



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

MARCH 2021

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

## FEBRUARY BIRDING

The second month of the year has passed. Have you heard the cardinals, chickadees, and titmouse singing in the morning? Red-winged Blackbirds have returned and are setting up territories among the cattails along the road. Maybe they are telling us spring is not far behind. A big change in the weather this past month also brought a big change in the birds especially waterfowl. Lots of ducks were present on the river with big flocks congregating at the Jeffersonville waterfront. Hope you made the trip over to see the Redheads, Golden-eye, Canvasbacks, Scaup, Ringnecks, Wigeons and Ruddy Ducks. Both Pied -bill and Horned Grebes were spotted. The weather also brought in rarities on the river – White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and a Red-throated Loon. Both Ringed-bill and Herring Gulls have been reported on the river. A Common Loon was also present on the river at Cox Park. Cackling Geese along with hundreds of Canada Geese were seen at the Louisville Water Company ponds on Mayfair. Lapland Longspurs and Horned larks seem to always appear when we have snow on the ground. Sparrows are also still being seen at Garvin Brown and Beckley Park. A few Rusty Blackbirds have also been present. Sandhill Cranes are flying north and have been sighted and heard by many birders. Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches were still being seen. Great Horned Owls have nests in Cherokee Park and Cave Hill Cemetery. The ones in Cave Hill have young. The Bald Eagles at Mayfair and Towhead Island are nesting.

If you missed out on over the one hundred species seen this month March will bring in more migrants with the first Louisiana Waterthrushes coming near the end of the month. They are one of our earliest returning warblers. Woodcocks should still be present and displaying their aerial courtship. Purple Martins have been reported on the gulf coast. These birds usually arrive in the middle of March .

Thanks to Jamie Baker, Meg Brown, and Pam Spaulding for sharing their photos of February birds on page 3. To see more pictures, go to [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) and click on explore Jefferson, Kentucky.

Beckham Bird Club members wish to extend deepest sympathy to JoAnn Bochmann on the death of her husband Carl on February 14. Carl was an active member of BBC having served as treasurer and field trip leader for many years.



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

## IDENTIFYING PURPLE FINCHES AND HOUSE FINCHES

First House finches are a common species found in suburban areas year-round. Whereas Purple Finches are transient and winter residents. These two finches can be easily identified by color, shape, and markings.

Look carefully at the color of the male House Finch it is orange-red and extends from the forehead to the breast whereas the male Purple Finch's color is more of a raspberry-red that is on the head, chest and back. The head of the Purple finch often looks larger than the House Finch.

Looking at the female Purple Finch the head has a bold brown and white pattern with dark streaks on the breast. The female House Finch has a duller brownish color overall and the streaks on the breast are not bold. The House Finch's head is plain. If you look closely at the pictures you can easily see the difference between the two finches. Thanks to Jamie Baker for the picture of the House finches on the top left and to Pam Spaulding for the male and female Purple finches.



Hope you will have some Purple Finches at your feeder as they return north to their summer breeding grounds.





## **BIRDS OF FEBRUARY**

1. Rusty blackbird  
Long-tailed Duck  
Great Horned Owl by  
Jamie Baker
2. Ring-billed Gull  
Savannah Sparrow  
by Meg Brown
3. Fox  
Sparrow Yellow-  
rumped Warbler by  
Pam Spaulding

## **BBC Conservation Report March 2021**

Update on wind turbines and bird deaths:

[How Many Birds Are Killed by Wind Turbines? | ABC \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

Protected habitat for prothonotary warblers:

[El Silencio Reserve Expansion Benefits Critically Endangered Species and a Beloved U.S.-Nesting Songbird | American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

Learn five owl calls:

[https://www.audubon.org/news/learn-identify-five-owls-their-calls?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20210207\\_eng-email-superb-owl-sunday&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20210207\\_eng-email&utm\\_content=superb-owl-sunday&emci=c227dbc0-f667-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&emdi=8fd4e378-5569-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&ceid=1314690](https://www.audubon.org/news/learn-identify-five-owls-their-calls?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20210207_eng-email-superb-owl-sunday&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20210207_eng-email&utm_content=superb-owl-sunday&emci=c227dbc0-f667-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&emdi=8fd4e378-5569-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&ceid=1314690)

Investigate birds affected by climate change anywhere, including your own backyard:

[Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink | Audubon](#)

Wetlands in Indiana and a legislative vote:

[https://www.savingcranes.org/urgent-help-us-protect-indianas-wetlands/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=february\\_2021\\_contact\\_call](https://www.savingcranes.org/urgent-help-us-protect-indianas-wetlands/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=february_2021_contact_call)

And finally, fun facts about our harbinger of spring, the American Robin:

[10 Fun Facts About the American Robin | Audubon](#)

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - HOW TO JOIN**

To join the Beckham Bird Club, visit our website <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/> and click on the membership tab at the top of the homepage. 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.**

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.