

**ATLANTA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**Building places where
birds and people thrive.**

Birds are a part of our everyday lives. Our health, our livelihoods, our quality of life are going to follow those of birds. And Georgia's birds need us now; more than 70 species are recognized as threatened in the North American Watch List or the Audubon Climate Report. With your help, we are moving closer to a conservation-minded and fully engaged Georgia where birds prosper, habitats flourish, and public understanding grows.



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A special thank you to the following photographers who graciously allowed us to use their images for the 2016 Annual Report:

Christy Cox (CC)
Shannon Fair (SF)
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Where birds thrive, people thrive. Atlanta Audubon is creating bird-friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.

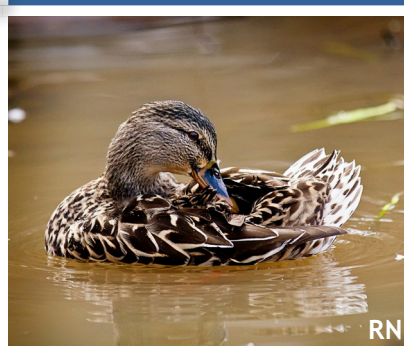


More than **1,000** participants in nearly **150** free bird walks across metro-Atlanta

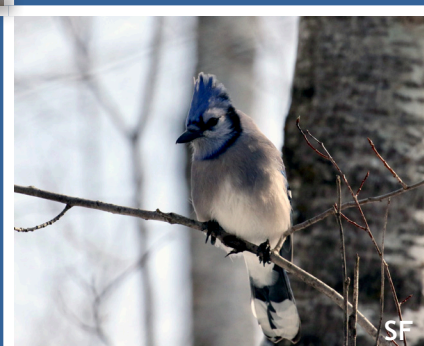


Added **2** new large habitat restoration sites at Deepdene Park and Friendship Forest

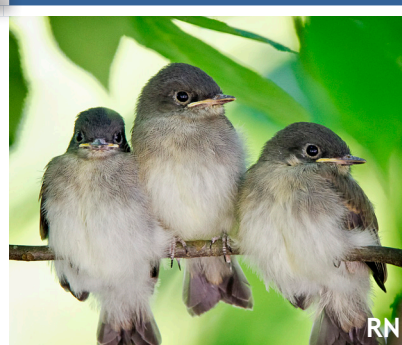
3,750 people engaged in educational outreach programs



984 chapter members working together to protect Georgia's birds and their habitats

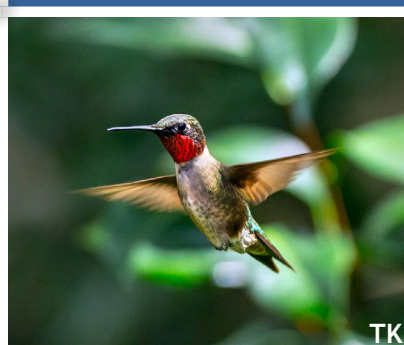


3,174 volunteer hours contributed by **125** volunteers

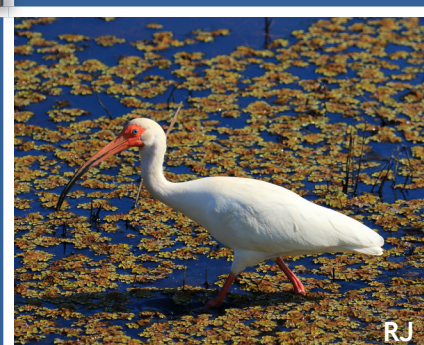


435 birds collected through Project Safe Flight Atlanta

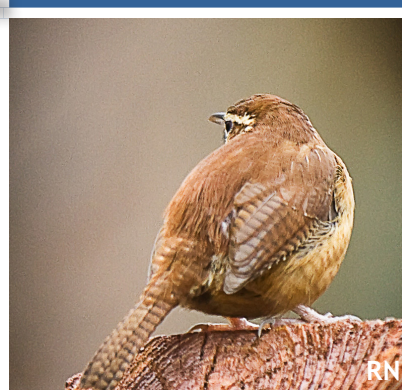
33 Wildlife Sanctuaries certified



132 Climate Watch surveys completed



56 Brown-headed Nuthatch nest boxes distributed



983 bird-friendly native plants installed



2016 Program



Building the Case for Bird-safe Buildings

Understanding threats birds face locally is key to their conservation. Through the leadership of our Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel, and with the daily assistance of volunteers during spring and fall migration periods, Atlanta Audubon's **Project Safe Flight Atlanta** collected 435 birds in 2016 that perished from colliding with buildings in metro-Atlanta. A startling 70 species of birds were represented, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cape May Warbler, Chimney Swift, and Wood Thrush. With funding awarded by Disney's Conservation Fund, we have continued to build our monitoring program and launched Lights Out Atlanta, a campaign to decrease nighttime lighting for nocturnal migrants.

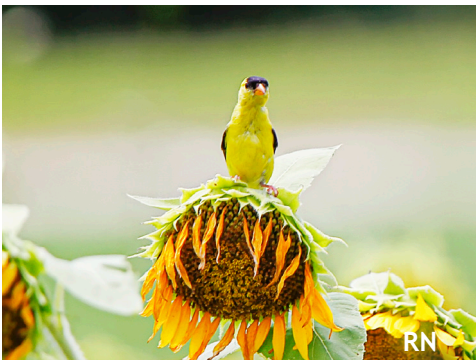
www.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight



Flying Together With Teachers

For the fifth consecutive year, Atlanta Audubon teamed up with University of West Georgia and Wesleyan College to provide a summer intensive for classroom teachers. With instruction by our Director of Education, Melanie Furr, 16 teachers from metro-Atlanta school districts were trained in all things birds and armed with resources from our **Learning About Birds** bilingual curriculum. Teachers experience hands-on field work, birding with experts, and citizen science programs. Each applies these new skills and knowledge in a project during the following academic year with their students. More than 100 teachers have completed our professional development workshops. These teachers carry these lessons into their classrooms and children learn to appreciate the natural world through the lens of birds.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/for-educators



Revealing the Birds of Atlanta and Restoring Their Habitats

Native birds need native habitats. Through our bird-friendly **habitat restoration program**, we have documented more than 100 species on four project sites. In 2016, we restored areas of Deepdene Park in Atlanta and Friendship Forest in Clarkston, adding to the work that we have done in past years. Our focus remains eradicating invasive, exotic plants, installing bird-friendly native plants, and monitoring the bird life. Volunteer work days and outreach programs help us reveal the birds to the surrounding community and create long-lasting partnerships for health of the land and the people who use and enjoy it.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration



Expanding our Reach with the Inaugural Atlanta Bird Fest

Atlanta Audubon hosted the first ever **Atlanta Bird Fest** that engaged nearly 200 nature enthusiasts over a month-long celebration of birds and birding. Atlanta Bird Fest is the first event of its kind in the Southeast, offering unique trips, workshops, and experiences during the peak weeks of spring migration. Atlanta Bird Fest has energized our community to appreciate the work of Atlanta Audubon and the joy of learning about and observing the many species that live or pass through Georgia. It has also given us an opportunity to grow our membership and raise our profile.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest

Highlights

Developing Young Conservation Stewards

In collaboration with founding partners Blue Heron Nature Preserve and The Amphibian Foundation, Atlanta Audubon launched the *Atlanta Urban Ecologists Program for Teens* as part of our effort to develop future leaders and citizens who are stewards of birds and the environment. The program's inaugural cohort of 14 students set out on a 9-month path of discovery at sites across metro-Atlanta. Monthly courses focus on exposing participants to hands-on field experiences and a network of environmental professionals who can assist with students' academic and career development. To create a diverse, inclusive program, scholarships for 10 students were awarded to students from underserved communities. The Atlanta Urban Ecologists program will run every September to May for 20 students, with 10 scholarships available.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/for-youth



Connecting Students with STEM through Birds

Member support is crucial to Atlanta Audubon's success in widening our offerings in support of our mission to build places where birds and people thrive. In 2016, thanks to generous funding from the Morgens West Foundation, Atlanta Audubon was able to expand its youth education offerings to two southwest Atlanta elementary schools. The goal of this new program, *Connecting Students with STEM through Birds*, is to equip schools in underserved areas with resources and training to connect their students with STEM concepts and other subjects through the lens of birds. Hutchinson and Cleveland Avenue Elementary Schools are the first schools to receive the benefits of this program, including a bird-friendly outdoor learning area with nest boxes and low maintenance native plants, copies of our bilingual Learning About Birds curriculum, training for teachers on how to incorporate birds into STEM and other disciplines, bird banding demonstrations, bird-themed books and field guides for each school's library, and the coordination of a community event to include bird walks, habitat improvement, and other activities.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/for-schools

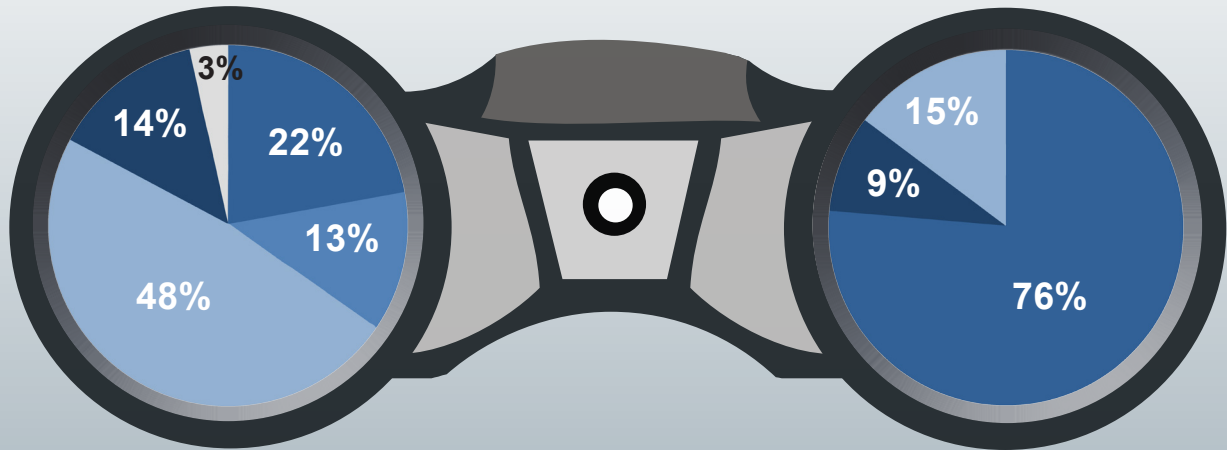


Mirroring Diversity and Embracing Inclusion

Just as we celebrate biodiversity in nature, Atlanta Audubon embraces the strengths that diversity and inclusion bring to our organization. Melanie Furr was invited to participate in *National Audubon's Diversity and Inclusion Summit* at Hog Island in 2016. She joined staff and board members from Audubon chapters across the country to develop skills for creating a more inclusive and diverse network and to collaborate on specific projects. Melanie is leading Atlanta Audubon's project to create more opportunities for those with physical challenges to enjoy birdwatching and nature. Twice per year, Melanie leads a birdwatching retreat for former patients of the Shepherd Center and their caregivers at Unicoi State Park. In addition, she teaches regular birding classes for patients at the spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation center and leads birdwatching trips on the Beltline near the hospital. We envision a diverse and inclusive metro-Atlanta community working together to solve the region's conservation issues through the lens of birds.



Focus on Financials



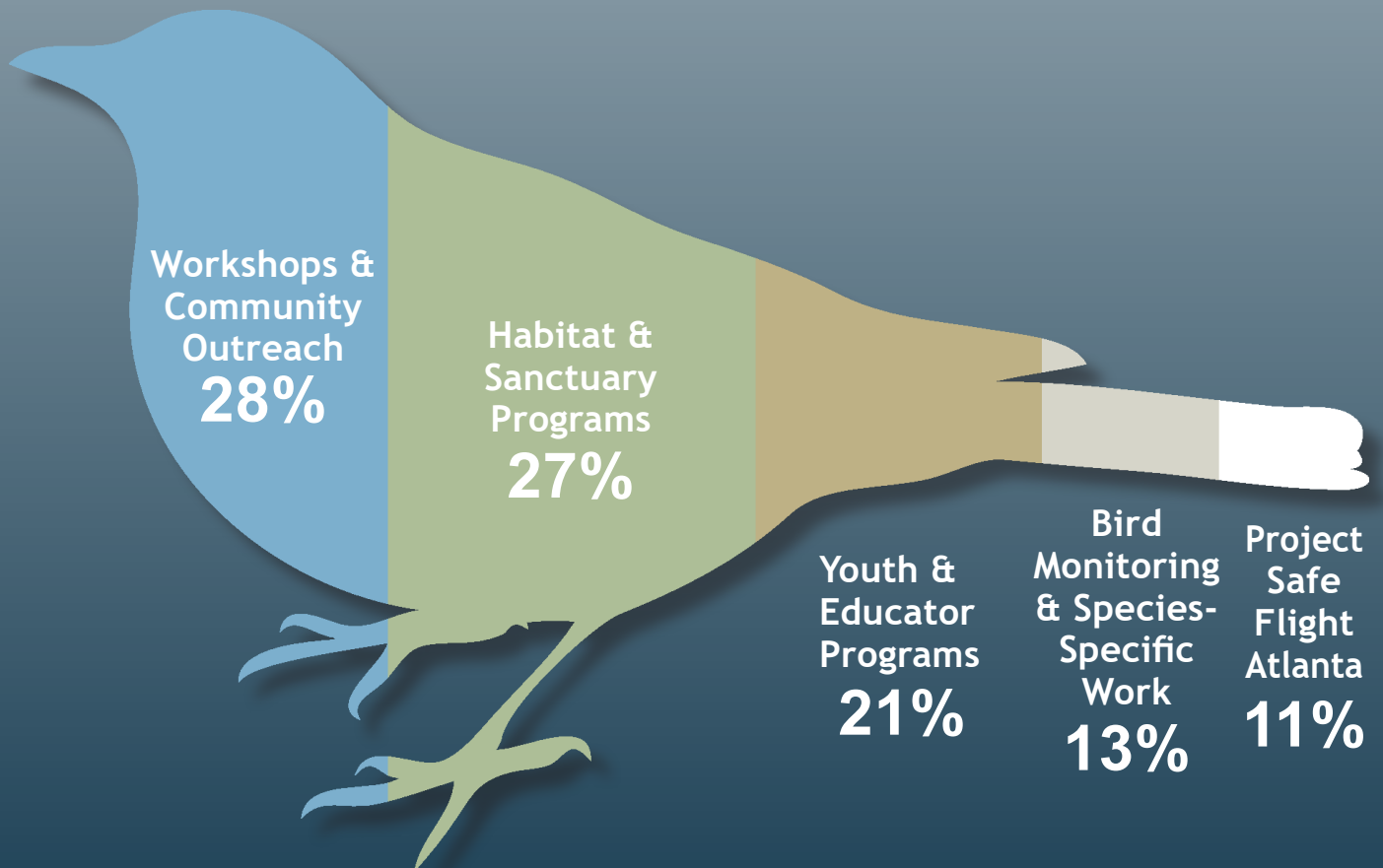
Revenue

Contributions	22%	\$80,196
Memberships	13%	\$45,563
Grants	48%	\$174,000
Programs & Events	14%	\$49,723
Other Income	3%	\$12,638
Total Revenue		\$362,120

Expenses

Program Service	76%	\$266,386
Fundraising	9%	\$30,953
Management & General Operations	15%	\$51,539
Total Expenses		\$348,878

How Program Dollars Benefit Bird-Friendly Communities



2016 Atlanta Audubon Society Supporters

The Board and staff of Atlanta Audubon Society extend their appreciation to the following friends and members who made significant financial gifts to our organization in support of our mission and programs.

\$5,000+

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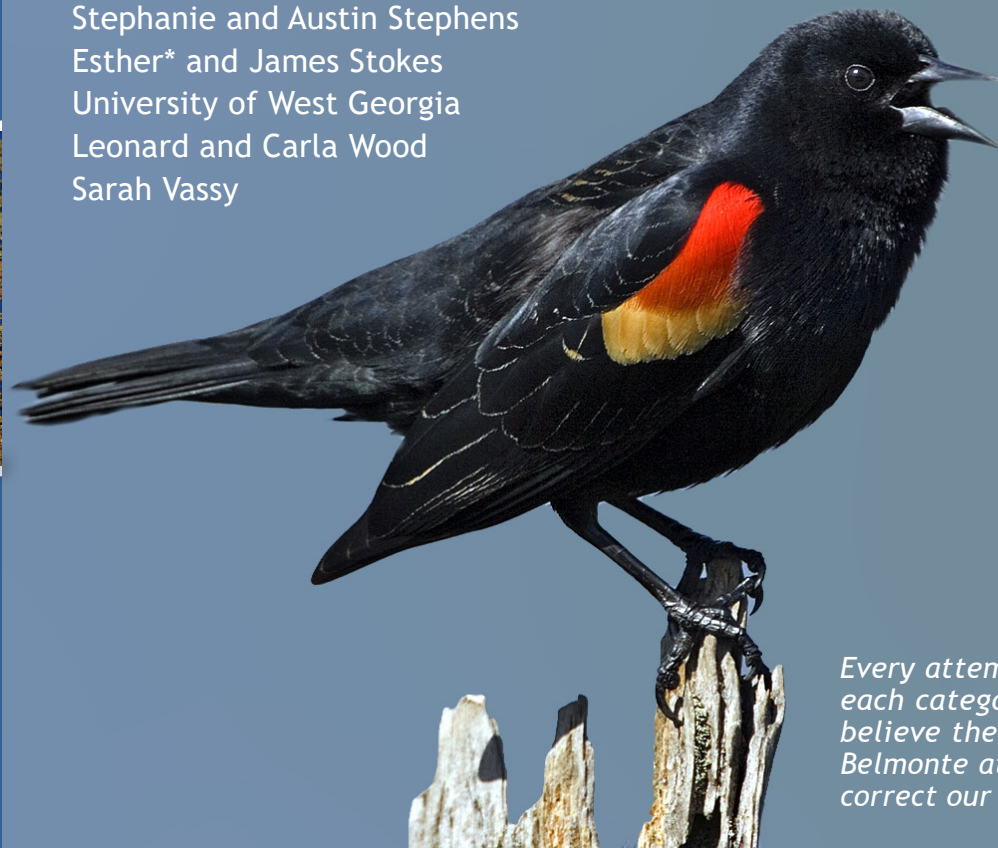
\$250 - \$499

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Under \$250

356 individual donors

*Atlanta Audubon Master Birder



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JOIN US in building bird-friendly communities

Together, we will



Advance bird
conservation
in Georgia



Create
environmental
stewards



Strengthen
our voice for
birds



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