



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 9, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Atlanta Audubon Receives Grant to Restore Bird-Friendly Habitat at Land O' Lakes Unit of Blue Heron Nature Preserve

By Dottie Head



Tufted Titmouse, by Dan Vickers

Atlanta Audubon Society has received a \$20,000 grant, plus \$20,000 in matching funds, to restore bird-friendly habitat at the Land O' Lakes unit of Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Fulton County. The project is funded by Southern Company, the parent company of Georgia Power, and the U.S. Forest Service through a 2017 Five Star and Urban Waters grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Atlanta Audubon and partners will remove invasive plant species in order to re-establish native, bird-friendly plant species and conduct avian surveys at Land O' Lakes. The goal is to create bird-friendly, native, urban habitat that provides quality foraging, nesting, and stopover habitat. A total of three acres will be restored along Mill Creek, part of the Peachtree Creek watershed. This project will complement and enhance our 2015 project at the Emma Wetlands unit of the Preserve and follow Blue Heron's trail building project to connect the units of the preserve. The educational outreach events and conservation workdays will engage 50 volunteers and 300 participants. Partners include Atlanta Audubon, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Amphibian Foundation, Rock Spring Restorations, Georgia Native Plant Society, Greening Youth Foundation, and National Audubon Society. Project work has begun.

"Atlanta Audubon Society is very excited to receive another grant through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program to restore bird habitat at the Land O' Lakes property at Blue Heron Nature Preserve," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Society executive director. "In recent years, Atlanta Audubon has received similar grants to restore habitat at Emma Wetlands at Blue

Heron Nature Preserve and at the confluence of the north and south forks of Peachtree Creek in Fulton County. An additional grant in 2016 allowed us to restore habitat in DeKalb County at Deepdene Park in Atlanta, part of the larger Olmsted Linear Park system, and at Friendship Forest, a municipal green space in Clarkston. By working with our various partners, we are able to increase the impact that we have on each site and improve the habitat for birds and other wildlife."

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and committed more than \$3.5 billion to conservation projects. Learn more at www.nfwf.org. Programmatic support for 2017 Five Star and Urban Waters program is provided by the Wildlife Habitat Council, with major funding by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, Southern Company, Bank of America, and Alcoa.

The Five Star and Urban Waters 2017 winners were selected from a highly competitive pool of applications. The partnership bases consideration for funding upon educational and training opportunities for youth and the community at large as well as ecological, cultural, and economic benefits. These projects also involve a high degree of partnership between local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools, and environmental organizations for improving local water quality and restoring important fish and wildlife habitats.



Great Blue Heron, by Melanie Furr

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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.



From the Executive Director

By Nikki Belmonte



Nikki's 5-year-old daughter 'Charlie' embracing the outdoors.
Photo by Nikki Belmonte.

There is no doubt we have been thrust into a new era of information overload and sensationalism. Daily, we are barraged with news, opinions, more opinions, and humorous-bordering-on-scary GIFs loaded with quip and sarcasm intended to provide relief from the rest. I don't know about you, but no matter where you stand on the political spectrum, this is all extremely overwhelming and exhausting. Many of you are probably like me and look for a break from it all, a breath of fresh air and the sounds of nature. This week our friend, Drew Lanham, said it best: "For me, birds and nature are the glue that help keep me intact and the most reliable sources of sanity in the midst of everything else gone the other way."

Studies have been published about the importance of access to nature and the outdoors to help reset and rebalance our brains. Environmental and community leaders understand this reality and are fighting to protect, expand, and enhance parks, green space, and natural areas. In the wildlife conservation realm, this translates to habitat. Investing in habitat is vital, not just for wildlife and ecosystems, but for people too.

You will read in this issue that Atlanta Audubon has been awarded another National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for continued habitat restoration work. You will also read about the newest member of our staff, Lillie Kline, who has been hired to manage much of our

habitat work alongside Adam. Our habitat work includes educational and recreational opportunities and moves the communities in which the projects live toward better access to nature. We are doing what we set out to do: we are building places where birds and people thrive. Thanks to you, our members, Atlanta Audubon is thriving, too.

Thanksgiving is upon us, one of my favorite times of year. There is a lot to be thankful for, and a lot we can share in a positive way with our friends and families. I'm sharing with you a photo of my daughter enjoying a local park full of native plants and open meadow birds. There is almost nothing more that rescues me from the deep than being in a rich habitat with her. I hope you will reflect on those moments in your life and share how important and necessary habitat is, not just for the birds, but for you, too.

Introducing Lillie Kline: Conservation Program Manager

Atlanta Audubon is excited to introduce Lillie Kline, our new conservation program manager. This is a new position created to assist Adam Betuel, our director of conservation, with implementing Atlanta Audubon conservation programs. Lillie will manage our habitat restoration grant and help us grow our native plant initiative. She will also assist Adam with bird banding and develop ways to better monitor bird populations throughout the city.

Lillie has loved animals for as long as she can remember. An Atlanta native, she spent her childhood exploring our parks with the family dogs, with frequent trips to the Chattahoochee River. Lillie birded for the first time during a National Outdoor Leadership School semester, and that was a game changer. She was hooked! After graduating with her B.S. from the University of Georgia, where she studied botany, psychology, and ceramics, Lillie began a position as a naturalist guide at UGA Costa Rica. Her duties there included leading morning bird walks, giving talks on common avian families, and conducting monthly bird surveys. Lillie's passion for conservation and outreach grew, and she spent a year working

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Lillie will be assisting Adam Betuel and helping expand the reach of Atlanta Audubon's conservation programs.

Migrate with Atlanta Audubon

By Adam Betuel

Earlier this year, Atlanta Audubon decided to dip its toe into the world of international bird travel. Eight intrepid birders joined me on a two-week excursion through the under-visited nation of Paraguay. It was a wonderful experience and confirmed that this was something the organization wanted to continue. With the daunting but exciting task of selecting our next destination, many variables were considered. Cost, trip length, bird life, accommodations, uniqueness, and connection to our current programs were all evaluated. After some research, a clear choice rose to the top. Atlanta Audubon is very excited to be offering a trip to Guatemala in winter 2018.

Guatemala is three-fourths the size of Georgia but has a species list of 740 birds. Habitat varieties ranging from mountainous highlands to coastlines to tropical rainforests are all squeezed together in this tiny Central American nation. In addition to its natural beauty, Guatemala also features fascinating cities, historical monuments, and cultural destinations. To guide us between birding hotspots and ancient temples, we have partnered with

a local Guatemalan company, Cayaya Birding. Two field ornithologists, Knut Eiserman and Claudia Avendano, run Cayaya. They have been leading trips locally for 15 years. In addition to trip leading and ecotourism, Knut and Claudia have been active in research, conservation, publishing, and growing ornithology throughout Guatemala. They were also integral in bringing the Christmas Bird Counts back to Guatemala after a 30-year



Pink-headed Warbler by Claudia Avendaño



Ocellated Turkey in Guatemala, by Claudia Avendaño

hiatus. They are highly respected bird experts, and I am excited to be leading this trip with them.

Most, if not all, of the countries in Central America have beautiful landscapes, high species counts, and trustworthy, experienced guides. However, Guatemala offers a strong connection to Atlanta Audubon conservation programs. Most Atlanta Audubon initiatives fit into the concept of full life-cycle conservation, or the belief that to protect birds and conserve populations we must consider complete life histories. If we work only to protect breeding grounds but ignore wintering habitats, species declines will continue. Alternately, we can provide pristine breeding grounds and healthy wintering locations, but if stop-over habitat is degraded, then migratory birds will suffer. Two Atlanta Audubon programs that rely on a hemispheric view of conservation are our Wood Thrush conservation efforts and advocacy for shade-grown coffee.

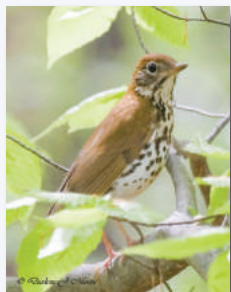
The Wood Thrush is an emblematic species of the eastern U.S. They breed throughout metro Atlanta and a large portion of the population migrates through Georgia. Most Georgians consider the Wood Thrush one of “our birds,” and we always get excited when we hear that first flute-like “ee-oh-lay” in the spring. However, Wood Thrush spend most of their lives away from the forests of the Piedmont. One of the places with the highest density of Wood

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ASK CHIPPY

Q: Last week we had Wood Thrushes, two within days of one another, fly into our windows at home, so fast that they died instantly. Is this common this time of year?

A: Unfortunately, bird/building collisions are all too common, especially during migration in spring and fall. Current research estimates that between 350 million and 1 billion birds perish each year in the United States as a result of collisions with buildings.



Wood Thrush by Darlene Moore

Project Safe Flight Atlanta is a conservation effort by Atlanta Audubon to further understand this issue. The goal of the project is to determine what species are colliding with buildings in Atlanta, how many birds are affected, what parts of town are problematic, and what can be done to make Atlanta a more bird safe city.

As you have seen, these bird/building collisions are not limited to large buildings in the city; about 40% of these collisions occur at private residences. To prevent these tragedies in the future, there are things that you can do. Placing your feeders a safe distance away from windows and applying window treatments will help. For more information about how to make your windows safe, you can check out our Project Safe Flight Atlanta webpage: <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight>

You can also help by reporting window collisions to D-Bird ATL here: <http://d-bird.org/atl/>. Data contributed by residents throughout the Atlanta area is added to more formal data collection by volunteer monitors who visit select structures around Atlanta during migration. Thanks for your concern for the birds!



Happy Birding! — Chippy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Cathy Cornelius

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 25th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

Project Safe Flight Atlanta isn't all about scooping up dead birds on the sidewalk—just ask Cathy Cornelius, a Master Birder since 2014. True, most of the time the birds she finds on her rounds near tall buildings in Buckhead and Downtown have met their demise, but she also had one experience that overshadowed the bad ones.

She once found a Kentucky Warbler on a grate, went to take a picture and discovered that it was still breathing. The stunned bird hopped to its feet, and she carried it around until it was ready to be released; a much-welcome victory in a sometimes depressing task.

Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers patrol the streets during both spring and fall migration, looking for birds that have been killed or injured after colliding with buildings. More than 625

birds, representing 83 different species, have been collected since monitoring began in fall 2015. Cathy, who searched with Scottie Johnson for the first year, typically starts her rounds at 6:00 AM—before daylight when the streets are still a bit eerie. Curious street people sometimes ask what she is up to, but she has gotten used to giving a cheery hello, explaining her mission and going on her way.

If she doesn't find any dead birds, she is probably done in an hour and 40 minutes, but it can take as long as two and a half hours if photographs need to be taken and data collected.

Typically she finds two birds but once 11 showed up, perhaps pushed inland by hurricane winds. About half of them were Wood Thrushes.

Cathy also participates in Climate Watch, a program that aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers look for



Cathy Cornelius, an active Atlanta Audubon volunteer, patrols one of the routes for Project Safe Flight Atlanta.

birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s. Her area is a square Downtown that can take an entire morning to check as she navigates the heavy traffic. Other Atlanta Audubon volunteer activities for Cathy include manning tables at festivals and doing a bird count at Deepdene Park on Ponce De Leon Avenue. She also lent a hand there at a recent Audubon work day.

Cathy was born in Rockville, Ill., and has lived in Utah, Boston,

Miami, and Madison, Wisc. She says she has warm memories of going out to search for birds with her father on Sanibel Island in Florida. She graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., and came to Atlanta to get an engineering degree at Georgia Tech. She worked for various companies through the years as a design engineer in the heating and air conditioning industry. (Such expertise comes in handy when she needs a repair person at her house—she speaks the lingo!) In 2003, she went into business for herself and retired a couple of years ago. She lives in Candler Park and has a partner, Celeste Tibbets.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

...to our bird walk leaders for October: **Jason Ward, Roseanne Guerra, Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman, Anne McCallum, Adam Betuel, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, and Tom Painting** ... to **Vinod Babu** for continuing to deepen our long-time relationship with the Georgia Native Plant Society ... to **Susan Breunig** and **Kathryn VanDetta** for volunteering at the GNPS Fall Plant sale ... to **Woodlands Garden, Georgia Native Plant Society, Chattahoochee Nature Center, and Beech Hollow Farms** for helping us promote native plants to support the Wood Thrush ... to Master Birders **Mike Christie, BJ Glick, and Paul Campbell** for representing Atlanta Audubon at the Ray C. Anderson Foundation's 5th Annual RayDay Festival at Serenbe ... to **Rich Hull** for leading birds walks at Price Park's Bird and Butterfly Festival ... to **Cathy Cornelius, Joel Owen, Shaun Higgins, Linda DiSantis, Robert Benfield, Gabe Wingate, Quint Wingate, Dennis DiSantis, Waverley Eubanks, Walt Weimar, Steve Phenicie, Bob Lough, Becky Lough, Theresa Hall, Janice Whitener, Erin Trapaga, Megan Wyatt, and Jill Waler** for helping at the Deepdene Park habitat work day ... to **Mary Kimberly, Steve Dupont, Barbara Kipreos, Vinod Babu, Cathy Cornelius, Kelly Bryan, Linda DiSantis, Gavin MacDonald, Maureen Carroll, Waverley Eubanks, Elaine Desimone, Steve Rushing, and Cindy Wolfe** for Project Safe Flight ... to habitat restoration field trip leaders **Vinod Babu and Leslie Edwards** ... to **Jack and Martha Fasse, Stella Wissner, Judy Kileen, Iris Schumacher, and Larry Stevens** for staffing the Chattahoochee Nature Center fall plant sale ... to **Maggie Stephens** for working our table at the Alpharetta Farmer's Market ... to **Mark Jernigan, Megan Wyatt, and Steve Phenicie** for helping at the Friendship Forest work day ... to **Roseanne Guerra, Stella Wissner, Nannette Dooley, Sandy Murray, Michael Clifflord, Kate Carson, Carey Coghill, Ellen Miller, Mike Weaver, Lynn Douglas, Max Brown, Paul Campbell, Teresa Lyle, Laura Northrop, Bruce Northrop, Sally Davis, Rebecca Owens, Andrea Abelman, Mark Seaman, Steve Phenicie, Lisa Slotznick, Melinda Langston, and Esther Stokes** for volunteering at the six sites on the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour ... to **Larry Stephens, Anita Chilcut, Phyllis Hawkins, Nannette Dooley, Sandy Miller, Steve Cook, and Max Brown** for their help with September Peel & Stick ... to **Mary Nevil** for her help organizing the t-shirts and other general office help ... to **Stephen Ramsden** for presenting at the September Monthly Meeting ... to **Amanda Woomer** and **Joy Carter** for helping greet visitors at the September monthly meeting.



Jack and Martha Fasse, pictured here with Henning Von Schmeling, were two of several volunteers that assisted with the recent plant sale at Chattahoochee Nature Center. Atlanta Audubon was excited to participate in this new effort to create habitat for the Wood Thrush by providing native plants.

Photo by Nikki Belmonte

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors



Birders Needed: Christmas Bird Counts Are Coming Soon To An Area Near You

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual tradition dating back to 1900, when ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census” that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunting them as had previously been done.

Each year, from December 14 through January 5, thousands of volunteers across the Americas brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. The National Audubon Society and other organizations use data to assess the health of bird populations, and to help guide conservation action. At 118 years old, the annual Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running citizen science project in the nation.

During the 2016 Christmas Bird Count, counts were held in four “circles” around metro Atlanta, including In-town Atlanta, Marietta, Peachtree City, and Roswell. When the count results were in, 159 volunteers counted more than 40,500 individual birds representing 93 different species.

2017 - 2018 Atlanta Area Christmas Bird Counts:

- **Roswell, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017.**
Contact: Nikki Belmonte at Nikki@atlantaaudubon.org
- **Marietta, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017.**
Contact: Angie Jenkins at angeliabeth@gmail.com
- **Peachtree City, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.**
Contact: Brock Hutchins at brockhutchins@bellsouth.net



Rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the 2015 Roswell Christmas Bird Count. Dottie Head, Melanie Furr, Giff Beaton, and Michelle Hamner persisted through the rain to count birds in the Milton circle in 2015. Nemesis bird for the Milton circle: Rock Pigeon. Photo by Melanie Furr.

- **Floyd County, TBD.**
Contact: Owen Kinney at okinney@darlingtonsschool.org
- **Atlanta, Saturday, December 30, 2017.**
Contact: Joy Carter at joy.carter52@bellsouth.net
- **Amicalola, TBD.**
Contact: Georgann Schmalz at georgannschmalz@windstream.net

For a complete listing of Christmas Bird Count dates, locations, and coordinators, please visit the Georgia Ornithological Society at www.gos.org.

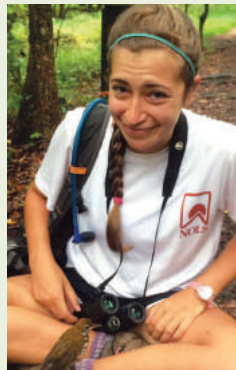
Introducing Lillie Kline

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with youth from all over Georgia at Blue Ridge Outdoor Education Center before undertaking a graduate degree in ecology.

Lillie received her M.S. from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, where she worked with Ivette Perfecto and Kimberly Williams-Guillén, and served as president of the bird club. Her degree focused on both conservation ecology and environmental communication, combining ecosystem science with effective outreach strategies. For her master's project, Lillie collected data on bird behavior in cattle pastures, alongside an interdisciplinary team of graduate students in collaboration with private landowners and the NGO Paso Pacifico. The team sought to understand the conservation value of scattered trees on ranches in fragmented southwestern Nicaragua and found that these trees provide resources to resident birds without sacrificing agricultural productivity.

Now back in Atlanta for good, Lillie can be found reading a good book, exploring new trails with her dog Ernie, and, of course, birding. Lillie knows that conservation goals benefit people as well, and she is excited to make a difference for birds in her new position as conservation program manager.



November 28: Support Teacher Training, Habitat Restoration, and Connecting Students with STEM through Birds this #GivingTuesday!

This holiday season, we're asking for your support to help create even bigger impacts in the community in support of birds and habitat. With your help on #GivingTuesday this November 28, we hope to raise at least \$5,000 in just 24 hours. These funds will be used to build places where birds and people thrive, including training more teachers through Taking Wing, restoring more bird-friendly habitat across the metro area, and connecting more students with STEM through our bilingual Learning About Birds curriculum. #GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that kicks off the charitable season of giving. Please join us with an online gift this holiday season at www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate.

Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season

Give the gift of an Atlanta Audubon Society membership to friends and family this holiday season. Gift recipients will experience an inspiring world of bird appreciation, conservation, and habitat protection. It's also another great way to extend your own support of Atlanta Audubon's work to build places where birds and people thrive.

Gift membership recipients will receive a holiday card from Atlanta Audubon notifying them of your generosity or you may choose to have the holiday card sent to yourself to give in person. All regular membership benefits are bestowed upon gift recipients, including:



Eastern Screech-owl in Piedmont Park, by Mary Kimberly

- 10 yearly issues of our print newsletter, *Wingbars*, and 12 monthly *Bird Buzz* e-newsletters;
- Discounts and priority registration on workshops and trips, including Atlanta Bird Fest;
- Invitation to our monthly meetings and speaker series;
- Option to certify a property through the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program (additional fee for certification); and
- Lending Library privileges.

Gift memberships begin at \$35 for individual membership. Junior and Student membership levels are also available for those younger individuals on your gift giving list.

To purchase a gift membership, please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/membership or call us Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm, at 678-973-2437. Inquiries may also be directed via e-mail to Dottie Head at dottie@atlantaaudubon.org.



Red-shouldered Hawk, by Adam Betuel

Migrate with Atlanta Audubon

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Thrush is the forest of eastern Guatemala. A portion of our Guatemala trip will be devoted to looking for the Wood Thrush on their wintering grounds, and to learn why we must think globally when conserving this rapidly declining species.

Coffee is a plant that historically grows in the shade. A rich, diverse, and structurally complex forest is the habitat our favorite little bean calls home. Sadly, more and more forest is being destroyed or converted to sun-grown coffee plantations. These monotypic fields deplete the area of diversity, require herbicides and pesticides to survive, and are often not a sustainable long-term crop for the local communities. When forests are destroyed, habitat for honeycreepers and trogons, as well as our temperate breeding warblers and vireos, is lost. This is why Atlanta Audubon sells our own locally roasted, direct-sourced, shade-grown coffee and advocates for its purchase. Guatemala is not only one of the locations our blend is sourced from, but it is also home to numerous shade-grown coffee farms that are loaded with avian diversity. On this trip, we will be staying at shade-grown coffee farms, taking a coffee tour to learn about the harvesting process, and enjoying all the birds, both temperate and tropical, that benefit from this type of cultivation.

While Guatemala offers us the unique opportunity to connect our conservation and education programs thousands of miles from home, it also is just an avian wonderland of bird life. On our trip, we will be looking for highland bird specialties such as the Pink-headed Warbler, Azure-rumped Tanager, Rufous Sabrewing, and Long-tailed Manakin. After we tour the western portion of the country, we will fly to the easterly Peten region. There,

some of our top targets will be the Keel-billed Toucan, White-fronted Parrot, Ocellated Turkey, and the Orange-breasted Falcon. In addition to the amazing birdwatching, we will make time for some truly exceptional cultural experiences. Stops to the markets in Antigua and multiple days on the grounds of Tikal National Park will supplement the coffee tour and breathtaking landscapes.

As of writing, trip details are still being finalized. I can share that the trip will occur in late November/early December of 2018 and will be eight days in country (10 total when you include your flights to and from Atlanta). We will have the specifics to you shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact me at adam@atlantaaudubon.org. This trip will be capped at 10 participants, and we expect it to fill. I hope you will join me as we see exciting tropical birds, climb volcanos, explore some of the most amazing ruins in the world, and travel with our migratory birds.



Olive-backed Euphonia, by Claudia Avendaño

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, November 4, 2017 Piedmont Park (Fulton County) 8:00 AM

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

Sunday, November 5, 2017 Morningside Nature Preserve (Fulton County)/ Zonolite Park (DeKalb County) 8:30 AM

Leaders: Vinod Babu and Gus Kaufman
Cell contacts morning of walk: 413.230.6276 (Vinod);
404.483.7457 (Gus)
GPS Morningside: 33.809783, -84.352133; Zonolite
Park: 33.805543, -84.341492.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 W.H. Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County) 8:00 AM

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

Saturday, November 11, 2017 Blue Heron Reserve/Land O' Lakes (Fulton County) 7:45 AM

Leader: Lillie Kline
Cell contact morning of walk: 404.921.8900
GPS: 33.865832, -84.379892

Saturday, November 11, 2017 Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County) 8:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes
Leader: Joy Carter
Cell contact morning of walk: 404.822.0030
GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

Saturday, November 18, 2017 Johnson Ferry, CRNRA (Cobb County) 7:30 AM

Leader: Iris Schumacher
Cell contact morning of walk: 404.791.9464
There is a daily parking fee of \$3 (or \$25 annual
pass). Bring cash for \$3 fee. GPS parking lot entrance:
33° 56' 42.34" N, 84° 24' 22.18" W.

Saturday, November 18, 2017 Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County) 9:00 AM

Leader: Tom Painting
Cell contact morning of walk: 585.465.0034
Advance reservations required at 404.929.6400
GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

UPCOMING CLASSES

Sparrow Workshop

**Classroom Session: Thursday, November 9,
from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Trip: Saturday, November 11, from 8:00 to 11:00 AM

Ready to sharpen your skills identifying those "little brown jobs"? Often skulking, elusive, and confusingly similar, sparrows can make fall warblers seem easy. Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, will help participants learn more about the many sparrow species that winter in the Atlanta area. A class session held at Atlanta Audubon will teach participants about distinguishing field marks, foraging behaviors, flight characteristics, and vocalizations that are useful to identification and appreciation of Georgia's sparrows.

Participants will then have the chance to practice their identification skills in the field with a guided trip to find and observe sparrows in their preferred habitat at a local hot spot. (Location to be determined based on eBird sightings.) Potential species include Field, Swamp, Fox, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Vesper Sparrows, in addition to more common resident and wintering species.

\$45 for Master Birder in good standing (current on membership and volunteer hours)

\$50 for Atlanta Audubon member

\$55 for non-member



*Can you identify these four sparrows?
Come to the Sparrow Workshop and
learn how. (Answer: Field Sparrow (top
left), Savannah Sparrow (top right),
Vesper Sparrow (bottom left), White-
crowned Sparrow (bottom right).)
Photos by Dan Vickers.*

Guided Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge January 12 to 15, 2018

Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon director of conservation, for an incredible weekend of birding at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in Titusville, Florida. The second largest refuge in Florida, Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge has the distinction of being the home of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the wildlife refuge, and the Canaveral National Seashore. Offering varied birding opportunities, the refuge has recorded more than 310 species of birds. The field trips around the refuge will concentrate on wintering waterfowl and wading birds. There will be opportunities to view other species, such as rails, scrub-jays, and other wildlife. The refuge consists of 140,000 acres of salt marsh, freshwater impoundments, brackish estuaries, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, and scrub. It and its surrounding waters offer a sanctuary for an abundance of plants and animals from both temperate and tropical climate zones. It also supports more threatened and endangered animals (21 species) than any other single refuge in the continental U.S., including the Florida manatee, Wood Stork, gopher tortoise, and eastern indigo snake. Combined with the Canaveral National Seashore, the refuge supports the world's largest population of Florida scrub-jays.

A pre-trip orientation meeting and short workshop will be held prior to the trip on Thursday, January 4, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. To give participants the best experience, this trip is limited to 12 people.

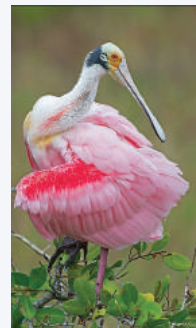
Register online at www.atlantaudubon.org/for-adults.

\$225 for Master Birder in good standing (current on membership and volunteer hours)

\$250 for Atlanta Audubon member

\$285 for non-member (includes one-year membership in Atlanta Audubon)

For more information, contact Adam Betuel at adam@atlantaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.



*Roseate Spoonbill,
by Tom Wilson*

Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: www.atlantaudubon.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.

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 Teresa Lyle, Field Trip Director at teresalyle0@gmail.com.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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*Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit
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November and December Monthly Meetings

November: No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving!

December: Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Sunday, December 10, 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern



There will be no monthly meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. We will reconvene in December for the annual **Atlanta Audubon Society Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 10**. As always, we'll have a variety of unique auction items, gift baskets, trips, and other items for the bird-lover on your gift list. Our store will also be open and well stocked with a selection of T-shirts, bird earrings, notecards, books, and other items. All proceeds benefit the conservation and education efforts of Atlanta Audubon. This gathering will also serve as our annual meeting. We'll hold a brief business meeting to introduce and elect board members for 2018. Atlanta Audubon will provide a variety of appetizers, and, of course, additional food and beverages will be available for purchase. Please join us as we celebrate another successful year for Georgia birds.

Now Collecting Auction Items

We are collecting auction items for this event, including trips, cabin rentals, artwork, photos, books in good condition, binoculars, spotting scopes, mountain/beach/lake house weekends, bird houses/feeders, or other bird-related items. If you have auction items you would like to donate, please contact Dottie Head at 678.973.2437 or e-mail her at dottie@atlantaaudubon.org.

Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 N. Highland Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. 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.