



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

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

JULY 2021

## WE'RE BAAAAA.....AAAACK – MEETING AGAIN IN AUGUST

With the lifting of COVID-related restrictions on meetings lifted as of June 11, the Beckham Bird Club will resume our normal meeting and field trip schedule in August.

For our first meeting, on August 10, we have a special event planned. Back in the pre-COVID era, we had scheduled a presentation on the progress of Louisville's Waterfront Botanical Gardens. When we renewed our invitation, the folks at the gardens suggested that rather than they come to us, we go to them. So.....

On August 10 at 7 pm, we will convene at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens for a tour led by Bob Hill, former columnist for the Courier-Journal, retired proprietor of Hidden Hill Nursery, and storyteller supreme. After a walk around the property, we will end the evening at the visitor center for a presentation on what is to come at the gardens. Details on directions, parking, etc. will be in the next newsletter. It will be a fun evening!

In September, we will again be meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Frankfort Avenue on the first Tuesday of every month except March (annual dinner) and June (annual picnic). We will announce the speakers for the first few meetings in the next newsletter.

Also coming in the next month will be a field trip schedule for August and September. We are hoping to again offer at least one field trip every weekend. If you have not led field trips in the past but are interested in doing so, contact Andrew Melnykovich, field trip chair, at [estiles74@gmail.com](mailto:estiles74@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you in August and thereafter.

Good birding!

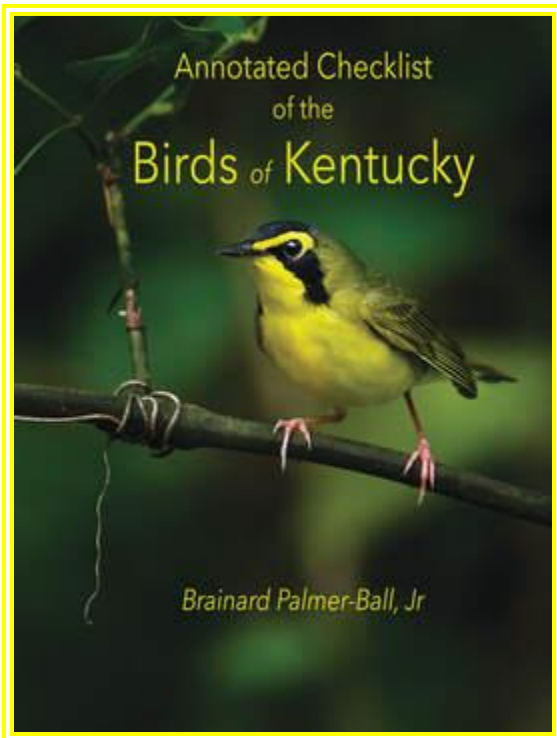
The BBC Board

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**BECKLEY CREEK PARK - Grand Allee section – JUNE 4** - Eight members and one guest participated in a trip geared toward beginning birders. Nice day with lots of active birds, leading to a species count of 53 - excellent for this time of year! Highlights were two Blue Grosbeaks and a very visible Prothonotary Warbler and Willow Flycatcher. Red-headed Woodpecker numbers continue to be higher than in past years, with many good looks at this spectacular species.

**POPE LICK PARK – JUNE 5** -What a difference a day makes! 24 hours after a busy morning a couple of miles north, Pope Lick Park proved slow going for three BBC members. A "mere" 39 species were seen, with very uncooperative resident warblers mostly heard and not seen, or neither singing nor showing themselves. Both species of tanager, however, were happy to show off.

**MAMMOTH CAVE NP – JUNE 12** - The song of the Wood Thrush could be heard all during the day as our group of 5 observers traveled the roads and paths in the national park. Even as we ate lunch we could hear the thrush, and Yellow-throated, Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers singing in the background. We had 13 species of warblers that included Kentucky, Hooded, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Black-and-white, Louisiana Waterthrush, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, Common Yellowthroat, Parula, Prairie and Pine. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found at numerous spots. Other highlights include Cedar Waxwings, and Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. A grand total of 54 species was the count at day's end.



## **THE STATUS OF BIRDS IN KENTUCKY**

A very valuable book that every birder that birds in Kentucky should have is the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. When you see a Junco in June is that something unusual? You can find out by checking the book and it will tell you when the last Junco was seen in spring. It also tells you when to expect spring and fall migrants to arrive in Kentucky. It tells you if a bird is rare or has been seen in Kentucky. This book is another tool in helping you discover the birds of Kentucky. This 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance. You can find details on how to purchase the book at [birdky.org](http://birdky.org).

## **BBC Conservation Report July 2021**

North Tern Island, California one of only 4 nesting sites for Elegant Terns, was devastated when an illegal drone crashed causing the birds to abandon some 1,500 sand nests, each holding one or two eggs.

[A Drone Crash Caused Thousands of Elegant Terns to Abandon Their Nests | Audubon](#)

Catch up on Eastern Whooping Crane population numbering 75 cranes, sixteen of which 75 individuals are wild-hatched. There are at least 21 nests this year!

[Whooping Crane Eastern Population Update – June 2021 - International Crane Foundation \(savingcranes.org\)](#)

Lesser Prairie Chicken added to Endangered Species list!

[Endangered Species Listing for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken "is the right call" | Audubon](#)

An expedition team in Venezuela, the Urich's Tyrannulet in May, a species not seen for 16 years. There have only been three confirmed sightings of the small flycatcher since it was first described in 1899. <https://abcbirds.org/article/found-urichs-tyrannulet/>

When on nature trips, the color of your clothing may affect animal behavior. [Color of Your Clothing and How It Affects Animal Behavior \(nathab.com\)](#)

Grassland management in SD to benefit Long-billed Curlews. [Grassland Management for Curlews | Birding Wire](#)

A rare subspecies of Rajah Scops Owl found only on the island of Borneo that hasn't been observed by biologists since 1892 was observed and photographed in Sabah. [Rare Owl Rediscovered After 125 Years! | Birding Wire](#)

Raising non-native bees does not "save the bees," and may harm native species. <https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Gardening/Honey-Bees>

Are the acts of kindness recorded in animal species from primates to birds and beyond truly altruistic? <https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Conservation/Animal-Altruism>

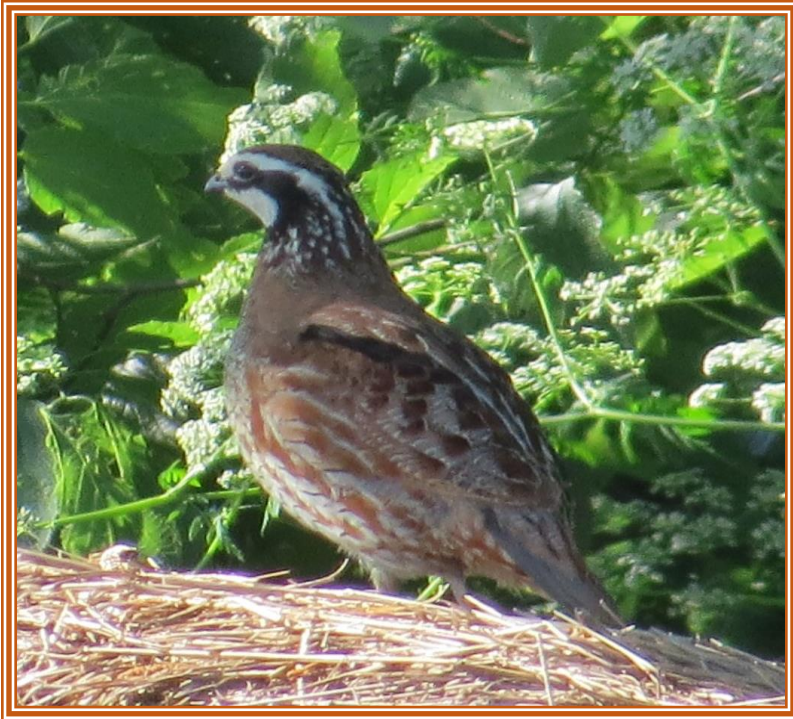
And because I am biased, an article about zoos and zookeepers that states for species declining in the wild, zoos and aquariums provide critical refuge—and often offer the only hope for recovery. <https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Conservation/Zoos-and-Aquariums>

### **2021 BBC BIRDATHON**

**WE NEED YOUR DONATION TO GET TO \$20,000.**

Many members and friends have sent in their donations. Have you? Your donations are very important to the different groups BBC have accepted as recipients of our birdathon money. **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL.** Make your check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Send your contribution to the post office box address: Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Otherwise send it to the person you sponsored. **Help us reach \$20,000.** Thanks so much!!!

## **JUNE BIRDING**



Most of the migrants have left and we are out searching for our summer residents. The birds are busy finding suitable habitat to build their nests and raise their offsprings. Again over 100 species of birds were seen in Jefferson County in June. Hope you have been out exploring and looking for birds such as the Bobwhite seen in Garvin-Brown and Blue Grosbeaks in the Grand Allee. A Common Nighthawk was seen in Central Park. Look for it if you go to Shakespeare in the Park. The Yellow-crowned Night Herons on Ramona had a successful nesting

season with many hatchlings. Different warblers – Kentucky, Prothonotary, Prairie, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated- are being seen in the Parklands. The Bell's Vireo is still on Recovery Road. Those birders who ventured to Oldham County saw Dickcissels, Bob-o-links and Bobwhites. Great Egrets are nesting on Shippingport Island. The first Cattle Egret for the season was reported at the South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin.

## **FEEDING BIRDS**

As you may have read in the newspaper or seen on TV the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has received reports from several counties including Jefferson that a mysterious illness is affecting Blue Jays, Grackles, and Starlings. They are recommending that you stop feeding the birds until further notice and wash your feeder with a solution of 10% bleach and water. Do not handle sick or dead birds.

The public can access Kentucky's reporting system online at <https://www.research.net/r/2021KYSickBirdReports>. The department will post additional data on its Wildlife Health and Disease webpage <<https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Diseases-and-Wildlife-Health.aspx>> and social media channels as diagnostic results become available. Information about the situation will also most likely be posted on birdKY as more is learned about this illness.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is recommending that all counties in the state also stop feeding birds.

**SEE YOU IN AUGUST**

