



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2026

**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 INFORMATION**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 24.**

**Due to erratic mail delivery consider using Venmo. Details below.**

### **From Marvels to Moonshots: How birds and birdwatchers are reshaping how we see and conserve nature**

Birds are extraordinary—they dance in brilliant plumes, make music, engineer nests, navigate thousands of miles, and achieve feats under water and above land that no human can. In this talk, Miyoko Chu will celebrate the marvels of birds and explore one of their biggest superpowers of all—their ability to transform how humans see and steward the natural world.



Take a look at the future of bird conservation with Miyoko Chu from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Miyoko will share how digital innovation, AI technology, and growing numbers of bird enthusiasts are generating unprecedented data and insights about birds in Kentucky and around the

world—and how you can join the movement to protect birds and the fabric of nature that sustains us all.

Dr. Miyoko Chu is the senior director of Communications at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), a nonprofit organization that engages people of all ages and backgrounds in the understanding and protection of birds and nature. An ornithologist and science writer, Miyoko led the team that developed and launched the Cornell Lab's free [Merlin Bird ID app](#) which has now been downloaded more than 33 million times, sparking connections with birds around the world. She is the author of *Songbird Journeys*; *Birdscapes*; and *America's Favorite Birds*.

## **DINNER DETAILS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 10 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** with Dr. Chu on Wednesday morning, March 11 at 8:30 a.m. for BBC members at 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 24, 2026.**

Mail to: Sherry Hurley [1012 Ellison Ave Louisville KY 40204](mailto:1012_Ellison_Ave_Louisville_KY_40204) 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 4840.*

*\*\*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.**

**A RESERVATION FORM IS FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER OR AT [BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG](http://BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG).**

**If you have a name badge please wear it.**

**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.**

## **BECKHAM BIRD CLUB HATS**

If you haven't yet purchased a Beckham Bird Club the hats will be available at the dinner meeting. There are two colors grey or khaki with the BBC logo above the brim. The price is \$30 of which a part will go to the 2026 Birdathon. Please bring a check or exact amount. Show your support of the club by wearing it wherever you go.



## BBC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AGAIN



The Beckham Bird Club has been invited to participate in two events during Earth Day weekend, but we will need volunteers to staff a table at each. The events are at Broad Run Park in Parklands on April 17 from 5 pm to 9pm and at the Paristown Pointe Garden Fair on April 19 from 10 am to 5 pm. Volunteers will answer questions about birds and birding in general and the Beckham Bird Club in particular. Plan to spend at least an hour at the event.

We will be signing up volunteers in March, so watch for detailed information on the website and for an e-mail from the club. For information, contact Andrew Melnykovych at [estiles74@gmail.com](mailto:estiles74@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, 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>	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Saturday, February 28 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>	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Sunday, March 1 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy	<b>MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE</b> – 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. <b>GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258</b>	Pat Bell 502-498-3543
Saturday, March 7 8:30 a.m. – noon easy/moderate	<b>MILES LAKES/OXBOW SECTIONS</b> – BECKLEY CREEK PARK – Residents, winter visitors, early migrants. Meet at the paddling put-in parking lot about a half mile from the park entrance on Shelbyville Road. <b>GPS: 38.230555, -85.467853</b>	Kirk Huffstater 303-345-5020
Saturday, March 14 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	<b>FOX HOLLOW FARM:</b> Resident, winter and possible early migrants on the farm. <b>NOTE: route has some off-road trails and a hill to ascend-descend.</b> <b>GPS: 38.371241, -85.523302</b>	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826

<p>Sunday, March 15 8:30 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p><b>POPE LICK PARK</b> – For residents, winter birds, early migrants. From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd toward Fisherville, go about a mile, &amp; take a right on South Pope Lick Rd. Follow signs to Pope Lick Park, part of the Parklands. Meet at the John Floyd Community Building next to the main parking lot. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park) GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095 (</p>	<p>Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967</p>
<p>Saturday, March 21 8 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p><b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> – For residents, winter birds and early migrants. Meet at the parking lot by the fountain. GPS: 38.21482, -85.47455</p>	<p>Kirk Huffstater 303-345-5020</p>



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

The club wishes to extend sympathy to the family of Eric Lathrop. Eric died on March 15, 2025. Eric loved birding and to continue that love he donated many birding items to the club. They were sold or auctioned off and the proceeds of \$272 were given to the BBC Birdathon.

The club also wants to extend its sympathy to the family and friends of Martha Watson who died February 8. Martha was a long-time active member of the club. She attended meeting, field trips and our annual dinner meeting.

### PAST FIELD TRIPS



#### **Ohio River, Indiana Side – January 31**

Despite frigid temperatures hovering around 0 degrees Fahrenheit at our start time, 15 determined birders showed up to see the beauty that only the harshest weather can bring to our region. With most of the river frozen over, we focused on the Falls of the Ohio and a handful of locations where the water remained open. We were treated to 44 species over the course of the trip which included high numbers of our expected winter residents such as approximately 60 Canvasbacks, a dozen

Greater Scaup, 10 Common Mergansers, and at least 70 Common Goldeneye. In addition to those birds, we also had some fantastic birds that are fairly uncommon to the metro area including a beautiful male Surf Scoter. The highlight of the day, though, were the swans. We saw all 3 possible species including a family group of Trumpeter Swans, a pair of Mute Swans, and nearly 50 Tundra Swans.



**Beckley Creek – Grand Allee February 8** - Seven members turned out on a chilly and overcast morning for this trip that was like many rock concerts - best stuff at the beginning and end, with not much in the middle. Everything was still under a blanket of packed snow and ice. We were greeted at the parking lot with the spectacle of a third-year Bald Eagle (white head and tail, lots of mottled white in underwings and chest) chasing a flock of Canada Geese. A few minutes later 10 Eastern Bluebirds were a welcome sight. The birding was slow for the next 90 minutes, although a third of that time was accompanied by a Pileated Woodpecker drumming

duel. Once we reached the creek by the south bridge, it got much more lively. There were five species of ducks and, most surprising of all, a Wilson's Snipe that dropped onto a small bar in the creek about 30 feet away and foraged in plain sight for several minutes. Great looks at a species that is usually far less visible. Tallied 28 species in all.

**Turkey Run – February 13** Seven members and eight guests turned out on a beautifully clear and warm winter afternoon. Birding was somewhat slow, but with 15 pairs of eyes, a total of 27 species were seen - a good tally for winter birding. Raptors were much in evidence, from American Kestrel to Bald Eagle. SIX Red-tailed Hawks in a single kettle were an amazing sight. Other highlights included American Tree Sparrows, nice looks at a Hermit Thrush and four species of woodpeckers. Especially nice to have so many guests and young birders present.



## BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2026

[A Win for Red Knots as New York Acts to Protect Horseshoe Crabs - American Bird Conservancy](#)

[Woodpecker Tongues Are Exceptional - Birding Wire | Birding Wire](#)

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2026/Winter/Conservation/Bird-Flu>

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2026/Winter/Gardening/Are-Bird-Feeders-Bad>

[A Year in the Life of Hermes | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum](#)

[Golden Eagle Update: Hermes Heads South | Bernheim Forest and Arboretum](#)

**BBC DINNER MEETING – Tuesday, March 10, 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 24**

**SPRING IS COMING**



Red-winged Blackbirds are calling and setting up their territories. Sandhill Cranes are returning north. It won't be long before Tree Swallows and Purple Martins return. By the end of March Louisiana Waterthrushes will be poking around streams and ponds. So get outside and go birding every chance you get so you won't miss out. BIRDING IS SUCH FUN! Don't forget the spring wildflowers.