****

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact:

Dottie Head, [dottie@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:dottie@atlantaaudubon.org) or (678) 973-2437

**Atlanta Audubon Society to Host Wildlife Sanctuary Tour and an Evening with Doug Tallamy, Author of *Bringing Nature Home***

**(Atlanta, Ga,) July 17, 2017 —** Atlanta Audubon Society will host two events for gardening and nature enthusiasts in September. The kick-off event will be **An Evening with Doug Tallamy, Author of *Bringing Nature Home*,** on Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 PM at the Dunwoody Nature Center. The second event will be the annual **Wildlife Sanctuary Tour on Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** This year’s tour will feature several Atlanta Audubon-certified properties in Fulton County.

On Thursday, September 14, Atlanta Audubon is excited to welcome author and native plant advocate Doug Tallamy to kick off this year’s Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. 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, and the important roles native plants play in maintaining food webs vital to birds. He will emphasize the benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

On Saturday, September 16, Atlanta Audubon will host its annual Wildlife Sanctuary Tour featuring five properties in north Atlanta. Atlanta Audubon is excited to be partnering with the Atlanta History Center on the 2017 tour.

Tour sites are as follows:

1. The Goizueta Gardens and Living Collection at Atlanta History Center;
2. Emma Wetlands at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Buckhead;
3. Private home of in Atlanta, 30327;
4. Private home in Sandy Springs, 30328;
5. Private home in Atlanta, 30305; and
6. Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs.

To respect the privacy of our private homeowners, Atlanta Audubon will provide street addresses and GPS coordinates of our private home participants via email to ticket purchasers prior to the event.

Each property has been certified by Atlanta Audubon Society as a Certified Wildlife Sanctuary because it provides five essential criteria for attracting wildlife and birds: food sources, nesting sites, bird feeders, shelter, and water sources. Visitors will see a wide variety of native plants and trees in a variety of different settings that attract a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Atlanta Audubon staff and volunteers will be available at each site to guide visitors through the habitats.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.AtlantaAudubon.org](http://www.AtlantaAudubon.org). The following ticket prices apply:

* Doug Tallamy Presentation: $20 for one ticket or $35 for two tickets.
* Wildlife Sanctuary Tour Tickets: $24 for Atlanta Audubon Society and Atlanta History Center Members; $30 for non-members.
* Combo-ticket (includes admission for one to both the Doug Tallamy Presentation and the Wildlife Sanctuary Tour): $40 for Atlanta Audubon Society members; $45 for non-members.

All proceeds will support the education and conservation efforts of Atlanta Audubon Society.

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

Link to DropBox folder with photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>

###