THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB·ORG NOVEMBER 2026

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

'Golden Eagles of Bernheim'

Andrew Berry, Director of Conservation, Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

Andrew Berry serves as Director of Conservation at Bernheim Forest and Arboretum, where he leads land protection, habitat restoration, wildlife research, and stewardship. A Kentucky native with more than 25 years of conservation experience, Andrew has helped protect nearly 4,000 additional acres surrounding Bernheim that expand wildlife habitat and strengthen ecological connections across the landscape.

Golden eagles are among Kentucky's most elusive birds of prey, spending their winters in the forested landscapes of the eastern United States. Now in its 18th year of golden eagle monitoring, Bernheim works with partners to track eagles and provide insights into their migration, winter habitat, and behavior.

Join Andrew as he shares discoveries from nearly two decades of research and explores the importance of Kentucky's forests to the conservation of these magnificent raptors.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, November 10 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.

VOTE AMERICA
EVERY VOTE COUNTS

It's BBC Membership Renewal Time

The renewal period begins on November 1, 2026. We encourage you to renew before December 31, 2026, to avoid a reminder email or postcard thus saving time, paper, postage and a larger carbon footprint.

You can renew three (3) ways:

- Print the renewal form from the website (http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html), complete it and mail it along with a check to the P.O. Box.
- Bring your completed renewal form and cash or check to the November or December meeting.
- On the website, using Paypal (NOTE: You do NOT need a Paypal account to use this payment method. If you don't have a Paypal account, simply click through the Paypal screens and you will be allowed to enter your credit card information as a guest). PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR PAYMENT BY A DOLLAR OR TWO. THIS WILL OFFSET THE FEE - AROUND $1 or $2, DEPENDING ON THE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY - PAYPAL CHARGES FOR EVERY TRANSACTION.
    - If you choose this method, please be sure to also send your address, phone number and email to bbcky1935@gmail.com. This allows us to keep our membership rolls current.

Thank you for continuing to be a BBC member.

"IMPORTANT BREAKING NEWS"

The club is thrilled to announce the speaker for next year's March dinner meeting will be Greg Miller. Greg is portrayed in the book, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession. The Big Year,* written by Mark Obmascik, was published in 2004 and while many of you may have already read it, many newer birders probably haven't. So we're proposing a club-wide read in advance of Greg's visit next March. It's a highly entertaining book (much better than the movie although the movie is amusing as well) that follows three birders in fierce competition to try to set a new North American birding record in back in 1998.

The library has a few copies and copies will be available at the November meeting for $17 each, cash or check only. If you would like to pick up a copy at the November meeting, send an email to beckhambirdclub@gmail.com with your name and how many copies. Bring $17 in cash(exact amount) or check on

November 10th. Paperback copies of the book will be available at Carmichaels Bookstores on Bardstown Road and Frankfort Avenue with a 20% book club discount if you mention Beckham Bird Club. The retail price is $20, so the discounted price will be $16, or $16.96 including tax. If ordering online from Carmichael's (link here)be sure to note it's for the BBC book club in the comments to get the discount. More details will be in upcoming newsletters and at meetings, but mark your calendar now for the March 10, 2027 dinner meeting at Big Spring Country Club.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 7 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	**POPE LICK PARK** – For winter birds, residents. 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. (formerly called Floyds Fork Park) GPS: 38.184655, -85.488095	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-4864 502-435-3967
Sunday, November15 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	**SAM PEDEN PARK**- - For winter waterfowl and resident and winter birds. 3037 Grant Line Rd, New Albany, IN Meet at the picnic pavilion GPS: 38.319470, -85.826000	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Saturday, November 21 8:30 am – ??p.m. easy	**MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE –** 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. Bring a two-way radio if you have one. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258	Pat Bell 502-498-3543
Sunday, November 22 8:30 a.m. -11:a.m. easy	**TURKEY RUN PARK – SEATON VALLEY** Residents, winter visitors, especially sparrows. Meet at the Seaton Valley parking lot and walk the Seaton Valley Trail and Louisville Loop. 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. GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, December5 8:30 a.m. – noon. easy	**BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION** – For winter birds 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 (https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2876955)**	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Hays Kennedy and Garvin Brown -September 27 Sixteen members birded at both Hays Kennedy and Garvin Brown on a morning that started out with perfect weather. Starting out, the temperature was in the low 50s with little to no wind with a beautiful blue sky and only warmed up to a mild 69 degrees when leaving GB. The morning birding activity at HK was exceptional with 52 species observed, which delayed the GB trip until late in the morning. A total of 26 species were seen over 68 minutes at GB, and that total included another two species of warblers, bringing the total to 11!!

Bernheim Forest – October 4 Twelve members met on a beautiful early October morning. We had a nice start with a large group of Chimney Swifts flying over Lake Nevin on their way south. Our list included nine warbler species along with some departing summer residents and arriving winter residents among the 48 species seen.

Sloughs WMA – October 17 Beckham Bird Club field trip to Sauerheber Unit.8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. initially had six observers (NO BBC members . . .). No water had been pumped into the moist soil units so our list was devoid of rails and bitterns. We couldn't kick up either Cistothorus wren, "Ammodramus" **sparrows, or** anything else like a Bobolink or Dickcissel. Also we didn't see a single shorebird on the Unit. A few dabblers on Anderson Pond were the only waterfowl seen by the group. Only "highlights" were a couple of Fox Sparrows and a few Lincoln's Sparrows.

Beckley Creek – October 18 There were 7 of us who birded the usual routes around the Grand Allee area at Beckley Creek Park this morning. It was a beautiful morning, although a bit cold at 35F when we started, with clear skies and a light breeze. We

tallied a total of 44 species, and conditions were fairly birdy throughout the walk. We saw a few more warblers than I expected, including several Tennessee and a couple late Magnolias. For me, the highlights of the morning were a couple Blue-headed Vireos, which were the first ones I've seen this fall. There were tons of sparrows through our walk, so it seems they've settled in for the cold season. Overall, it was a great morning afield and the birding was very good.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2026 BIRDATHON DONATIONS

A BIG THANK YOU to our BBC members and friends for donating to this year's Birdathon. Due to the generosity of everyone who donated the Birdathon exceeded the amount requested by the different organizations. The access money will be added to the 2027 BBC Birdathon. The following chart shows what each group received. More information about the recipients can be found at beckhambirdclub.org – click on activities. Again thank you for your generosity.

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED
Blackacre Conservancy, Inc. -	$2,245.00
Creasey Mahan -	$3,850.00
Jefferson Memorial Forest	$850.00
Josephine Sculpture Park	$2000.00
KY Conservation Committee -	$2000.00
KY Natural Lands Trust -	$2500.00
KY Resources Council -	$3000.00
Lexington Bird Cult -	$500.00
Sunnyside Master Gardeners -	$500.00
Parklands of Floyds Fork-	$1675.00
Woods and Waters Land Trust -	$4000.00
Total Contribution	$21,120.00
2027Birdathon Donation	$6266.03

BC Conservation Report Websites October 2026

The Rollback of the Roadless Rule Puts Birds at Risk - American Bird Conservancy

Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay Are Starving to Death at Disastrous Rates. What Will It Take to Save Them? | Audubon

Release The Chicks! Banding Great Lakes Piping Plover Chicks in Northern Wisconsin | Audubon

Hawaiian Birds are Stealing from Each Other's Nests

The 2026 Audubon Photography Awards: Winners | Audubon

GONE BIRDING

Have you gone birding lately either on a field trip or on your own? There are lots of good birds to be seen such as a Lincoln's Sparrow found on a recent field trip or a Black-billed Cuckoo. Kevin Flowers took the picture of the sparrow and the cuckoo's picture was taken by Steve Brown while out birding .