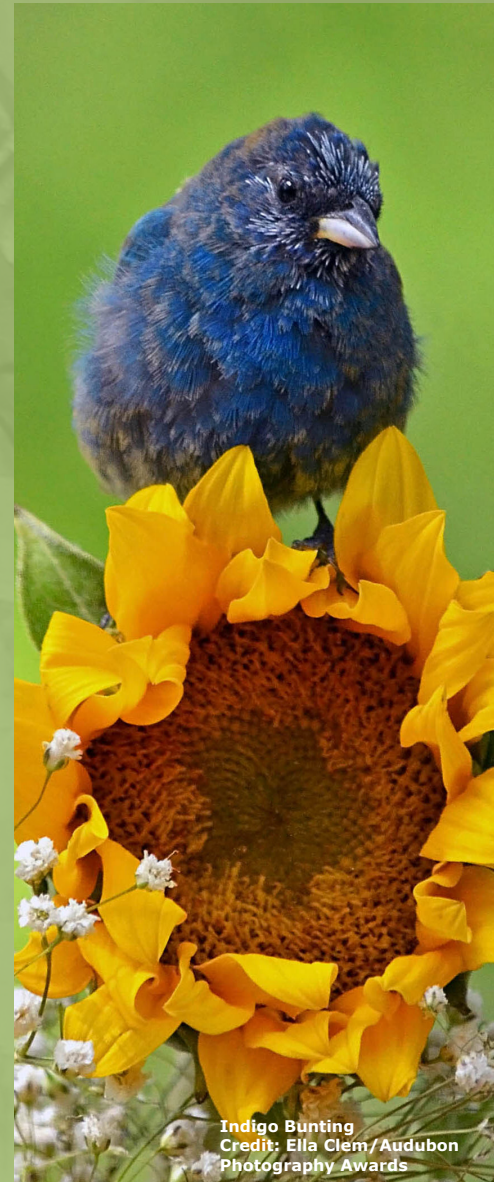


Annual Report 2017

ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Where birds thrive, people thrive, and Atlanta Audubon Society is building environmental resilience across metro Atlanta by restoring habitat, educating the next generation of community leaders, and creating a fully-engaged, conservation-minded Georgia. We invite you to explore the 2017 Annual Report, which showcases important accomplishments over the past year and to look ahead with us as we strive for even greater impact by the end of 2020 on behalf of Georgia's birds and our shared habitats.



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Credit: Melanie Furr

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If we build it, they will come.

Last year was a banner year for Atlanta Audubon that began with a newly-defined mission to represent who we are as an organization: Atlanta Audubon is building places where birds and people thrive.

As the metro Atlanta region continues to grow and places new pressures on our urban ecosystems, we become acutely aware of the links between the quality of local habitat and the stability of bird populations and, indeed, our own health and happiness.

Support from our members and friends in 2017 enabled us to reach communities one by one—all through the lens of birds—to advance STEM learning opportunities for students, bird-friendly habitat restoration at local greenspaces, bird/building collision safety, community engagement, and a growing web of certified wildlife sanctuaries.

Our next step as an organization is to expand our network of members, donors and sponsors, advocates, volunteers, and partners to build a bird-friendly Atlanta. Only through your investments of time, resources, and counsel can we reach ambitious goals to build a conservation-minded Georgia where birds and people thrive.

We appreciate all of you, and we hope you will invite your friends and colleagues to join with us in this work. Truly, if we build it, they will come!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Stokes".

Esther Stokes
Board Chair, 2018-19

Wood Thrush
Credit: Juan Zamora/
Flickr CC by 2.0



Wildlife Sanctuary Program Builds Network of Certified Habitats

Atlanta Audubon Society's Wildlife Sanctuary Program encourages property owners to enhance their land for birds and other wildlife. Through planting and providing native plants, removing or controlling exotic species, and providing food, water, and shelter for wildlife, local property owners can provide critical wildlife habitat and create a safe haven for wildlife. Atlanta Audubon's goal is to create a network of certified wildlife sanctuaries throughout metro Atlanta to counter the loss of wildlife habitat to urbanization, and to provide additional habitat for the hundreds of birds and other species threatened by climate change. Since the program began, Atlanta Audubon has certified more than 450 properties. Thirty-four were added to the list in 2017. Under the dynamic leadership of Melinda Langston, our volunteer Sanctuary Program Coordinator and an Atlanta Audubon Board member, we have been able to expand our number of certified properties in metro Atlanta and beyond. We have also forged new partnerships with a number of land management organizations that will enable us reach our goal of expanding the number of certified properties to 1,000 by 2020.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification
www.atlantaaudubon.org/plants-for-birds

Plants for Birds Initiative Creates Habitat for Birds

Loss of suitable habitat is one of the biggest threats to birds here in Georgia. Atlanta Audubon is working to address this problem and build bird habitat through the Plants for Birds initiative. In partnership with National Audubon Society, Atlanta Audubon encourages homeowners to plant native plant species for birds in their landscapes. Since native plant species are not readily available in big box retailers and other garden stores, Atlanta Audubon partnered with the Georgia Native Plant Society, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Beech Hollow Farms, and the Blue Heron Nature Preserve on their spring native plant sales. Our 2017 efforts focused specifically on plants that benefit the Wood Thrush. Special Wood Thrush plant tags and informational materials were developed for distribution at these sales to educate people on how native plants benefit Georgia birds.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/plants-for-birds



Common Yellowthroat
Credit: Karen Brown/
Audubon Photography Awards



Taking Wing Professional Development for Educators

Birds are everywhere! Whether a student experiences her time outdoors in city parks, rolling country hillsides, or simply walking to and from school each day, birds are all around and provide a natural jumping-off point for educators to explore STEM topics such as biology, math, ecology, and more. Gifts from the Alice Huffard Richards Charitable Fund and a private donor in 2017 allowed Atlanta Audubon to train nine educators over the course of a full academic school year. To date, we estimate that more than 3,000 students have been reached through the lessons of the educators trained through Taking Wing.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/professional-development

Connecting Students with STEM through Birds: Sparking the Conservation Ethic in the Next Generation

Today's youth are tomorrow's policy makers, planners and developers, and community leaders. When we instill a conservation ethic in students through the lens of birds, we provide an insurance that habitats that sustain birds, wildlife, and people alike will receive protection. With generous funding through the Morgens West Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, and our members, four elementary schools in southwest Atlanta have now participated in a full program to train educators in teaching STEM concepts through the lens of birds. Each participating school also receives a schoolyard garden that is designed and installed with the help of students and their families. These bird-friendly gardens become outdoor learning spaces that teachers may use year after year in their lessons.



Credit: Daniel Ballard



Gray Catbird
Credit: Ted Rastetter/
Audubon Photography
Awards

Building Bird-Friendly Communities

Thanks to repeat funding through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star Urban Waters Grant, Atlanta Audubon is working with its network of partners to restore bird-friendly habitat. Healthy habitats that support birds and other wildlife create healthy communities that we all can enjoy. In 2017 Atlanta Audubon tackled project sites at Friendship Forest in Clarkston and at Deepdene Park in Atlanta. At both sites, more than a dozen bird-friendly species of native plants were installed, including Button Bush, Beautyberry, Cardinal Flower, Elderberry, and Mist Flower, to name a few. To date, during bird monitoring sessions conducted by Atlanta Audubon's conservation staff, 62 species and 74 species, respectively, have been documented at Deepdene Park and Friendship Forest. Monthly avian monitoring will continue at each site to document in greater detail the species using the newly-restored habitat for migratory stopovers and breeding grounds.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration



Pine Warbler
Credit: Robyn Newman

Window Treatments at Chattahoochee Nature Center Prevent Collisions

With hundreds of little dots adorning the Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) in Roswell, birds will no longer perish after colliding with the windows, thanks to a partnership between the CNC and Atlanta Audubon Society. The dots are a special CollideEscape film that breaks up the transparency of the glass and prevents bird-window strikes. With funding received from the Disney Conservation Fund, Atlanta Audubon and CNC installed CollideEscape film to the 78 windows of the CNC Discovery Center. The CNC Discovery Center has high visitation and presents a unique opportunity to educate the public on steps they can take to reduce bird-window collisions at home.

Turning Out the Lights Makes Bird Migration Safer

After two years of studying the bird/building collisions through Project Safe Flight Atlanta, Atlanta Audubon launched Lights Out Atlanta in 2017 to help address the problem and make Atlanta safer for nocturnal migrants. Modeled after similar successful programs in other cities, Lights Out Atlanta participants pledge to turn off or reduce outdoor lighting and take other bird-friendly steps during spring and fall migration between the hours of midnight and sunrise. To date, more than 180 homeowners and 15 commercial participants have pledged to turn the lights out for migrating birds, and we are working to grow that number in coming years.

www.atlantaaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta



Great Egret
Credit: Robyn Newman

2017 Atlanta Audubon Supporters

The board and staff of Atlanta Audubon Society extend their appreciation to the following members and friends who made significant financial gifts in 2017.

\$10,000+

Beverly B. Long Estate
Les* and Harriet Cane
Gina Charles*
Morgens West Foundation
Jim and Sally Morgens
Oldcastle
Robert F. Schumann Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Alice Huffard Richards Charitable Fund
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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Victor and Vicki Williams

Under \$250

921 individual donors

*Atlanta Audubon Master Birder

Every attempt has been made to include all donors in each category and to correctly identify them. If you believe there has been an error, please contact Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaaudubon.org so that we can correct our records.

\$250-\$499

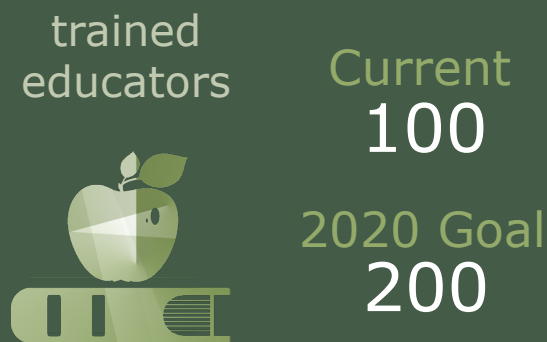
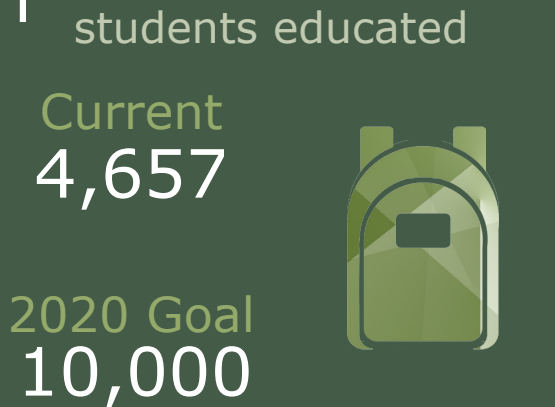
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Support from our members, friends, and partners allows Atlanta Audubon to build a fully-engaged, conservation-minded Georgia. Here is a snapshot of the impact your gifts of time and money will have by the end of 2020:

EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT



CONSERVATION

lights out atlanta pledges



native plants distributed or installed



climate watch surveys



habitat restoration acreage



certified wildlife sanctuaries



Focus on Financials

2017



Revenue

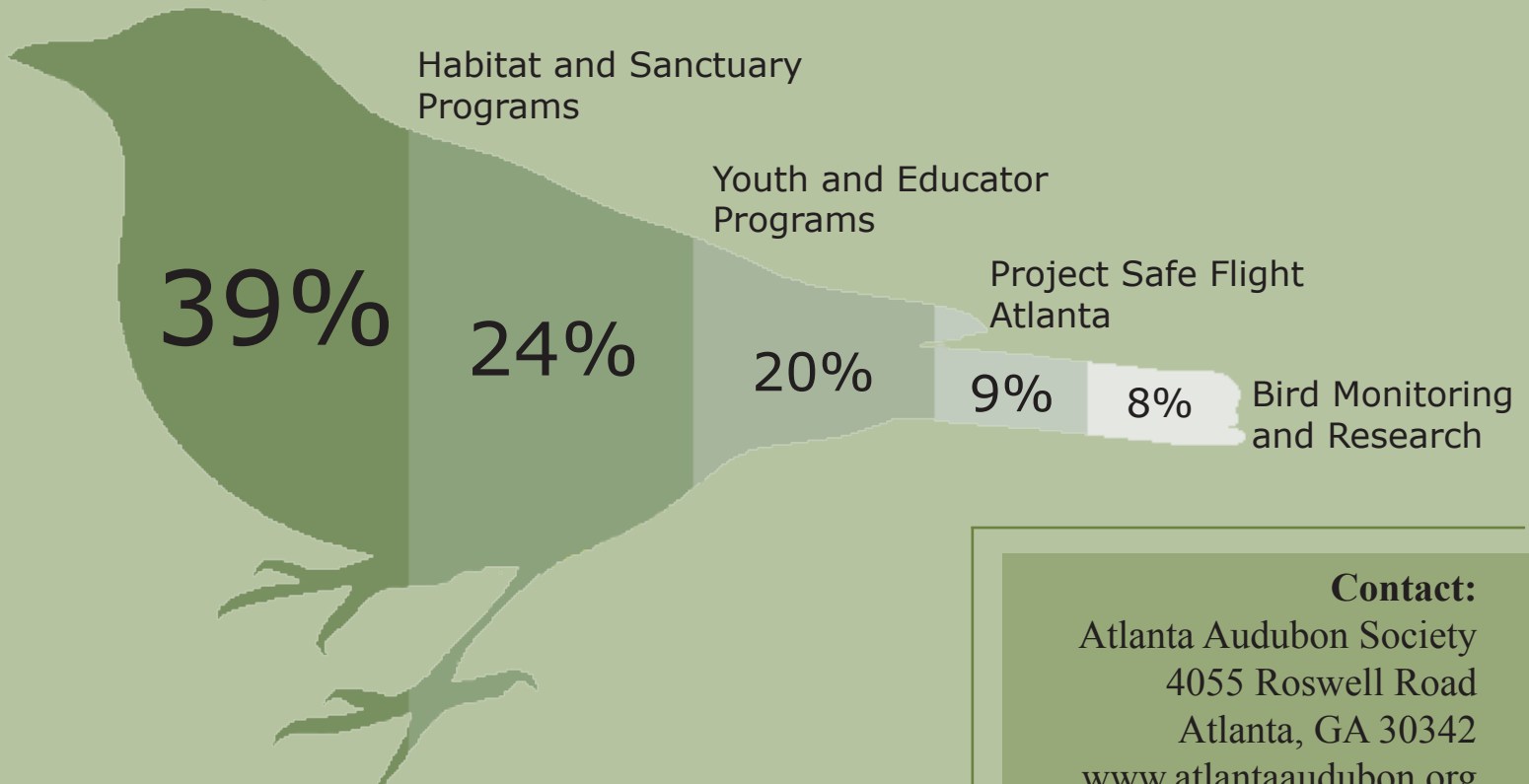
56%	Contributions and Grants	\$264,135
23%	Programs and Events	\$108,896
11%	Membership	\$49,734
10%	Other Income	\$45,664
<hr/>		
	Total Revenue	\$468,429

Expenditures

77%	Program Service	\$363,096
13%	Fundraising	\$63,611
10%	Management and General Operations	\$45,887
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	Total Expenditures	\$472,594

How Program Dollars Benefit Bird-Friendly Communities

Community Outreach and Workshops



Contact:

Atlanta Audubon Society
 4055 Roswell Road
 Atlanta, GA 30342
www.atlantaaudubon.org
 678.973.2437

