



VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 7, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

September Is Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month: Join Us for these Atlanta Audubon Events

By Dottie Head



Goldfinch on coneflower stem, by Dan Vickers

Governor Nathan Deal recently signed a proclamation designating the month of September as the inaugural **Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month**. A collaborative effort between Atlanta Audubon Society, other Georgia Audubon chapters, and the Georgia Native Plant Society, Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month celebrates Georgia's native plants and raises awareness about the key role they play for birds and other wildlife. Atlanta Audubon Society is working to create a network of habitats filled with native plants across Georgia.

"The biggest threat to birds in Georgia is habitat loss," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon executive director. "As urbanization increases and natural habitats disappear, native plants can go a long way to restoring the habitat birds need. Fortunately, we can provide birds with high-quality resources simply through thoughtful landscaping utilizing native plants. It's something that everyone can contribute to conservation."

Atlanta Audubon Society will be offering events throughout the month of September to highlight the harmonious relationship between native plants and birds, including:

Bird and Plant Walk

Sunday, September 9, 8:00 to 11:00 AM
Land O'Lakes section of Blue Heron Nature Preserve

3931 Land O Lakes Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342

Join Atlanta Audubon and the Georgia Native Plant Society for a Bird and Plant Walk at the Land O'Lakes section of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve, where Atlanta Audubon has been restoring bird-friendly habitat to this formerly overgrown property. Guests will view the birds that inhabit this patch of land and learn more about the native plants that have been added to this landscape to benefit birds and other wildlife. This walk is free to attend, but registration is required on our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.

2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Saturday, September 15, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Decatur/DeKalb County

This year's Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will feature six properties, including two public properties and four private homes, in Decatur/DeKalb County. Each property has been certified by Atlanta Audubon as a Wildlife Sanctuary because it provides four

essential elements for attracting wildlife and birds: food sources (including at least 50% native plants), nesting sites, shelter, and water sources. Visitors will see a wide variety of native plants in a diversity of settings that attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Guests must provide their own transportation and travel between sites at their leisure. See property descriptions on page 6 of this newsletter. Specific addresses will be provided to those who purchase advance tickets via e-mail. If you wish to purchase tickets on the day of the tour, please plan to stop first at the Oldcastle Nature Trail at Marcus Autism Center to do so. Advance tickets are \$20 for Atlanta Audubon Members and \$25 for non-members and are available at www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-tour. On tour day, ticket prices will increase to \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.



Lillie Kline, conservation program manager and project lead, does some weeding in the Exhibitat garden. Photo by Dottie Head.

Piedmont Park "Exhibitat" Public Unveiling and Chalk Art Festival

Tuesday, September 25
Chalking Period, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Exhibitat Unveiling, 6:30 to 9:00 PM

The "Exhibitat" unveiling will celebrate the completion of Atlanta Audubon's native plant garden and
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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

So you're saying I can learn what plants the birds like?" inquires Keisha Lancelin, CW 69's

host of Focus Atlanta. "Yes, you totally can!" I exclaim. I had just finished an interview with Keisha, and she was fascinated about the connection between birds and plants. Once you share with people the interconnections of birds with other living things, it seems that many questions follow. It is truly fascinating to consider the life of one species depending upon another and the delicate balance all of these interrelationships that must be maintained. It's also nice to have an equation for attracting and supporting wildlife. Coral honeysuckle + cardinal flower = Ruby-throated Hummingbird haven.

This month is one of the most exciting in Atlanta Audubon's history. Working with many partners, we have established Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, featuring a variety of opportunities for people to see bird-friendly habitats and support the growing native plants market. The concept of native plants is not one that is generally taught in school or shared at nurseries, so explaining why it is so important to consider your plant choices carefully is a bit of an uphill battle. Why should someone care about planting American holly versus Chinese holly? Well, frankly, nothing is eating those Chinese holly berries. It's not a first choice for nesting and roosting birds, and insects are sparse at best.

It's time for us to think beyond aesthetics. Our landscape design can incorporate both privacy and wildlife food, beauty and ecological function. A plant with an overall attractive structure can also be an enticing microcosm for birds, insects, and spiders. It matters—as rapid development swallows up forests and meadows in metro Atlanta,



Nikki's daughter, Charlie, with a haul of native plants from the CNC plant sale. Photo by Nikki Belmonte.

plants that are being installed in new neighborhoods, office parks, and strip malls are often times useless exotic plants that provide no benefit for wildlife.

I'm proud that we are part of the Plants for Birds initiative being led by National Audubon. This has given our programs like the Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program, Sanctuary Tour, and plant-bird walks with Georgia Native Plant Society a renewed boost and a broader audience.

I educate friends and family about native plants and wildlife as the opportunity arises. I've indoctrinated my kids, and my daughter now loves to find out what "little fellas" are visiting our swamp milkweed, piedmont azalea, and coneflowers. There is just so much one can learn and do to make a difference for our native flora and fauna — this is certainly a case where a little knowledge can you make you dangerous. I hope you will join us this month as we spread the word about plants for birds. Check out our many events at www.atlantaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.html.

Atlanta Audubon Selected As Recipient for Two Grants

We are excited to announce that Atlanta Audubon was recently selected as the grant recipient for two important funding opportunities:

Georgia Ornithological Society Funds Bird/Building Collision Work at Newman Wetlands Center

Georgia Ornithological Society's mission is to encourage the scientific study of birds by gathering and disseminating information about Georgia bird life. Atlanta Audubon was awarded a grant from GOS's Opportunity Grant to install CollidEscape window film to treat all exterior glass surfaces (696 square feet) of the Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton County. The goal of the project is to reduce bird/building collisions at the Wetlands Center building and to provide an educational exhibit to demonstrate bird-friendly building practices to the Wetlands Center's



Thanks to a grant from the Georgia Ornithological Society, Atlanta Audubon will be treating the Newman Wetlands Center with CollidEscape film to help prevent bird collisions. Photo by Danielle Bunch.

(Continued on Page 4)

Conservation Column

Project Safe Flight Atlanta Program Update

By Adam Betuel

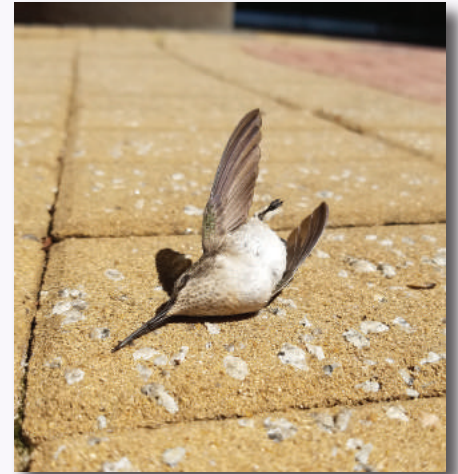
Though not as concentrated or colorful as spring migration, fall migration is one of the true highlights of the birding calendar. Identification challenges forage overhead, and the sheer number of birds passing through our area hits an annual peak thanks to the explosion of new birds from the northern breeding grounds. If you are familiar with Atlanta Audubon's Project Safe Flight Atlanta (PSFA), you know that many of these birds are unable to safely navigate our city on their southbound journey. With a few years under our belt, I wanted to share an update on PSFA and the steps we are taking to reduce the number of bird-building collisions in the metro area.

PSFA officially started in spring 2016, though monitoring was done in previous years. Since that time, volunteers have collected more than 1,000 individuals of 93 species that have died or been injured from building collisions. This number is an incredibly small portion of the number of birds affected by this threat, as we are looking at only a subset of buildings, in only a few areas, while competing with scavengers and cleaning crews. These numbers illustrate that we have an issue here in Atlanta with bright lights and shiny glass.

As monitoring continues, we have also begun taking steps to achieve our lofty goals. Early in 2017, we launched Lights Out Atlanta. Through this program, we have been able to get hundreds of homeowners and commercial properties to turn off their unnecessary lighting during migration. If you have not done so, please take the pledge to help our migratory birds at www.atlantaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta.

While we have begun to address the issue of nocturnal lighting through Lights Out and partnerships with the City of Atlanta and the Southface Institute, the more difficult threat we must address is that of reflective glass. One way we have begun to do that is through building retrofits. Thanks to a Disney Conservation Fund Grant, we applied collision deterrence film to the Chattahoochee Nature Center as well as our office windows at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Additionally, we recently were awarded a Georgia Ornithological Society grant that allows us to do a similar installation at the Newman Wetlands Center. In an effort to have new construction be bird-friendly from the start, I have been consulting with the firm designing the new Livable Building on Georgia Tech's campus and have been able to present to chapters of the American Institute of Architects here in Atlanta as well as other cities across the region.

We have a long way to go, but steps are being made to help make our city safer for birds. PSFA and Lights Out Atlanta have allowed us to educate our community, partner with universities across the country to supplement their museum collections, and provide specimens to educate new audiences about bird-building collisions. As you hit the trails this fall and enjoy the birds that are briefly passing through, think about the amazing journey they are undertaking and the threats they face along the way. Take the steps you can to reduce the dangers around your home and workplace, and consider helping us with PSFA this fall.



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are one of the most commonly found birds during Project Safe Flight Atlanta patrols. Photo by Adam Betuel.

ASK CHIPPY



Q: *Is it illegal to knock down numerous nests with small birds left to die? I watched workers at a local restaurant do this to probably 10 or more nests. So many tiny birds landed on the concrete below and were left to die. Also, another local business has put in about six or more machines to chase birds away. Many of the nests nearby have very small birds and it is so hot. It seems very wrong. Is it illegal??*

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society.

I'm sorry to hear about what you've witnessed. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the destruction of active nests EXCEPT for non-native species such as House Sparrows and European Starlings. It is possible, of course, that the nests you see being destroyed belong to these unprotected species. Otherwise, the business owners must request a deprecation permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove nests.

You may be aware that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has recently been in the news, since the Trump administration has changed course in the interpretation and implementation of the Act. National Audubon Society, together with other conservation groups, recently filed suit to challenge this new interpretation. You can read more about that action and what you can do to help here: <https://www.audubon.org/news/as-mbta-turns-100-audubon-defends-law-court-and-congress>

Thanks for your concern for the birds.

Happy Birding! —Chippy

The 2017 Annual Report Is Now Available

The 2017 Annual Report is now available online. Members and friends, THANK YOU! We are building places where birds and people thrive because of your support and involvement. View the 2017 Annual Report at www.atlantaudubon.org/annualreport.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Steve and Robyn Newman

(This is the 31st in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenicie

Steve and Robyn Newman concern themselves with big birds for a living and smaller ones for a pastime. The Newmans, who live in Hampton, both earn a living by selling airplane parts to Delta. Steve works for Jet Parts Engineering, and Robyn works for AAR Corp., and both have been in the business for decades. Steve used to be a private pilot, too, but gave it up when other demands of life grew too great. Lately they have become quite involved with smaller birds as volunteers for Atlanta Audubon.

Robyn says she has been interested in birds all her life, but after the 2016 presidential election, they decided that because they were empty nesters with more time to give and more funds to spare, they should become more active in the community. They discovered Atlanta Audubon via Facebook and enrolled in the Master Birder class in the spring of 2017.

Since then they can't seem to get enough volunteering, including festival outreach, the fall open house, the holiday party, and the spring plant sales. Robyn helped with a West Nile Virus study conducted by Auburn University, and both participated in Climate Watch—projects that involve field work. And Robyn is proud that Atlanta Audubon has used some of her bird photos on social media and in the annual report.

Advocating for birds also interests them, and the Newmans accompanied Audubon staffers to a public hearing on oil and gas exploration along the Georgia coast—exploration that could harm birds.

Closer to home, they've taken on Nash Farm near their home in Henry County as a sort of personal advocacy project. The farm, a 204-acre public park that includes grasses, a stream, and woods, was the scene of considerable military action during the Civil War. It now harbors rich bird life, including Bobolinks, meadowlarks, and woodcocks. The county has come up with a park master plan that calls for walking trails, parking lots, playgrounds, conversion of an activity barn into an activity building, bike trails, equestrian trails, a covered pavilion, and a

garden. The Newmans are keeping their eyes open on what will happen and have gotten Atlanta Audubon to put in a word with local authorities about not doing anything that will harm the bird habitat.

Robyn is a native of Atlanta and attended Clayton State University and the Art Institute of Atlanta. Steve is from Arizona and a graduate of the University of Arizona. They met via business connections and have a daughter, Josie, who lives in McDonough, and a toddler grandson.



Steve and Robyn Newman are active Atlanta Audubon volunteers.
Selfie by Steve and Robyn.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

...to our bird walk leaders for July and August: **Jason Ward, Anne McCallum, Roseanne Guerra, Joy Carter, and Vin Gleespen** ... to **Jerry Hightower** for presenting at the June monthly meeting, and to **Joy Carter** and **Amanda Woomer** for helping with crowd control at this very well-attended meeting ... to **Larry Stephens, Sandy Miller, Mary Lou Collins, Jack Fasse, Martha Fasse, and Phyllis Hawkins** for their help with June Peel & Stick ... to all of the homeowners and property owners who have agreed to be on the 2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, including the **Wylde Center** (Hawk Hollow), **CRH** (Oldcastle Nature Trail at Marcus Autism Center) ... to **Melinda Langston** for her dedication to the Wildlife Sanctuary Program and for her help with planning the 2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour ... to **Jean-Luc Betoulle** for helping with the West Nile Virus surveys with Auburn University ... to **Masha Kurbatova** for helping with bird banding and bird monitoring ... to **Max Brown, Marcia Jenkins, and Robyn and Steve Newman** for representing Atlanta Audubon at the CRH/Oldcastle Community Day ... to **Esther Woo** and **Sandy Miller** for their help with the Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month postcards ... to **Jack and Martha Fasse** for their help unloading the Cole's truck for the annual Bird Seed Sale.

Atlanta Audubon Selected As Recipient for Two Grants

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12,000 annual visitors. "In my three years as senior conservationist at Newman Wetlands Center, I have heard the dreaded thud of a bird hitting one of our large windows countless times. Each time, I look to see if the bird survived. The addition of CollidEscape to our windows will minimize the number of bird collisions we experience and will give us the opportunity to teach our visitors about how they can help birds at their own homes and businesses," says Senior Conservationist Danielle Bunch at Newman Wetlands Center. Installation of the film is expected to be complete prior to the Wetlands Center's Wetlands & Watershed Festival on October 6.

National Audubon Commits Funding for Conservation Engagement and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness in Georgia

Atlanta Audubon has been awarded an Audubon in Action grant from National Audubon Society for on-the-ground conservation and equity, diversity, and inclusiveness work in Atlanta. Our project will ramp up local

efforts under National Audubon's Plants for Birds initiative to install one million native plants across the United States by 2020. Atlanta Audubon will partner with Atlanta's historic Washington Park to install a bird-friendly native plant demonstration garden. In 1919, the park was designated as the first recreational greenspace in Atlanta for African-Americans. To further address issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, Atlanta Audubon will partner with Greening Youth Foundation to create an annual internship opportunity for a young adult. The intern will work closely with Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Program to learn about native plants and birds, to present outreach programs, and to help certify additional properties as Wildlife Sanctuaries. Greening Youth Foundation's mission is to work with diverse, underserved, and underrepresented children, youth, and adults in an effort to develop and nurture enthusiastic and responsible environmental stewards.

Thank you to our friends at the Georgia Ornithological Society and National Audubon Society for your continued support and partnership

Thank You to Our 2018 Annual Fund Donors

We are pleased to announce the generous support of our members and friends for the 2018 Annual Fund. This year, 146 donors flocked together to raise more than \$29,000 as of July 31. Gifts of every size combine to support our work as Atlanta's leading organization dedicated to building places where birds and people thrive. Donors shown are as of July 31, 2018. If you would like to contribute to the 2018 Annual Fund, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/donate to make an online gift or to print a gift form that can be mailed. Thank you for supporting Georgia's birds. *Every attempt has been made to include all donors and to accurately identify them. If you believe there has been an error, please contact Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaudubon.org or 678-973-2437 so that we can correct our records.*

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Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Events (Continued from Page 1)

Georgia's first Chimney Swift tower in the Piedmont Commons area in the northeast quadrant of Piedmont Park. During the day, participants in our Chalk Art Festival will complete 5' x 5' chalk art paintings in front of the "Exhibitat" in celebration of Georgia's native plants and animals. In the evening, we will officially unveil the project while enjoying food and drink. For more information, to register for the Chalk Art Festival, or to purchase tickets to the Unveiling, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month. Advance tickets to the Exhibitat Unveiling are now available on our website for \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. Walk-up tickets will be available at the event for \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members.

Fall Plant Sale with Chattahoochee Nature Center Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days

This fall, Atlanta Audubon is excited to partner with the Chattahoochee Nature Center and the Georgia Native Plant Society to host native plant sales to expand habitat for birds. Sales will highlight berry-producing plants that help birds like the Wood Thrush put on enough weight to migrate across the Gulf of Mexico to wintering grounds in Central America.

To read the full Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Proclamation or to learn more about Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month events, please visit our website at www.atlantaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.

* * * * * Leave a Legacy for the Birds * * * * *

Do you love Georgia's birds, wildlife, and the protection of bird-friendly habitat? Do you believe wildlife populations should be sustained for future generations? If so, consider leaving a legacy of conservation by including Atlanta Audubon Society in your estate planning. There are many options for planned giving, and we encourage you to consult with your financial advisor or attorney to structure a gift that fulfills your goals. For more information, please contact Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaudubon.org.

2018 Sanctuary Tour Property Descriptions

For full property descriptions or to purchase tickets to the 2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, please visit our website at www.atlantaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-tour.

CRH/Oldcastle Nature Trail at Marcus Autism Center

(Note: Oldcastle recently changed its name to CRH)

1920 Briarcliff Road, NE • Atlanta, GA 303029

Nestled among 13 acres of mature hardwood forest, the CRH Oldcastle Nature Trail at Marcus Autism Center was developed and constructed by CRH/Oldcastle employees in partnership with the Marcus Autism Center. With towering overstory trees, including American Beech, Tulip Poplar, and a variety of oak species, the gravel trail meanders through the forest and is like a cool drink of water on a hot summer day. There is a nice mix of mid-story and understory trees and plants, including wild columbine, woodlands aster, American beautyberry, dwarf pawpaw, Christmas fern, and other species.

Property Notes: This will be the headquarters site for Atlanta Audubon on the day of the tour. On-site ticket sales will be available at this site on the tour day. Enter the Marcus Autism Center off of Briarcliff Road and drive down the right side of the building. The trail entrance and the Atlanta Audubon booth will be set up near the trail entrance. Ample parking is available at the Marcus Autism Center.

Private Home #1 • Decatur, GA 30033

If you are a fan of native plants, you will not want to miss this stop on the 2018 tour. Certified as both an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary and a Georgia Native Plant Society Gold Certified Native Plant Habitat, this private garden is chock full of natives. A landscape architect and ecologist with a certificate in Native Plants from UGA, the homeowner uses her garden as a proving ground for more native plants than one can imagine.

Private Home #2 • Decatur, GA 30033

The first thing that catches your eye at this property is the sanctuary sign. It's artfully placed on an owl box at the top of a snag in the front yard. The yard contains a menagerie of trees and shrubs, ranging from swamp azalea and bottle brush buckeye to a variety of oaks, tea olive, sourwood, and pecan trees. The property owner is an environmental consultant, so you'll see many of the plants she uses in her stream and wetland restoration work, including river oats, switch grass, and swamp azalea.

Private Home #3 • Decatur, GA 30030

Nestled near downtown Decatur, this lovely home and garden provide an oasis for wildlife just down the street from Decatur's city center. A more manicured sanctuary, this landscape draws you in and makes you want to sit down and admire the view. Native hydrangeas, Solomon's seal, cross vine, and serviceberry are just a few of the shade-tolerant plants that adorn this private sanctuary.

Private Home #4 • Decatur, GA 30030

This private garden in the Lenox Place neighborhood in Decatur is a true gem. Thoughtfully designed on all four sides, the garden welcomes visitors to explore, and the birds love it. The front yard features a delightful seating area from which visitors can enjoy the recently installed pollinator garden. As you meander down the right side of the house, you will find a plethora of plants along the narrow pathway, including ironweed, spicebush, obedient plant, and Joe Pye weed.

The Wylde Center's Hawk Hollow

2304 1st Avenue • Atlanta, GA 30317

A half-acre natural woodland, Hawk Hollow was donated to the Wylde Center in 2012. A delightful pollinator garden welcomes visitors to the property, and a shaded creek runs alongside. Lovely overstory trees, including the hollowed-out tulip poplar which gave the property its name, grace the park, along with a host of other natives, including purple coneflower, butterfly weed, goldenrod, silky dogwood, sweet shrub, spice bush, cardinal flower, and crossvine, all of which make this city garden a welcome stop for the many school groups and neighbors who visit.



The 2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will take place on September 15 in Decatur and will feature six sites.

Photo by Andrea Greco.

Atlanta Audubon Photo of the Month Competition *By Ashkan Ojaghi*

By submitting an entry to the Photo of the Month competition, entrants will have a chance to have their favorite bird photo to appear in *Wingbars*, Atlanta Audubon's monthly newsletter, and it may be used in other Atlanta Audubon online and print publications. In addition, each winning photo will be published under the photographer's name along with details about the bird species and location of photography.

All competition images must adhere to the guidelines below and e-mailed to photography@atlantaudubon.org no later than **October 1, 2018**.

Image Guidelines:

1. Each entrant can submit up to two images per month.
2. Images must have a maximum dimension of 2,000 pixels on the horizontal or 2,000 pixels on the vertical side.
3. File size is not to exceed 1 MB and should be in one of the following formats: JPEG, TIF, TIFF, or PNG.
4. Submissions should name image files as follows: firstname-lastname-date-1/2.jpg Example: John Smith, date photo was taken: July 13, 2018; would have a filename of John-Smith-13July2018-1/2.jpg

Please also include the following details in your submission:

- Location
- Species
- Was your subject captive?
- Time of day, weather conditions, etc
- Camera type and model
- ISO
- Shutter speed, aperture
- Lens focal length and model
- Flash, flash settings
- Was your image significantly altered in post processing by adding or removing elements of the composition?

The entries will be judged based on creativity, technique, and artistic features.

By entering the competition, the entrant grants to the Audubon Atlanta license to publish their submission in Atlanta Audubon publications and newsletters, on the website, and/or on social media platforms. Photo credit will be provided.

ETHICS: We put great emphasis on ethical photography and expect that the welfare of both subjects and their environment take precedence over photography. Please visit www.audubon.org/get-outside/audubons-guide-ethical-bird-photography for guidelines on responsible bird photography.

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, September 1, 2018 **Piedmont Park (Fulton County)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770
GPS: 33.783750, -84.379111

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 **Reynolds Nature Preserve** **(Clayton County)** **8:00 AM**

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

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 **Murphy Candler Park (DeKalb County)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Mary Kimberly
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279
GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476

Thursday, September 20, 2018 **Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve (DeKalb County)** **8:00 AM**

Leaders: Stan Chapman and Ralph Smith
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.358.2166
GPS: 33.806814, -84.283092

Saturday, September 29, 2018 **Atlanta History Center (Fulton County)** **8:30 AM**

Leader: Robert McDonough
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.754.8159
GPS: 33.841996, -84.386303

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.

LIVE and LEARN

eBird Workshop

Thursday, October 18, 2018 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Do you keep track of the birds you see? Did you know this information can be used by scientists to inform conservation decisions that benefit birds and people?

Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, for a hands-on workshop to guide you through the various uses of eBird, the free online checklist program that is revolutionizing the way information about birds is collected and shared. No prior experience is needed.

In this workshop you will learn to:

- keep track of the birds you see (and see more birds).
- use eBird to figure out where to look for certain species or plan birding trips
- share checklists with friends
- explore interactive range maps, migration patterns, occurrence data, and more
- understand how eBird data is being used by scientists and the conservation community

To get the most out of the workshop, participants are asked to go to www.ebird.org and create a free eBird account before attending this class. You can also download the eBird app in the Apple and Google Play stores. Please bring your laptop computer or smart device to the workshop.

Member Fee: \$20 Nonmember Fee: \$25

Sparrow Identification Workshop

Classroom Session at Atlanta Audubon

Thursday, November 1, 2018 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Field Trip: Saturday, November 3, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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, White-crowned, and Vesper Sparrows, in addition to more common resident and wintering species.

To register, visit our website at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops.

Member fee: \$50 Nonmember fee: \$60

Master Birder in Good Volunteer Standing: \$45

Atlanta Urban Ecologists for Teens

The Atlanta Urban Ecologists program for youth in grades 8 through 12 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.

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 with a canoe trip on the Chattahoochee River and a graduation lunch.

Sessions are hosted by a different environmental nonprofit on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM from October to May. An orientation session will be held at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve on Sunday, September 16 from 3:00-5:00 PM. **Partners for the 2018-19 program include Trees Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta Audubon, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance, The Amphibian Foundation, and the Chattahoochee Nature Center.** Please see our website for more details.

Course fee: \$400



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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September Monthly Meeting

Learning to See Bird Sounds, with examples from Andean Birds and Zebra Finches
With Carlos Antonio Rodriguez-Saltos, Emory University
Sunday, September 23 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Birders are well aware of the benefits of learning bird vocalizations. Not only does identification of some species become easier, but it also opens a window into the mind of the bird. Bird vocalizations let us know the emotions of birds. Calls can have very specific meanings, such as signaling aggression or disposition to mate. Despite the benefits of learning bird vocalizations, many people find this task daunting. It may be believed that only people with exceptional hearing and a talent for memorizing sounds are fit for the task. But modern technology makes things easier for the rest of us. Using spectrograms, we can see bird sounds. In this talk, we will cover the basics of reading and generating spectrograms. Special attention will be given to explaining tools for the smart phone that can be used in real time. The speaker will share his own experience using spectrograms to study the behavior of birds, including Andean birds and zebra finches.

About the Speaker:

Carlos Antonio Rodriguez-Saltos is a PhD candidate at Emory University, where he studies affective behavior of zebra finches during the time when they learn to sing. Originally from Ecuador, Carlos also collaborates on several projects involving birds from that country. He has studied duetting behavior in Andean wrens and the ecology, evolution, and vocal communication of Andean hummingbirds. Carlos's research has been published in the journals *Science*, *Current Biology*, and *Journal of Neuroendocrinology* and has been featured in outlets such as *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*.



Zebra Finch, by Lynn Griffiths.

Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 N. Highland Avenue, N.E., 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.