



# THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

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

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM



Geoff Roberts has worked over 10 years for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as a Conservation Educator at the Salato Wildlife Education Center, and most recently as the program coordinator for Kentucky Wild. Geoff was introduced to birding by his grandfather as a young child and developed a love and passion for wildlife and the great outdoors. A lifelong Kentuckian, he enjoys numerous outdoor activities in his free time, including hiking, birding, and bass fishing. Join Geoff for a presentation about Kentucky Wild, a membership-based program that supports conservation of Kentucky's native species not hunted, fished, or trapped. Learn about specific statewide conservation projects membership dollars have helped fund for the state's vulnerable and declining species, including raptors and songbirds, freshwater mussels, pollinators, bats, and amphibians.

**Our meeting is on Tuesday, November 14 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.



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR BECKHAM BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

It's Renewal Time! We know this is a busy time of year, but we hope you can take a few minutes to renew your BBC membership.

Your dues support all of BBC's activities including meetings, newsletters, membership directory, and the general satisfaction of being a part of a great organization!

The renewal period begins November 1, 2023. We encourage you to renew before December 31, 2023, to avoid a reminder postcard thus saving paper, postage and a larger carbon footprint.

You can renew three (3) ways:

- Print the renewal form from the website (<http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/membership-and-support.html>), complete it and mail it along with a check to the P.O. Box.
- Bring your completed renewal form and cash or check to the November or December meeting.
- On the website, using Paypal (NOTE: You do NOT need a Paypal account to use this payment method. If you don't have a Paypal account, simply click through the Paypal screens and you will be allowed to enter your credit card information as a guest).
  - If you choose this method, please be sure to also send your address, phone number and email to [bbcky1935@gmail.com](mailto:bbcky1935@gmail.com). This allows us to keep our membership rolls current.

Thank you for your continued support!

## **RESULTS OF GLOBAL BIG DAY**

On our Global Bird Day here in Jefferson County, we started off with temperatures in the mid-50s, but as the day wore on with the light wind it became apparent temperatures were dropping slightly. In the afternoon the wind picked up fairly consistently, but all in all, everyone seemed to have a decent mix of birds on this mid-October day. Several areas did not get the coverage we should have had with many past participants unable to join, but 56 people worked very hard and found 101 species when all was said and done. Some of the highlights were Wigeon, Black duck, Red-breasted Merganser, American Bittern, 3 owls, Merlin, Marsh Wren, 12 species of warblers and Calvary Cemetery hosted 2 species of vagrant sparrows - Clay-colored and Lark! The cool weather had brought a few early winter residents in as well, with the highlights being a few Winter Wrens and juncos. Thank you to everyone that participated and logged all your data in ebird. Thanks to Michael Autin for organizing the Global Big Day.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

A major bird-collision event occurred in Chicago, Illinois, last week, killing nearly 1,000 migrating birds, the highest number on record. During the night and morning of October 4-5, the birds died after colliding into the McCormick Place Lakeside Center during the height of their annual [fall migration](#). American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is calling for the management of McCormick Place to act now to prevent future bird collision tragedies, and for the Chicago City Council to fully implement the city's bird-friendly buildings ordinance. **Please join ABC in**

demanding action by contacting McCormick Place's management at 312-791-7000 or submitting a letter to [mcpgeninfo@mccormickplace.com](mailto:mcpgeninfo@mccormickplace.com).

## **PAST FIELD TRIPS**

**HAYS KENNEDY/GARVIN BROWN, SEPTEMBER 30** The leader and 8 participants had a cool foggy morning that quickly gave way to clear, unseasonably warm, sunny skies. With no water in evidence the only waterbirds recorded were on the river and in-flight including Killdeer, Great Egret and Cormorant. The trail leading to the preserve was relatively birdy though birds were not especially cooperative in the tall vegetation, but we had Tennessee, Nashville and Yellowthroats in evidence as well as at least 3 Lincoln's Sparrows, a good number in the east. Some light 'marshing' yielded Swamp Sparrow and a single Marsh Wren that showed briefly for a few. The preserve was mostly quiet save for the constant darting robins and 1 nice flock of birds on the fence line facing Hays Kennedy that included Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Philadelphia Vireo, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, several Redstarts and Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Nashville, and Magnolia Warblers. Some of our final additions were a family of Brown Thrashers, Black-and-White Warbler and White-breasted Nuthatch. Everyone worked hard to end the day with a respectable number at 57 species, with nary a Palm Warbler in sight...highly unusual.

**CAPERTON SWAMP, OCTOBER 3-** A beautiful, cool fall day greeted the 14 observers as they walked the trails at Caperton Swamp Park. It was slow at times but we eventually found 30 species including five species of warblers. Highlights included a late Blue-winged Warbler, hawking Cedar Waxwings, very cooperative Chestnut-sided Warblers, and beautiful Philadelphia Vireos. It was a fun morning to be out birding.

**HAYS KENNEDY/GARVIN BROWN – OCTOBER 7** Nine members and 3 guests came out on the first day that has felt like autumn to look for migrants that may have wandered in with the recent cold front. Unfortunately we were left with a lack of large numbers or variety, but we did locate good numbers of sparrows including several Lincoln's and Swamp. Other highlights of the trip included a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a young Red-headed Woodpecker, and decent numbers of Palm Warblers which seem to have arrived recently.



**BECKLEY CREEK – OCTOBER 15** Fifteen birders met on a cloudy and chilly fall morning. In spite of less-than-ideal weather, the birds were still out and about. Highlights included several arriving winter visitors (White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker) and all seven winter species of Woodpeckers were seen.

**BECKLEY CREEK – OCTOBER 21** On a chilly but sunny (and rapidly warming) morning, the trip began by covering the area around and north of the parking lot at the paddling access point, finding 20 species very quickly. Reversing course, we walked the paved path south as far as the bridge over the creek, taking a side trip through the field inside the big oxbow to the west of the road. It yielded, among other birds, three Red-tailed Hawks, including one under siege by American Crows, two Dark-eyed Juncos (FOS for most participants), a Belted Kingfisher and an Eastern Phoebe. Afterwards, the group split evenly among those returning to starting point via the paved path and those hiking the ridgeline trail instead. The species count ended at 40, with all of the expected woodpeckers except Pileated (Red-headed were much in evidence), both kinglets and swarms of Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Goldfinch and Carolina Chickadees. A most pleasant morning.

**DRAUT PARK – OCTOBER 25** Ten members came out to Draut Park under overcast skies, with sun breaking through at times. Temps were milder, in the low 60's. Our trip started out rather slowly, with a few Mallards and Red-winged Blackbirds. We then saw 2 Coopers Hawks, giving an explanation as to the quietness of the birds. We finally hit a pocket near the creek where we encountered several first of season birds for some of us, including Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warblers and both species of Kinglets, as well as several species of Woodpeckers. It then became quiet again. We did see both species of vultures after some of the participants had left at the very end. All in all we ended up with 30 species and had a great morning!

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2023 BIRDATHON DONATIONS**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to our BBC members and friends for contributing \$23,423 to this year's Birdathon. The BBC Board at its last meeting distributed the money to Birdathon grant recipients. More information about the recipients can be found at [beckhambirdclub.org](http://beckhambirdclub.org) – click on activities.



More money was raised than what was requested from the nine organizations that asked for grants so the BBC Board voted to give the extra to Raptor Rehab of Kentucky to help with their work with injured raptors. The recipients and the amount they received are:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant</b>
<b>KY Natural Lands Trust, Inc.</b>	<b>\$2500</b>
<b>Jefferson Memorial Forest</b>	<b>\$1350</b>
<b>Josephine Sculpture Park</b>	<b>\$5000</b>
<b>The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky</b>	<b>\$3688</b>
<b>Sunnyside Master Gardeners Bluebird Team</b>	<b>\$1000</b>

<b>KY Resources Council</b>	<b>\$3000</b>
<b>Kentucky Conservation Committee</b>	<b>\$2500</b>
<b>Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve</b>	<b>\$1485</b>
<b>Louisville Nature Center</b>	<b>\$1200</b>
<b>Raptor Rehab of Kentucky</b>	<b>\$1700</b>

### **Birding Resource: Birding Hotspots Website**

Have you ever thought about visiting a birding hotspot but didn't know anything about the property? Does it have paved trails, bathrooms, signposts? What birds can I see there and when? Are there any special access details or permissions required? *Importantly, have you ever wished you could provide other birders with such detailed information about your favorite birding location?*

There is a website designed to provide birders accurate, on-the-ground information about each eBird hotspot in an area, provided by local birders like you. For example, there are many hotspots that are on private property, and there are specific guidelines one must follow so as not to ruin access privileges granted by property owners who allow birders to visit conditionally. The Regional Editors for Kentucky are Roseanna Denton, Ronan O'Carra, and James Wheat.

<https://birdinghotspots.org/region/US-KY>

This crowd-sourced site is free and contains no ads, pop-ups, or commercial content! Please check out the website, bookmark it, and look especially at your favorite birding locations. If the content provided is lacking, click the **Suggest Edit** link to open a form to provide your experienced advice to others. Your contribution will be reviewed by one of the Regional Editors and added to the published pages. This can include maps, website links, photos of the entrance and parking areas, and more. Here is a link to the Jefferson County hotspots page: <https://birdinghotspots.org/region/US-KY-111>

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Saturday, November 11 8:30am-12:30pm easy	<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>	Meg and Steve Brown 502-435-3967 (Steve) or 502-435-4864 (Meg)
Wed., November 15 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Easy	<b>ART DRAUT PARK</b> – For residents, late migrants and early winter arrivals. Easy walk on paved path suitable for those with mobility difficulties. Meet at parking lot. <b>GPS: 38.24273, -85.62942</b>	Karen Bonsell 502-794-3526



Saturday, November 18 8 a.m. – ?? easy	<b>OHIO RIVER - INDIANA SIDE</b> – Waterfowl and others. Meet at the Falls of the Ohio SP, from which we will move to other spots along the river. Bring a scope if you have one, but there will be scopes to share if you don't. <b>GPS: 38.277145, -85.763528</b>	David Bailey 720-648-1493
Sunday, November 19 8:30 am – ??? p.m. easy	<b>MUSCATATUCK NWR/HARDY LAKE</b> - 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. <b>GPS: 38.959304, -85.798258</b>	Pat & Jane Bell 502-419-5262
Sunday, December 3 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. easy	<b>SAM PEDEN PARK, NEW ALBANY</b> – For waterfowl, winter visitors, residents and waterfowl. Bring a scope if you have one. From I-265 in Indiana, take Grant Line Road exit and go south about a mile to park entrance. <b>GPS: 38.319493, -85.825994</b>	Kevin Flowers 502-648-6826
Saturday, December 9 9 a.m. – noon moderate	<b>TURKEY RUN PARK</b> – 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. <b>GPS: 38.131035, -85.518651</b>	Andrew Melnykovych 502-608-4655

## **BBC Conservation Report Websites October 2023**

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2023/Fall/Conservation/Endangered-Species-Act-50>

[Marathon Hummingbird Migration Flights | Birding Wire](#)

[Monitoring Raptor Migrations | Birding Wire](#)

[A Migrating Cuckoo Named Hummus Makes a Tasty Case for Land Conservation | Audubon](#)

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/geomagnetic-disturbances-and-wrong-way-bird-migrations/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/are-cardinals-brighter-in-winter/>  
[10 Fun Facts About the Northern Cardinal | Audubon](#)

<https://www.audubon.org/news/social-dilemma-whats-stake-when-we-propel-wild-birds-stardom>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-war-ukraine-takes-devastating-toll-nature>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/dont-sleep-other-sandhill-season>

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

