



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 2024

## December Program

**What could be more festive than penguins? And albatrosses?**



You can see plenty of both on December 10, when BBC member Andrew Melnykovych will give a presentation on his January trip from Santiago, Chile, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, via, among other places, Cape Horn, Antarctica, and the Falkland Islands. There will be avian oddities like the Snowy Sheathbill, side trips into gastronomy and culture, an explanation of what the Antarctic and Dingle peninsulas have in common, and the answer to this: "What is the most common dumb question tourists ask guides in Buenos Aires?"

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, December 10 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.**



## Don't forget to renew your 2025 membership

The renewal period began on November 1, 2024. We encourage you to renew before December 31, 2024, to avoid a reminder postcard thus saving paper, postage and a larger carbon footprint.



You can renew three (3) ways:

- Print the renewal form from the website (<http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html>), complete it and mail it along with a check to the P.O. Box.
- Bring your completed renewal form and cash or check to the December meeting.
- On the website, using Paypal (NOTE: You do NOT need a Paypal account to use this payment method. If you don't have a Paypal account, simply click through the Paypal screens and you will be allowed to enter your credit card information as a guest). PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR PAYMENT BY A DOLLAR OR TWO. THIS WILL OFFSET THE FEE - AROUND \$1 or \$2, DEPENDING ON THE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY - PAYPAL CHARGES FOR EVERY TRANSACTION.
  - If you choose this method, please be sure to also send your address, phone number and email to [bbcky1935@gmail.com](mailto:bbcky1935@gmail.com). This allows us to keep our membership rolls current.

Thank you for your continued support.



Just a reminder that the BBC ornament and notecards are still available. Purchasing these items help with 2025 Birdathon. Ornaments are \$10 and notecards are \$15.00. They make great gifts and stocking stuffers. They will be available at the meeting. Make checks payable to Beckham Bird Club and please have exact amount if paying by cash.

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*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

Beckham Bird Club wishes to extend sympathy to Noel Rueff and her children on the death of her husband and their father, Art Williams. Art died on October 20. Art was an environmental lawyer and worked to pass strong laws for the environment.

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## Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, November 30 8:30 a.m. – noon. easy	<b>LONG RUN PARK</b> – For 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. <b>GPS: 38.266796, -85.419667</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091</a> )	Christine Hayden 502-640-3445
Saturday, December 7 8:30a.m. – noon easy	<b>LAKE SHELBY</b> – For residents, winter birds, waterfowl. Meet at parking lot at back part of lake. Time permitting, may bird along Greenway Trail. <b>GPS: 38.234242, -85.216331</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L13518697">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L13518697</a> )	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826

## Past Field Trips

**Anchorage Trail – October 27** Fifteen people (13 members, 2 non-members) ventured out into a cold morning to search for birds at the Anchorage Trail. Temperatures ranged from a brisk 45 degrees to around the low 60s and there was a slight to moderate breeze under a mostly sunny sky. Forty-two species were observed with highlights being multiple Hermit Thrushes and two Barred Owls.

**Harrods Creek – November 3** 45-68 degrees and sunny, wind SE at 7 mph. Thirteen members and guests birded the Orange Trail at Harrods Creek Park on a cool, sunny morning. Highlights included at least 4 Pileated Woodpeckers flying over the trail and several irritated kinglets, both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned, showing their displeasure by raising their orange and red crowns respectively. Lots of roosting and soaring Black and Turkey Vultures were spotted. Two Brown Creepers were seen together. Several Swamp Sparrows mingled with Songs, Fields and White-throateds. Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings were dining on mistletoe berries. A Bald Eagle soared into view as we returned to the parking lot.

**Beckley Creek Park – November 7** Two members turned out on a gray but warm morning. Sparrows everywhere - mostly White-throated and Song, but slow otherwise. Highlight was a Red-headed Woodpecker near the creek.



## Ohio River – Indiana Side – November 16

While we have been experiencing a rather slow November along the Ohio River, the 8 birders that joined the field trip along the Indiana side of the river got to enjoy at least a few mixed rafts of waterfowl that included Ruddy Ducks, Redheads, Lesser Scaup, and Horned Grebes. We were also treated to good looks of immature Bald Eagles and distant Peregrine Falcons at several stops. While several of the birders on our trip got to see lifers throughout the day, the bird that proved to be new to half of our trip attendees was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Falls of the Ohio.



**Muscatatuck NWR/Hardy Lake – November 24** It was a beautiful day for the 20 members and guests who ventured to the refuge with a few continuing on to Hardy Lake. In all the group tallied 51 species but duck species were down and Sandhill Cranes were only heard in the distance. We had many species of sparrows including American Tree Sparrows and Fox Sparrows. The group had all the woodpeckers except the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. While watching Redheaded Woodpeckers a Winter Wren made its presence known by singing and skittering among the fallen branches. While eating lunch the Purple Finches entertained us at the feeders. Proceeding to Hardy Lake four loons were seen swimming and diving. A large raft of 198 Coots was feeding along the shore accompanied by two Redheads. And to top off the day the last remaining birders saw two Red-breasted Nuthatches moving around the evergreen trees.



## *CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS*

This year marks the 125th 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 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](http://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 details of how to participate.

Louisville  
Compiler: James Wheat



Email: [james.a.wheat@gmail.com](mailto:james.a.wheat@gmail.com)  
Count Date: 12/15/2024

Otter Creek Park  
Compiler: Michael Autin  
Email: [mauniquity@gmail.com](mailto:mauniquity@gmail.com)  
Count Date: 12/29/2024

Bernheim Forest  
Compiler: Jim Scout  
Email: [menomenop@hotmail.com](mailto:menomenop@hotmail.com)  
Count Date: 1/1/2025

### ***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 15. Please RSVP at [winahrens@aol.com](mailto:winahrens@aol.com) and mention what dish you are bringing. Hope to see everyone there!

### **BBC Conservation Report Websites November 2024**

[The New Finch Forecast | Birding Wire](#)

[Rare Goshawk Found in New Guinea | Birding Wire](#)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/inside-the-indonesian-songbird-trade/>

[https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICCAAnnualReport2024\\_Digital.pdf](https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICCAAnnualReport2024_Digital.pdf)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/in-the-tropics-a-troubling-echo-of-north-americas-bird-declines/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/narco-deforestation-drug-trade-damages-bird-habitat/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/bald-eagle-official-national-bird/>

<https://www.nationalwildlife.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2024/Fall/Conservation/Sandhill-Crane-New-Mexico>



<https://www.nationalwildlife.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2024/Fall/Gardening/Planting-Oak-Trees>

QUICK SUET RECIPE THAT THE BIRDS LOVE

- A) Mix together thoroughly -  
1 cup crunchy peanut butter  
1 cup lard (not shortening)
- B) Add -  
5 cups of quick oats.
- C) Mix well.
- D) Spread in flat pan and score into the size you want. Put in freezer. Break off a piece and put in your suet cage.

The birds will thank you!!



*Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy Holidays*

