

# Kentucky Ornithological Society Annual Meeting, Joint Meeting with the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Lake Barkley State Resort Park

September 18-20, 2026

## **Friday Evening Meeting, 6:00 registration and social hour**

### **7:00 – Evening Program**

KOS President, David Bailey and TOS President Chris Welsh welcomed attendees and provided some information about the business meetings for both the KOS and the TOS, scheduled for Saturday afternoon. After that, leaders offered highlights from Friday afternoon's field trips:

- Honker Lake – Trip leaders Brad Everhart and David Bailey reported several warbler species, including a Blue-winged Warbler/Golden-winged Warbler hybrid. They had good numbers in spite of the hot weather conditions.
- Jonathon Creek Embayment – Happy Chambers reported an Avocet, a Red Knot, phalaropes and other shorebirds.
- Bobcat Point – Jeremy Teague and Dick Preston had Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a Bald Eagle.

David previewed the trips for Saturday morning and explained the process for taking part in the raffle to win 1 of the 2 prints donated by Andrew Birch. He is one of the guest speakers who collaborated on 2 books about flycatchers. The prints are plates from the books. Proceeds will go to both birding organizations.

Steve Kistler presented his always-popular bird quiz to get the evening's activities started. After that David introduced our keynote speakers.

### **Keynote Speakers**

Cin-Ty Lee is a professor of Geology, Earth, Environment, and Planetary Sciences at Rice University in Houston, TX. Andrew Birch is an artist from southern California who has had his illustrations published in numerous field guides and articles. Together, Lee and Birch have developed guides to the flycatchers of North America with volumes 1 (Empidonax and Pewees) and 2 (Kingbirds and Myiarchus). Volume 3 will be published soon.

The Friday talk was called "Flycatchers Demystified." The goal was to learn how to look at flycatchers to aid identification. They stressed "holistic birding", which entails looking at all physical parts of the bird, behaviors, habitats, vocalizations, and seasonal status and

distribution to help with identification. With the increasing popularity of bird photography, it is easier to use more subtle traits. First step, make sure the bird isn't a wood-pewee.

### **Saturday KOS Business Meeting, September 19, 3:00 PM**

A quorum for voting was present.

David presented the state of candidates for the KOS Board of Directors.

#### **Slate of KOS Board Candidates:**

- **President:** David Bailey
- **Vice President:** Michael Patton
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Carol Besse
- **Treasurer:** Brad Everhart
- **Recording Secretary:** Bernadette Adams
- **Councilor 2026-2029:** Ethan Wells
- **Councilor 2026-2029:** Ed Groneman
- **Councilor 2026-2027:** Asher Higgins (fulfilling the final year remaining on Brad Everhart's term)

He called for the membership to approve the slate. Kyle Bixler made a motion to approve the slate. Meg Brown seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Outgoing KOS Treasurer, Steve Kistler gave the treasurer's report. The KOS is in good financial condition, with plenty of funds to pay for our meetings, the publication/ mailing of *The Kentucky Warbler*, and grants to support bird education and research.

Next on the agenda was the report on the special grant funds. There were no applications for grants from the Anne Stamm Education Fund in 2026. The Kingsolver Scholarship Fund for teen birders sent Garrett Roe to Camp Colorado this past summer. David read a note from Garrett, who was grateful for this extraordinary opportunity. Applications are open for 2027 camps. There were no applications this year for Burt Monroe Funds. Michael Patton reported that research on Woodcocks was funded this year by the Gordon Wilson Fund. Another application for funding has been received and will be considered by the board.

David welcomed the new board members and thanked those retiring from their duties. The spring KOS meeting will be held on April 23-25 with the location to be determined.

### **Saturday Evening Meeting, 6:30 registration and social hour**

#### **7:00 – Evening Program**

David welcomed the KOS and TOS members to the program. The first order of business

was a report on the day's field trips:

- Kenlake State Resort Park, lodge area and marina - Michael Patton (with Ron Huff) reported 33 species including tanagers and a cuckoo feeding in a tent worm nest.
- Boyd's Landing – Jeremy Teague (with Dick Preston) said activity was good early in the morning before it got too hot. There were many Red-headed Woodpeckers, Caspian Terns, Eastern Kingbirds, and several warbler species.
- Jonathon Creek Embayment – David Bailey (with Chris Welsh) said the Red Knot was present, at a distance. They also had an American Avocet and Black-necked Stilts.
- Clark's River Environmental Education and Recreation Area – Josh Powell lead the trip, but wasn't present, so Hap Chambers reported 41 species including Horned Larks.

There is only one official Sunday morning trip planned. David will lead a trip to the Sled Creek Boat Ramp and Kentucky Dam Marina. He encouraged other informal trips if anyone would like to announce plans.

**Winter Raptor Survey** – Jeremy Teague provided information about the Winter Raptor Survey, which is a citizen-science project. Most participants live in northern parts of the country. He encouraged the attendees to learn more and get involved, in order to get a better picture of raptor distribution. It is similar to the Breeding Bird Survey. Participants create their own routes. Visit [hawkmigration.org](http://hawkmigration.org) for more information.

**Bird City, Kentucky** – Michael Patton reported that Kentucky is joining the Bird City network. This project recognizes communities for creating bird-friendly conditions in their towns. Towns will have to meet certain criteria to achieve Bird City status. You can find the requirements for becoming a Bird City at [birdcity.org/Kentucky](http://birdcity.org/Kentucky).

David conducted the meeting's bird checklist, coming up with 128 species so far in the weekend, with good numbers of warblers.

### **Keynote Speakers**

Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch continued their presentation about Flycatchers: "New Advances in Flycatcher Identification and Migratory Patterns." They reviewed the importance of holistic birding – looking at more than superficial features, and they stressed that you can't always identify a bird. They provided some technical traits relating to feather spacing, which can be used easily with photos to aid identification. This is very helpful information for bird banders especially. They offered to help anyone with ID questions on iNaturalist, since they are both reviewers. Tag them and they will help you: Cin-ty (@cintylee) and Andy (@saintsfc)

David Bailey thanked everyone for attending the joint KOS/TOS meeting. Chris Welsh thanked the KOS for putting so much work into organizing the event. We are already looking forward to meeting together again at some point.