

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER



BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

P.O. BOX 5301

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

MAY 2021

DON'T FORGET - 2021 Annual Meeting

IN PERSON!! (MASK-OPTIONAL)

The BBC will hold our regular annual meeting in May, with some significant changes that reflect the ongoing, though improving, situation with COVID19.

The meeting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 11, at the PWC Pavilion at Beckley Creek Park (the picnic shelter/restroom facility near the visitor center and across from the playground).

Although this will be a business meeting only, it will be a chance to reconnect after more than a year without any BBC events. Come out and see old friends, meet new members, and chat about birds and birding.

Per the latest state guidance, masks will be optional. Feel free to wear one and please observe social distancing. We further encourage everyone to get vaccinated in advance of the meeting if you plan to attend.

Because we are meeting outdoors, we will not be having a program. As a further pandemic precaution, there will not be a hospitality time after the meeting.

However, feel free to bring your dinner and go birding before or after the meeting.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND THIS MEETING, AS WE WILL BE ELECTING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS. THERE ALSO WILL BE A VOTE ON IMPORTANT BY-LAW AMENDMENTS. THOSE AMENDMENTS CANNOT BE ENACTED UNLESS A QUORUM OF MEMBERS – ABOUT 30 VOTING MEMBERS - IS PRESENT.

The slate of candidates for officer and director positions put forth by the BBC board's Nominating Committee is as follows:

President: Andrew Melnykovich, President

Vice-President: Carol Besse

Treasurer: Judith McCandless

Secretary: Meg Brown

Director: Karen Bonsall

Director: Pam Spaulding

Jamie Baker will remain on the board as past-president. Joanne Luyster and Pat Bell have another year to serve as directors.

The BBC board also is proposing two additions to the by-laws. These are intended to codify the board's ability to institute electronic meeting and voting procedures, and to suspend regular club activities, if circumstances beyond the BBC's control make it unsafe or impossible to meet safely in person. Essentially, the by-law amendments formalize the steps the board was forced to take on an *ad hoc* basis when the COVID19 pandemic began a year ago.

The proposed by-law changes are as follow:

Amend Article V to add Section E, to read as follows:

In the event that circumstances beyond the corporation's control make it impossible or inadvisable to conduct the May Annual Meeting in person, the Executive Board may, by majority vote, determine that the meeting shall be conducted by electronic means. Such means may include, but are not limited to, video conferencing or conducting officer and director elections, as well as votes on other matters such as membership dues or by-law amendments, by a combination of electronic and postal mail. In the event that a meeting is conducted by electronic means, the provisions pertaining to advance notice of dues changes and by-law amendments shall remain in effect. The Executive Board shall adopt a procedure that permits nominations from the membership for officer or board positions.

Amend Article VIII, Section A to add:

In the event that circumstances beyond the control of the corporation make it impossible or unsafe to conduct meetings, the Executive Board may, upon a vote of the majority of its members, suspend meetings, including the Annual Meeting in May, or other activities of the corporation, until such time as it votes that a resumption is possible.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - HOW TO JOIN

To join the Beckham Bird Club, visit our website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. The membership fees are: regular \$15, family \$20, contributing \$30, student \$10 and life \$500. Mail to P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. **If you use Pay Pal don't forget to send an email to the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list.**

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.



GLOBAL BIG DAY – MAY 8

Planning is underway for Global Big Day and the annual friendly competition between Jefferson County and Fayette County for who can record the most species in the course of the day.

Many of you have been contacted about birding your favorite spots (as measured by your eBird statistics) that day. **If you haven't been contacted and are able to commit to birding on May 8, please contact me (Andrew Melnykovich – estiles74@gmail.com).** If there is a particular spot that you bird regularly and you will be there on Global Big Day, let me know. Otherwise, I may ask you to fill in one of the gaps in the map (right now, we need folks who know where to find birds in Jefferson Memorial Forest).

You don't have to be an experienced or expert birder to contribute.

It works like this:

1. Go out and bird for as long as you can – dawn to dusk, if possible.
2. Record your sightings in eBird. If you see something that is flagged as a rarity, document it as best you can – a good photo is best; otherwise, provide a detailed description. If it's flagged as rare, it will be reviewed and won't show up in the count until approved.
3. eBird does the hard work of tallying the totals.
4. Most species win.

After six Global Big Days, it's all tied up at three victories each. Jefferson County won the first three rounds by decisive margins, while Fayette County eked out narrow wins (160-157 and 152-150) in 2018 and 2019 before stretching the margin to 148-141 last year.

So, this is a pivotal year – it will break the tie and could (nay, should) end the Fayette County winning streak.

In order to optimize our odds of winning, it is important to cover all of the best birding spots in the county. And better still to have them covered by those who know them best.

Thanks, Andrew Melnykovich

BBC Birdathon

Don't forget to donate to this year's BBC Birdathon. There are many organizations needing help this year. The BBC website has a list of all the groups that have asked for a grant this year. So please say yes to the Birdathon so we can reach \$20,000. If you have not been contacted you can still donate by sending a check made out to **BECKHAM BIRD CLUB** and mail to P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. After the Birdathon you will receive an account with a description of the day and how many birds we saw. We always try for 100+ species. **Wish us luck.**

PEREGRINE FALCON NEST CAM IN LOUISVILLE

Michael Patton, avian biologist with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, has shared a link to the live video of the peregrine falcon nest at LG&E's Mill Creek Station in Louisville. Louisville Gas & Electric Company and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources unveiled this falcon web camera in 2013. The camera is located inside of a nest box, 300 feet above the ground, in the wall of a decommissioned smoke stack. Since the installation of the camera, folks have been able to observe twenty chicks hatch and eventually fledge from the nest box. This year, three eggs have been laid and they should hatch early next week. You can view the falcon camera here: <https://lge-ku.com/environment/plants-and-wildlife/peregrine-falcons/cam>

More information about peregrine falcons in Kentucky can be found here: <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Peregrine-Falcon.aspx>

BBC Conservation Report May 2021

Catch up on the Eastern population of Whooping Cranes, including nests and eggs! <https://www.savingcranes.org/whooping-crane-eastern-population-update-april-2021/?bblinkid=250291499&bbemailid=30596587&bbejrid=1932238822>

Bald Eagle numbers in the lower 48 are 4 times higher than a decade ago.

[More Than 316,000 Bald Eagles Live in the Lower 48, New Estimate Says | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

Unfortunately, a comprehensive report reveals that Greater Sage Grouse populations have declined 80% since 1965. [Greater Sage-Grouse Populations Have Plunged by 80 Percent Since 1965 | Audubon](#)

Enjoy the amazing story of Wisdom, the Laysan Albatross, who at 70 has just produced her 39th chick. [Seventy Never Looked So Good: The Long, Wondrous Life of Wisdom the Albatross | Audubon](#)

Efforts to save the Masked Bob White are progressing. [The Decades-Long Effort to Save the Masked Bobwhite Is Finally Taking Off | Audubon](#)

The ever-growing race to save the world's most threatened group of raptors – vultures - is proceeding in Africa. Intentional poisoning, unintentional ingestion of toxic NSAIDs and lead ammunition, habitat loss, and electrocution and collision with a growing power grid are mitigating factors.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/the-race-to-save-african-vultures/>

Brown-headed Nuthatches return to the Ozarks after 100 years, using assisted migration techniques. [Brown-headed Nuthatches Return to Missouri's Ozark Mountains After 100 Years | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

And finally, read a few interesting articles on European Starlings: [The Secret to Starling Success: It's in Their Genes | All About Birds All About Birds](#)
[Essay: Are Starlings Really "Invasive Aliens"? | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

APRIL BIRDING

Once April arrives, we get anxious for the migrants to return. Even though we keep telling ourselves it is still too early and we have to wait for later in the month. Isn't great when we do see that first warbler, vireo, flycatcher, thrushes, tanagers, shorebirds, etc.? As April began, we still had a few winter birds present but it soon turns over to seeing our returning birds from the south. Purple Martins, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Broad-winged Hawks zipping through the skies. A Laughing Gull and 34 Avocets showed up on a rainy day at the falls. On April 27 the winds starting coming from the south and every birder was reporting warblers, orioles, flycatchers, vireos, tanagers and many more species at all the birding hot spots – Beckley, Cherokee, Anchorage Trail, Harrods Creek, etc. Again, this month over 100 species were counted in Jefferson county. Be sure and check birdKY or ebird for all the birds that are being seen so you won't miss out on spring migration.

