



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 6, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Author Doug Tallamy to Kick Off the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Atlanta Audubon is excited to welcome author and native plant advocate Doug Tallamy to kick off this year's Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. Tallamy will present his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, on Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 PM at Dunwoody Nature Center. Many bird populations in the U.S. are in steep decline, in part because our gardens and managed landscapes occupy more space than natural areas, and we have not designed them with birds in mind. To do that, we can no longer view plants only as ornaments, but must consider all of their roles when selecting them for our landscapes. Tallamy will discuss what birds need from our landscapes to breed successfully, the important roles native plants play in maintaining food webs vital to birds, the benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and the consequences of failing to do so. Landscaping in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.



Author Doug Tallamy to speak as part of 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour.

Tickets will go on sale on July 10. Tickets for the Doug Tallamy presentation are \$20 for one ticket or two for \$35. Combo Tallamy/Sanctuary Tour tickets are available for \$40 per ticket for Atlanta Audubon members and \$45 for non-members.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/sanctuary-tour](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/sanctuary-tour).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, by Robert Johnson

### INSIDE

- Chirps from the Chair ..... 2
- Board Member Nominations ..... 2
- Bird Seed Sale..... 3
- Ask Chippy ..... 3
- Volunteer Spotlight ..... 4
- A Million Thanks ..... 4
- Eyes on Education..... 5
- Field Trips..... 6
- August Monthly Meeting ..... 6
- Workshops..... 7
- July Monthly Meeting..... 8

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Atlanta Audubon Society 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

The annual Atlanta Audubon Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will be held on **Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. This year's tour will feature Atlanta Audubon-certified properties in the north Atlanta area.

Look for final information on locations in future issues of *Wingbars* and *Bird Buzz*. To date, we have finalized the following locations, but more are in the works:



- The Goizueta Gardens and Living Collection at Atlanta History Center
- Private Home of Libby Hedaya
- Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs
- Private home of DeAnn Campbell
- Emma Wetlands at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve

The Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Ticket purchasers must provide

The private home of DeAnn Campbell will be one of the featured properties on the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. Photo by DeAnn Campbell.

(continued on page 4)

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*Wingbars* is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of Atlanta Audubon Society.



# Chirps from the Chair

By Linda DiSantis

**Y**our Atlanta Audubon Board of Directors has been hard at work since last year, focusing on the strategic direction of the organization. Back in fall 2016, board members did an “environmental scan,” where we sought input from various folks about how we are doing and where we could improve. During a retreat in February, the board and staff spent a full day discussing our direction and how we could continue to grow our impact. Following a lot of additional work, we created a new strategic plan for Atlanta Audubon. This plan builds on the one we created several years ago, through which the organization has grown so successfully.

Creating a strategic plan is a core responsibility of any board. It is an essential component of setting the direction of the organization and providing staff with the path to the future. Going through the strategic planning process allows board members to coalesce around a shared vision and creates the platform on which board members fulfill their obligations to guide and maintain the health of the organization. Staff needs the overall structure that strategic thinking provides in order to prioritize opportunities and carry out the mission.

We have created a new mission statement for Atlanta Audubon: *Building places where birds and people thrive*. Our vision: A conservation-minded and fully engaged Georgia where birds prosper, habitats flourish, and understanding grows. Our approach remains, as it has always been, that we work through conservation, education, and advocacy. These new statements are designed to inspire our members, our friends, our donors, and all others with whom we interact and through whom we achieve our goals. The full text of the strategic plan is available at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/mission-and-programs](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/mission-and-programs).

One additional point worth noting about the strategic direction of Atlanta Audubon: an increased focus on our roles as advocates for birds and the places they need to thrive. We recognize the importance of adding our voice on issues of conservation concern. We often are the only one who can “speak for the birds” as these threats emerge. From time to time, we plan to call on our members to speak up on issues of local, statewide, and, at times, national concern. We look forward to having you join us in promoting good policies that support birds and their habitats.

## Board Member Nominations Welcomed

**T**he Atlanta Audubon Society Governance Committee welcomes the nomination of interested members to the Board of Directors for 2018 to 2021. The success of Atlanta Audubon is a result of the board, volunteers, and staff combining their time and talent to build places where birds and people thrive. All nominations are welcomed. We are looking specifically for people with a skill set and background in marketing, communications, ecology and life sciences, finance, and fundraising. Please send all nominations to Esther Stokes, Governance Committee Chair, at [estherstokes01@gmail.com](mailto:estherstokes01@gmail.com).

## Protect Georgia's Birds with a Gift to the 2017 Annual Fund

Atlanta Audubon's largest source of funding is **YOU!** Our spring Annual Fund complements your yearly membership dues, and both are integral to our success. Birds need our help more than ever right now, and every gift makes a difference. Thank you in advance for your generosity. All donors to the 2017 Annual Fund who make their gift by July 31, 2017, will be acknowledged in the September issue of *Wingbars*.

Donate online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate)

# 2017 Atlanta Audubon Society Birdseed Sale

**Stock up on bird seed and support Atlanta Audubon at the same time!**

Are the birds eating you out of house and home? If so, take advantage of our great prices and stock up for fall migration at the annual Atlanta Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale. We are proud to offer a variety of Cole's Wild Bird Feed products, a local supplier of high-quality bird feed. All proceeds support the education and conservation efforts of Atlanta Audubon Society.

## **Order by Mail or Online:**

You can order online in our store at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/AAS-online-store](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/AAS-online-store). If you would prefer to mail in your order with a check, please download an order form from our website (or pick one up at our monthly meeting) and send the completed form with payment to Atlanta Audubon Society, Birdseed Sale, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.

## **Three Pick-Up Options:**

- 1) Pick up your seed on **Saturday, August 26**, between **9:00 AM and 12:00 PM** at the Atlanta Audubon Society office located at 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA.
- 2) Pick up your seed on **Sunday, August 27**, before the Atlanta Audubon Monthly Meeting (**3:00 to 3:30 PM**) at Manuel's Tavern.
- 3) **Beginning August 28**, you may pick up your seed at the Atlanta Audubon Office (4055 Roswell Road) by appointment.

**Orders must be received by Friday, August 18, 2017.**

## Wildlife Sanctuary Tour Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

**Interested in sponsoring the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour? Sponsorships begin at \$250, and sponsors receive benefits including complimentary Wildlife Sanctuary Tour tickets, business name/logo on promotional materials, social media recognition, and more.**

Contact Michelle Hamner at [michelle@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:michelle@atlantaaudubon.org) or visit the website at <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/Sanctuary-Tour> for more information.

## ASK CHIPPY

### *Greetings,*

*I want to pass this on as I have not seen this warbler before. Sadly, this beautiful bird hit the window and appeared to have died instantly. I believe it may be a Cape May Warbler?*

### *Dear Judy,*

Thanks for reporting the window strike. I too believe it is a Cape May Warbler. Project Safe Flight would like this information and may want the bird if you still have it.

Here are the instructions for reporting incidental bird strikes. In addition to the formal surveys, we are encouraging everyone to document any incidental finding of a window collision. If you happen to stumble across a bird that collided with a window, then submit your finding to D-Bird ATL. D-Bird is an online crowd-sourcing data collection tool designed by New York City Audubon. This



*Cape May Warbler killed by window strike. Photo by Judy K.*



*Thanks,  
Judy K.*

data allows for greater coverage in the metro Atlanta area and helps provide context and guidance for future monitoring efforts. Whether at home, work, or play, please report any avian collision victim you encounter. View a map of D-Bird ATL submissions at <https://www.d-bird.org/atl/visualization.html>.

If you have difficulty, please contact [adam@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:adam@atlantaaudubon.org). He will want location, day, time, and weather.

**Happy Birding!**

*—Chippy*



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Sandy Murray

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 22nd in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

Like many Atlanta Audubon volunteers, Sandy Murray was always interested in the outdoors but decided to get more involved in the organization after taking the Master Birder class in 2003. Sandy, who lives near Silver Lake in Brookhaven, has been involved in a wide variety of Audubon activities.

Among these is taking part in the Climate Watch project, which aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s. Our conservation director, Adam Betuel, assigned Sandy an area in the vicinity of Vinings and Smyrna and told her to count as many birds as she could in 12 different locations, spending just five minutes in each. Eastern Bluebirds were the particular focus.

She has also given educational presentations for Melanie Furr, our education director, and was part of a group that surveyed the Blue Heron Nature Center each week for a year after Audubon moved there, to determine which birds were on the property. She's been a host for Neighborhood Nestwatch, a project sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, in which scientists visit your yard annually to band birds and help find nests. Additionally, Sandy is a stalwart member each year



Sandy Murray

of the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count's Team 1, which searches the area between I-85 and Georgia 400. (And most important of all, she opens her home for bathroom breaks during the count!)

Sandy is also well-known on the political scene and once ran unsuccessfully for the State House of Representatives. After Brookhaven was incorporated in 2012, she sought to become the first mayor but lost in a runoff. Now Sandy is part of an informal triumvirate of Auduboners who also share a passion for keeping Brookhaven public officials on their toes, with the others being Sharon Brekke and Lissie Stahlman.

Sandy has lived in the Atlanta area for 40 years, is originally from Baton Rouge, La., and has also lived in Iowa, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Until a couple of years ago she owned a computer consulting and training company. Nowadays she works part time, tutoring middle school and high school students in many subjects, but mostly in math and reading.

Her husband, Michael Clifford, isn't quite as enthusiastic about birding as Sandy is, but he nevertheless enjoys looking at them in the back yard and can be counted on to maintain most of their feeders.

# THANK YOU!

## A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for June: **Jason Ward, Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman, Mary Kimberly, Anne McCallum,** and **Roseanne Guerra** ... to Climate Watch volunteers **Toni Bowen, Amanda Woomer, Jim Eggenesperger, Nikki Belmonte, Melanie Furr, Victor Williams, Jay Davis, Cathy Cornelius, Cheryl Beshke, Sandy Murray, Steve Dupont, Megan Wyatt, Beth Giddens, Laura Hardy,** and **Wayne Powell** ... to Project Safe Flight spring volunteers **Mary Kimberly, Linda DiSantis, Steve Dupont, Joel Owen, Nancy Kennel, Elaine DeSimone, Michelle Styling, Waverley Eubanks, Steve Rushing, Teri Lindsay, Maureen Carrol,** and **Cathy Cornelius** ... to **Tom Loria** for his assistance in crafting a letter to encourage communication tower owners to change their light systems to benefit migrating birds ... to **Mary Nevil** and **Laura Waddick** for their help with the Annual Fund mailing and for preparing materials for our summer professional development workshops for teachers ... to **Dr. J. Drew Lanham** for his outstanding presentation at the Atlanta Bird Fest 2017 closing celebration ... to **Max Brown, Anita Chilcut, Steve Cook, Larry Stephens,** and **Stella Wissner** for their help with May peel and stick ... to **Melinda Langston** for representing Atlanta Audubon at the Southern Conservation Trust's Land for Life Dinner ... to **Jay Davis** for his ongoing help/support of the Atlanta Audubon website ... to **Max Brown, Les Cane, Morgan Schroeder, Phyllis Hawkins, Rona** and **Steve Cook, Judy Killeen,** and **Sheila Stevens** for their help with Atlanta Audubon outreach.

## Atlanta Audubon Society 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

their own transportation to the tour sites, but they may tour at their own pace and in any order they choose. Ticket sales will begin in July on the Atlanta Audubon Society website. The cost will be \$24 for Atlanta Audubon Society and Atlanta History Center members and \$30 for non-members. Look for more information in future issues of *Wingbars*, *Bird Buzz*, or online at <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/Sanctuary-Tour>.

If you're interested in volunteering at one of our tour locations on September 17, please email Dottie Head at [dottie@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:dottie@atlantaaudubon.org). Volunteers will receive a complimentary tour ticket.

We hope to see you there.

**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 16**



Lost Corner Preserve will also be a stop on the 2017 Sanctuary Tour.  
Photo by Dottie Head.

# EYES on EDUCATION

## Old News, Good News

by Melanie Furr

Atlanta Audubon has a lot of exciting education and outreach programs, and I could gush about many of them, but you've heard it all before. You've read several things about the summer professional development workshops for teachers we started conducting in 2012, and we conducted two of them this June, training 26 teachers how to use the study and observation of birds as a way to teach STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and other subjects. Thanks to support from an Improving Teacher Quality state grant, the Alice Hufford Richards Foundation, and a private donor, Atlanta Audubon was able to provide these teachers with a transformational experience over the course of four days in the Georgia mountains, equipping them with knowledge and skills that will enhance their teaching. In turn, they each will transform the lives of hundreds of students by opening up the often overlooked world of birds to them.

You've also recently read about our project Connecting Students to STEM through Birds, which is providing bird-friendly gardens, teacher training, classroom resources, and binoculars for Emma Hutchinson Elementary and Cleveland Avenue Elementary in Southwest Atlanta. What I love about this project, generously supported by the Morgens West Foundation, is that it combines education and conservation, giving teachers and students the tools they need not only to enjoy and learn about birds, but also to help birds in a meaningful way. Since my last update, the garden at Hutchinson has been installed, featuring a variety of native shrubs, trees, and grasses for birds. About 30 teachers, parents, and students showed up to help with the garden installation, led by Convivial Gardens, LLC. Everyone could not have been more enthusiastic or helpful, in spite of the heat and tough digging conditions. When I arrived, a teacher approached me and told me that the training I'd given to the STEM team earlier in the spring had made a big impact on him; he was noticing birds all the time and enjoying his new awareness. At the end of the afternoon, when a teacher hung a nectar feeder on a newly installed post, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird showed up within minutes—a perfect ending to our efforts. Cleveland Elementary's garden installation is scheduled for late summer and will also be ready for students to enjoy this fall.

You probably don't want to hear me rehash another trip to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology either, especially since it rained the entire trip. I first visited two summers ago after receiving a partial scholarship to attend the BirdSleuth Educators Retreat, which familiarized participants with the Lab's BirdSleuth curriculum for students in grades K-12. This time, Cornell invited six other educators and me to be part of BirdSleuth's strategic planning as they work



*Students help with the planting at Hutchinson Elementary School.  
Photo by Melanie Furr.*

to expand their reach into more classrooms. We spent two intense days brainstorming and planning inside the lab, so it was just as well that it rained the entire weekend. The rain didn't hold us back during our free time, though, and our awesome hosts bookended our days with birding and good meals. I even got two lifers during one rainy outing, Warbling Vireo and Common Merganser, and John Fitzpatrick (director of the lab) joined us for breakfast one morning! I was flattered to be invited to participate in BirdSleuth's planning process and am excited to support the efforts to reach more youth. Now, more than ever, we need to inspire young people to protect birds and all our natural resources.

Speaking of inspiring young people to become active in conservation, it's old news that Atlanta Audubon launched a new program for teens last fall, the Atlanta Urban Ecologists program. We teamed up with several partners: Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Amphibian Foundation, Chattahoochee Nature Center, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Trees Atlanta, and Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. During this program, 14 teens met one Saturday a month during the school year to learn from local experts and explore our city's beautiful outdoor spaces. What you may not know is that eight young students from the refugee community in Clarkston participated in the program through scholarships. Watching these students light up while peering through binoculars at an Eastern Bluebird or turning over a log to find a Slimy Salamander was heartwarming. During the course of the program, they blossomed as young naturalists, sometimes learning the names of the most common backyard critters for the first time. These students, as well as their fellow program graduates, are now more aware of the amazing biodiversity right outside their doors, as well as of the opportunities for them in the field of conservation. I am excited to learn and grow with the next group of young ecologists. The schedule for our 2017-2018 Atlanta Urban Ecologists program is available on our website.

Though these programs may be old news, the good news is that our education programming is thriving and continuing to connect people young and old with the joy of birding and an appreciation for the natural world. Your membership and support make it possible. I'm looking forward to visiting the Atlanta Children's Shelter this month to teach preschoolers about birds, and the requests for school programs will start rolling in before I know it!



*Breakfast with John Fitzpatrick and fellow teachers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.  
Photo by Melanie Furr.*



# FIELD TRIPS

are open to the public and free (unless otherwise noted). We welcome everyone from beginners to advanced birders. No registration is necessary except where indicated below. The only fees that apply are parking fees at some venues such as state and national parks. Any applicable fees will be listed in the field trip description on the website.

## **Saturday, July 1** **Piedmont Park (Fulton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.759.7770  
GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

## **Wednesday, July 12** **Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Anne McCallum  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.642.7148  
GPS: 33.601464, -84.346874

## **Friday, July 14** **Panola Mountain State Park (Rockdale Co.)** **8:30 AM**

Leader: Jeff Sewell  
Co-sponsored by Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.758.4551  
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

## **Saturday, July 22** **Constitution Lakes (DeKalb Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes  
Leaders: Joy Carter and Sheila Stevens  
Cell contact, morning of walk:  
404.822.0030 (Joy)  
GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

## **Saturday, July 29** **Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Chattahoochee Nature Center  
Leader: Iris Schumacher  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.724.3153  
GPS: 34.002356, -84.382846

## **Saturday, July 29** **Deepdene Park (DeKalb Co.)** **8:30 AM**

Co-sponsored by Georgia Native Plant Society  
*Registration required:*  
<https://gnps.z2systems.com/np/clients/gnps/eventRegistration.jsp?event=26&>  
Leaders: Rob McDonough and Leslie Edwards (GNPS)  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.754.8159 (Rob)  
GPS: 33.773143, -84.318320

## **Saturday, August 5** **Piedmont Park (Fulton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.759.7770  
GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

## **Wednesday, August 9** **Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Anne McCallum  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.642.7148  
GPS: 33.601464, -84.346874

## **Saturday, August 19** **Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Chattahoochee Nature Center  
Leader: Iris Schumacher  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.724.3153  
GPS: 34.002356, -84.382846

## **Friday, August 25** **Constitution Lakes (DeKalb Co.)** **8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes  
Leaders: Joy Carter and Mary Kimberly  
Cell contacts, morning of walk:  
404.822.0030 (Joy); 404.308.6279 (Mary)  
GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

## **Saturday, August 26** **Cochran Shoals (Interstate North)** **(Cobb Co.)** **7:30 AM**

Leaders: Nathan Farnau  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.849.3843  
GPS: N 33 54.105 W 84 26.634

## **Saturday, August 26** **Atlanta History Center (Fulton Co.)** **8:30 AM**

Leaders: Rob McDonough  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.754.8159  
GPS: 33°50'33.3"N 84°23'09.4"W

## **Sunday, August 27** **Huie Ponds of the CCWA, Lake Shamrock,** **Lake Blalock, and Newman Wetlands Center** **(Clayton County)** **8:00 AM**

Leaders: Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert  
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.758.4551  
GPS: 33.471926, -84.305015

*If you would like to lead a field trip, contribute ideas for places to go, or give feedback about leaders, trips, or the field trip directions, please e-mail Field Trip Director Mary Kimberly at [mmkimberly1954@gmail.com](mailto:mmkimberly1954@gmail.com).*

**Editor's note:** In the interest of saving space (and trees), Atlanta Audubon has shortened the field trip listings in *Wingbars*. Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website:  
[www.atlantaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/field-trips)

As always, we encourage field trip participants to check the Atlanta Audubon Field Trips web page before any of these trips to check for updates, changes, typo corrections, etc., and for the most up-to-date information. Also, frequently trips are added after the newsletter deadline has passed.

## August Monthly Meeting

Volunteer Recognition and 4th Annual Chippy Challenge  
Sunday, August 27, 2017, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Don't miss the August 27 monthly meeting and the **4th Annual Chippy Challenge**. Nikki will try to stump the crowd with some new bird- and birding-related trivia questions to test your knowledge and pit you against your fellow bird brains.

Play individually or with teams of no more than four people. Smart phones not allowed. There will be a prize for the winner(s). Trivia cards are \$5 per person. If you bring a friend who joins Atlanta Audubon at the event, you and your friend's trivia charge will be waived. Since Chippy is the mascot for our Learning About Birds (LAB) curriculum, proceeds will benefit the LAB Programs of Atlanta Audubon. In addition, we'll be recognizing and celebrating Atlanta Audubon volunteers who contributed 100 or more hours of service in 2016. Please join us for this fun celebration.



# LIVE and LEARN

## With These Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops

### Atlanta Urban Ecologists Program

The Atlanta Urban Ecologists program for youth in 8th to 12th grade will guide students in the discovery of the fascinating, rich ecology of metropolitan Atlanta, providing opportunities for hands-on field experiences, conservation, and citizen science. Orientation will be held on September 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Subsequent sessions will be hosted by a different environmental nonprofit, taking place on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM from October to May. Perfect for students interested in pursuing careers in science or conservation or those who just enjoy being outside in nature, the program will provide students with opportunities to learn alongside experts in the field, as well as meaningful experiences in the outdoor places that make Atlanta the “City in a Forest.” Students will establish a network of environmental professionals who can assist with their academic and career development while having fun outdoors with their peers. The program will culminate in May with a canoe trip on the Chattahoochee River and a graduation lunch.

**PROGRAM FEE:** \$400 – includes nine hands-on weekend sessions, course materials, canoe trip, T-shirt, and graduation lunch.

**Early Bird Registration:** \$350 by August 15.

**For session dates, descriptions, or to register, visit**  
[www.atlantaaudubon.org/for-youth](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/for-youth)

*Offered in partnership by Atlanta Audubon Society, Amphibian Foundation, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Trees Atlanta, and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance.*



*The Atlanta Urban Ecologists watch a bird being banded at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Photo by Melanie Furr.*



*Atlanta Urban Ecologists learning about invertebrates. Photo by Melanie Furr.*



*Eastern Bluebird on a nest box.  
Photo by Melanie Furr.*

### Fall Master Birder Program Saturday, October 14 – Saturday, November 18

Atlanta Audubon Society is pleased to announce our Fall 2017 Master Birder course, an introduction to ornithology designed to provide participants with bird identification skills and general knowledge of birds, their life histories, and habitat requirements. Course content includes classification and identification of birds, birding equipment, bird songs and calls, attracting birds and backyard wildlife habitat, anatomy and physiology, bird ecology, bird behavior, flight and migration, and bird conservation. Upon graduation, Master Birders are encouraged to complete annual volunteer service for Atlanta Audubon and receive added membership benefits.

A course fee of \$400 includes lectures and guided walks, books, audio CDs, a comprehensive binder of information, and a graduation luncheon. Throughout the year, Master Birders may be offered exclusive workshops or field trips, as well as early bird or discounted registration for workshops. You will be added to the Master Birder LISTSERV® and Facebook group, which act as a means of communication and of sharing knowledge.

This fall the course will run from Saturday, October 14, through Saturday, November 18. More information and the link to register can be found at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/master-birder-program](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/master-birder-program). Online registration opens on July 10. Spaces are expected to fill quickly, so don't delay.

**COURSE FEE:** \$400



## ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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[www.AtlantaAudubon.org](http://www.AtlantaAudubon.org)

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Permit #917

# July Monthly Meeting

**Amphibians in Our Future: Conservation in the Face of Global Amphibian Declines**  
Sunday, July 23, 2017, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

For the past 25 years or so, amphibians have been disappearing globally from developed areas as well as pristine environments. Scientists have identified multiple anthropogenic factors contributing synergistically to amphibian declines. Therefore, a multifaceted approach is necessary to address the amphibian decline phenomenon. The Amphibian Foundation, based in Atlanta, addresses Southeast regional as well as global amphibian declines through an international partnership focusing on targeted programs for specific imperiled amphibian species. The foundation also has a strong training and educational program for students and citizen scientists. Partnering with regional agencies, such as Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, GA DNR and Orianne Society, and federal partners such as USFWS and USGS as well as global partners like Amphibian Ark and the Amphibian Survival Alliance, the Amphibian Foundation provides a critical role in combatting amphibian declines at the global, as well as the neighborhood, level. Currently, 43% of the world's amphibian populations are documented as in decline or already extinct. The Amphibian Foundation provides a program that engages the community to become involved in saving this important and biodiverse group of animals.

**Mark Mandica** is the executive director of The Amphibian Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and conservation of amphibians. Previously, Mark managed the Amphibian Conservation Program at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where he worked for seven years. Mark is also a professional scientific illustrator and is published in textbooks as well as the journals *Science*, *Nature*, *Journal of Experimental Biology*, *Zoology*, *American Zoologist*, and many others.



*Mark Mandica will talk about the work of the Amphibian Foundation at the July Monthly Meeting. Photo by Matt Richards.*

Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 N. Highland Avenue, N.E., Atlanta. Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Free parking is readily available to the south of the building. Food and drink are available for purchase.