



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MARCH 2024

## March Dinner Meeting



I'm David Lindo, also known as The Urban Birder. I'm a broadcaster, writer, naturalist, photographer, public speaker, tour leader and oh, I have been known to do the odd bit of birding! Born and raised in London, I love anything nature, but for as long as I can remember birds have been my particular obsession. I never switch off when it comes to urban birding, I'm forever on the lookout. It's a beautiful world up there. My main passion is for urban birds and I spend my time doing as much as I can to promote the appreciation and conservation of the birds that share our city lives. I now travel the world encouraging citizens and organizations to step outside wherever they may be to enjoy urban birding. I try to inspire people to re-look at their urban environments. I believe wildlife in urban areas is so easy to engage with. All we have to do is open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds and soon we will be linked into the nature around us. My message is simple-

**#Look up!**

**Extremadura: Spain's BIG Birding Secret!** Having known Extremadura for the past 14 years - the last 8 years as a resident - David has become very familiar with this incredible region in southwest Spain. It is one of the best places for birding in the whole of western Europe. It hosts a wonderful range of habitats from mountains to wetlands and specialty birds like the Great and Little Bustards, sandgrouse, vultures and larks.

Let David show you around.

The March Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12 at **Big Spring Country Club**, 5901 Dutchmans Lane. A cash bar will be available at 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 13 at 9:00 a.m. at Draut Park for BBC members. **Reservations are required.**

**Dinner payment information - The price for the dinner this year is \$47. 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 \$47 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 5. 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 THEM TO THE BBC POST OFFICE BOX WITH THE RENEWAL FORM FOUND ON THE BBC WEBSITE.**

**DINNER MEETING AND/OR FIELD TRIP- Tuesday March 12, 2024**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Meeting -\$47.00 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 March 13 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 5**

**DON'T DELAY IN SENDING IN YOUR RESERVATION TO MAKE SURE THAT THE US POSTAL SERVICE WILL DELIVER IT ON TIME.**



## THE LOUISVILLE AUBUBON SOCIETY

1. The Louisville Audubon Society's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Gilda's Club Kentuckiana (2440 Grinstead Drive, *Louisville* 40204). Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky will present the evening program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to meet the program raptors. Election of new officers and board members will take place. There will also be a silent auction of 27 Lenox porcelain bird figurines (only checks or cash will be accepted). Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages will be provided. The meeting is open to the public. All are welcome!
2. Louisville Audubon Society is seeking people to serve on its Board of Directors. You don't have to be a bird expert to serve. Current Board members are: Lee Payne, Jr., Dick Dennis, Carol Kaufmann, Tim Niehoff, Mary Yandell, Margaret Carreiro, Jacob Crider, and Brandon McQueen. So you would get to serve with really nice folks!

## PAST FIELD TRIPS

**Bennett Lane and Reformatory Lake – January 20** On January 20, nine birders searched Bennett Lane and Reformatory Lake in Oldham county but had trouble finding anything beyond the usual fare. Although the area played host to quite a variety of waterfowl over the previous week, the warmer weather seemed to have dispersed everything to other areas. The highlight of the day was seeing an immature male Common Goldeneye next to an adult male and female. Even though it wasn't one of the best days of birding, it was still great to explore nature with other birders!

**Taylorsville Lake – February 3** - Eight intrepid birders (7 BBC Members and 1 guest) braved upper-20 degree am temperatures to observe birds at 3 hotspots around Taylorsville Lake. Six BBC members continued to a 4th Taylorsville Lake hotspot in the afternoon when temperatures warmed to the upper 40s. The sunshine throughout the day was greatly appreciated. A total of 48 species + 1 group of unidentified ducks were observed with highlights including 3 Bald Eagles, Hermit Thrushes, both species of Kinglets, and Winter Wrens. Waterfowl diversity was unfortunately low throughout the day, but a Red-breasted Merganser, a few Canada Geese, and a number of Mallards were observed, Other aquatic birds included Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-billed Gulls, and a few Great Blue Herons. All had a great time!!



### **Bernheim Forest – February 11 -**

Seven birders met at Bernheim Forest on a damp and chilly February morning. We walked around the back of Lake Nevin, then birded the holly grove area. After lunch at Isaac's, five of us walked the Edible Garden trail. The birding was slow, but we managed good looks at a Bald Eagle and a quick appearance by a Fox Sparrow was a plus on the trip.

**Draut Park – February 14** On Wednesday morning February 14, 2024, seven Beckham Bird Club members gathered at Arthur K. Draut Park in St. Matthew's. It was a beautiful, sunny, cold morning, about 31 degrees to start.

We noticed that despite the cold temperatures the birds were very active and singing. Among many of the more common birds seen at Draut, we had a few that were a little less common. We were treated to two Hairy Woodpeckers, several Kinglets, both Ruby-crowned & Golden-crowned, as well as a Yellow-rumped Warbler! We were also excited to witness an interaction between a Red-Shouldered Hawk and Cooper's Hawk. It was a great morning of birding had by all!



**Turkey Run – February 16** Eight birders met on a chilly February morning to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. In spite of the cloudy skies and chilly temperatures we observed 30 species. Highlights included a lone single Sandhill Crane flyover and a pair of mating American Kestrels.

Six members of the group proceeded to the Boulder Pond area. While we only had 13 species, we witnessed Sandhill Cranes flying over and calling while we were on the open hilltop--we estimated 500. A beautiful sight.

**BBC/Parklands GBBC trip. Miles Park- February 16** Threatening weather and overcast kept away both birds and birders. Nevertheless, there were highlights: three Sandhill Cranes flew over (perhaps a family - mom, dad and kid?), a Screech Owl whinnied in the distance, and a flock of at least 25 White-throated Sparrows popped up



out of a weed patch at a single pish, as if by magic. Also had three Red-shouldered Hawks, two Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Red-winged Blackbird.

### **BBC/GBBC-Parklands field trip**

**Pope Lick – February 17** Four birders enjoyed a chilly, somewhat breezy but gloriously sunny afternoon of birding. The birds of the day were a flock of about 35 American Pipits on the Prairie Loop trail. Other highlights included a Sandhill Crane flyover of 33 birds, a nice look at a couple of Brown Creepers and a Cooper's Hawk on the hunt.



**BBC/GBBC field trip - Broad Run – February 19** Five members and guests met on a cold late February morning. We started at the south end of the park at the canoe launch ramp, then the top of the hill, and ended up on the road to the canoe launch ramp at the north end of the park. The Golden-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers were quite active and numerous. We also managed seven species of sparrows. A beautiful morning to be out!

**BBC/GBBC walk in the Parklands -Turkey Run – February 19.** Five members and four guests came out on a beautiful - warm (52 degrees, calm and sunny) afternoon. Birding was slow on the Passerine side, but there were raptors aplenty - many vultures in both flavors, at least five Red-tailed Hawks, a Red-Shouldered Hawk, three American Kestrels and - the highlight of the walk - two adult Bald Eagles soaring high above. Some distant Sandhill Cranes were heard, but never seen.

## **BBC Conservation Report Websites February 2024**

[The First Flamingo Census in Florida | Birding Wire](#)

[Common Feeder Birds - FeederWatch](#)

[https://www.audubon.org/news/the-birdsong-project-box-set?utm\\_source=everyaction&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=grammy-win&ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20240205\\_eng\\_email\\_birdsong-grammy-win&utm\\_content=birdsong-grammy-win](https://www.audubon.org/news/the-birdsong-project-box-set?utm_source=everyaction&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=grammy-win&ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20240205_eng_email_birdsong-grammy-win&utm_content=birdsong-grammy-win)

[https://www.audubon.org/news/new-study-wyoming-will-test-whether-black-paint-helps-birds-avoid-wind-turbines?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement\\_20240117\\_wingspan&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20240117\\_wingspan&utm\\_content=](https://www.audubon.org/news/new-study-wyoming-will-test-whether-black-paint-helps-birds-avoid-wind-turbines?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20240117_wingspan&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20240117_wingspan&utm_content=)

[Building a Great Horned Owl Nest | Birding Wire](#)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/to-catch-voles-under-the-snow-great-gray-owls-must-overcome-an-acoustic-mirage/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/a-third-of-american-adults-are-birdwatchers-according-to-nationwide-survey/>

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday, February 25 6:30 p.m. until dark	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> – (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. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955</a> ))	Pat & Jane Bell 502-419-5262
Sunday, March 3 8:30 a.m. – ?? <b>easy</b>	<b>MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE</b> – 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. <b>GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1307600">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1307600</a> ) ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2034604">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2034604</a> ) ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L768475">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L768475</a> )	Pat & Jane Bell 502-419-5262
Saturday, March 9 8:30 a.m. – noon <b>easy</b>	<b>LONG RUN PARK</b> – – For winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. From intersection of Shelbyville Road and Flat Rock Road, about 2 miles north on Flat Rock Road to park entrance, then ¼ mile to first fork and left at fork and then first right to boat launch ramp parking area. <b>GPS: 38.266796, -85.419667</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2706091</a> )	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967
Wednesday, March 13 9 a.m. - ?? <b>easy</b>	<b>DRAUT PARK</b> – Field trip with dinner speaker. Reservation required. Meet in parking lot on Bowling Boulevard. <b>GPS: 38.242791, -85.629445</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1161147">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1161147</a> )	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526
Saturday, March 16 8:30 a.m – noon <b>easy</b>	<b>BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION</b> - For winter visitors, permanent residents and early migrants. Meet at the “Port-a-Potty” parking lot at the south end of the Humana Grand Allee just before the large bridge over the creek. <b>GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L2876955</a> )	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Saturday, March 23 8:30 am-noon <b>easy</b>	<b>CREASEY-MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE</b> – For residents, winter birds and early migrants. Directions: turn left from US 42 onto KY 1793 at North Oldham High School. Preserve is about 1.5 miles on Old Harmony Landing Road. Meet at parking lot near Education Building. <b>GPS: 38.400504, -85.590233</b> ( <a href="https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1124187">https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L1124187</a> )	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826

**In March start looking for returning Tree Swallows, Purple Martins and Louisiana Waterthrush.**