



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY 2023

BIRDING THE CLOUD FORESTS OF ECUADOR



On March 3, 2020, Jim and Mitzie Wittliff began a trip into the high-elevation cloud forests of Ecuador. Their trip, coordinated by an Ecuadoran veterinarian-turned conservationist/eco-lodge developer, would take them to five different remote locations in the Andean forests. With the help of indigenous guides, the Wittliffs observed more than 100 species of birds. Due to the lack of radio or TV, poor wireless service, and local staff who spoke little or no English, they emerged from the forest unaware that the world had changed in those few days due to the arrival of the COVID-19 virus. Join us on February 14 as they share their story and their photographs.

Our meeting is on Tuesday, February 14, 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.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DINNER MEETING IS ON PAGE 4-5. PLEASE CONTINUE READING.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please note change of date for Turkey Run Park. Always check birdky and the BBC website for any changes to the field trips.

<p>Sunday, February 12 8:30 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>TURKEY RUN PARK – Residents, winter visitors, especially sparrows. Meet at the Seaton Valley parking lot and walk the Louisville Loop toward the Sky Meadows area. 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</p>	<p>Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655</p>
<p>Saturday, February 18 8:30 a.m. – noon easy</p>	<p>POPE LICK PARK – For residents, winter birds. 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</p>	<p>Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967</p>
<p>Sunday, February 26 6:30 p.m. until dark</p>	<p>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For woodcocks. Meet at the entrance end of the soccer field/"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</p>	<p>Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610</p>
<p>Sunday, March 5 8:30 a.m. – ?? easy</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610</p>

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Reformatory Lake, January 18 - Cloudy skies, calm wind with temps in the low 30s. Eleven hardy birders met at Reformatory Lake on a raw January morning. No ducks or other waterfowl were on the lake when we arrived, but we were rewarded with a large flock (approximately 55) of Greater White-fronted Geese that flew in shortly after we

arrived and joined a large group of Canada Geese foraging in the field across the lake. We managed to get a few more birds before moving to Wendell Moore Park. Ten birders continued on from Reformatory Lake to Wendell Moore Park. The birding was slow and quiet, but we did get Sandhill Cranes flying over at the end of our walk. Even they were quiet; we saw them but never heard them!



ANOTHER RARE BIRD

Another rare bird showed up to start 2023 off with a bang and to continue our rare bird sightings. A Western Tanager started coming to a feeder in the St. Regis park area just before Christmas. The home owners, Rick and Jamella Sullivan, graciously invited birders to come and see the tanager. Many local and state birders have taken the opportunity to see this beautiful bird. This is the second Western Tanager to appear in

Louisville in recent years. The last one was in December 2019. Thanks to Steve Brown for his picture of the Western Tanager. There are many wonderful pictures of the Western Tanager on ebird. Hope you check them out.

THE GREAT BACKYARD COUNT **FEBRUARY 17-20, 2023**

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count is February 17 to 20 – 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 again this year. If you have not participated before, we hope you will join in on the fun.

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.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR BBC MEMBERSHIP? ADD YOUR NAME TO THE NEW DIRECTORY BY RENEWING ASAP.

BBC Conservation Report Websites January 2023

[Water Purchase to Protect Endangered Whooping Cranes on Texas Coast \(savingcranes.org\)](https://savingcranes.org)

[The-Bugle-Nov-2022.pdf \(savingcranes.org\)](https://savingcranes.org)

[Athena, the Golden Eagle Returns to Remote Interior of Bernheim Forest](#)

[Sierra Magazine : Winter 2022](#)

[The Weedkiller Dicamba Is Poisoning Wildlife Habitat. Will the EPA Finally Act? | Audubon](#)

[The Flight of the Spoonbills Holds Lessons for a Changing Everglades—and World | Audubon](#)

[Stylish and Social, Winter Waxwings Provide a Wonderful ID Challenge | Audubon](#)

[Winter Is the Time to Sow Native Seeds | Audubon](#)

[Boreal Feeder Birds & Winter Finches | Birding Wire](#)

MARCH DINNER MEETING **Please Read CAREFULLY**

Derek Lovitch and his wife Jeannette live in Durham, Maine and own Freeport Wild Bird Supply. The store caters to birders and serves as a vehicle for Derek to continue to share his enthusiasm for birds, birding, and bird conservation. The store is also the home base for a growing tour guiding operation, focusing on Maine's specialties. He is the author of How To Be a Better Birder and Birdwatching in Maine: A Site Guide. His writing has appeared in *Birding*, *Birder's World*, *Bird Observer*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *NJ Audubon*, *North American Birds*, and others.

Using the phenomenon of the “Morning Flight” as a case study, Derek’s presentation will share tips and takeaways for birders of all levels who want to improve their skills. With stories and photographs, we’ll learn how geography, weather, and habitat combine to provide outstanding birding opportunities for everyone to enjoy year-round.



The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 14 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available from 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A vegetarian entrée will be on the menu but for any other dietary needs please indicate them on the reservation form.

There is a **dress code** at Big Spring CC. Collared shirts for the gentlemen must be worn at all times. Casual dress is permitted as long as it is tasteful.

The club wishes to recognize and thank the Louisville Audubon Society for its generous support of the dinner meeting.

There will be a **field trip** on Wednesday morning, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. for BBC members. **Reservations are required.** Check the March newsletter for location of field trip. See the reservation form.

Dinner payment information - The price for the dinner this year is \$45. In an effort to limit the cost of the annual dinner, payment for the annual dinner will be by check only. Both PayPal and credit cards charge a processing fee, which the BBC would have to recoup by increasing the price of the dinner from the current \$45 per person. Please follow the instructions in the newsletter and on the website when making reservations and payment.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS IS Tuesday, MARCH 7. ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO BECKHAM BIRD CLUB. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WITH THE DINNER RESERVATION. SEND IT TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.

DINNER MEETING - Tuesday March 14, 2020

NAME(S) _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

Dinner Meeting -\$45.00 ea. Make check payable to Beckham Bird Club.

Please list any special dietary needs. _____

Print names of people with whom you wish to be seated. (Table of 8)

Reservation for field trip. Name(s) _____

Return form to meeting in February or mail to Jane Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242.

DEADLINE –TUESDAY, MARCH 7