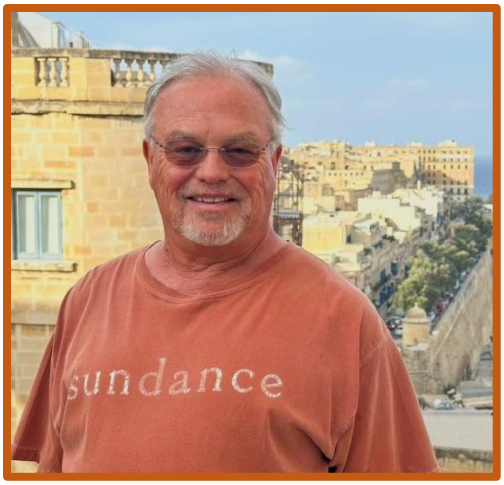
THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG OCTOBER 2026

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

800 Birds



Win Ahrens is a long time Beckham member and past president. He began birding at an early age and has kept a life list diary given to him by his grandmother ever since. In the late 80s he began yearly weeklong bird trips to US hotspots over the next 25 years with his brother Rick and good friend Mark Whiteside from Key West with the long-term goal of 700 North American birds. Ebird changed things with birding by countries and a higher goal was obtainable. He will share pictures and stories of his quest for 800 US birds.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, October 13 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.

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Turkey Run Park, August 30 - Thirteen members met at the Turkey Run Park Entrance Area on a warm late August morning. We walked around the parking lot and canoe launch area before heading up the hill to Boulder Pond where we walked around the hilltop. The birds were quiet and most of the activity seemed to be from hatch-year birds. Our highlights were an Osprey flying with a fish in its talons and two silent Prairie Warblers in the trees over the trail. It was still a beautiful morning to be out enjoying nature!

Tom Sawyer Park – September 6 Eleven BBC members met in the parking lot of E.P. Tom Sawyer Park on an overcast morning that brought slight relief from the recent heat wave with temps in the mid to high 70s. The morning started slow but we were soon seeing a female Summer Tanager, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and several American Redstarts. We had 3 Common Nighthawks and 4 Double-crested Cormorants fly over the park, while common park species such as Eastern Bluebirds, American Goldfinch, Indigo Buntings, Eastern Towhees, and Carolina Wrens were plentiful and a really great find was a Clay-colored Sparrow. Overall the group observed a total of 43 species and had an enjoyable morning in the park

Breakfast with the Birds – September 12 Thirteen members met at Hays Kennedy Park for the club's Breakfast with the Birds on a humid Saturday morning. After a delicious breakfast of pastries and fresh fruit, we headed down the path towards Garvin Brown. Our highlights included a variety of swallows hunting insects over the fields, a Magnolia Warbler, and a Scarlet Tanager. Ten members continued into Garvin Brown after Hays Kennedy. We picked up another Magnolia Warbler, a couple of Common Yellowthroats, and got the Mimid Trifecta -- Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher.

Mammoth Cave National Park – September 13 Eleven members met at Mammoth Cave National Park on a warm September morning. We started at Little Hope Cemetery, where we got the day off to a good start with five warbler species and our first Swainson's Thrush of the day. We moved on to the Visitor Center, where we added a female Scarlet Tanager to the day. At Echo River Springs, we had ten warblers along with Acadian and Great Crested Flycatcher. We ended the day at Sloan's Crossing

Pond where the birding slowed considerably, but we still managed a couple of warblers in the trees.

Pope Lick – September 19 We had a group of about 7 BBC members come out for this morning's walk at Pope Lick Park, and another non-member joined us early in the walk. It started out overcast and changed to sunny after 90 minutes, and temps ranged from 70 at the start to 85 at the end. From the start, it was a consistently birdy morning, despite all the runners & bicyclists out there with us. Our list included 62 total species, including 9 warbler species and 3 vireo species, which were all nice to see. Some nice birds throughout the morning included 3 lingering Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hummers still trying to fatten up, 5 very vocal Red-headed Woodpeckers over by the bridge, a couple Least Flycatchers, all 3 Mimidae species, and a seemingly late Yellow-breasted Chat. We had a very busy flock show up at the end of the cul-de-sac by the old meeting building, with many species being seen during that flurry. For me, the bird of the morning was also RuthAnn's eBird "Bird of the Day", which was first spotted by RuthAnn .... a Philadelphia Vireo! It was a very nice morning to be out birding, with an enjoyable group of birders.

Turkey Run Park – September 24 - Seven members and two guests came out on a cool, cloudy morning. Overcast made for difficult lighting conditions, but 42 species were identified. Highlights included seven species of warblers, with good looks of each - especially Prairie, Black-throated Green and Magnolia. Other highlights included good looks at Philadelphia and Red-eyed Vireos, and good listens of White-eyed Vireos, which insisted on staying hidden. We had three species of thrushes, and a large flock of Cedar Waxwings feeding on wild grapes. An enjoyable outing.

Beckley Creek Park – September 26 - This morning, 11 of us birders scoured some of the usual routes around Beckley Creek Park, and had a great time afield. It was a little chilly at first, with temps around 48-50 degrees, but by the end of the walk it had warmed into the high 70s, with mostly clear skies all morning. We had a total of 66 species observed, with 13 species of warblers! For me, highlights of the morning included 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos with great views of each, multiple Ruby-throated Hummers still zooming around frantically for food, a pair of Green Herons still at the main pond, nice views of 2 Philly vireos, and a very nice assortment of migrant Warblers, including incredible, prolonged views of a male Golden-winged Warbler late in our walk. Great stuff, and a beautiful morning to be out birding!

October Big Day—10 Oct 2026

Mark your calendars for October Big Day—10 Oct 2026! Together, we can make this the first October Big Day with more than a million people united to celebrate birds.

Wherever you are on October 10, take a few minutes to enjoy birds and share what you find on eBird. 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.

BBC Conservation Report Websites September 2026

How to Help Birds Beat the Heat | Audubon

Wait—Do Woodpeckers Kill Trees? | Audubon

https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2026/06/condor-flies-into-oregon-for-first-time-in-over-120-years.html

New Wildlife Refuge in Brazil Protects Critical Forest Habitat for the São Paulo Marsh Antwren - American Bird Conservancy

Making Communication Towers Safer - American Bird Conservancy

“FROM THE WOODS TODAY”

Dr. Matthew Springer, our September speaker, recommended a weekly internet show produced by the UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team called “*From the Woods Today*.”

From the Woods Today is a weekly internet show co-hosted by Reneé Williams, Billy Thomas, and the University of Kentucky Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team. The live broadcast airs **every Wednesday at 11:00 AM ET**, focusing on forest management, wildlife, conservation, and practical insights for Kentucky landowners.

- **How to Watch:** You can access live episodes via Zoom or participate through the UK Forestry Extension Facebook Page.
- **Frequent Topics:** Episodes frequently feature recurring segments like "Tree of the Week," insights on managing "Pesky Plants" (invasive species like kudzu and porcelain berry), wildlife tracking (such as bird identification or elk survival research), and forest health safety tips regarding ticks or water quality.

Ebird and Merlin

When birding use ebird to let other birders know what is in the area. Merlin is a great tool to help in birding, but it is not always accurate. Don’t report a bird if you did not see it or hear it and know the sound of the bird. Merlin gives the best suggestion not an absolute identification. So go birding as often as you can and use ebird to report your birds and Merlin to help you find the birds. Migration for our winter birds is starting.

ISN’T BIRDING GREAT!!