



VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 10, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to present Leslie Edwards, Evonne Blythers Lapsey, and Ellen Macht for election to the Board of Directors. These candidates will bring a wealth of experience and talents to the Board. New board members will serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2019. Elections will be held at the Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern. Please plan to attend. Following please find short biographical sketches of each of our fantastic candidates.



Leslie Edwards



Evonne Blythers Lapsey



Ellen Macht

Dr. Leslie Edwards holds a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Georgia and has retired after working on the faculty of the Department of Geosciences at Georgia State University. She is the lead author of *The Natural Communities of Georgia* and wrote "The Land, Climate, and Vegetation" portion of *The Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas*, both published by the University of Georgia Press. Leslie has served on the boards of several conservation-related organizations and is currently active in Atlanta Audubon's wildlife sanctuary certification program.

Evonne Blythers Lapsey is currently a park ranger/naturalist with DeKalb County Recreations, Parks & Cultural Affairs and the director and founder of the Edge of Night Camping Club (ENCC). Formerly, she was an environmental education coordinator for the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA). Evonne has been a passionate Girl Scout leader for nearly 20 years and a very strong advocate in getting families outdoors. Her latest accomplishment is visiting all 65 Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites. Evonne is an enthusiastic participant in Atlanta Audubon's Taking Wing teacher professional development.

Ellen Macht is one of the founders of the Food Well Alliance, whose mission is to encourage local food movements to build a healthier local food system together. She has more than 30 years of experience in corporate and investment banking, mergers and acquisitions, and nonprofit management and as a nonprofit board member. Currently, Ellen is the immediate past chair of Georgia Organics and a board member and treasurer of the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative.

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Atlanta Audubon Seeks a Membership and Development Associate

We're hiring for 2019. The Membership and Development Associate is responsible for supporting the membership program and fundraising activities of Atlanta Audubon. This is a part-time position based at the Atlanta Audubon office at Blue Heron Nature Preserve. The individual will manage the donor database, conduct membership and gift transactions, and generate appeal letters, acknowledgments, and reports. The individual will also conduct prospect research, coordinate member and donor events, and help us staff various member programs and events. To learn more about this opportunity, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/job-opportunities. Applications will be accepted through December 16, 2018.

Board of Directors 2018

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Stokes Landscape Design

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Ellen Miller | Secretary
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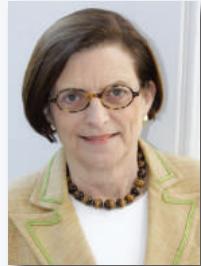
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of Atlanta Audubon Society.



Esther Stokes

Challenge from the Chair

By Esther Stokes

Atlanta Audubon builds places where birds and people thrive—through conservation, education and advocacy. Looking back at 2018, I am astonished by the many ways our organization has worked to achieve our mission and how much we have accomplished. Nikki Belmonte and her very able staff have set Atlanta Audubon on a trajectory that has brought us visibility and recognition, and I know that you, our members, must sense this.

First, on the advocacy front, let's celebrate the passage—finally—of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment (GOSA), which Atlanta Audubon worked hard to promote alongside other conservation organizations across the state. This effort has been 20 years in the making, and it will provide dedicated funds each year for land conservation in our fast-growing state. GOSA passed with 83 percent approval, an unusually high number. People want parks and greenspace where birds and people thrive!

On the education front, Atlanta Audubon received numerous grants to support our work in underserved areas, introducing urban kids to the wonders of birds and the outdoors. We led field trips locally and in far-flung areas. We held workshops. We taught the teachers who can then

go forward with teaching their students. We educated our membership and others through an extremely successful Atlanta Bird Fest.

We put real muscle into making the connection in all our brains between planting native plants and providing good habitat for birds by installing a bird-friendly native plant garden in Piedmont Park, and we built the first Chimney Swift tower in Georgia nearby. We celebrated Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. We developed a "Best Management Practices for Healthy Environments" document which can be helpful for all land managers—for public spaces and private properties alike.

On the conservation front, we have grown our wildlife sanctuary certification program significantly and have begun focusing on adding larger properties to our network in addition to the smaller properties. We have, through the generosity of one of our members, established a Habitat Restoration Fund, that will grow over time and provide funding for winning applicants to restore habitat in their park or nature preserve. We have continued our Project Safe Flight Atlanta program, which monitors bird/building collisions and through Lights Out Atlanta encouraged building owners and homeowners to turn off their lights at night, for the benefit of migrating birds.

I am leaving out all kinds of good stuff, but you get the picture. Wow! What a huge body of work accomplished by a small but outstanding staff and supported by our many members and friends who volunteer to help make all this happen! THANK YOU to the literally hundreds of you who have participated in this work. I am so proud of the exceptional work of Atlanta Audubon, and I look forward to 2019.

The Chimney Swift Is Atlanta Audubon's New Focal Bird for 2019-2020

Atlanta Audubon has chosen the Chimney Swift as our next focal species for 2019-2020. A cigar-shaped bird, Chimney Swifts spend the summer months in Atlanta, and their high-pitched twittering is often heard overhead. Their aerial acrobatics may remind people of swallows, but Chimney Swifts are more closely related to Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. They have adapted to a life among humans, finding a home in chimneys after their preferred old-growth trees began disappearing. Still a fairly common sight in Atlanta, Chimney Swifts are being forced to respond to additional threats across their range—from chimney capping, to tree removal, to a decreasing supply of insects due to pesticides, pollution, and climate change. Other issues, such as building collisions and challenges on swifts' wintering grounds are exacerbating population declines.

Ultimately, the Chimney Swift is a bird connected to people. With their epic agility and stamina, their taste for biting insects, and their propensity for nesting in our chimneys during the summer months, Chimney Swifts and humans have a unique connection. We need to pitch in to ensure the continued health of this species.



The Chimney Swift is the 2019-2020 Focal Species for Atlanta Audubon. Photo by Dan Vickers.

Just in time for the holidays: Atlanta Audubon Launches Coffee/Chocolate Lovers Bag

What could be better than coffee, chocolate, and birds? Just in time for the holiday season, we are offering a gift bundle that is perfect for gift giving. Featuring a 4-ounce sample bag of our shade-grown, organic coffee, an Atlanta Audubon coffee mug, and a 2.6-ounce Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate bar, this gift bag is priced at \$20 and makes the perfect teacher, hostess, or white elephant gift. The gift bags are now available for pickup at the Atlanta Audubon office, and we will have them for sale at the Holiday Party on December 9. You may also purchase them in our online store, and we can ship them for an additional fee. Quantities are limited, so purchase early!

Arizona in July? Why?

"Southern Arizona in July? Why?" was the typical reaction I received from friends when I mentioned leading Atlanta Audubon's first guided birding trip to the Southwest last summer. Granted, I had my own concerns about traveling to the desert during the hottest time of year, but our guide, Ken Blankenship (a Georgia native and former field trip leader who relocated to Arizona to lead birding tours), assured me we'd find ways to beat the heat. And with the promise of seeing not only several species of birds found nowhere else in the continental United States, including several species of hummingbirds, I was willing to sweat a little.

The day our group arrived in Tucson was, of course, the hottest day of the year—109 degrees! Eager to add to our life lists, we stopped for a quick lunch, then headed to the Sonoran Desert Museum to explore the exhibits while looking for birds and staying close to air-conditioned buildings. Cactus Wrens, Phainopeplas, Gila Woodpeckers, and Costa's Hummingbirds didn't seem bothered by the heat, however, and we all added a few lifers to our lists.

Arriving at the hotel, we spotted Greater Roadrunners in the parking lot and a pair of Vermillion Flycatchers in a nearby tree. After a quick shower, I headed outside to look for an interesting sparrow I had noticed earlier—a



Exploring Saguaro National Park, by Melanie Furr.

By Melanie Furr

Rufous-winged Sparrow. Before long, everyone was out in the parking lot with binoculars. Approaching monsoon clouds providing a cooling breeze as we watched fledgling roadrunners chase their parents around the hotel grounds.



Greater Roadrunner, by Melanie Furr.

We started early the next morning to make the most of our time around Tucson during the cooler morning hours. Our first stop was Agua Caliente Park, situated around a perennial warm spring that provides habitat for an exceptionally rich mix of plants and animals. Jonathan Lutz, Executive Director of Tucson Audubon, met us for some birding and talked to us about some of the work being done by Tucson Audubon Society. We found lots of beautiful and interesting birds, including species rarely seen outside of Mexico such as Broad-billed Hummingbirds and a Northern Bearded-Tyrannulet. Soon we were back in our van driving to the top of Mount Lemmon and pointing out Mexican Jays.

The 27-mile Sky Islands Scenic Byway to the top of Mount Lemmon, the highest point in the Santa Catalina mountains, winds through Sonoran Desert below and ascends to cool, shady Rocky Mountain forest near the top. As the landscape changes, so does the bird life. Acorn Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, and Western Bluebirds were no less delightful to watch because they are common in the area, but finding more elusive species like Grace's Warblers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Cordilleran Flycatchers was also fun. At some feeders across the street from our lunch spot in Summerhaven, several of us added Black-throated Grosbeaks and Hepatic Tanagers to our life lists, with a bonus Cassin's Kingbird on the power-line overhead. The highlight of the day, for me at least, was at Rose Canyon when we witnessed a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird alighting on her nest.

The second full day began with a rare Five-striped Sparrow in Box Canyon. Although we only got fleeting glimpses of the sparrow as it foraged in the low vegetation, seeing the rarest breeding sparrow in the continental United States was exciting. With a small range in Western Mexico that extends only

(Continued on Page 6)

A Birder's Letter to Santa

By Steve Phenicie

Dear Santa,

Everyone else writes to you at this time of year, so a birder should, too. Here are some things that the friends of the feather-clad would like this year:

- Feral cats that sign pledges to become vegetarians.
- Bird feeders that slap squirrels on the wrist and deliver a stern lecture when they attempt a raid.
- Ivory-billed Woodpeckers that show up at convenient times and places, such as in my sector during the Christmas Bird Count.
- A masseuse on every bird walk who gives massages after you have been craning your neck to look at those warblers and tanagers in the tree tops.
- Politicians who say: "You'd like lots of money for bird habitat? Boy, are we glad you asked! We have a mountain of it sitting here, and no one knows what to do with it. The cleaning staff complains all the time about having to dust it."
- ADHD treatments for kinglets that don't hold still long enough for you to look at them.

- Self-cleaning birdhouses.
- A new wardrobe for Hairy Woodpeckers so they don't look so much like Downys.
- Spotting scopes that fold up and fit into your pocket.
- Canada Geese that vow to improve their potty habits at parks and on golf courses.
- Foliage that becomes invisible when you want to look at a bird.
- Binoculars that automatically show up when you see an interesting bird and didn't remember to bring them with you.
- Crows that sing opera and tell jokes so that people will quit saying, "It's just a crow."
- So many applications for membership that Atlanta Audubon must add staff to handle them all.

I know this list is a pretty tall order, Santa, but you've been known to be very generous.



Give the Gift of Membership This Holiday Season

Special Offer: Current Atlanta Audubon members who purchase a gift membership at the Individual level or higher during the months of November and December will receive a three-month extension to their own membership.

Give the gift of an Atlanta Audubon Society membership to friends and family this holiday season and introduce them to 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:

- 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, 10 am-3 pm, at 678-973-2437. Inquiries may also be directed via e-mail to Dottie Head at dottie@atlantaaudubon.org.



ASK CHIPPIY

Q: While walking in the front yard recently, the wing tip of a bird of prey glanced the left side of my head. The bird landed in a nearby tree and flew away to a higher set of trees farther away. It was gray and definitely a bird of prey. From the size, I figure it was some type of hawk or falcon. However, the gray color is making me less certain. Also, the size of its head seemed larger than that of a hawk or falcon. My searches have pointed me toward the eagle-owl, but it lives in Europe and is not gray. Moreover, it was daytime and owls are nocturnal, right? Unfortunately, everything happened too fast for a photograph. Hopefully, you have enough information to assist. Again, it happened in the City of Atlanta and not some faraway suburban area.



Cooper's Hawk, by Susan Smith, Great Backyard Bird Count.

A: Of course, I cannot be certain, but from your description of the bird, the location, and the actual event, my guess is that you were sideswiped by a Cooper's Hawk.

An adult male Cooper's Hawk would look predominantly gray as it flew away from you, especially if you did not see its belly. Cooper's Hawks are fairly common in urban areas. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website, some studies show that their numbers are higher in cities in towns than in their natural habitats, forests. Cooper's Hawks are skilled at navigating through the branches of trees in a forest at high speed to chase their prey (mainly small- to medium-sized birds), catching it in their talons. They also use this skill in urban neighborhoods, at their peril. One study of more than 300 Cooper's Hawks skeletons showed nearly a quarter of them had healed-over fractures in the bones of the chest. It's a good thing that hawk didn't hit you head on!

Cooper's Hawks are accipiters, with broad, rounded wings and a long tail. Their head often appears large. You may recognize them in the air by their flap-flap-glide pattern of flying. I've attached a photo from National Audubon Society. Does this look like your bird?



THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for November:
Jason Ward, Angie Jenkins, and Anne McCallum ... to **Kelly Bryan, Sean McGregor, Elaine DeSimone, Angie Kaliban, Maureen Carroll, Cheryl Hensley, Nancy Kennell, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Leigh Layton, and Nancy Eilen** for volunteering for Project Safe Flight Atlanta ... to **Gus Kaufman** for participating in the Fall Festival at the Urban Food Forest at Brown's Mill ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, and Laura Waddick** for helping assemble our year-end mailing ... to **Laura Waddick and Mary Nevil** for their help assembling gift bags, boxes, and news desks for the office ... to **Steve Phenicie, Larry Stephens, Sandy Miller, Gina Charles, Jensy Shell, Martha Fasse, Jack Fasse, and Gwen Barnett** for their help with November Peel & Stick ... to **Deron Davis**, with the Nature Conservancy, for presenting on the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment at our October Monthly Meeting.

Happy Birding!

—Chippy

EYES on EDUCATION

Atlanta Audubon Awarded Grant to Support Taking Wing Educator Training

Atlanta Audubon was recently selected by the Alice Huffard Richards Charitable Fund (AHR Fund) as the recipient of a \$10,000 grant in support of the Taking Wing educator training program. This is the third year that Atlanta Audubon has been selected as a recipient of an AHR Fund grant, and grant funds will be used to recruit educators from Heard, Carroll, and Haralson Counties to participate in Atlanta Audubon's Taking Wing program.

Taking Wing is a 50-hour continuing education opportunity for teachers and other environmental educators working with students primarily in grades K-8. Each annual cohort of educators trained through Taking Wing allows Atlanta Audubon to spread its wings and reach up to 500 students in just one year with STEM learning through the lens of birds.

The program includes field investigations led by professional ecologists and ornithologists, instruction on Georgia's birds and native plant; an introduction to citizen science projects aimed at birds, and hands-on outdoor learning experiences to take back to the classroom. Through the course of a full academic year, participants will implement the training by developing a bird-related unit or citizen science project with their students, which participants will share with the group during the final one-day spring workshop.

The program was launched in 2012, and more than 140 educators have been trained through it, with an estimated engagement of 4,500 youth to



The Taking Wing teacher education program trains teachers how to teach students about birds and native plants. Photo by Melanie Furr.

date. Program participants consistently report that Taking Wing is not only the best professional development they have attended, but that it is life changing as well.

To learn more about Taking Wing and other professional development opportunities for educators through Atlanta Audubon, please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/professional-development.

SAVE THE DATE:

Public Opening of Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition on February 9

In February 2019, Atlanta Audubon will host the Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition, featuring a public opening event on Saturday, February 9, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. The public opening and subsequent drop-in viewing of the exhibition through February 24 will be held at Brickworks Gallery located at 686-A Greenwood Avenue NE in Atlanta.

Selected from more than 8,000 entries, the winning photos were published in the Summer 2018 issue of *Audubon* magazine and show birdlife at its most vivid, vulnerable, formidable, and elegant. This year's exquisite photographs celebrate the splendor of many bird species protected under the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the most important bird conservation law, which is currently under siege in Congress and by the Department of the Interior.

More information about the upcoming Exhibition Opening will be shared in early 2019. Thank you to Atlanta Audubon member and Brickworks Gallery owner Laura Adams for sponsoring the Exhibition in Atlanta.



Join us for an exhibition of the Audubon Photography Award Winners at Brickworks Gallery on February 9, 2019. Red-winged Blackbird photo by Donald Quintana.

Master Birder Winter 2019: Save the Date for Registration

Save the date! Our popular Master Birder winter course will run on Saturdays starting February 23 through March 30, 2019 (location TBA). Registration will open on December 10, just in time to treat yourself or a loved one to a special gift for the holidays. Spaces will fill quickly, so don't delay.

Arizona in July? Why?

(Continued from Page 3)

into far southern Arizona, Five-striped Sparrows wait to nest until mid to late summer, after the onset of the monsoon rains. After a couple more stops in scenic Madera Canyon, including a stop at the hummingbird feeders at the Santa Rita Lodge, our next target was a family of rare Rose-throated Becards.

Aside from the miserable heat on day one, the only other time on the trip that I was really bothered by the heat was on that short trek to find the becads. Tramping down a brushy dry riverbed, I mused at the odd, out-of-the-way, and sometimes uncomfortable places that birders find themselves. (Landfill? Protein plant, anyone?) After a short, very hot trek, we came upon the becads' huge globular nest suspended from a high tree limb. There were no birds, and only insects were calling. Wilting, we assured Ken we wouldn't be too disappointed if we didn't see the becads, even though they are rare outside of their range in Central America. Certainly, the branchling Gray Hawks we'd

seen moments earlier were worth the trek. Before long, however, Ken heard the call, and a beautiful male flew into view carrying food. Elated, our walk back to the van seemed shorter and cooler. We wrapped up the afternoon in Patagonia where we saw several species of hummingbirds at the Paton Center, where Wally and Marion Paton began inviting



Monsoon Madness 2018, by Melanie Furr.

birders to sit at the feeders outside their home in 1973. Tucson Audubon took over the property in 2009 after their deaths, and it is still open to visitors free of charge.

After a night in Sierra Vista, we spent the third day exploring Fort Huachuca, home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center. We drove up narrow canyons where prehistoric pictographs adorn rock walls and Painted Redstarts and Red-faced Warblers flit through the pines. The most exciting birds of the day were a pair of Elegant Trogons, another rare bird. Although

we heard their calls as we walked along the path, the female stayed obscured in the trees and only once did the male come into clear view. After a full day exploring around the Fort, we wended down at the hummingbird feeders at Ash Canyon Lodge, where we had five species of hummingbirds including dazzling Lucifer's and Rivoli's Hummingbirds. We didn't get to see the Montezuma's Quail that had been frequenting the spot, perhaps because of the Northern Goshawk that flew over us three times.

With one final day to explore, we did some birding around the canyons, adding the striking Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Bridled Titmouse to our trip list. Driving back to Tucson, we stopped in some grassland habitats where we saw familiar species like kestrels and shrikes in addition to new species like Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows. On a quick detour to a Prairie Dog colony we saw Cassin's Sparrows doing their display flights, flying straight up and floating down while singing, a behavior called "skylarking."

On the last morning, eager to enjoy some final desert birding, a small group headed to Saguaro National Park to get see the saguaro cactus. Growing as tall as 60 feet and living up to 200 years, the saguaro is one of the defining plants of the Sonoran Desert. Hummingbirds, bats, and insects feed on nectar from the blossoms, and ripening fruit provides moisture and food for birds, bats, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Gila Woodpeckers and Gilded Flickers excavate nesting cavities that later become homes for other birds, and birds of prey use them as hunting platforms and build stick nests among their branches. Gazing across the landscape dotted with these towering cactuses, I felt reverence and a bit of magic.

We headed for the airport just as the temperature started to get uncomfortable. It seems fitting that we should end our amazing trip in a sweat, just as we began--but every last bird was worth it

Atlanta Audubon will return to Southeast Arizona to host a guided birding tour led by local guide Ken Blankenship from August 6 to 11, 2019. For a full itinerary and registration information, please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/travel.



Nesting Broad-tailed Hummingbird, by Melanie Furr.

Photo-of-the-Month Winner

The winner of this month's Photo-of-the-Month competition is this spectacular shot of a Great Egret on Little St. Simons Island, taken by John E. Mayes, of Atlanta. The photo was taken with a Nikon Coolpix P90 camera at 1:47 PM on a clear, breezy, and sunny day.

ISO: 250

Focal length: 170 mm

Shutter speed/Aperture: 1/500 sec and f7.1

No flash. No image alteration

Please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month for more information and guidelines for entering photos in the Atlanta Audubon Photo-of-the-Month Competition.



John Mayes captured this spectacular image of a Great Egret on Little St. Simons Island.

Protect the Chimney Swift with Your Year-End Gift to Atlanta Audubon

Help Atlanta Audubon build places where birds and people thrive with a year-end gift by December 31. In 2019 and 2020, we'll be organizing new conservation and public awareness campaigns to bring attention to the plight of the Chimney Swift. This enigmatic species of summer skies throughout Georgia has experienced a population decline of nearly 50 percent in the past two decades due to habitat loss and increased pesticide use.

Your gift to Atlanta Audubon by December 31 will help us launch our efforts to protect Chimney Swifts in Georgia. Over the next two years, we will have the opportunity to work together to encourage fellow Georgians to take action in support of this important species of conservation concern.

In addition, your year-end gift will support all of Atlanta Audubon's conservation, education, and advocacy programs that are building a conservation-minded and fully-engaged Georgia—all through the lens of birds. Make your gift online at www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate or by mailing a check to Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.

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.

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

Saturday, December 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

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Morningside Nature Preserve (Fulton County) and Zonolite Park (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leaders: Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman and Jamie Vidich

Cell contacts morning of the walk: 413.230.6276 (Vinod); 404.483.7457 (Gus)

GPS: 33.809783, -84.352133 – Morningside; 33.805543, -84.341492 – Zonolite Park

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

W.H. 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

Saturday, January 5, 2019

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, January 9, 2019

W.H. 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

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.

NEW Atlanta Audubon Travel in 2019: Michigan and Southeast Arizona

In addition to the Merritt Island Trip in January, which has already filled, Atlanta Audubon will be hosting two additional domestic travel opportunities in 2019. The first, Birding Michigan: Conservation, Connectivity, and Species Diversity, will run from May 28 to June 2, and the second, Monsoon Magic in Southeast Arizona, will take place from August 6 to 11.

More information, complete itineraries, and registration for both trips can be found at www.atlantaaudubon.org/travel.



Broad-billed Hummingbird feeding on agave flowers, by Melanie Furr.

The Early Birds Book Club

By Mary Nevil

The Early Birds met prior to the October Monthly Meeting and had a good time reviewing fiction about birders and birding. Several books received five feathers, including *Siege of Bitterns* by Steve Burrows, *The Lifelist* of Adrian Mandrick by Chris White, *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* by Nicholas Drayson, *In Hovering Flight* by Joyce Hinnefeld, and *Birds in the Hand: Fiction and Poetry about Birds*.

The Early Birds' January selection is *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* by Katie Fallon. For February, we'll read *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. The March book is *Birdscapes: Birds in Our Imagination and Experience* by Jeremy Minott.



Early Birds is a drop-in book club. There is no commitment other than to enjoy reading and sharing books about birds and birding. Our next meeting will be January 27 at 2 pm before the monthly meeting at Manuel's Tavern.





ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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December: Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Please join us on Sunday, December 9, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM for the annual Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction at Manuel's Tavern. We'll be in the main dining room rather than our usual back room for this event. We're going to mix things up a bit this year and scale back the number of auction items. We'll be offering fewer, higher-quality items for bidding, plus enhanced merchandise in the Atlanta Audubon store, including our exclusive shade-grown, organic coffee blend, Xocolatl chocolate bars, bird earrings, T-shirts, hats, notecards, books, and more. 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 2019. Atlanta Audubon will provide a variety of appetizers, and, of course, additional food and beverages will be available for purchase



These new Atlanta Audubon Chimney Swift ornaments will be for sale at the Holiday Party. Ornaments designed by Tim Weberding Woodworking.

January Monthly Meeting

Guatemala 2018 Trip Report with Adam Betuel

Sunday, January 27, 2019, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

In November 2018, Conservation Director Adam Betuel led a group of eleven Atlanta Audubon members on an international birdwatching adventure to Guatemala. Boasting an amazing array of avian life, Guatemala was chosen because it offered many regionally difficult species as well as bird species that strongly connected with Atlanta Audubon's conservation programs. The group visited a shade-grown coffee farm in the Pacific Highlands and searched for wintering Wood Thrush at Tikal National Park. Some of the species the group was seeking included White-bellied Chachalaca, Yellow-naped Parrot, Rufous-naped Wren, Ocellated Turkey, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Tody Motmot, Slender Shear-tail, Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird, and many more. A small group also trekked up the upper slope of the Atitlán volcano in hopes of spotting the elusive Horned Guan. Adam will share slides and stories from the trip and announce the location of our 2020 international trip.



The Ocellated Turkey is one of the many bird species the group hopes to see.
Photo by Claudia Avendaño.

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.