

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Atlanta Bird Fest Starts This Weekend**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) April 12, 2018** – Atlanta Audubon Society’s **Third Annual Atlanta Bird Fest** opens this weekend. Atlanta’s largest bird and nature festival, this year’s Atlanta Bird Fest features five consecutive weekends of activities, exclusive field trips, workshops, guest speakers, and more. This year’s event will run from April 14 to May 20. Proceeds support Atlanta Audubon Society’s mission to build places where birds and people thrive.

Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 has offerings for both the casual and serious bird and nature enthusiast. Highlights include:

- 1) This weekend, April 14-15, **Julie Zickefoose**, Ohio-based author, illustrator, and naturalist, will kick off Atlanta Bird Fest with three events, including an evening program co-sponsored by Atlanta Audubon and Chattahoochee Nature Center on Saturday, April 14. On Sunday, April 15, Zickefoose will lead a bird walk at the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, followed by a lunch event at Horseradish Grill.
- 2) An **Open House and Native Plant Sale at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve** on Saturday, April 21;
- 3) **Building Your Wildlife Sanctuary Workshop** on Sunday, April 22, to teach homeowners and property managers how to transform their property into a Wildlife Sanctuary;
- 4) **A Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast**, May 4 to 6, highlighting the shorebird migration that coincides with the spawning of horseshoe crabs. The group will take a boat trip exploring the Altamaha River Delta at places such as the north end of Little St. Simons Island, Little Egg Island, and Wolf Island Bar. The schedule also includes birding coastal hotspots such as Jekyll Island and Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area.
- 5) **Wine & Warblers in North Georgia** on May 5; spend the morning birding in the North Georgia mountains in the restricted conversation area of Smithgall Woods State Park, followed by a wine tasting at Yonah Mountain Vineyards;
- 6) **Photography Workshops** (one for beginners and another for intermediate/advanced photographers) with Eric Bowles, an Atlanta-based wildlife photographer, on Saturday, May 5.
- 7) **A Birds in Art and Ancient History Tour at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University**, on Sunday, May 6, where guests will explore the ways that people from around the

world have looked at the avian world, and how it has impacted religion, political propaganda, and art in the ancient Americas, Greece, Egypt, Rome, the Near East, and Africa. Visitors will find diverse representations of birds throughout the collection, even in the form of ancient mummies!

- 8) **The Warbler Weekend**, May 11 to 13, will visit various hotspots in the North Georgia mountains, where it's possible to find more than 20 species of warblers, Brewster's Warblers, Kirland's Warblers, and many others.
- 9) A variety of bird walks, boat trips, and paddle trips at locations around the metro-area including **Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area, Constitution Lakes, Cubihatcha Outdoor Center, and Sweetwater Creek State Park.**
- 10) Celebrate the final day of Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 on Sunday, May 20, with a **Closing Celebration at Sweetwater Brewing Company featuring Janisse Ray**, Georgia author and environmental activist. Her presentation, *Our Life with Birds*, will be a lyrical and heartfelt look at the wild creatures that instill such passion, especially those that inhabit the environs of our home state, why we follow them and name them, and what they teach us about the world. She will highlight some remarkable natural history events that will help us love the birds of Georgia with even more dedication. Join us to hear this clarion call for the protection of wild places and a defense of hope.

For a complete listing of Atlanta Bird Fest events or to register, visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events).

Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 is presented by Atlanta Audubon Society thanks to our generous sponsors Colonial Pipeline, Cox Enterprises, Georgia-Pacific, NewFields, SolAmerica Energy, and Southwire. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Michelle Hamner, Director of Development, at [michelle@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:michelle@atlantaaudubon.org).

**Media Note:** Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.

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

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This year's Atlanta Bird Fest logo featuring the Pileated Woodpecker was designed by Atlanta-based artist Kyle Brooks (aka BlackCatTips). A limited number of Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirts are now on sale in the Atlanta Audubon online store. ([www.atlantaaudubon.org/shop-in-our-online-store](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/shop-in-our-online-store))