



Kentucky Ornithological Society & Tennessee Ornithological Society



Fall 2026 Meeting

[Lake Barkley State Resort Park](#)

September 18-20, 2026

Registration: \$10.00 (\$3.00 for students)

All times are Central Daylight Time

Friday, September 18

- 1:00 p.m.** **Field Trips** *departing from the front of the Kenlake SRP Lodge*
- [Honker Lake](#): Brad Everhart/David Bailey
 - [Bobcat Point](#): Jeremy Teague/Dick Preston
 - [Jonathon Creek Embayment](#): Happy Chambers/Chris Welsh
- 6:00 p.m.** **Meeting Registration and Social Hour** *Lake Barkley SRP Convention Center*
- 7:00 p.m.** **Evening Meeting** *Lake Barkley SRP Convention Center*
- Welcome (Chris Welsh & David Bailey)
 - Bird ID Quiz (Steve Kistler)
 - Keynote: Flycatchers Demystified (Cin-Ty Lee & Andrew Birch)

Saturday, September 19

- 8:00 a.m.** **Field Trips** *departing from front of the Kenlake SRP Lodge*
- [Kenlake State Resort Park](#): Michael Patton
 - [Boyd's Landing](#): Jeremy Teague/Dick Preston
 - [Jonathon Creek Embayment](#): David Bailey
 - [Clark's River Environmental Education and Recreation Area](#): Josh Powell
 - Potentially have a trip or two start early (offer the same hotspot again in the afternoon)
- 1:00 p.m.** **Field Trips** *meet at the pinned locations*
- [Kentucky Dam](#): Michael Patton ([Parking pin](#))
 - [Lake Barkley State Resort Park](#): David Bailey ([Parking pin](#))
 - Have park naturalist give a walk/talk
- 3:00 p.m.** **Separate KOS & TOS Business Meetings** *Lake Barkley SRP Convention Center*
- 6:30 p.m.** **Meeting Registration and Social Time** *Lake Barkley SRP Convention Center*
- 7:00 p.m.** **Evening Meeting** *Lake Barkley SRP Convention Center*
- Welcome and Announcements (Chris Welsh & David Bailey)
 - Trip Tally (Chris Welsh & David Bailey)
 - Keynote: New Advances in Flycatcher Identification and Migratory Patterns (Cin-Ty Lee & Andrew Birch)

Sunday, September 20

8:00 a.m. **Field Trips** & departure location announced at the end of Saturday's meeting.

About the Keynote Speakers:



Cin-Ty Lee (left) is a professor of Geology, Earth, Environment, and Planetary Sciences at Rice University in Houston, TX. Andrew Birch (right) is an artist from southern California who has had his illustrations published in numerous field guides and identification articles. Together, Lee and Birch have left an indelible mark on the birding community with the publication of their guides to the flycatchers of North America with volumes [1 \(*Empidonax and Pewees*\)](#) and [2 \(*Kingbirds and Myiarchus*\)](#) adorning the shelves of many birders, and volume 3 currently in progress.

In their Friday talk (Flycatchers Demystified) Lee and Birch will cover the basics of identifying flycatchers, covering which field marks to look for and how to use them holistically to conclude an identification.

On Saturday (New Advances in Flycatcher Identification and Migratory Patterns) we will hear about new advances in flycatcher identification based on primary tip spacings and other field marks derived from feather patterns. We will also hear about how these advances in identification are changing the understanding of migratory and vagrancy patterns in flycatchers.

Detailed descriptions of trips

Friday, September 18, 1:00 pm

- [Honker Lake](#): Brad Everhart
 - **Difficulty:** Moderate (easy near parking area, but steep hills/steps also present)
 - **Amenities:** None
 - **Parking:** Small trailhead lot ([Forest Service Rd 177, Eddyville, KY 42038](#))
 - **Details:** [If trip is at day use area] Day use area on the shore of Honker Lake and Lake Barkley with a trail crossing the water and leading into a hilly wooded area. Great place for waterbirds and raptors, especially waterfowl and eagles.
 - **Details:** [If trip is at trail near Nature Station] Wooded trail leading to the shore of Honker Lake. Good habitat for species that prefer wet lowland areas. The lake is great for waterbirds and raptors, especially waterfowl and eagles.
- [Bobcat Point](#): Jeremy Teague
 - **Difficulty:** Easy (optional moderate downhill walk to lake)
 - **Amenities:** None
 - **Parking:** Medium trailhead parking lot ([36°54'45.2"N 88°01'13.7"W](#))
 - **Details:** Wooded parking lot on an elevated point where migrants on the move tend to take a break. There is also a sandbar down the hill from the parking area on Lake Barkley where gulls and waterfowl hang out.
- [Jonathon Creek Embayment](#): Happy Chambers ([36°45'53.0"N 88°14'03.2"W](#))
 - **Difficulty:** Somewhat strenuous (bushwhacking to mudflat, uneven/soft surfaces)
 - **Amenities:** None
 - **Parking:** Side of road, no parking lot
 - **Details:** This hotspot is a large mudflat that attracts a wide variety of shorebirds in the right conditions during migration. We will also have a good chance at seeing terns, gulls, pelicans, and wading birds. It is useful to bring a scope if you can, but there will be at least one scope to share.

Saturday, September 19, 7:45 am

- [Kenlake State Resort Park](#): Michael Patton
 - **Difficulty:** Easy
 - **Amenities:** Restrooms and water
 - **Parking:** Large parking lot ([542 Kenlake Rd, Hardin, KY 42048](#))
 - **Details:** We will walk the roads and paths around the lodge looking for migrants and whatever other birds we may find. We may try to scan the water and the marina (if we have time) so see what gulls, terns, and waders we might find.
- [Boyd's Landing](#): Jeremy Teague
 - **Difficulty:** Easy
 - **Amenities:** Picnic tables, sometimes a portapotty is there
 - **Parking:** Medium parking lot ([37°00'06.3"N 88°09'58.7"W](#))
 - **Details:** This is an excellent migrant trap for southbound migrants (take a look at where it is on the map and you'll see why). The access road and parking areas are surrounded by woods that host migrating warblers and other songbirds, and there is a point where we can scope the lake for waterbirds of all sorts. A scope is useful, but we'll have at least one there to share.
- [Jonathon Creek Embayment](#): David Bailey

- **Difficulty:** Somewhat strenuous (bushwhacking to mudflat, uneven/soft surfaces)
- **Amenities:** None
- **Parking:** Side of road, no parking lot ([36°45'53.0"N 88°14'03.2"W](#))
- **Details:** This hotspot is a large mudflat that attracts a wide variety of shorebirds in the right conditions during migration. We will also have a good chance at seeing terns, gulls, pelicans, and wading birds. It is useful to bring a scope if you can, but there will be at least one scope to share.
- [Clark's River Environmental Education and Recreation Area](#): Josh Powell
 - **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate (roughly 1 mile walk)
 - **Amenities:** Vault toilets
 - **Parking:** Medium sized parking lot ([898 E 12th St, Benton, KY 42025](#))
 - **Details:** This hotspot provides a variety of habitats including ponds/wetlands, open prairie, and some more forested areas. This is a great location for all sorts of migrants - warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, etc.

Saturday, September 19, 1:00 pm

- [Kentucky Dam](#): Michael Patton
 - **Difficulty:** Easy
 - **Amenities:** Portapotties ([640 Kentucky Dm Rd, Grand Rivers, KY 42045](#))
 - **Parking:** Large parking lot
 - **Details:** The tailwaters below the dam can be excellent for gulls, pelicans, and cormorants. Views from above the dam can sometimes provide interesting diving ducks as well. We may make quick stops in other areas close to the dam to look for migrants.
- [Lake Barkley State Resort Park](#): David Bailey
 - **Difficulty:** Easy
 - **Amenities:** Restrooms and water
 - **Parking:** Large parking lot ([3500 State Park Rd, Cadiz, KY 42211](#))
 - **Details:** We will wander around and look for migrants in the trees and trails between the lodge and the marina. If gulls and terns are around the marina we will scan to see if we can pick out any unusual visitors.

Sunday, September 20, 8:00 am

- [Sledd Creek Boat Ramp](#), [KY Dam Marina](#), and [Sheriff's Ranch](#): David Bailey
 - **Difficulty:** Easy
 - **Amenities:** Porta potties at some parking lots
 - **Parking:** Mix of parking lots and roadside parking
 - Sledd Creek ([36°57'54.3"N 88°17'00.4"W](#))
 - KY Dam Marina ([466 Marina Dr, Gilbertsville, KY 42044](#))
 - Sheriff's Ranch ([37°00'20.3"N 88°17'29.6"W](#))
 - **Details:** We will make a few pitstops on the north end of Kentucky Lake to see a variety of birds. We will plan to spend an hour to an hour and half at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp for migrant passerines as well as potential water birds such as terns. We will then drive up and make a brief stop at the KY Dam Marina to check the flocks of gulls for anything unusual. Finally, we will walk the road near Sheriff's Ranch to scan a small patch of pine forest for birds like Pine Warbler and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher that tend to prefer this kind of habitat.