



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2022



DECEMBER PROGRAM

Michael Patton is an avian biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He works with Kentucky's raptors, songbirds, and nightjars. Michael monitors, researches, and implements management for the species that are of greatest conservation need in the state. Some of the species that he works with include barn owls, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, loggerhead shrikes, golden-winged warblers, and prothonotary warblers. His talk will be on the Golden-winged Warbler. Golden-winged Warblers are an imperiled neotropical migrant that are rapidly declining in their Appalachian range. In an effort to better understand the migratory survival and site fidelity of Kentucky's population of

Golden-winged Warblers, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources deployed nanotags on Golden-winged Warblers in southeastern Kentucky during the breeding season of 2022. During his presentation, he'll discuss this ongoing research project, as well as the biology of this species, the threats that Golden-winged Warblers face, and other ongoing research and conservation efforts for the species in Kentucky.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, December 13 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.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, December 3 8:30 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 left at fork and then first right to boat launch ramp parking area. GPS: 38.266570, -85.419823	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967 (Steve) or 502-435-4864 (Meg)
Saturday, December 10 8:30am-noon easy	HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE/LWC PONDS - Residents and winter visitors. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354	David Bailey 720-648-1493



Don't forget to renew your 2023 membership!

If you have not renewed your membership, you will receive a postcard in the mail. Please use the postcard to renew or go to the Beckham Bird Club website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. For more information go to the November newsletter to get all the details for renewing your membership.

If you used Pay Pal don't forget to mail your postcard or email the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list. All life members should do the same.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



This year marks the 123rd Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Your participation is needed in one or more of these counts this year. The date for Louisville is listed below. The CBCs could change due to Covid-19 or weather conditions so you should sign up to participate in case the compiler needs to contact you in the event there is a change. New participants should contact the compiler. See birdky.org for other CBCs in the state.

If you can't participate in the Louisville CBC, consider being a feeder watch counter. If you live in the count area all you need to do is count the birds that come to your feeder. There are protocols for counting the birds. Please let James Wheat know you will count the birds at your feeder and get the detail of how to participate.

LOUISVILLE Sunday, December 18	We need your help covering the nine sections in the 15-mile diameter count circle! If you've participated in the past, please reach out to the CBC person with whom you birded, and let them know you're interested in
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	helping again. If you haven't, please contact compiler James Wheat at james.a.wheat@gmail.com to let him know of your interest.
BERNHEIM FOREST, Sunday, January 2, 2023	All participants call or email compiler Michael Callan 502-592 -7008 or mikesindahouse@gmail.com
OTTER CREEK Saturday, December 31	All participants email or call compiler Michael Autin, mauniquity@gmail.com 502-298-2456
PARADISE TBA	All participants email or call compiler Brainard Palmer-Ball. (CP) 502-330-3998 or brainard@mindspring.com

Louisville CBC Compilation Potluck Dinner

Those participating in the Louisville CBC are invited to attend a potluck dinner and compilation of birds at Win Ahrens's home at 21 Autumn Hill, Prospect at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. Please RSVP at winahrens@aol.com and mention what dish you are bringing. Hope to see everyone there!

PAST FIELD TRIPS

MuscatatuckNWR/Hardy Lake, November 20, SIXTY-TWO SPECIES! Starting out on this frigid cold day the five observers wondered if any birds would be around. The thermometer registered 19 degrees when we began the auto tour at the refuge. Sparrows seemed to be everywhere. Fox, White-throated and White-crowned were at the feeders. Tree, Swamp, and Song Sparrows were along the route. Ten duck species were found both at the Refuge and at Hardy Lake. Mute Swans and Common Loons were nice additions to our list. A most unexpected find at Hardy Lake was a late Osprey. It caught a fish and carried it away above our heads. Northern Harriers were out and about. Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Hermit Thrush, both Kinglets said "HELLO" as we searched the feeders, woods and grasses. It was a great day to be birding. There was no wind so we were able to eat our lunch outside while looking at the birds coming to the feeders. Come join the next BBC field trip.

Beckley Creek Park – Grand Allee, November 25 A quartet of members eschewed shopping to go birding on an overcast and breezy Black Friday morning. Birds were hard to find initially; although temperatures were moderate, heavy cloud cover and brisk winds made for little activity. The hedgerow, pond and wetlands were unusually unproductive. Things picked up quickly along the creek, in large part because the winds died down. The final count was 36 species, including five raptors and six woodpeckers. Notable misses were butterbutts and Brown Creepers. The highlight of the day was an adult Bald Eagle flying by no more than 50 feet above the observers. A very impressive sight.

BBC Conservation Report Websites November 2022

[Golden Eagle Athena Checks In From Northern Wisconsin, Headed South Toward Bernheim](#)

[Companion Bill to Improve Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Introduced in House - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[2022 U.S. State of the Birds Report Reveals Widespread Losses of Birds in All Habitats — Except for One - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[State of the Birds 2022](#)

[More Than Half of U.S. Birds Are in Decline, Warns New Report | Audubon](#)

[Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

[Historic Agreement Signed to Manage Vital Grasslands and Wetlands in the Khurk-Khuiten Nature Reserve of Mongolia \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

['It's a miracle': Gran Abuelo in Chile could be world's oldest living tree | Trees and forests | The Guardian](#)

[New Species Discovered: an Owl & a Sunbird | Birding Wire](#)

TWO MORE STATE RECORD BIRDS FOR KENTUCKY

This has been a banner year for Kentucky with four state record birds in 2022. Anna's Hummingbird made an appearance last winter in Louisville and a Brown Booby showed up in May at Lake Malone.

The last two birds were seen less than four weeks apart. Two American Oystercatchers were seen at Barren River Lake on October 31. Several birders from around the state were able to get to the lake to see them before dark fell. There was an adult and a juvenile. The adult was believed to be 19 years old or older. More birders arrived the next day but the birds had left. The adult was found dead several days later many miles away. What happened to the juvenile is unknown.

On November 16 a report of a possible Pink-footed Goose at Shelby Lake in Shelbyville was posted on Kentucky Birders Facebook page. It was determined that this bird was a wild bird and not an escapee. Again birders from far and wide descended on Shelby Lake to see this rare bird. Not only was it a state bird but a life bird for most of the people who came to see it. After a brief departure the PFGO returned to the area as of November 26.

Hopefully this trend will continue and we will see more rare birds in Kentucky.

Thanks to Jackie Elmore and Jamie Baker for sharing their pictures of these birds.



Picture by Jackie Elmore; November 16-20, 2022



Picture by Jamie Baker; October 31, 2022

GET YOUR BBC HOLIDAY ORNAMENT AND SUPPORT BIRDATHON



Just in time for the holidays, the Beckham Bird Club is trying something new as a way to raise funds for the 2023 Birdathon. (If you want to know more about Birdathon and the organizations it supports, you can find information here: <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/birdathon.html>) This laser-carved ornament - suitable for hanging on trees, rearview mirrors, front doors or anywhere else you want to display the BBC logo - can be yours for a minimum donation of \$10.

It is lightweight wood and 4 inches in diameter, with hanging ribbon attached.

An initial run of 50 is being produced. They will be available at the December monthly meeting (cash or check made out to Beckham Bird Club accepted) and subsequent meetings while supplies last. If you want to make sure you get an ornament and wish to reserve one (or more), please email BBC President Andrew Melnykovich at estiles74@gmail.com. Production can be cranked up in fairly short order if needed. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

GOOD BIRDING IN 2023.