



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

OCTOBER 2024

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

OCTOBER PROGRAM

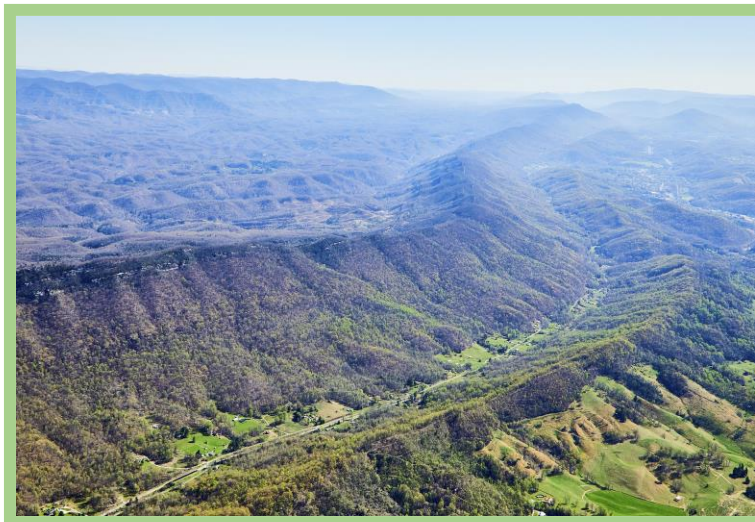


Our program this month will be given by Greg Abernathy, who is the Executive Director of Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, a Berea-based nonprofit that protects, connects and restores wildlands.

His talk is entitled - **Conservation in Central Appalachia: Biodiversity, Climate & Community.** Greg will talk about the unique biodiversity of Kentucky highlighting KNL's nearly 30 years of work conserving some globally significant forests of Central Appalachia.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, October 8 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.

Photo: Cumberland Mountain, Ted Wathen, Kentucky Documentary Photographic Project





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! Come join us on our field trips. **Please read the guidelines for field trips. They are important.**

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Anchorage Trail September 1 - Eleven intrepid birders attended the field trip. Cloud cover was mostly cloudy in the morning with some clearing in afternoon. While temperatures were lower than previous days (75-85), humidity remained high with little wind. Bird activity was extremely slow for the first hour or two but finally improved as the sun came up. A total of 41 species were observed that included several migrant warblers and one flock (25) of common nighthawks flying just above the tree tops!!
40 species (+1 other taxa)

BBC field trip after Breakfast with the Bird September 7 - Twenty-eight members and guests checked out the birds at Hays Kennedy and Garvin Brown after enjoying a continental breakfast on a cool, beautiful late summer morning. The birds were scarce (especially at Garvin Brown). We had at least 17 Great Egrets fly over, two Solitary Sandpipers, and two Green Herons along with an unidentified accipiter flyover. A beautiful morning to be out!



Mammoth Cave National Park -September 8 - Eight members and guests met at Mammoth Cave National Park to look for migrating birds, with an emphasis on warblers! We were not disappointed, starting at Little Hope Cemetery followed by a walk around Echo River Spring Trail in the morning where we got the largest numbers of species. After lunch we continued on to Sloan's Crossing Pond, the Campground Store area and then out Flint Ridge Road to end the day. The afternoon was much quieter, but still a beautiful day to be out. We had 50 species on the day including 13 warblers and two unidentified species (a very uncooperative vireo and three swallows, probably Rough-winged).



Fox Hollow Farm – September 15 Nine BBC members and 5 guests completed a tour of Fox Hollow Farm. Bird activity was slow in the morning but picked up as it warmed up. The highlight of the trip was the observation of several warblers and a Bald Eagle. Thirty-nine species were observed.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace - Boundary Oak and Big Sink trails –

September 21 - Beckham Bird Club field trip. Six birders came out on a warm morning. The birds weren't very active due to the heat, and visibility was not the best as either overcast or bright sunlight made it hard to see well, especially with birds that were high in the trees, leaving several unidentified. However, there were good birds to be had, beginning with a bright red male Summer Tanager seen next to the Visitor Center parking lot as we set off. We also encountered many Swainson's Thrushes, one of which afforded good looks once located in tangled vegetation. Several small flocks of warblers were encountered, with multiple American Redstarts, Bay-breasted and Black-and-white. Not many species overall, but not bad for a first day of fall that felt more like summer. Eighteen species were seen at the Visitor Center and Boundary Oak Trail and nineteen species were seen at the Big Sink Trail and picnic area.

OCTOBER BIG DAY – SATURDAY OCTOBER 12



October is right around the corner, and that means it's time to mark your calendars for [October Big Day](#)—12 Oct 2024!

Wherever you are on 12 October, take a few minutes to join in this global celebration. Participate from anywhere—even from 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.

More ways to level up your October Big Day:

- Upload at least one sound recording from October Big Day. Use the free Merlin Bird ID app to collect sound recordings with your smartphone.
- Skip the X—enter counts for every species (estimates are OK, too!)
- Start your October Big Day with a 5–15-minute checklist from home first thing in the morning.
- Use [eBird Trip Reports](#) to create a fun, sharable summary of all of the checklists you submit on 12 October.



CLAPPER RAIL AND SORA

A Clapper Rail was discovered by David Bailey on Sunday, September 15 at Hays Kennedy Park. It is the second record of this rail being seen in Kentucky and the first for Jefferson County. Many birders from Louisville, Indiana and Kentucky went to see this special bird. Sometime it was elusive and many birders had to wait for hours before it came out of the vegetation along the water but it was worth the wait. Not only were we treated to the rail but Soras could also be seen walking along the mud flats and taking a bath in the water, The above picture of the Clapper Rail and Sora was taken by Jim Wheatley. There are also many other pictures of these two birds along with other birds seen in the area on ebird. Hope you take the time to view these pictures.

So the question is – What will be the next rare bird to be seen in Louisville or Kentucky?

BBC Conservation Report Websites September 2024

[These 5 Birds Are All Winners in the Migration Games | Audubon](#)

[Hawk Migration Week: September 14 to 22 | Birding Wire](#)

[Photo Gallery: Meet The "Cosmopolitan" Birds That Occur All Over the World | All About Birds](#)

[Whooping Crane Migrates Directly Over Lake Michigan \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

[Why Do Hummingbirds Fight So Much? | Audubon](#)



GOOD FALL BIRDING!!!