



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

February 2025

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Join Eileen Yanoviak, Director of Engagement at the Josephine Sculpture Park, to learn how JSP, a recipient of the Beckham Bird Club Grant, makes life in Kentucky more wild, active, creative, and connected! Now grown to forty acres of reclaimed farmland with two miles of trails, JSP's land conservation efforts restore diverse wildlife habitats, including young forest, meadows, and a pond. A haven for habitat connectivity, nesting, and migrating birds, 118 species of our feathered friends have been spotted at JSP. Seventy sculptures are nestled in the landscape to connect art and nature in creative and unexpected ways.

Dr. Eileen Yanoviak is the Director of Engagement at the Josephine Sculpture Park in Frankfort, Kentucky. She holds a PhD in Art History with a focus on 19th century American landscapes and environmental history.

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, February 11 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.**

## IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO**, please help us out and send your membership in ASAP. All the details can be found in the BBC website at [beckhambirdclub.org](http://beckhambirdclub.org). Don't forget the club needs a membership form – your dues go to the treasurer and the form goes to the membership chair.



BBC members we are in need of volunteers for two projects.

1. Telephone Committee – Volunteers are need to call our members to remind them to come to the March Dinner Meeting. The more volunteers the fewer calls you have to make. Very easy job.
2. The Parklands have asked the BBC to host a table at the Earth Day program at the Beckley on Friday, April 18 from 5-9 p.m. You do not have to volunteer for the four hours. It is a fun time.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please email [beckhambirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:beckhambirdclub@gmail.com).

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Please note that the field trip on February 1 has been changed to February 2 and a field trip to Jefferson Memorial Forest has been added on February 16.**

Sunday, February 2 8:30 a.m – 11:30 a.m. easy	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> - For winter visitors, residents. Meet at the “Port-a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955</a>	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Wednesday, February 12 9 a.m. – noon easy	<b>Draut Park</b> – For winter birds and residents. Meet in parking lot on Bowling Boulevard. <b>GPS: 38.242791, -85.629445</b> <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1161147">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1161147</a>	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
	<b>FEBRUARY 14-17 – GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT – PARKLANDS AND JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST</b>	
Friday, February 14 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> - For winter visitors and permanent residents. Meet at the “Port-a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955</a> )	Parklands staff
Friday, February 14 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. moderate	<b>MILES LAKES SECTION – BECKLEY CREEK PARK</b> – Residents, winter visitors, maybe waterfowl. Meet at the paddling put-in parking lot about a half mile from the park entrance on Shelbyville Road. We will walk up the hill and loop back down via the fishing lakes trail. <b>GPS: 38.230555, -85.467853</b> <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1462737">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1462737</a>	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

Saturday, February 15 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	<b>POPE LICK PARK</b> – For residents, winter birds. From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd toward Fisherville, go about a mile, & take a right on South Pope Lick Rd. Follow signs to Pope Lick Park, part of the Parklands. <b>NOTE: Construction detours may be in place.</b> Meet in the parking lot. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park) <b>GPS:</b>	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Saturday, February 15 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. easy	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – DISTILLERY BEND SECTION</b> – For residents and winter birds. Because parking is limited at Distillery Bend, we will meet at the “Port-a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek and walk over to Distillery Bend. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L3330035">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L3330035</a> )	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, February 16 8:30 a.m. – noon moderate	<b>TURKEY RUN PARK – SEATON VALLEY</b> Residents, winter visitors, especially sparrows. Meet at the Seaton Valley parking lot and walk the Louisville Loop toward the Sky Meadows area. Directions: From I-265 exit (19) Billtown Road, go south and turn left at the T; go 1.5 miles and turn right into Turkey Run Park entrance; parking lot is on the right. <b>GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L4018634">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L4018634</a> )	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, February 16 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	<b>JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST</b> – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. Meet at the welcome center, 11311 Mitchell Hill Road. From Gene Snyder Freeway, take Manslick Road exit south to Fairdale. At the traffic circle in Fairdale, take Mitchell Hill Road 1.6 miles to visitor center. <b>GPS: 38.08588, -85.76758</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L662168">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L662168</a> )	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Monday, February 17 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK</b> – Creekside area – For winter visitors and residents. Meet at PNC Achievement Center. <b>GPS: 38.21735, -85.47685</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2108847">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2108847</a> )	Parklands staff
Monday, February 17 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. easy	<b>TURKEY RUN PARK – SKY DOME</b> – For winter visitors and residents. Meet at the hilltop parking lot near the fishing pond. Directions: From I-265 exit (19) Billtown Road, go south and turn left at the T; go 1.5 miles and turn right into Turkey Run Park entrance; parking lot is about a mile into the park on the left. <b>GPS: 38.126418, -85.530846</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L3970586">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L3970586</a> )	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, February 22 6:30 p.m. until dark easy	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> – For woodcocks. Meet at the entrance end of the soccer field/“Port-a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955</a> )	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

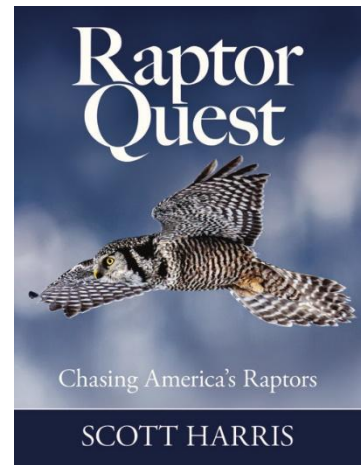


Scott Harris and his wife Randi retired to South Carolina in March of 2020—something Scott will tell you it was one of the best decisions they have made in their 45 years of marriage. It was also when he first started birding – a hobby he never imagined himself participating in, but now can't imagine living without.

His book, *Raptor Quest: Chasing America's Raptors*, is the story of his year-long adventure tracking down every species of Raptor in the Lower 48 states.

Scott Harris spent 17 months, chasing 53 Raptors across 34 states—his version of a Raptor Big Year. His book, *Raptor Quest*, is about his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. From -36-degree days, to ones over 100 degrees, to just getting on the bird just in time, to the frustrations of missing one by minutes. It's about the birds—of course—but it's also about the people he met, the things he learned and why he's already working on his next adventure. And at the dinner meeting, we'll learn about his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures.

Scott Harris will be bringing his book, *Raptor Quest*, to sell. The price is \$60. He takes Venmo and Zelle payments.



## DINNER DETAILS

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 11 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate them on the reservation form.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 12 at 8:30 a.m. for BBC members to Beckley Grand Allee. **Reservations are required.** See the reservation form.

**Dinner payment information - PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for making reservations for the dinner is Tuesday, February 25, 2025.**

Bring check and form to the February meeting or mail to:

Sherry Hurley [1012 Ellison Ave Louisville KY 40204](mailto:sherry@farmtoforkfood.com)

or pay by the Venmo app @Sherry-Hurley-3 and email the information below to [sherry@farmtoforkfood.com](mailto:sherry@farmtoforkfood.com)

*\*If Venmo asks for the last 4-digits of my phone number, it's 4880*

*\*\*There is no fee to send money to people using your Venmo balance, debit card, or bank account.*

*\*\*\*There's a 3% fee for sending money to people using your credit card.*

**ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE.**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.**

**BBC DINNER MEETING – Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Meeting -\$50.00 ea.

\_\_\_Paid by Venmo

Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club and mail or bring to February meeting.

Please list any special dietary needs. \_\_\_\_\_

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reservation for field trip. Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Sherry Hurley, 1012 Ellison Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-1904

**RESERVATION DEADLINE –TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

## BBC Conservation Report Websites January 2025

[Golden Eagle Migration Update 2024 | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum](#)

[First Nations Are On the Cusp of a Big Marine Conservation Win in Canada—and They Have Even Bigger Plans | Audubon](#)

[Motus Station Provides Clues to Thrush Migration | Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#)

<https://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/2024/06/12/uf-researchers-soaring-birds-use-their-lungs-to-modify-mechanics-of-flight/>

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/how-much-longer-can-these-cold-loving-birds-last-rapidly-warming-rockies>

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/christmas-bird-count-turns-125-beloved-birding-tradition-looks-future>

[Your Lights Out Louisville Newsletter is Here!](#)

### **PAST FIELD TRIP**

**SAM PEDEN PARK – JANUARY 18** - One avid birder and the trip leader braved the cold weather to observe waterfowl and passerines at Sam Peden park. It was overcast to partly cloudy and a light mist started towards the end of the trip. Snow and ice still covered a majority of the ground with some exposed patches, and temp was 42 degrees.

There was a fairly large opening in the lake ice which resulted in a number of waterfowl species accessing the water. However, a tour of the nearby woods determined that passerines were almost nonexistent. Highlights of the trip were the Ross's Goose that continues to stay at this location along with a mini-mallard that will be explained by photos.

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**February is a good month to keep a watchful eye and listening ear out for returning Sandhill Cranes and American Woodcocks.**

