



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

APRIL 2026

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

LIGHTS OUT LOUISVILLE



The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial light at night—also known as light pollution—negatively impacts a multitude of Earth’s species, including sea turtles, bats, birds, and us humans. Light pollution is a human-made issue, and it’s increasing in both intensity and scale as a result of the built environment. But there’s good news: This problem is a solvable one, and we’re not powerless against it.

Join Mary Beth Nevulis—Louisville Audubon Society Vice President and Program Chair and Co-Founder of [Lights Out Louisville](#), a local conservation program sponsored by [Louisville Audubon](#)—to learn:

- The negative effects of light pollution on the natural world as well as on humans
- Why reducing artificial light at night, especially during spring and fall migration seasons, is critical for protecting migratory birds,
- The small individual actions that can prevent needless bird deaths and injuries—and that collectively add up to big wins for birds and the natural world
- Easy ways to become an advocate for birds and participate in Lights Out Louisville

Our meeting is on Tuesday, April 14 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

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.



BIRDCAST.INFO

Check out birdcast.info for information about migration this spring. It will tell you if it is low, medium or high in your area. It is a great tool for birding during migration. Go to birdcast.info, click on Migration Tools then Migration Alerts. Type in your city and it will tell you the what migration will be like for the next three day.



The club wishes to extend its sympathy to Roland Blahnik on the death of his wife, Marie, on February 15. Marie was active in the Beckham Bird Club including serving on the Board of Directors and leading bird walks. Marie was also a volunteer at the Zoo and other organizations, included wildlife rehabilitation and Raptor Rehabilitation.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our annual dinner meeting was a big success with an attendance of 92. It was lots of fun and enjoyable with an informative presentation by Dr. Miyoko Chu, our speaker. 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 - Liz Baldwin, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Meg Brown, Cheri Casey, Kevin Flowers, Ruth Ann Mackson, Aldis Norgello, Jamella Sullivan, Jim Wheatley and Vickie Wheatley - for calling our members to come to the dinner meeting.

Our annual field trip on Wednesday was canceled due to the weather. Instead members were invited to attend a discussion with Dr. Chu at the Bon Air Library. Twenty-three members joined Dr. Chu for a two-hour discussion about ebird.

Don't miss out on next year's dinner meeting by marking your calendar for Tuesday, March 9.

2026 BIRDATHON

Each year Beckham Bird Club supports different organizations that in turn support our birds in many ways. We hope you will be generous with your contributions this year. The BBC board has selected the following organizations to receive grants through our annual Birdathon. 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>.

Blackacre Conservancy, Inc.

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve

Jefferson Memorial Forest

Josephine Sculpture Park

KY Conservation Committee

KY Natural Lands Trust

KY Resources Council

Lexington Bird Cult

Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team

The Parklands of Floyds Fork

Woods and Waters Land Trust

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 to give 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 2026 BBC Birdathon.**

Membership Renewals - Please Help

The Beckham Bird Club (BBC) is thrilled to have many members renew their memberships year after year. Our members are at the heart of everything we do. But a recent trend has been making administrative work more time consuming for BBC volunteers.

Many members have been paying dues, but not providing updated membership level and contact information at the time they pay. When we receive dues payments without the needed information, we don't know their desired membership level, or if we have the correct contact information in our records. That forces our volunteers to spend time contacting those members.

Would you like to help make things easier for BBC volunteers? A great way to do that is to provide the needed information each time you renew. Here's what we need:

1. Your desired membership level, even if it's the same as last year. Our membership levels are Individual, Individual Contributing, Family, Family Contributing, Life, and Student.
2. Your contact information, even if it's the same as last year. We need your name, address, phone number(s) and email address(es). If you don't want to provide all three, please include at least one of those contact methods.

If you renew online via our website and PayPal, please send an email with that information to bbcky1935@gmail.com. If you mail us a check, please include a written membership form or a note with the needed information.

Thank you for being a member, and for your continued support!

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Beckley Creek Park – Grand Allee February 22 -Seventeen members and two guests met on a cold, blustery winter evening to watch the mating displays of the American Woodcock. In spite of the clouds and wind, the birds did not disappoint. We heard four and were able to watch one of them in flight. Always fun to see and hear them!

Turkey Run - February 28 Sixteen birders, including seven guests, enjoyed a nice sunny morning of birding. Activity was pretty slow initially but picked up as it warmed up. While we didn't see a number of common species, we did pickup several winter



migrants including brown creeper, sapsucker, and purple finch.

Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake – March 1 It was a beautiful day despite a cold wind that did not deter the eleven birders. Many species of waterfowl were on the lakes and ponds. Two Trumpeter Swans were feeding quietly as we watched. At the same time our first of season Tree Swallows zipped over the water.

There were nice birds at the feeders. What was so special for our time at the refuge were the Sandhill Cranes that were constantly flying overhead and calling. We estimated over 800 plus birds were seen. Six birders continued to Hardy Lake and more waterfowl was on the lake including two Horned Grebes. In all we totaled 49 species. We didn't see many land birds probably due to the wind. If you missed this field trip hope you will join other BBC trips.

Beckley Creek Park- Miles Park – March 7 Due to the approaching rain, only 3 folks showed up, including 2 members and 1 guest. Conditions were mostly overcast, warm temps in the 60s, moderate breeze, and a bit of rain near the end of the walk. Birding was generally slow, with only 29 species and low numbers of individuals. Best bird was probably a Swamp Sparrow late in the walk by the vegetable gardens. A small falcon zoomed by at one point without definitive looks.





Fox Hollow Farm – March 14 Eighteen people including the trip leader spent a very cool, partly overcast morning walking the trails and roads at Fox Hollow Farm. Birding was slow throughout the day but the group ended up seeing 41 species. Best birds of the trip were a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and 2 Brown Creepers.

Pope Lick Park– March 15 Nine members met on a warm breezy Sunday at Pope Lick Park. The birds were quite active and singing loudly - spring is coming! No rarities or early migrants, but still a nice variety of species including six of the seven woodpecker species present now, three hawk species and six species of sparrow.



Beckley Creek – Grand Allee – March 21 BBC field trip with 10 total members in attendance. It was a cool 47 degrees when we started, with partly sunny, dry conditions; 4 hours later the temp had risen to about 65 degrees, and it was decidedly sunnier/clearer. All areas off the paths throughout the park were quite wet, so we stuck to the paths. We walked the "typical loop", and tallied 45 species once we finished. Very few migrants were in attendance, except a few Brown Thrashers; all

other species were expected ones for this time of year. A stray American Coot is still on the main pond, and is likely an injured individual.

Thanks to Margie Lehman for the pictures of the Sandhill Cranes and Field Sparrow.

MIGRATION IS STARTING – ARE YOU READY?

Have you: 1.Cleaned your binoculars, scope, and camera.

2.Marked your calendar for field trips you are going on.

3. Studied up on the warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, etc.

Good Luck! Good Birding! And have fun!