



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

NOVEMBER 2022

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

THE BBC NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

Due to the election the room at St. Mark will not be available on our usual second Tuesday of the month. Therefore our meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15 at 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.

BIRDING ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAI'I

Like so many other island chains, the Hawai'iian Islands have experienced the loss of most of their endemic native bird species. The Big Island of Hawai'i is a refuge for a number of the remaining native birds, but they are under constant threat.

BBC member Andrew Melnykovich recently visited Hawai'i to search for some of those birds. In addition to recounting his quest, he will talk about the reasons for the decline of native species in Hawai'i and the many reasons that most of those that remain are under threat of extinction in the next few decades.



Hawai'iian Creeper



Nene (Hawai'iian Goose)



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR BECKHAM BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Yes, it is that time of year again, when the Beckham Bird Club and every other organization to which you belong (and quite a few to which you don't) send out reminders to renew your membership.

Not that you need any prompting, but here are the Top Five Reasons to Renew for 2023:

1. Support BBC programming. Your dues pay for our meeting venues, speaker fees and support BBC activities such as the picnic and annual dinner.
2. Stay informed about what the BBC will be doing in 2023. Renewing your membership means you will continue receiving the newsletter and other updates.
3. Your dues help BBC remain visible in the community by paying the costs of the BBC website.
4. Your dues pay for printing the BBC membership directory and allow us to periodically update our technology (laptop, projector, etc.).
5. MOST IMPORTANT REASON: You reap the psychic reward of being a part of and supporting a great organization.
6. Members who don't renew by December will receive a mailed reminder.

TOP REASON TO RENEW IMMEDIATELY:

1. AVOID GETTING CARDED

We are encouraging members to renew early so that we can limit the number of renewal reminders that have to be sent by mail. **Members who don't renew by December 1 will receive a mailed reminder.**

Cutting back on mailings saves the BBC the cost of printing and postage; it also reduces our carbon footprint (ever so slightly, to be sure, but every bit helps).

In that same vein, we are also encouraging members who still receive a mailed newsletter to switch to the electronic version. You can make the change when you renew.

So please renew as soon as possible, either directly through the website using PayPal or credit card or, if you want to pay by check, by downloading, printing and sending in the membership form, which is also on the website.

Here's a handy guide to the renewal process:

1. Go the membership page of the Beckham Bird Club website by following this link:
<http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html>.

2. You will see a list of membership categories, with the dues for each and a yellow button that says "Donate."
3. Click on the button. It will take you to PayPal.
4. Enter the amount you wish to pay (we encourage you to renew at the highest level you can) and then DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP (this is the default choice). THIS IS SO WE KNOW YOU ARE RENEWING, RATHER THAN MAKING A DONATION.
5. Select payment either through your PayPal account, if you have one, or by credit card.
6. If you select credit card payment, you will be asked for credit card information, including your name and address, (don't worry, it's a secure site) and then be asked to create a PayPal account. Doing so will simplify the process next time. (Just remember to write down your password and save it where it can be relocated.)
7. IF YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION (ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE), YOU CAN ADD A NOTE LETTING US KNOW. PLEASE DO SO.
8. YOU ALSO MAY SHARE YOUR ADDRESS WITH BBC BY CHECKING THE BOX THAT SENDS IT TO US TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GIFT.
9. Complete the transaction by following the PayPal prompts. You will get an email confirmation of your payment.
10. AND JUST IN CASE, please take the following IMPORTANT STEP: Please email your name, address, email and telephone number to bbcky1935@gmail.com so we can keep our membership roster up to date.

IF you still wish to pay the traditional way, by mailing a form and a check, the membership renewal form is available here for download and printing:

[http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/uploads/4/6/2/1/46215227/2022_membership_form_2 .pdf](http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/uploads/4/6/2/1/46215227/2022_membership_form_2.pdf)

The BBC board encourages you to renew early and hopes that you will encourage non-member birders or bird lovers of your acquaintance to join.

Be well, stay safe, and good birding!!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

A REMINDER TO SECURE YOUR VALUABLES BEFORE EMBARKING ON A FIELD TRIP OR OUT BIRDING. IT IS BEST TO TAKE THEM WITH YOU OR PUT THEM IN THE TRUNK BEFORE ARRIVING AT YOUR DESTINATION. TINTED WINDOWS WILL NOT PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES IN THE BACK SEAT.

Saturday, November 5 8:30am-12:30pm easy	CAVE HILL CEMETERY - Enter through main gate off Baxter Ave. and we will gather on the right side of Cave Hill Road on the other side of the gate, before the first bend in the road. GPS: 38.244195, -85.725179	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
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Saturday, November 12 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Easy	HARRODS CREEK PARK – For winter birds, residents. 6530 Montero Dr., Prospect. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. GPS: 38.340941, -85.600052	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Saturday, November 19 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy	BECKLEY CREEK PARK – GRAND ALLEE SECTION - For 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. GPS: 38.209077, -85.474110	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655
Sunday, November 20 8:30am –??? p.m. .moderate	MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE - Meet at the Muscatatuck visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Directions: I-65 north from Louisville take Exit 50 (Seymour). Take US Highway 50 east about 3 miles to refuge entrance. About 1 hour north of Louisville. GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Saturday, November 26 2 pm. – 6 p.m. easy	OHIO RIVER - INDIANA SIDE - Meet in parking lot near Ashland Park Pavilion. Bring scopes. GPS: 38.271952, -85.757427	Mike Callan 502-592-7008
Saturday, December 3 8:30 a.m. – noon easy	LONG RUN PARK – 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. GPS: 38.266570, -85.419823	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967 (Steve) or 502-435-4864 (Meg)
Saturday, December 10 8:30 am-noon easy	HAYS KENNEDY PARK/GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE/LWC PONDS - Residents and winter visitors. Meet in the parking lot of Hays Kennedy Park off Upper River Road. GPS: 38.352711, -85.630354	David Bailey 720-648-1493

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Anchorage Trail – October 1 -The trip started at 57 degrees warming up to 71 by afternoon, and a light breeze became a little steadier after 10:30. Twelve birders joined me on an unusual outing. We started off slow and eventually found an early Golden-crowned Kinglet and a flock of 6 mostly back-lit common warblers. After adding Black-and-White and Palm Warblers and hearing a Barred Owl, some unforeseen circumstances led a good number of the group to call it a day. Two members and myself continued on, finding Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows until they had to depart at 10:30, at which point one person arriving late caught up and we continued to bird in the stable breeze until 12:30. In total 53 species were positively found for the day with some odd misses, the remaining highlights being Great Egret, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both kinglets, all mimids, a few Swainson’s Thrushes, 2 Yellowthroats and a very skulky House Wren.

Bernheim Forest – October 15 It was a picture-perfect fall day as 18 early birders and one slightly tardy field trip leader gathered at Bernheim for an action-packed morning for birding. There was a lot of activity in the trees along the edge of Lake Nevin, with swamp, chipping, and field sparrows, goldfinches, bluebirds, cedar waxwings, and of course many butter-butts (yellow rumped-warblers)! The lake even had a few Pied-Billed grebes on it! A couple of yellow-bellied sapsuckers flew in and we also were treated to some great looks at a red-breasted nuthatch rummaging through a Baltimore oriole nest! From the lake we drove to

the visitor's center and made our way to the pine stand / picnic area where we found more red and white-breasted nuthatches along with a pine warbler! The edible garden and the path behind it yielded some of the best birds of the day. At the garden pond, a surprise Lincoln's sparrow popped out of some reeds and gave some very nice looks in response to a marsh wren call we had briefly played. Further back beyond the fence line we found another hotspot of activity with many more sparrows and several warbler species passing through, including bay-breasted, Nashville, and palm warblers. From there we walked a loop through the holly garden, across the grass field, part way down sun and shade loop, and back to the visitor's center. Other highlights from the day included a Merlin soaring, pair of eastern Phoebes. As we compiled the checklists list outside Isaac's, an eagle-eyed birder spotted a bald eagle soaring nearby to bring the total species count for the morning to 46 species. Thank you to everyone who came for adding to a wonderful morning of birding!

Sauerheber Unit. Sloughs WNA, Henderson – October 22 Fourteen birders convened at Hardy Slough on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA in Henderson County yesterday. The day was warm and quite windy, which hampered our efforts to flush marsh birds. We tallied about 65 species in total.

Highlights included a Nelson's Sparrow and at least two Le Conte's Sparrows that were in Hardy Slough. Photos of the Nelson's are on Scott Record's eBird list as he had the most direct angle on the bird when it sat up the best. We would have kept up with it and probably gotten better looks, but a Le Conte's Sparrow popped up just about 30 feet away from it and we focused our attention on it for long enough for the Nelson's to slip away and not be seen again. Later we got a brighter Le Conte's up in another pool.

Like most other places in Kentucky, the area is VERY dry and we had no shorebirds besides Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe. The only waterfowl were maybe 1000 ducks on Anderson Pond where we found an American Black Duck, Mallards, Gadwall (mostly), and a few Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail and Ring-necked Ducks . . . oh, and a single Northern Shoveler that I missed.

We kicked up just one Sora, although it is now past peak for them. Probably the wind hurt us on getting additional rails and we only saw a couple of Marsh Wrens in flight. We missed American Bittern again this fall.

Other highlights included about 50 Tree Swallows, a couple of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a Nashville Warbler, a few Fox Sparrows and Lincoln's Sparrows, and a female Purple Finch.

Pope Lick Park – October 23 - Partly cloudy, 59 degrees to start; clear skies and 73 at the end. Light winds. BBC field trip. Thirteen members and guests met on a beautiful fall morning to search for birds. Some of the highlights included multiple Yellow-rumped Warblers, several active Pileated Woodpeckers flying about and Swamp Sparrows hiding in the grasses. A late Bay-breasted Warbler was an especially nice surprise. A beautiful morning to be out and about.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2022 BIRDATHON DONATIONS



A BIG THANK YOU to our BBC members and friends for contributing \$22,212 to this year's Birdathon. The BBC Board at their last meeting distributed the money to Birdathon grant recipients. More information about the recipients can be found at beckhambirdclub.org – click on activities. The recipients and the amount they received are:

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Amount Granted</i>
KY Natural Lands Trust (KNLT)	\$2,500.00
Jefferson Memorial Forest	\$1,000.00
Josephine Sculpture Park	\$3,000.00
Surrey Hills Nature Preserve, Inc.	\$3,000.00
Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team	\$1,000.00
KY Resources Council	\$2,500.00
Kentucky Conservation Committee	\$2,500.00
Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest	\$2,500.00
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve	\$1,212.00
Raptor Rehab	\$3,000.00

BBC Conservation Report Websites October 2022

[It's the Moment of Truth for Saving the Northern Spotted Owl | Audubon](#)

[This Tiny Brazilian Island Could Hold the Key to the Purple Martin's Future | Audubon](#)

[Proposed Rule on Eagle Take Needs Strengthening, According to American Bird Conservancy - American Bird Conservancy \(\[abcbirds.org\]\(http://abcbirds.org\)\)](#)

[US proposal would permit eagle deaths as renewables expand - ABC News \(\[go.com\]\(http://go.com\)\)](#)

[Fertile Legacy \(\[nwf.org\]\(http://nwf.org\)\)](#)

[EPA Decision Maintains Dangerous Regulatory Loophole for Pesticide-Coated Seeds - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[How to Help Birds During Fall Migration - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

[Eastern Meadowlark Tracking Project Will Reveal Key Insights About the Declining Songbird - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/in-a-hopeful-first-american-crows-survive-west-nile-virus/>

[Bird Migration Explorer \(audubon.org\)](#)

[A Global Antenna Network Is the Next Frontier of Migration Science | Audubon](#)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!



Happy
Thanksgiving





OCTOBER BIRDING

Not only was there a change in the trees from green to the fall colors there was a change in the birds that were reported during October. More and more sparrow species such as White Crowned, White Throated, Vesper, and Savannah , also Juncos, Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper, Pied Bill Grebe, a Rufous

Hummingbird, Purple Finch, American Bittern, Red Breasted Nuthatches were seen and reported this month. Sure there were a few lingering warblers but most have made their way south to return in the spring. Check out ebird.org and search Jefferson County to see the many birds that have been reported this month and also the great pictures that birders have taken. The Barn Owl has returned to Cave Hill Cemetery after having its roosting place taken over by a racoon. Enjoy these beautiful days of Autumn by going out and finding those returning northern birds on your own or by joining one of the upcoming field trips.

The last Rufous Humming bird seen in Jefferson County was in 2016 so it was nice to have this female return this month.

