

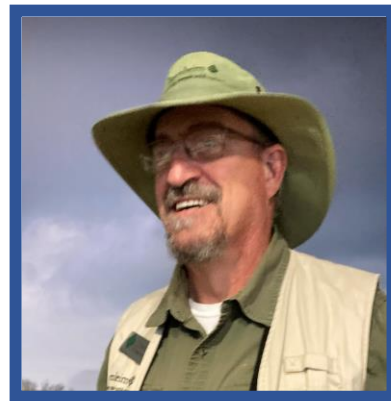


THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY 2024

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Our February program will be presented by Bill Napper and Jim Scout from Bernheim Forest.

Bill, an NAI-certified interpretive guide and volunteer naturalist has been volunteering at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest since 2008. He has spent over a decade in the dark, dedicated to exploring, learning, and guiding others through the nocturnal world of Bernheim. Bill has guided thousands on night adventures, including full moon walks, laser-guided star tours, encounters with woodcocks and whip-poor-wills, froggy night adventures, firefly chases, cricket and katydid concerts, and owl prowls. Bill is a member of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), the Xerces Society's Firefly

Jim Scout, an NAI-certified interpretive guide and volunteer naturalist at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, is a lifelong birder with a deep commitment to protecting bird species. Following a major career shift in 2016, he intensified his focus on birding, and actively supports the Kentucky Ornithological Society, Central Kentucky Audubon Society, American Birding Association, Birdability, Purple Martin Conservation Association, the Crane Trust, and the National Audubon Society. Jim and his wife Karen lead engaging birding programs at Bernheim. Their expertise and passion not only educate but also inspire participants to appreciate and protect birds, fostering a lasting impact on avian conservation efforts. Conservation, the National Speleological Society (NSS), and the Louisville Grotto.

Bill and Jim will highlight the unique experience of leading public birding programs at Bernheim and will share Bernheim specific information such as locations and information that Jim has regarding their bird research efforts. You won't want to miss meeting Bill and Jim and learning about their birding at Bernheim.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, February 13, 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.

[On pages 5 and 6 there is information about the March Dinner Meeting with our guest speaker David Lindo, the Urban Birder, from Spain.](#)

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Always check birdky.org or the BBC website for changes to a field trip.

Saturday, February 3 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	TAYLORSVILLE LAKE – For waterfowl and winter birds. Begin at the Army Corps of Engineers office, then to dam tailwaters and finally at boat ramp to scan the lake. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at Corps office. GPS: 38.001051, -85.308212 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L772032)	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Tuesday, February 13	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 7:00 p.m. – St. Mark's Episcopal Church - 2822 Frankfort Ave – corner of Frankfort and Kennedy - see details in newsletter or on website	
Wednesday, February 14 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy	DRAUT PARK – For winter birds and residents. Meet in parking lot on Bowling Boulevard. GPS: 38.242791, -85.629445 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1161147)	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
	FEBRUARY 16-19 – GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT	
Friday, February 16 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	TURKEY RUN PARK – SEATON VALLEY 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. GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L4018634)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967

Friday, February 16 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. moderate	MILES LAKES SECTION – BECKLEY CREEK PARK – 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. GPS: 38.230555, -85.467853 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1462737)	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, February 18 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - 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. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955)	Christine Hayden 502-640-3445
Monday, February 19 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	BROAD RUN PARK – For residents, winter birds. Take Bardstown Road south from the Gene Snyder Freeway to the park entrance. Meet at the first parking lot past the entrance from Bardstown Road. GPS: 38.088358, -85.551443 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L4533520)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Monday, February 19 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. easy	TURKEY RUN PARK – SKY DOME – 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. GPS: 38.126418, -85.530846 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L3970586)	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
RESUME NORMAL PROGRAMMING		
Sunday, February 25 6:30 p.m. until dark	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION – (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. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955)	Pat & Jane Bell 502-419-5262
Sunday, March 3 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE – For waterfowl, cranes and others. Meet at the Muscatatuck visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Directions: I-65 north from Louisville to Exit 50 (Seymour). Take US Highway 50 east about 3 miles to refuge entrance. About 1 hour north of Louisville. Bring a two-way radio if you have one. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1307600) (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2034604) (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L768475)	Pat & Jane Bell 502-419-5262
Saturday, March 9 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: 38.266796, -85.419667 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR BBC MEMBERSHIP? ADD YOUR NAME TO THE NEW DIRECTORY BY RENEWING ASAP.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Hello Beckham Friends!

I wanted to share a link to our Backyard Bird Count event advertisement. Please feel free to share this far and wide with BBC members and others.

<https://theparklands.org/event/the-great-backyard-bird-count-competition/>

We are so excited to have Beckham participate this year with us!

Thanks, **Curtis Carman Director of Education, The Parklands of Floyds Fork** and BBC Member

CBC RESULTS

LOUISVILLE CBC – DECEMBER 17 Thanks to the 66 people who birded the Louisville Metro area on Sunday, December 17. We had a fantastic count day. We are thrilled to have had 11 more birders than last year! In this, our **90th Louisville CBC**, we saw **95** species, which is well above the average count over the past 20 years (~89 species). It was very mild this year, between 42°F and 53°F on this mostly cloudy count day. There was some localized light rain in the morning, but otherwise a good day for birding. Highlights included Cape May Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, two Gray Catbirds and a Short-eared Owl. Thanks to Win Ahrens for hosting the compilation dinner. It was a fun evening.

OTTER CREEK CBC- December 31 Nine dedicated participants helped diligently cover areas on this quiet count. A cold, light, but steady rain made birding difficult for participants in the AM during peak bird activity hours, but this cleared up in the afternoon. Relatively high numbers for recent years were detected for Purple Finch and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Mallard was the only duck species. Disturbance and management changes at Otter Creek may have accounted for a lack of species numbers in the park, as well as access issues. No rarities were found, the best birds being harriers, 2 Loggerhead Shrikes, a thrasher and a phoebe. Two intrepid members went on into twilight hours finding Horned Lark and a Barred Owl on a telephone line(!) at end the day. Every...minute...counts. Sixty-three species were seen, and Canada Goose and Wilson's Snipe for count week. Thanks to Kevin Flowers (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher) and Brainard Palmer-Ball (Cape May Warbler and Summer Tanager) for the pictures.



CBC Conservation Report Websites January 2024

[Sierra Magazine : Winter 2023](#)

[Cumberland Forest WMA | TNC \(nature.org\)](#)

<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/2023-Fall-Field-Notes-Kentucky.pdf>

https://eyhuiipthm2.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Base_Aerial_metro-bndy.jpg?strip=all&lossy=1&quality=85&w=2560&ssl=1

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2024/Winter/Conservation/PFAS-Loon-Study>

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2024/Winter/Animals/Wildlife-Winter-Survival-Strategies>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/beloved-winter-finch-decline-and-scientists-want-know-why>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/stands-whitebark-pine-disappear-could-clarks-nutcracker-soon-follow>

March Dinner Meeting



I'm David Lindo, also known as The Urban Birder. I'm a broadcaster, writer, naturalist, photographer, public speaker, tour leader and oh, I have been known to do the odd bit of birding! Born and raised in London, I love anything nature, but for as long as I can remember birds have been my particular obsession. I never switch off when it comes to urban birding, I'm forever on the lookout. It's a beautiful world up there. My main passion is for urban birds and I spend my time doing as much as I can to promote the appreciation and conservation of the birds that share our city lives. I now travel the world encouraging citizens and organizations to step outside wherever they may be to enjoy urban birding. I try to inspire people to re-look at their urban environments. I believe wildlife in urban areas is so easy to engage

with. All we have to do is open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds and soon we will be linked into the nature around us. My message is simple- **#Look up!**

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12 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.

The club wishes to recognize and thank the Louisville Audubon Society for its generous support of the dinner meeting.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 13 at 9:00 a.m. at Draut Park for BBC members. **Reservations are required.**

Dinner payment information - The price for the dinner this year is \$47. In an effort to limit the cost of the annual dinner, payment for the annual dinner will be by check only. Both PayPal and credit cards charge a processing fee, which the BBC would have to recoup by increasing the price of the dinner from the current \$47 per person. Please follow the instructions in the newsletter and on the website when making reservations and payment. PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS IS Tuesday, MARCH 5. 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 THEM TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.

DINNER MEETIN AND/OR FIELD TRIP- Tuesday March 12, 2023

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$47.00 ea. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club.

Please list any special dietary needs. _____

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

Reservation for March 13 field trip. Name(s) _____

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

DEADLINE –TUESDAY, MARCH 5