



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

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

AUGUST 2023

AUGUST PROGRAM



Jess Slade is the Native Plants Collection Manager and Curator for The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky in Lexington. She has a background managing natural areas, most recently for the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, as well as working in public gardens in Philadelphia and New York. Jess grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and loves to explore natural areas across the state, with a special interest in the great diversity of plants and wildlife that occur here. Jess is passionate about growing native plants, rare species conservation, and ecological restoration. She holds a Bachelor's in Art and Art History from New York University and a Master's in Environmental Studies from

the University of Pennsylvania.

Jess will be talking about The Arboretum with an emphasis on its native plant collection and natural areas. She will discuss the collection's development, management, and vision for the future and will showcase some of the birds and other wildlife that call this urban forest their home.



Our meeting is on Tuesday, August 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 lot.

"Breakfast with the Birds"



What a great way to start the morning with breakfast with fellow birders and a bird walk to find returning migrants. Hope you can join us at Hays Kennedy Park on Saturday, September 9 at 8:00 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. to beckhambirdclub@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 5. You can also sign up at the August meeting. The club is providing a continental breakfast of juice, fruit and assorted pastries. **If you drink coffee or milk, please bring your own.** Hope to see you there.

ARE YOU READY??

Migration is starting. Are you prepared? When was the last time you cleaned your binoculars? Scope? Camera? Do you have insect repellent? All essential things to do to get ready. Shorebirds are trickling in; Purple Martins are staging in Prospect; warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos will be arriving by the middle of the August. Don't miss out, be prepared. See you on the birding trail or on a field trip.

THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER



You should check Beckham Bird Club web site and birdKY for every field trip to make sure there is not a change or cancellation.

Some important reminders -

1. Read the guidelines before coming on a field trip.

2. Be sure to stow your valuables in the trunk before you arrive or carry them with you. Do not leave them in the front of the car.
3. Just remember mosquitos, chiggers, ticks and biting flies are waiting for you. Don't forget to bring insect repellent.
4. Have a bottle of water and maybe a snack.

Bring your sunscreen lotion.

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB'S NAME

Have you wondered how the club got its name? Who is Beckham? Not the soccer play but a young man who lived in the 19th century in Kentucky and who is buried in Bardstown. Several years ago the club erected a sign with a biography of our founder in the cemetery. You can visit his grave in the Bardstown Cemetery. The following is his biography. More can be found by googling his name.

CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM

1856-1888

"The first Kentuckian to achieve a national reputation as an ornithologist. He was born to William Netherton Beckham and Julia Wickliffe Beckham at the Wickland estate at Bardstown. He was the grandson of Gov. Charles Anderson Wickliffe and Margaret Creff Wickliffe. Beckham studied science and mathematics at the University of Virginia and at Harvard; he began the serious study of birds around age 20. He traveled widely in the South, Southwest and the Rocky Mountain area studying birds and collecting bird skins. In 1884, he was hired as a full-time assistant in the bird department of the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. In 1885, he published 'Birds of Nelson County Kentucky', the first book on birdlife in the state. His papers on birdlife were published in the journals of the American Ornithologists Union and the Smithsonian. Stricken with tuberculosis, he died at Wickland shortly before his 32nd birthday and is buried in the Wickliffe-Beckham family plot. The Beckham Bird Club established in Louisville in 1935 is named for him."

BBC Conservation Report Websites July 2023

[A Tree Can Be a Bird Magnet | Birding Wire](#)

[What Should I Do If I Find a Nest Where It Doesn't Belong? | Audubon](#)

[Recent Condor Deaths from Avian Flu Are a Reminder of the Species' Precarity - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Why Do Birds Sing? Recent Studies Sing a New Tune About Birdsong - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-do-wildfires-canadas-boreal-forest-affect-birds-across-continent>

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2023/the-perplexing-decline-american-kestrel>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-do-coopers-and-sharp-shinned-hawks-coexist-in-backyards-feederwatch-investigates/>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/black-vultures-northward-expansion-creates-new-conflicts-farmers>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/meet-little-brown-bird-holds-mirror-humanity>