



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

P.O. BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

MAY 2026

MAY MEETING – RAPTOR REHAB

"RROKI is a volunteer-based organization, dedicated to the rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned birds of prey. We rely solely on the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. We take in between 500-550 sick, injured, and orphaned raptors every year, and release over 60% back into the wild. We count on the public to help get injured birds to our facility. The birds may have been hit by cars, flown into windows, or become entangled in barbed wire fences. Although protected by state and federal laws, we still receive raptors who have been shot and poisoned. The saddest cases are those young birds who have been "saved" by people and are now imprinted - they think they are people."



Our meeting is on Tuesday, May 12 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

VOTE

It is time to vote at this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 12, for the officers and directors of Beckham Bird Club for 2026-2027. Their duties will begin on June 15.

Candidates for 2025-2026 are the following.

President: Meg Brown	Secretary: Pam Spaulding
Vice-President: Kevin Flowers	Director: Donovan Jones
Treasurer: Chuck Burg	Director: Carol Besse

Christine Hayden and Karen Bonsell will remain on the board for another year. Andrew Melnykovich will continue as past president.

Steve Brown was appointed as KOS representative by the BBC Board and his term will expire in 2029.



Beckham Bird Club wishes to extend its sympathy to the family of Herbert "Herb" Zimmerman who died on March 30. Herb was a life member and was an active member of many organizations. Herb was a regular at the dinner meetings.

The Annual Beckham Bird Club Picnic will be on Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m. at Creasey Mahan. Nature Preserve



Join us for a fun afternoon of birding, food and friendship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and ,of course, your binoculars. We encourage you to bring your own cloth napkins, plates, cups and utensils. That is non-disposable items. GPS: 38.400504, - 85.590233

There will be a Bird Bingo with prizes.

There are **three ways to make reservations** –mail the reservation form below, bring the reservation to the May meeting or text Kimberly Springmier at 502-609-4058. State your name(s) , what you are bringing and if you want chicken.

PICNIC RESERVATION- Deadline June 4

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____

I will bring ___salad/vegetable ___ desert___ other(_____)

Number attending who want chicken___

Number attending at who do not want chicken___

Mail to: Kimberly Springmier, 8310 McKenna Way, Louisville, KY 40291-2773

BBC Conservation Report Websites April 2026

[Top Stories Around Audubon in 2025 | Audubon](#)

[Congress Advances Key Conservation Priorities in FY26 Funding Package | Audubon](#)

[American Oystercatcher Tracking Program Evolves With GPS | Audubon](#)

[Are We There Yet? Differences in Migration Behavior Between Whooping Crane Populations - International Crane Foundation](#)

[2026 Final Results – Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

[A Potential Window Strike Breakthrough - Birding Wire | Birding Wire](#)

[Got Beef With Cowbirds? This Researcher Wants to Change Your Mind | Audubon](#)

Bird Walk and Bluebird Presentation

A Tom Sawyer Park bird walk and blue bird presentation , led by Phil Tamplin, will be at 10:00 on May 9. More details and specific meeting place to come. Please let me know if you might be willing to post this to members as Phil has specifically wanted to invite the BBC members since they showed so much interest at his BBC presentation. There will be a door prize of a custom-made blue bird box.

Phil has recruited me to help with future presentations and I am happy to help out our little blue Avian friends. If anyone has questions, they may contact me at aperrydmd@gmail.com.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

<p>Saturday, May 2 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. easy</p>	<p>LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY PONDS – For waterfowl and shorebirds. You must sign up in advance to enter the secured part of the site. Contact David Bailey at david.bailey2473@gmail.com to register and for information on access. Line up outside the security gate to await entry. THIS TRIP WILL NOT START AT MAYFAIR AVENUE GPS: 38.341753, -85.626089</p>	<p>David Bailey 720-648-1493</p>
<p>Sunday, May 3 8 a.m. – ?? CDT easy</p>	<p>MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK – For spring migrants and residents. Meet at Little Hope Cemetery inside the park. PLEASE DO NOT BIRD THE CEMETERY BEFORE THE TRIP BEGINS. Bring lunch. GPS: 37.154126, -86.053762 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1337848)</p>	<p>Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 5 8 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>POPE LICK PARK – For residents, migrants, summer 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. Meet in the main parking lot. GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095</p>	<p>Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655</p>
<p>Saturday, May 9</p>	<p>GLOBAL BIG DAY - See May newsletter for details.</p>	
<p>Sunday, May 10 8 a.m.- noon easy</p>	<p>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION – For residents, summer birds and migrants. Meet at the parking lot by the fountain. GPS: 38.21482, -85.47455</p>	<p>Kirk Huffstater 303-345-5020</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 12</p>	<p>MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING/OFFICER & BOARD ELECTION - 7:00 p.m. — St. Mark’s Episcopal Church - 2822 Frankfort Ave – corner of Frankfort and Kennedy</p>	
<p>Wednesday, May 14 9 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>CHEROKEE PARK/NETTLEROTH SANCTUARY – For residents, migrants. Meet at the base of Maple Road near the entrance to Nettleroth. GPS: 38.241906, -85.695007 (</p>	<p>Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526</p>
<p>Saturday, May 16 8 a.m.- noon easy</p>	<p>HAYS-KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE – Residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354 (https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L673935)</p>	<p>Kirk Huffstater 303-345-5020</p>
<p>Saturday, May 23 8 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>POPE LICK PARK – For residents, migrants, summer 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. Meet in the parking lot. GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095 (</p>	<p>Kirk Huffstater 303-345-5020</p>

Saturday, May 24 8:30 a.m. – noon. easy	BROAD RUN PARK – Residents, summer birds, migrants. Meet at Big Vista parking lot to bird on top of the ridge and then drive down to the main pavilion to bird along Floyds Fork creek. On paved or level dirt trails. GPS: 38.097435, -85.546963.	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Sunday, May 31 8 a.m. – noon easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION – For lingering winter birds, migrants and 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 (Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967



Be a part of birding’s biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, go outside on 9 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), and share the birds you find with eBird.

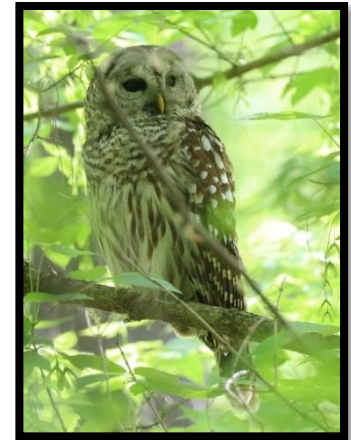
Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our [free eBird Mobile app](#). If you have more time, submit several checklists of birds throughout the day. You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these [animated abundance maps](#) brought to you by eBird Science.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Special Field Trip – April 12 Eight members met at the home of BBC member Cicely Myers and her husband Jesse. After a delicious breakfast we walked the driveway and property edge. We were not disappointed --a cooperative singing Prairie Warbler provided beautiful looks for the group. A Northern Parula was singing high in the treetops, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers were checking out the trees and a pair of Cooper's Hawks circled in the skies above our heads. A wonderful spring morning!

SLOUGHS WMA, HENDERSON CO. KY April 12 BBC field trip. Birded Hardy Slough and Shorebird Unit. Habitat pretty good for marsh birds but only a couple of Soras flushed. Shorebirds abundant in Hardy Pool 1 and at Shorebird Unit. Windy conditions inhibited detection of many songbirds.

Cherokee Park – Nettelroth Sanctuary – April 15 Nine BBC members and four guests gathered at Nettelroth Bird Sanctuary in Cherokee Park on a beautiful, warm spring morning. We started out hearing many birds singing and busily going about their days, feeding and working on nests. We had a very loud Chipping Sparrow greeting us, as well as Bluebirds, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Over near the Beargrass Creek, we had several birds including a Wood Duck that was in a tree and somewhat upset that a Red-bellied Woodpecker was checking out her nesting box. We then headed over to Nettelroth hoping to see some of the warblers we had been hearing. We did hear several, but unfortunately were never able to observe them. However, to make up for that, we got to see and hear a Barred Owl very close! Everyone got great looks at it! It was a beautiful morning and a great beginning to the spring migration!



Beckley Creek – Grand Allee- April 16 Unseasonably warm but pleasant day that started off cloudy and ended sunny. The highlight was exploring Beckley Creek Park's brand-new Echo Rim Trail, which opened this day. It is wonderfully laid out and ought to be a great place to bird, especially during migration. Even though it was late in the morning, we had a nice variety of birds on the new trail, including Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula and Hairy Woodpecker. Other notable sightings (and hearings) included an Osprey carrying a fish, a Northern House Wren and the mimid trifecta.



Bernheim Forest – April 19 Eleven members and three guests met at Bernheim on a clear, cool beautiful spring morning. We started off with Swallows (Tree and Barn) flying all around us, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles singing in the treetops, and our FOY Yellow Warbler singing and foraging along the lake shore. Our day got better with numerous year birds making an appearance along with eight species of warblers for a trip total of 55 birds. A wonderful morning!

Pope Lick --April 25 After a quick re-direct from a closed Beckley Creek Park, 6 BBC members walked around Pope Lick for a very fun morning. Conditions were mostly overcast and cool, warming up to a partly-sunny 68F by the end of the morning. Birds were being quite vocal, so we did a lot of chasing down songs/calls we heard, including Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warblers, Barred Owl, etc. Some of the species we got good looks at, others we did not ("heard only"). Migration is certainly underway, but numbers of species & individuals were a bit low still. Overall, it was an enjoyable morning to be in the field.