANA SIDE – Waterfowl, gulls, etc. Meet at Ramada Inn at Zorn Avenue and River Road. Bring your scope. GPS: 38.277081, -85.697900	Barbara Woerner 502-485-9017
Tuesday, February 13	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 7:00 p.m. – NEW LOCATION – St. Mark's Episcopal Church - 2822 Frankfort Ave – corner of Frankfort and Kennedy	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
Saturday, February 17 9 a.m. – noon easy	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. GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, February 24 2pm-7pm ET (1pm-6pm CT) easy	BLUE GRASS FWA, INDIANA - For winter birds, waterfowl, raptors and owls (Short-eared and Long-eared. 105 species have been reported here during the month of February over the last 10 years. 1 hour and 45 minute drive from Downtown Louisville. Take I-64W to Exit 29A for I-69/IN 57 South toward Evansville. Then take Exit 15 for Boonville - New Harmony Road. Turn left (east) onto New Harmony Road and in a half mile look for a gravel parking area labelled "Parking Lot 16" on the left just before you get to the lakes. There is a sizable area to cover, so we will be birding some by car and relocating frequently. Bring scopes, snacks, and birding friends. Dress for the weather. GPS: 38.0895, -87.4651	Mike Callan 502-592-7008 (CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE IF YOU PLAN TO GO)
Saturday, March 3 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	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	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, March 10 8:30 a.m.-noon easy	GEORGE ROGERS CLARK PARK – For residents, winter visitors, early migrants. Park is on Poplar Level Road opposite Norton Audubon Hospital. Entrance off Thruston Avenue. Meet in main parking lot. GPS: 38.216020, -85.728548	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

REMINDERS:

- ❖ **Before going on a field trip check birdKY for changes to the field trip schedule.**
- ❖ **The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 16-19, 2018, BirdCount.org**
- ❖ **Please send in your 2018 BBC Membership (with check and form) if you have not done so.**

YEAR OF THE BIRD

Welcome to the Year of the Bird. Audubon, in association with National Geographic, Cornell, BirdLife, The National Park Service, and USFWS, is celebrating 2018 as the year of the bird. In addition to honoring the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the groups will focus on how the changing environment is affecting bird populations and what can be done to stop the decline. For more information check out the year of the bird site: www.birdyourworld.org.



MARCH DINNER MEETING

BIRDING AND BIRDER BRAINS

By Alvaro Jaramillo

How do expert birders identify birds so quickly? Ever seen the stick bird, a stick that you are sure looks like a bird. Sometimes, you even identify it to be a subspecies? Or the leaf bird? The birder brain does some weird stuff. In trying to understand how people learn birds, I have been led down all sorts of interesting paths, from psychology to neurobiology. What happens when we try to identify a bird is actually very complicated, and it differs if you are learning or new at birding, in contrast to someone who has been doing it for years. I will give you the background of how it appears that our brains identify a bird, and then what to do to make it come easier to you. Another facet that came through in my journey to understand birder brains, is that we are also getting a healthy dose of medicine when we are birding. It is healthy to be outside birding, and now science is starting to show that this is true and why. The end result of my foray into understanding birders is that I am convinced that everyone should become a birder, or at least a nature enthusiast. Come on out and learn a bit about why birding is the best, and how birders are actually mental athletes, doing some pretty amazing things.



Alvaro Jaramillo, owner of Alvaro's Adventures, was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. Research forays and backpacking trips introduced Alvaro to the riches of the Neotropics, where he has traveled extensively. He is the author of *the Birds of Chile*, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile's birds. Alvaro writes the "Identify Yourself" column in *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Alvaro recently wrote part of the sparrow chapter for the *Handbook of Birds of the World*, and the new *ABA Field Guide Birds of California*. He was recently granted the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnaean Society of New York. It is awarded occasionally for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur. He organizes and leads international birding tours, as well as a full schedule of pelagic trips out of

Monterey, Bodega Bay and Half Moon Bay. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

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 13 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar 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.

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 14 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

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$35.00 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) _____

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

PAST FIELD TRIP

Creasy Mahan, January 14 - Three BBC members braved the low single digit temperatures on a beautiful morning for the first BBC walk of 2018. The birds weren't plentiful but we worked hard to get the ones we saw. Thanks to CMNP for keeping the feeders full and the heater on! Despite the cold, the group managed to locate 27 species.

LOUISVILLE CBC

It was a cold, cloudy day for the 50 birders who participated in the Louisville Christmas Bird Count on December 17. The group tallied 87 species including a few rarities – Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, Great Egret, Orange-crowned Warbler and a Pine Warbler. Thanks to all who participated in the count and to Win Ahrens for hosting our fun compilation dinner.

