

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITIZEN SCIENTISTS NEEDED FOR GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

(Atlanta, Ga.) January 29, 2019 – Atlanta Audubon is seeking citizen scientists to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count **February 15 through 18, 2019**. On these four days, birdwatchers from across the globe will be counting birds and sharing the information with a community of other bird watchers in near real-time. The **Great Backyard Bird Count** collects and displays data in order to create a “snapshot” of the distribution and abundance of birds worldwide in the month of February. This snapshot helps scientists get a ‘big picture’ glimpse of current trends in bird populations.

Created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society in 1988, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first participation-based project to collect and display data from birdwatchers across the globe. During the 2018 count, bird watchers from more than 100 countries submitted more than 180,000 bird checklists reporting a record 6,456 species—more than half the known bird species in the world. In 2018, Georgians counted 209 different species of birds and ranked 9th among states for the most checklists submitted.

Information gathered during this four-day event is used by scientists in conjunction with data from other citizen science projects, including the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to provide a ‘big picture’ look into what is happening to bird populations. This data helps scientists find answers to questions such as:

- How weather and climate change influence bird populations
- Where species are from year to year, and what we can learn from these patterns, how the timing of birds’ migrations compare with years’ past
- How bird diseases such as West Nile virus are affecting birds in different regions
- And what differences exist in bird diversity in cities versus suburban, rural and natural areas

All types of bird enthusiasts can participate, from avid birders who prefer to look for birds in the fields and forests around metro-Atlanta to people who prefer to count birds at their backyard feeders from the comfort of their own homes. Participants must complete the following steps:

1. **Register for the count** on the Great Backyard Bird Count website at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> ..
2. **Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the Great Backyard Bird Count.**

3. **Enter your results on the Great Backyard Bird Count website by clicking “Submit Observations” on the home page.**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon Society](#) with partner [Bird Studies Canada](#) and is made possible in part by founding sponsor [Wild Birds Unlimited](#).

For more information or to register for the 2019 count, please visit the Great Backyard Bird Count webpage at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.

Media Note: Photos to accompany these article and a MS Word version of the press releases are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.

Atlanta Audubon Society is committed to building places where birds and people thrive. We create bird-friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.

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