



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

APRIL 2025

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

## MEETING APRIL

### BLUEBIRD TRAILS



Our speaker for our April meeting will be Phil Tamplin, a BBC member, who got interested in Eastern Bluebirds when he attended a KOS meeting 27 years ago. He set up about 100 Bluebird boxes in his first year. Today Phil has about 350 boxes that he maintains with the help of farmers and volunteers. Phil remains excited about Bluebirds and will tell us about his years working with them and keeping his Bluebird trails in Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Henry and Mercer Counties. Please join us and maybe you too will start a Bluebird Trail.

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. 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**

Thanks to Christine Hayden for the picture of the Eastern Bluebird.

### FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The field trip schedule for April, May and June is included in this newsletter for those



receiving it by mail. For those receiving by email there will be a link

and it is also available on the BBC web page. **Please read the**

**guidelines for our field trips before coming on one.** A big thank you to all the leaders for volunteering to lead a trip.

**REMINDER:** Bring your bug spray. Ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes are waiting for you.



**A very important reminder, check the BBC website and birdKY for any changes to the field trip even on the day of the field trip and even on beautiful days.**

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**Beckley Park – Grand Allee – February 23** Nine members gathered at Beckley Creek Park on a chilly winter evening to look for American Woodcocks performing their mating "dances" at dusk. We were not disappointed as we had at least five peenting and circling the sky above us with their twittering wingtip sounds as they circled back to their starting point.

**Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake- March 2** Brrrr! Toes and fingers were freezing! But that didn't deter the 9 members and one guest. Checking out the feeders the group was delighted to find Red-headed Woodpeckers, Fox Sparrows, Purple Finches, Hairy Woodpecker, and many more. Richart Lake was filled with different species of waterfowl and a huge flock of Red-headed Ducks flew in as we watched. A very special bird was seen in a canal as we traveled on down the road – a Trumpeter Swan. Raptors put in appearance and it was great to see an eagle and a Northern Harrier. Two small ponds had numerous Tree Swallows many more than we expected. Sandhill Cranes were calling throughout the trip and flying overhead with one lone Snow Goose joining them. It was great! On we went to Hardy Lake, but what a disappointment. Only a handful of birds on the lake. The group added two new species - Ruddy Ducks and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Our trip list total was 52 species. It was a fun trip!



**Jefferson Memorial Forest – March 8** Eleven members and two guests met at the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center on a chilly March morning. We walked out to the end of Tom Wallace Lake to begin the day. Highlights of this trip included a young Bald Eagle flying over the lake and an Eastern Phoebe high up in a tree singing his "Phoebe" song. The second part of our field trip was a walk around the hilltop in the Horine Section of the forest. A flock of 15 domestic peafowl were a pleasant surprise on the road up the hill (most likely belonging to a nearby property owner). We were rewarded immediately after leaving the parking lot with a pair of Pine Warblers trilling.



Moving on we found Field Sparrows and Eastern Bluebirds in the field. Our next highlight was a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches and another Pine Warbler giving us excellent looks. It was a beautiful day to be out enjoying nature after the long, cold winter.

**Beckley Creek Grand Allee – March**

**12** Fourteen members and our dinner speaker met for our annual "day after the dinner meeting" field trip. Soon after we set out, we came upon a group of Wilson's Snipe flying over and foraging in a field. Our walk included nice looks at Red-headed Woodpeckers, a pair of Belted Kingfishers, and Northern Flickers, among others. At the end of our walk we found three American Woodcocks to add to our list. The birds were active and vocal, making for a beautiful morning to be out.



**Draut Park – March 19** Eight Beckham Bird Club members gathered on a beautiful, 66 degree morning at Draut Park to look for some incoming early spring birds or some winter birds before they hit the migration trail. We were lucky to find plenty of both. The "regular" spring/summer birds were very active, including Red-winged Blackbirds, American Robins and goldfinches! We were thrilled to be greeted by several migrants and residents, such as a singing Brown Thrasher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, and many Brown-headed Cowbirds! We also had a Great-Blue Heron that flew over us providing us with a bit of an airshow. He actually flipped in the air twice, none of us had



ever observed this behavior before. We were fortunate to have a four sparrow day, including a Field sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song sparrows, and a very attractive Fox Sparrow! The soon to depart winter birds gave us some looks as well, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Our outing ended with two Sharp-shinned Hawks flying about! It was very nice to enjoy some spring weather with good friends!

## **2025 Birdathon**

Each year Beckham Bird Club supports different organizations that in turn support our birds in many ways. This year the BBC board has selected the following organizations to receive grants through our annual Birdathon. This year was an exceptional year in that we almost doubled the request for grants. Last year 8 organizations ask for help, this year there were 15. With that many groups we will need to double our efforts if we want to give everyone the amount that they asked for. So we hope you will be generous with your contributions this year. Listed below are the organizations asking for money but a complete description of these projects is available with this link <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/birdathon.html>.

How does the Birdathon work? Several members of BBC will be emailing or calling you to ask that you support this effort to raise money. You will be asked to pledge a set amount or an amount for each bird that is seen by the person you sponsor. After the Birdathon usually done on one day during the first week of May the person to whom you pledged will contact you. The person will send you a description of their day and tell you how to complete your pledge. Only after the Birdathon do you send money to cover your pledge. **Please support the 2025 BBC Birdathon.**

**Bernheim arboretum & Research Forest  
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve  
Jefferson Memorial Forest  
Josephine Sculpture Park  
KY Conservation Committee  
KY Natural Lands Trust  
KY Resources Council  
Louisville Nature Center  
Office of KY Nature Preserves  
Raptor Rehab  
Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team  
The Parklands of Floyds Fork  
Woods and Waters Land Trust  
Yew Dell Botanical Gardens**

## **River Road Closures**

River Road will be closed in sections for the next 2 years but all parks and businesses will be open during construction of a new water pipe line. You might have to use side roads to access the parks and businesses.

- **Zorn Avenue to Blankenbaker Lane** is closed from March to September, 2025.
- **Blankenbaker Lane to Lime Kiln Lane** is closed from September to April 2026.
- **Lime Kiln Lane to Wolf Pen Branch Road** is closed from April 2026 to October 2026.
- **Wolf Pen Branch Road to Transylvania Avenue** is closed from October 2026 to December 2026

## **LIGHTS OUT LOUISVILLE**

The Louisville Audubon Society asks for your help in protecting birds during peak Spring migration – April to the end of May – simply by turning off all non-essential lights from 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. Because most birds migrate at night – navigating by the moon and stars helps orient them in darkness – bright lights from city glow attracts and disorients them and increases their vulnerability to collisions with buildings. Survivors of building strikes may find themselves on the ground and then face additional daytime hazards – foot traffic, predators and traffic. An estimated 1 billion birds die annually from building collisions. You can help dramatically reduce the hazards from light pollution for nocturnally migrating birds by turning off all non-essential lighting. To learn more visit [lightsoutlouisville.org](http://lightsoutlouisville.org)

Getting the word out to others is greatly appreciated! Audubon has yard signs available too! The Lights Out Louisville website, [lightsoutlouisville.org](http://lightsoutlouisville.org), has LOADS of information about how people can become involved, take the Lights Out pledge, and make homes and businesses more bird friendly.



## **BIG THANK YOU!**

A big thank you to all who worked on the March Dinner meeting and field trip. It was lots of fun and enjoyable with an entertaining speaker, Scott Harris. Special thanks go to Sherry Hurley and Justin Magnuson who arranged the dinner at Big Spring. Carol Besse for securing our speaker. Steve Brown for working on the BBC directory, The telephone committee, Meg Brown, Jane and Pat Bell, Anne, Pam Spaulding, and Jamella Sullivan, for trying to call our members to come to the dinner meeting.

Don't miss out on next year's dinner meeting by marking your calendar for Tuesday, March 10, 2026 now. Thanks to Scott Harris for sharing his pictures.

