



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

FEBRUARY 2021

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

The Great Backyard Bird Count



The annual Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12 to 15 – President’s Day weekend in the United States. Every birder who participates is very important, so if you have been a loyal participant, please do so this year. If you have not participated before, we hope you will join the fun this year.

The GBBC is co-sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Birds Canada, and Audubon, and to get more information about the annual Great Backyard Bird Count and how you can participate this year, see <https://www.birdcount.org/>

Hope to see you out counting the birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY

If you have renewed your membership – THANK YOU! If you have not renewed go to the Beckham Bird Club website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage to renew your membership. You also received a membership form in the mail last November. The membership fees are regular \$15, family \$20, contributing \$30, student \$10 and life \$500. Mail to P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. **If you use Pay Pal don’t forget to send an email to the club with name, address, phone numbers and email so the club can update the membership list. All life members should do the same.**

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.

EAGLE NEST

There have been reports of people approaching the new Bald Eagle nest at the Louisville Water Company Payne Plant too closely. I doubt that this applies to the members of our local birding community, but I was asked to pass along this plea to stay away.

This is also a reminder that the new nest is right across Mayfair Avenue from the volatile homeowner who has made numerous threatening statements to anyone standing, walking, or parking along the road to birdwatch in the past.

Please park down Mayfair Avenue closer to the river, in between the water basins and off the pavement (but do not do so when you will rut up the grass shoulder).

The acceptable distance for viewing an eagle nest is a little over 300 ft. This distance is recommended by the federal government for avoiding disturbance (which can be considered a federal offense) and is based on research. Thank you all for appreciating the eagles at a safe distance. This time of year is very sensitive as eggs will be laid soon (if not already).

Thanks to Brainard Palmer-Ball and Kate Slankard for sharing this info.

P.S. A caution tape has been placed around the area to keep viewers from getting too near the nest tree.

Reverse the Rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The most significant attack yet on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has now been released.

The Department of the Interior has announced its Record of Decision in the last step to strip away critical MBTA protections, giving industries a free pass for bird deaths. In August, a federal court invalidated the policy that serves as the legal foundation for this regulatory effort, but this rule ignores that decision. It eliminates bird protections at a time when the latest science shows that bird populations are at serious risk from long-term declines and climate change.

Now is the time to show your support for the MBTA by calling on the new Congress and Interior Department leadership to reinstate bird protections. The Audubon Society has information and a letter on their website that can be used to send a message to our representatives. Hope you will call or write to reverse this decision.

BBC Conservation Report February 2021

Backyard winter bird feeding benefits female birds and provides refuge for wintering birds. [Bird feeding helps females more than males -- ScienceDaily](#) [Urban Feeders May Be Havens for Rural Birds During Harsh Winter Weather | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

And if anyone is planning some garden renovation, remember native berries are better for birds. [Migratory Birds Like Native Berries Best | Audubon](#)

Some unfortunate reports of eagle deaths due to electrocution, and in Wisconsin, a mysterious disease. [Tackling a top killer of New Jersey's bald eagles: electrocution \(inquirer.com\)](#) [Factors Contributing to Bald Eagle Electrocutions and Line Collisions on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland \(bioone.org\)](#) [What Is Killing Wisconsin's Bald Eagles? | Audubon](#)

On a happier note, common loons are once again nesting in Massachusetts [An Innovative Effort to Return Loons to Massachusetts Hits a Major Milestone | Audubon](#)

And brown-headed nuthatches are back in the Ozarks. [Brown-Headed Nuthatches Are Back in the Ozarks for the First Time in a Century | Audubon](#)

Warblers wintering in regenerative shade-grown coffee farms. [Analysis: A New Vision for Restoring Warbler Wintering Habitat | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

White-crowned sparrows sang softer, and sexier, during spring [A City Gets Quieter in 2020, and White-crowned Sparrows Change Their Tune | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

Biologists use sound analysis and bird vocalizations to discover new species and subspecies [Sound Sleuthing: Discovering New Bird Species by Listening for Them | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

Birds-of-paradise forests are disappearing [Analysis: The Forest Home of the Birds-of-Paradise Is Disappearing. Fast. | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

[Bird flu news: 4k migratory birds die in Himachal; Maharashtra orders poultry culling | India News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#)

JANUARY BIRDING

January, the first month of 2021, is over and we hope everyone is well and got out and birded this month. Whether you birded by watching your feeder or walked a trail in our many parks we hope you got to see some of the over 100 species that have been seen right here in Jefferson County. Waterfowl has not been abundant but a good representative of many species has been seen. Ducks, mergansers and geese such as Canvasback, Golden-eye, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers and Hooded Mergansers can be seen on the river at Ashland Park, Willow Lake on the Anchorage Trail, the Louisville Water Company ponds (or lagoons as the company calls them) and Putney Pond. If you can't wait for spring migration, four species of warblers were present this month – Pine, Palm, Yellow-rumped, and Common Yellowthroat. Don't overlook the beauty of sparrows that are found in the grasslands of Garvin Brown and Beckley Creek such as American Tree Sparrow, Fox, Savannah, White-Crowned and White-throated, Swamp and of course the Song Sparrow to name a few. The Bald Eagle is frequently seen on the river but has also been seen at Beckley Creek and the Anchorage Trail. Some of our northern visitors are still around such as Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Next month will be an opportunity to see Sandhill Cranes as they gather at Cecilia and Woodcocks will be giving their aerial courtship display. So, if you missed out on birding in January, February is awaiting you.

