



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

NOVEMBER 2021

P.O. BOX 5301, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

KENTUCKY BIRDS AND BIRDERS

Pam Spaulding has produced videos of birds and birders. Many of our fellow birders in Kentucky have excellent photographs of birds and Pam has put together these photos to showcase what birds can be seen in Kentucky. And Pam did not forget us, the birders, as we go through every season rain or shine or snow to see these wonderful birds.

The two videos are:

"Birding with a Camera in 2020" It is a collection of the best bird photographs in Kentucky from 22 birders during the pandemic year.

The second is *"Birders Just Want to Have Fun"* It is a playful look at the life of birders starring our local and state birders.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, November 9 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.

Just as a reminder Frankfort Avenue near the Louisville Water Company is under construction so you may need to find an alternate route.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR BECKHAM BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022

After high hopes for a return to a full slate of BBC activities in the spring of this year, the Delta variant intervened and we finally got underway in August. It's good to be back.

In order to stay informed about what the BBC will be doing in 2022 and to continue receiving the newsletter and other updates, you will need to renew your membership (if you haven't already done so).

We are encouraging members to renew early so that we can limit the number of renewal reminders that have to be sent by mail. Cutting back on mailings saves the BBC the cost of printing and postage; it also reduces our carbon footprint (ever so slightly, to be sure, but every bit helps).

In that same vein, we are also encouraging members who still receive a mailed newsletter to switch to the electronic version. You can make the change when you renew.

Members who don't renew by mid-November will receive a mailed reminder.

If you want to avoid that fate, renew now, either directly through the website using PayPal or credit card or, if you want to pay by check, by downloading, printing and sending in the membership, which is also on the website.

Here's a handy guide to the renewal process:

1. Go to the membership page of the Beckham Bird Club website by clicking this link: <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html>.
2. You will see a list of membership categories, with the dues for each and a yellow button that says "Donate."
3. Click on the button. It will take you to PayPal.
4. Enter the amount you wish to pay and then DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP (this is the default choice). THIS IS SO WE KNOW YOU ARE RENEWING, RATHER THAN MAKING A DONATION.
5. Select payment either through your PayPal account, if you have one, or by credit card.
6. If you select credit card payment, you will be asked for credit card information, including your name and address, (don't worry, it's a secure site) and then be asked to create a PayPal account. Doing so will simplify the process next time. (Just remember to write down your password and save it where it can be relocated.)
7. IF YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION (ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE), YOU CAN ADD A NOTE LETTING US KNOW. PLEASE DO SO.
8. YOU ALSO MAY SHARE YOUR ADDRESS WITH BBC BY CHECKING THE BOX THAT SENDS IT TO US TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GIFT.
9. Complete the transaction by following the PayPal prompts. You will get an email confirmation of your payment.
10. AND JUST IN CASE, please take the following IMPORTANT STEP: Please email your name, address, email and telephone number to bbcky1935@gmail.com so we can keep our membership roster up to date.

If you still wish to pay the traditional way, by mailing a form and a check, the membership renewal form is available here for download and printing:

http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/uploads/4/6/2/1/46215227/2022_membership_form_2_.pdf

The BBC board encourages you to renew early and hopes that you will encourage non-member birders or bird lovers of your acquaintance to join.

Be well, stay safe, and good birding!!

The Beckham Bird Club Board



FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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

PAST FIELD TRIPS

CAPERTON SWAMP- SEPTEMBER 26 – Seven members and a guest crowded the parking lot early Sunday morning. The list got off to a quick start with a pair of fast flying falcons. A young peregrine perched in a snag on the river afforded great looks for several minutes, during which time an American Kestrel was also spotted flying far over the river. Next, we were treated to the squeaky call and nice views of a female rose breasted grosbeak. A bright yellow female summer tanager was heard then seen. With all those beautiful females around it should come as no surprise that some Catbird calls were also heard in the vicinity. Finally, we left the parking lot and headed into the woods, where 9 species of wood warblers and 5 species of woodpeckers dazzled. Highlights included many Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian Warblers along with a Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, and a Black and White Warbler. The fan favorite Red-headed Woodpecker also made a brief appearance! Once we finally made it back to the swamp, we found two Greats (Heron and Egret) and a King(fisher) with a pair of Phoebes holding court. A smattering of common songbirds, vultures and hawks rounded out the list which totaled 41 species and 172 individuals. Many wonderful photos were taken and are viewable at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95202396>.

HAYS KENNEDY/GARVIN BROWN – OCTOBER 2 -With soaking rain forecast for Sunday morning, the trip was rescheduled to Saturday evening. Still 6 members and a guest were in attendance. Although there were already showers in the area, we were able to stay dry enough and got good looks at nearly every species recorded. Highlights included 6 species of warblers including multiple Magnolia, Black-Throated Green and Western Palm Warblers. A Ruby-Throated Hummingbird and several immature/female Indigo Buntings were also spotted along with a couple of winter migrants, Swamp Sparrows and a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. Two falcons were sighted - perhaps the same two seen at Caperton Swamp a week earlier. Only this time it was the Kestrel that was perched and the Peregrine flying by. A Sedge Wren had been reported earlier that day near the north end of the slough at Hays Kennedy which may have been heard calling once, but could not be sighted and was not officially counted. Officially our troupe totaled 39 species and approximately 800 individuals.

EARTH AND SPIRIT CENTER – OCTOBER 9 A dozen members enjoyed a guided tour of the Earth and Spirit Center, accompanied by good birding. The morning began with a migrant swarm in the trees at the top of the hill, with seven species of warbler (Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Bay-breasted, Tennessee, Magnolia, American Redstart, Black-throated Green), a Blue-headed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Yellow-breasted Sapsucker all seen in close proximity. It was all downhill from there, as a walk to Beargrass Creek yielded little in the way of more species, although the mimid trifecta was completed and there was an abundance of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Oddly, no Tufted Titmice were recorded, and only a lone Carolina Chickadee.

TURKEY RUN PARK – SKY DOME AND SILO OVERLOOK AREA – OCTOBER 16 Seven members turned out on the first morning of the year with real fall weather - crisp, clear and breezy. Sparrows and other skulkers were largely in hiding due to the wind. Vultures, array of warblers, including some stragglers who missed hitching a ride on the previous night's cold front, and a Philadelphia Vireo were well seen by all.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2021 BIRDATHON DONATIONS



A BIG THANK YOU to our BBC members and friends for contributing \$24,265 to this year's Birdathon – a record amount. The BBC Board at their last meeting distributed the money to Birdathon grant recipients. More information about the recipients can be found at beckhambirdclub.org – click on activities. The recipients and the amount they received are:

KY NATURAL LANDS TRUST - \$1875.00
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST - \$900.00
JOSEPHINE SCULPTUE PARK - \$2000.00
SURREY HILLS NATURE PRESERVE, INC. - \$3750.00
FLORACLIFF NATURE PRESERVE – \$1125.00
LOUISVILLE NATURE CENTER - \$750.00
EARTH AND SPIRIT CENTER - \$740.00
KY RESOURCES COUNCIL - \$1875.00
OFFICE OF THE KY NATURE PRESERVE - \$3750.00
BERNHEIM FOREST AND RESEARCH CENTER - \$3750.00
WOODS AND WATERS LAND TRUST -\$1875.00
KENTUCKY CONSERVATION CENTER -\$1875.00

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

With the rising popularity of birding in recent years has come an increased focus on ethical birding, which can be briefly defined as supporting bird conservation while birding in a manner that minimizes disturbance to birds and encourages positive interactions with other birders.

To promote ethical birding practices, the Beckham Bird Club board supports the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics and has placed a statement to that effect on the BBC website. The ABA code has three core messages:

1. Respect and promote birds and their environment.
2. Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members.
3. Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.

It further states three guiding principles:

Birding should be fun and help build a better future for birds, for birders, and for all people

Birds and birding opportunities are shared resources that should be open and accessible to all

Birders should always give back more than they take

The full code may be found at: <https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>

The BBC board encourages club members and all birders to abide by, support and promote ethical birding practices as stated in the ABA code.

BBC Conservation Report Websites October 2021

[Turn Off Some Lights during Fall Migration | Birding Wire](#)

[Mass Bird Deaths in New York City Due to Storm, Lights, and Glass - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[The Top 5 Spring Migration Nights | Birding Wire](#)

<https://savingcranes.org/volunteer-stories-tracking-whooping-cranes-in-indiana/>

[From Ky. To Mexico: One Butterfly's Journey - 89.3 WFPL News Louisville](#)

[Tracking Kite Migration South | Birding Wire](#)

[New Seabird Hotspot Discovered | Birding Wire](#)

[Migratory Birds to Regain Federal Protections, but to Reverse Declines, More Action Needed - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Know Your Nocturnal Neighbors: Nine Owl Sounds to Listen For | ABC \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

THE KENTUCKY RESOURCES COUNCIL WELCOMES ASHLEY WILMES AS NEW DIRECTOR



BBC has sponsored the KRC for many years through our annual Birdathon. Recently KRC announced Ashley Wilmes as the new director. Ashley has a law degree from Oregon where she earned a specialty certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She replaces Tom Fitzgerald who has been the director for the past 37 years. KRC which works to protect Kentucky's natural environment and Ashley looks forward to continuing the Council's work in protecting and improving Kentucky's land,

air and water.

OCTOBER BIRDING

October is coming to an end and there were many changes this past month. We were bidding our neotropical migrants farewell and welcoming our winter migrants and residents. At the beginning of the month many warblers, thrushes and vireos were still present but as the month crept along, we could begin to see a change. Both kinglets began arriving, Swamp, Savannah, White-throated, White-crowned and Lincoln Sparrows were being reported. Our cute little Winter Wren had arrived along with Sedge and Marsh Wrens. Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers had also made their way to Kentucky. Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers and Juncos were not far behind. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers could be seen making their circle of holes in the trees. A few ducks had arrived at the river along with Herring Gulls.

Next month we look for more waterfowl migrating as well as Sandhill Cranes. Join BBC on one of the field trips to see many of our winter birds and migrants passing through Kentucky.

