

Kevin F. P. Bennett, PhD

Postdoctoral Scholar, Pennsylvania State University
Research Associate, National Museum of Natural History
kevinfpbennett@gmail.com
www.kevinfpbennett.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	2023	Biological Sciences, University of Maryland	College Park, MD
M.S.	2017	Biological Sciences, Fordham University	New York, NY
B.A.	2013	Biology (Distinction), Colby College	Waterville, ME

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic appointments

2023-present	Postdoctoral Scholar, Penn State University	State College, PA
2023-present	Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution	Washington, DC

Other positions

2017	Project TRUE Project Leader, Wildlife Conservation Society	New York, NY
2015	Field Technician, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center	Washington, DC
2012	Whooping Crane Intern, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center	Laurel, MD

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	Molecular Ecology, Penn State University, <i>Instructor</i>
2023	The World of Biology, University of Maryland, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>
2021	Animal Behavior, University of Maryland, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>
2017 – 2019	Ecology and Evolution Lab, University of Maryland, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>
2015 – 2016	Introductory Biology Lab, Fordham University, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow</i>
2015	Ecology Lab, Fordham University, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Submitted | Balakrishnan CN, Toda Y, Ko M-C, Wirthlin ME, Driver RJ, Bolton PE, Miller ET, Mendez-Aranda D, Dikow RB, Frandsen PB, Shogren EH, **Bennett KFP**, ...46 authors..., Baldwin MW. Dietary shift shapes genome evolution and sexual selection in a Neotropical avian radiation. [Manuscript available upon request.]

In review | Céspedes Arias LN*, **Bennett KFP***, Campagna L, Wood AW, Bonaccorso E, Cuervo AM, Cadena CD, Lovette IJ, Toews DPL. Diversification and divergence in Myioborus warblers: insights into evolutionary relationships and plumage genetics. [Manuscript available upon request.]

*Shared first-authorship

In review | **Bennett KFP**, Gielow KH, Toews DPL. Genetic confirmation of an “Uncommon Mourningthroat” (*Geothlypis philadelphia* x *G. trichas*): a rare but persistent hybrid warbler. [Manuscript available upon request.]

In review (2nd round) | **Bennett KFP**, Wood AWW, Baiz MD, Phung L-N, Lovette IJ, Toews DPL. The colorful legacy of hybridization in parulid warblers. [Manuscript available upon request.]

2025 | **Bennett KFP**, Bolton PE, Brumfield RT, Wilkinson GS, Braun MJ. Impact of a putative riverine barrier on genomic population structure and gene flow in the presence of sexual selection. *Evolution*, corrected proof. <https://doi.org/10.1093/evolut/qpaf146>.

2025 | Morrison ES, Pandolfi GP, Aguillon SM, Ali JR, Archard O, Baldassarre DT, Baquero I, **Bennett KFP**, ...33 authors..., Shutz AJ. AvianLexiconAtlas: A database of descriptive categories of English-language bird names around the world. *PLOS ONE*, 20(6): e0325890. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0325890>.

2024 | Lim HC*, **Bennett KFP***, Justyn NM, Powers MJ, Long KM, Kingston SE, Lindsay WR, Pease JB, Fuxjager MJ, Bolton PE, Balakrishnan CN, Day LB, Parsons TJ, Brawn JD, Hill GE, Braun MJ. Sequential introgression of a carotenoid processing gene underlies sexual ornament diversity in a genus of manakins. *Science Advances*, 10(47): eadn8339. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adn8339>.

*Shared first authorship

2024 | Long KM, Rivera-Colón AG, **Bennett KFP**, Catchen JM, Braun MJ, Brawn JD. Ongoing introgression of a secondary sexual plumage trait in a stable avian hybrid zone. *Evolution*, 78(9): 1539–1553. <https://doi.org/10.1093/evolut/qpae076>.

2021 | **Bennett KFP**, Lim HC, Braun MJ. Sexual selection and introgression in avian hybrid zones: Spotlight on *Manacus*. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 61(4): 1291–1309. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icab135>.

2021 | **Bennett KFP***, Evans BS*, Clark JA, Marra PP. Domestic cat abundance and activity across a residential land use gradient. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 9: 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.643845>.

*Shared first-authorship

Non-peer reviewed

2025 | Sly ND, **Bennett KFP**, Long KM. Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*), version 3.0. In Birds of the World (Sly ND and Billerman SM, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/species/goeman1/3.0>.

GRANTS AND AWARDS (total \$241,875)

Research grants

2021	\$74,648	Co-PI: James Bond Grant, Smithsonian Institution
2021	\$700	Maryland Ornithological Society Research Grant
2020	\$2,470	Alexander Wetmore Research Award, AOS
2019	\$138,292	Co-PI: Core Research Grant, National Museum of Natural History

Other awards

2024	\$460	Travel Award, American Ornithological Society
2023	\$9,061	BISI Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland
2022	\$6,429	Dr. Devra Kleiman Memorial Graduate Endowment, UMD
2022	\$570	Travel Award, American Ornithological Society
2022	\$983	Biology Department Travel Award and Goldhaber Travel Grant, UMD
2020	\$250	Best Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, & Systematics Research in Progress Talk, UMD
2020	\$2,500	Dean's Fellowship, UMD
2019	\$500	Biology Department Travel Award, UMD
2018	\$2,500	Dean's Fellowship, UMD
2016	\$712	Professional Development Grant, Fordham University
2015	Hon. Mention	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2012	\$1,800	Linda Cotter Award, Colby College

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2024	Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: Informatics, Data Science, & Genomics Series “Gene flow and sexual selection: insights from colorful birds”
2023	Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science “Evolutionary insights from hybridization in bearded manakins”
2022	East Carolina University “The genetic basis and evolutionary history of a sexual signal in bearded manakins”
2020	Frederick Bird Club “Manakins: Evolutionary insights from a dancing bird.”

- 2020** Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium
“Manakins: Nature’s Lords of the Dance.”
- 2019** Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: Phylopizza Series
“Birds of a (golden) feather: Evolutionary insights from manakin genomics and behavior.”

Conference Talks

- 2025** American Ornithological Society, St. Louis, MO
“*In vitro* characterization of a functional parulid carotenoid processing enzyme, BCO2”
- 2024** American Ornithological Society, Estes Park, CO
“Following a colorful winding thread of introgression in wood-warblers (Parulidae)”
- 2023** American Ornithological Society, London, ON
“Hybridization in a dynamic landscape: insights from nearshore islands”
- 2023** Society for the Study of Evolution, Albuquerque, NM
“Impact of a river barrier on genomic population structure and introgression of a sexually selected trait”
- 2022** American Ornithological Society, San Juan, PR
“Colorful plumage in bearded manakins: parallel evolution or gene flow?”
- 2021** American Ornithological Society, virtual
“Is a river barrier impeding introgression of sexually selected trait?”
- 2019** Manakin Genomics Research Coordination Network, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil
“The genetic basis of sexual traits in an avian hybrid zone”
- 2019** Society for the Study of Evolution, Providence, RI
“The genetic basis of a sexually selected trait in an avian hybrid zone”

Conference Posters

- 2025** American Ornithological Society, St. Louis, MO
“Incomplete introgression of a carotenoid coloration gene in red-faced warblers (*Cardellina rubrifrons*)”
- 2017** Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York, NY
“Patterns of free-ranging domestic cat abundance along an urbanization gradient”
- 2016** North American Ornithological Conference, Washington, DC
“Free-ranging cat densities along an urban-rural gradient”

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

- 2022-2023** Caleb Bekele, NMNH YES! Program intern
- 2022** Sophia Matoss, NMNH YES! Program intern
- 2020-2021** Grant Bowers, UMD undergraduate research assistant, NMNH intern
- 2020** Rachel Lubitz, UMD undergraduate research assistant
- 2017** Devin D’Agostino, Fordham undergraduate and Project TRUE mentee
- 2017** Bethany Regan, Fordham undergraduate and Project TRUE mentee

OUTREACH

- 2025** Bird walk, Ward 8 Woods Conservancy, Washington, DC
- 2024** Bird walk, Columbia Heights Education Campus, Washington, DC
- 2024** Bird walk, Ward 8 Woods Conservancy, Washington, DC
- 2024** Seminar & bird walk, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, State College PA (co-lead with David Toews)
- 2023** Bird walk, Black Birder’s Week, Laurel, MD (co-lead with Dara Wilson and Maria Montero)
- 2022** Bird walk, Black Birder’s Week, Washington, DC (co-lead with Adé Ben-Salahuddin)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- American Ornithological Society Early Professionals Committee (2023-present)
- Patuxent Bird Club Member, Board of Directors (2021-present)

Maryland Ornithological Society Member, Maryland/DC Records Committee (2021-2024)
UMD B.E.E.S. Student Taskforce Vice President (2019-2021)

PEER REVIEW

Nature Climate Change
Molecular Ecology
Evolution
Ornithology
Ornithological Applications
Emu – Austral Ornithology
Journal of Urban Ecology
US Geological Survey (external reviewer)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Ornithological Society
Society for the Study of Evolution
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Maryland Ornithological Society