



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

OCTOBER 2022

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

## WHAT'S A MOTUS? AND WHERE IS THAT EAGLE?

The Beckham Bird Club's October meeting will answer those questions.

On Tuesday, October 11 at 7 pm Andrew Berry, Director of Conservation at the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, will update the BBC on a number of topics, including the Golden Eagles that visit each winter, the wildlife tracking stations at Bernheim, new education initiatives, the status of threats for nearby development, and (perhaps) how Bernheim's birds have responded to the presence of giant trolls in their midst. It's been several years since we've heard from Bernheim, so there will be an abundance of new and interesting information.

(For more on MOTUS, here is the link to a timely article in the current issue of Audubon magazine:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2022/a-global-antenna-network-next-frontier-migration>)

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, October 11 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 lot.** Just as a reminder Frankfort Avenue near the Louisville Water Company is under construction so you may need to find an alternate route.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The field trip schedule for October through December is included in this newsletter for those



receiving it by mail. For those receiving the newsletter by email there will be a link and it is also available on the BBC web site. October will probably be your last chance to see our departing neotropical birds but it is also the month to see our returning winter residents. So don't miss out join us on our field trips.

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**Melco – September 3** Sixteen birders found their way to Melco on a warm late-summer morning. The water level was very low and the mud-flats mostly replaced with grass so instead of shorebirds we found an abundance of grassland species like Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. In the small pools of water remaining, were mostly the usual suspects: GBHE, GREG, Killdeer, but one sharp pair of eyes detected a pair of Lesser Yellowlegs. Other highlights included Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Barn and Cliff Swallows, an American Kestrel, many Mallards, and a Wood Duck. Any warblers that might have been present eluded detection. The group tallied 36 species in just over 3 hours. Thanks to everyone who came out for a pleasant morning of birding!

**Turkey Run – Sunday, September 4** Despite warnings of rain the night before the weather was fine. Ten observers met at the park to make stops at various locations hoping to find numerous species of birds. Warblers, Vireos, Hummingbirds came forward to greet us. Red-headed Woodpeckers, Pewees and gnatcatchers, Catbirds and Thrashers, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, and a large number of Red-winged Blackbirds just had to be counted. As we left Turkey Run forty species were on our list. We decided to go into Broad Run Park where we added a Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Vireo and Red-eyed Vireo to the list. At the end of our trip we had a grand total of 43 species. We enjoyed birding with all of you.

**Mammoth Cave National Park -Monday, September 12** Traveling through the dense woods at Mammoth Cave National Park is always such a pleasure. It was a beautiful day to travel down roads and stop at several places in the park to try to find as many species as we could. The five observers would tally 48 species after a long day of searching and then searching some more. Highlights include Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and an Osprey flying along the Green River. Fourteen species of warblers were found including a spectacular beautiful Hooded Warbler. Thrushes were the order of the day at Maple Springs as several were present on the ground and in the trees. Good looks at Tanagers were had by all observers. It was a joy to be at one of our favorite places with these enthusiastic birders.

**McNeeley Lake - Saturday, September 24** Nine birders gathered at McNeeley Lake Park on a picture-perfect fall evening. Several flocks of warblers were encountered. Although many flocks were similar, we tallied 11 warbler species including Magnolia, Am. Redstart, Northern Parula, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Black-throated Green, Common Yellow-throat, and Tennessee. There were also many FOS Yellow-rumped warblers sighted. Other highlights included two Summer Tanagers, a Philadelphia Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, and many Indigo Buntings. Forty-six species were observed over a 5K walk. Thanks to everyone who came out for a fun evening! The leader would also like to acknowledge that he owes the participants a Marsh Wren that he extended the walk for, but failed to deliver on. ;)



Mark your calendars for [October Big Day](#)—**8 October 2022!** Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far. Last October, more than 32,000 people from 195 countries submitted 78,000 checklists with eBird, demonstrating the power of birds to bring people together. Wherever you are on 8 October, take a few minutes to join the world of birding on October Big Day. Participate from anywhere—even home! By taking part in October Big Day you're also celebrating [Global Bird Weekend](#) and [World Migratory Bird Day](#). Be a part of the global team and help set a new record for October birding.

## How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. Sign up at [ebird.org](#). It's 100% free from start to finish.
- **Watch birds on 8 October:** It's that simple. October Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts.
- **Enter what you see and hear on eBird.**



## **Conservation Report Websites For September 2022**

[On The Brink: The Five Rarest Birds of the United States | ABC \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[United States of Extinction \(extinctionmap.org\)](#)

[Rare Singing, Emerald-Green and Iridescent-Blue Hummingbird Unexpectedly Rediscovered in Colombia - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[New Initiative "Let the Sun Shine In – Indiana" will Work to Restore the State's Oak-Hickory Forests - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[New Study Shakes Up Long-held Belief on Woodpecker Hammering | Audubon](#)

[National Parks Ban Single-Use Plastics - Ocean Conservancy](#)

[The Basics of Bird Migration: How, Why, and Where | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

<https://www.birdingwire.com/releases/7c6e115c-3a23-4243-852a-77eb12481e63>

<https://www.birdingwire.com/releases/af237173-6a84-459b-b46b-05dc65219ed7>

[2022 Barred Owl Cam Season Highlights | Wild Birds Unlimited | Cornell Lab - YouTube](#)

[Arctic Snowy Owl - Nesting Cam | Explore.org](#)

### **SEPTEMBER BIRDING**

September was a good time to be out birding with temperatures bearable and lots of birds in our area. Over 150 species were reported for Jefferson County alone. Some highlights of birds reported in the area were Buff-breasted Sandpiper, American Pipits, Barn Owl, Whip-poor-will, Dickcissels, sparrows including White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's and Swamp, 26 species of warblers, all the vireos including Blue-headed and Philadelphia, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Marsh Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and many more. You can go to ebird and explore Jefferson County to see what birds were reported in September. Hope you were out finding some of those birds. October should bring us more of our winter residents coming from up north. The annual finch forecast is reporting that the food crop up north is not good so we could maybe see Purple Finches, crossbills, maybe Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls and more Red-breasted Nuthatches. Keep your feeders full and your binoculars handy.