



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2025

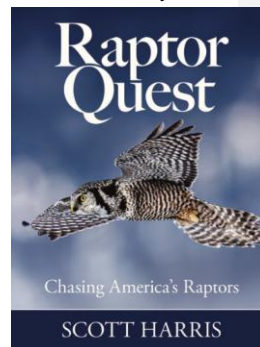
This is your last newsletter if you have not renewed by March 1. You don't want to miss out on the news and field trips so please renew.

MARCH DINNER MEETING



Scott Harris started birding in 2020, when he and his wife Randi retired to South Carolina. It's an activity he never imagined himself participating in, but now can't imagine living without. Scott, a prolific author, will be discussing his first entree into the world of birds and birding. That 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. He will tell of his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. With plenty of photos as well. Scott will tell you that moving to South Carolina was one of the best decisions he and Randi have made in their 45 years

of marriage. They sold their long-time home and business, Mustang Marketing, a marketing/branding company they had owned for 35 years. They are blessed that both their children and their grandson are also in South Carolina. While in California, Scott had a syndicated newspaper column and two weekly radio shows. He and his son Justin also hosted a Los Angeles Dodgers weekly live radio show. Scott sat on dozens of boards over the years, including Boys & Girls Club, United Way, The Sheriff's Foundation, Pepperdine University, Moorpark College and California State University-Northridge. In the month before leaving Ventura County, Scott was honored as Man of the Year, with his company having won Business of the Year two years previously. His interests and hobbies include the world's largest collection of John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*, playing harmonica in a blues band and writing - he has authored more than fifty books in the past seven years. 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.**

Mail check and form 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

**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.

If you are going to mail your reservation do so **ASAP as the US Mail is slow about delivering mail.**

If you have a name badge please wear it.

There will be a silent auction of two bird prints at the dinner meeting. Details and pictures of the two prints are on the last page of the newsletter.

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

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

<p>Saturday, February 22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. until dark</p> <p>easy</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Meg and Steve Brown</p> <p>502-435-3967</p>
<p>Sunday, March 2</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – ??</p> <p>easy</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Pat Bell</p> <p>502-419-5262</p>
<p>Saturday, March 8</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – noon</p> <p>easy</p>	<p>JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST – 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. GPS: 38.08588, -85.76758(https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L662168)</p>	<p>Meg and Steve Brown</p> <p>502-435-3967</p>

Saturday, March 15 8:30 a.m. - noon	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)	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Wednesday, March 19 9 a.m. – noon 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
Saturday, March 22 8:30 am- noon	BERNHEIM FOREST – For early migrants, wintering birds and residents. Meet at the Bernheim Forest Arboretum Way parking lot, next to Lake Nevin and the old education center rotunda. Directions: I-65 south from Louisville to exit 112. Bernheim entrance is about one mile east on KY 245. About 30 minutes from Louisville. GPS: 37.918889, -85.669087 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L286341)	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Sunday, March 31 8 a.m. – noon easy	HAYS-KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Residents, lingering winter birds, early migrants, waterfowl. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. 38.352711, -85.630354 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L673935) (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L607668)	Michael Autin 502-298-2456

BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2025

https://abcbirds.org/saipina-and-comarapa-new-municipal-reserves-that-protect-the-red-fronted-macaw/?utm_campaign=em_nl_enews_0125&utm_source=enews&utm_medium=email&omhide=true&ms=em_nl_enews_0125&contactdata=snSzNj9ZTabRJljl80%2feRPODb5tppn cfN068TwJhKqj4N+6vyxcWoulsNXKMGsNaGEfUKJqR0YPJwQFD3SHXGw%3d%3d&em ci=e4fa1c68-0bca-ef11-88d0-0022482a9b45&emdi=84021333-d6cd-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=218197

[Mexico's Long Road to a Scarlet Macaw Revival | Living Bird | All About Birds](#)

[Why don't birds get cold feet? | All About Birds](#)

[When 136 Bird Species Show Up at a Feeder, Which One Wins? | All About Birds](#)

[95% Fewer Bird Window Strikes Reported | Birding Wire](#)

[Ten-Year Collaborative Partnership Results in Nearly Doubling the Siberian Crane Population](#)

[SO 3418 - Unleashing American Energy](#)

PAST FIELD TRIPS



Goose Pond – February 1-2 Nine BBC members ventured into Indiana for an overnight field trip to Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area. The weather cooperated both days with milder temperatures and no precipitation. The birds did not disappoint, with large skeins of Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes filling the sky. The Whooping Cranes we saw were a great addition to the trip. We had 49 species for the trip, with tens of thousands of individuals seen. It was a wonderful weekend and we are already talking about another

trip next year!

Beckley Creek Park Grand Allee – February 2 Five members participated on a morning that began cool, cloudy and slow and changed to sunny, pleasantly warm and moderately birdy. Highlight was an adult Bald Eagle that allowed extended looks while perched high in a tree overlooking Floyd's Fork. Also we had seven sparrows (including towhee, but no juncos) and most of the common winters visitors, with notable absences being Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Thirty species were seen.

Draut Park – February 12 Five birders braved the elements on a blustery morning at Draut Park in St. Matthews. The temperature stayed in the mid 30's, with a misty rain for most of the morning. We were treated to an adult Red-shouldered Hawk upon arrival, (which may have attributed to our slow start). We did have many Mallards feeding on the creek as well as Canada Geese flying over at times. Some of our other highlights were several Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, one Swamp Sparrow and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler. It may not have been the best day for birding, but it's always a nice time when birders can get together!

Miles Lake Section – Beckley Creek – February 14 Six members and two guests attended on a pleasant winter afternoon. Started out cool (30s) and sunny before clouds moved in at very end. Decent assortment of species, though nothing particularly unusual. Best birds of the afternoon were a belatedly identified male Northern Harrier and a Red-headed Woodpecker.

In March start looking for returning Tree Swallows, Purple Martins and Louisiana Waterthrush. A Tree Swallow and a Purple Martin have been seen in February but more are on the way. Keep a look out.

BBC AUCTION

The Beckham Bird Club dinner this year will include a silent auction of two bird prints donated by members.

The first is a 1970 print by Florida artist Bill Wesling entitled "American Eagle." It is signed and numbered 343/500.

The other print is "American Redstart" by Kentucky artist Ray Harm. It is a signed print of an edition of 7500.

The artwork and bid sheets will be at the registration table. The beginning bid will be \$20 and bids may be made in increments of \$2 or more. Bidding will close when the evening program begins. Winning bidders will be announced at that time. Payment may be made by the end of the evening and may be in cash, by check or via PayPal on the BBC website.

All proceeds will go to the 2025 Birdathon fund.



Need a book to read when you can't get out to bird on these snowy, rainy days. Pete Dunne has a new book out called ***The Courage of Birds And the Often Surprising Ways They Survive Winter.***

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