

VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 1, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAVE THE DATE:

Atlanta Bird Fest 2017

April 15 through May 14



Atanta Bird Fest is back for 2017. Each weekend between April 15 and May 14, Atlanta Audubon will be offering exciting field trips, workshops, and other events designed to engage not only members, but also nature enthusiasts from across the Southeast during Georgia's exciting spring migration period.

Highlights for Atlanta Bird Fest 2017 include guest field trip leader Chris Wood from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; birding the private trails at Serenbe; searching for nocturnal and migratory birds at Pine Log Wildlife Management Area; Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge; a book reading and signing with author David Haskell (*The Forest Unseen* and *The Songs of Trees*); nature photography workshops; Warbler Weekend in the North Georgia mountains; Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia coast; Wildflowers and Birds at Sweetwater Creek State Park; and more.

This year's Atlanta Bird Fest logo features Atlanta Audubon's 2017-18 priority conservation species, the Wood Thrush, and was designed by Athens-based artist David Hale. Look for more information about David in the March issue of *Wingbars*.

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest events will open for Atlanta Audubon members on March 1 and for non-members on March 8. Please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest for more information.

How Many Birds Will You Find During the 2017 Big Day Challenge?

As part of Atlanta Bird Fest 2017, we challenge birders of all skill levels, casual or experienced, to pick a 6-hour or 24-hour period between April 15 and May 14 to scour your neighborhood, the

metro Atlanta area, or the entire state to see how many different bird species you can count. Go it alone, pair up with a friend or family member, or get together a team of up to four people. Just be sure to have fun! As part of the 2017 Big Day Challenge, participants are encouraged to raise awareness of and funds for Atlanta Audubon's programs that protect Georgia's birds and their habitats through education, conservation, and advocacy. Participants who raise at least \$100 will receive a complimentary Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirt featuring the Atlanta Bird Fest 2017 logo. Participants who raise at least \$150 will also be invited to a special lunch and meet and greet with author, birder, and scientist J. Drew Lanham on Sunday, May 21, at Manuel's Tavern. Additional prizes will also be awarded to top birders and fundraisers during the monthly meeting on May 21.

Questions? Visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/BigDayChallenge for more information.

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Atlanta Audubon is excited to reveal the 2017 Atlanta Bird Fest Logo created by David Hale, an Athens-based artist.

AtlantaAudubonSociety



@AtlantaGAudubon



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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

I hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy New Year. I have to admit that I'm feeling a bit nostalgic for my 2016 birding experiences. Last year, I birded in many different parts of our beautiful state and the U.S., adding a couple of handfuls of species to my life list. I also participated in three Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) in Georgia, which is always an intimate experience, getting to know (and depend on) the nooks and crannies of a region for birds common, rare, and surprising. It's hard to describe the feeling that bird watching gives me. Sometimes it's exhilarating—like when we spotted a sub-adult Bald Eagle in a new location during the Roswell CBC, or when I finally got a good enough look at Vesper Sparrow to add it to my life list during the Peachtree City CBC. Sometimes bird watching is rewarding—like when Shannon Fair and I took 20 third graders out to help with our section of the Roswell CBC. (Not only were the kids excited, but they all searched for birds. An 8-year-old spotted the Cooper's Hawk we sorely needed for our list that day.) And sometimes bird watching brings me a to place of deep calmness—shorebirding on the beach alone, watching warblers on beautiful pieces of public land, or just taking a break from working in the garden to stare at yard birds.



Nikki added a Vesper Sparrow to her life list during the Peachtree City CBC in December. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Whatever birding does for you, I hope you'll share with someone this year. It's my hope that our new colorful look of *Wingbars* will help you do this. Educating others about birds and sharing with them the beauty in this world will help us to protect those very things.



Shannon Fair, an Atlanta Audubon volunteer and field trip leader, shows Amana Academy third graders how to use a field guide to ID birds during the Roswell Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Nikki Belmonte.

Atlanta Audubon Participating in National Climate Watch Program

By Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation



Being a bird is tough. At all times, there is little room for error. Birds must find food at a consistent and often fast rate. The need for a specific and constant food source drives some birds to travel unfathomable distances, an inherently risky maneuver. Almost all species need to be on persistent alert to predation. While trying to survive, each individual needs to also do its best to attract a mate and rear as many offspring as possible. Weather patterns, habitat loss or change, a boom or bust in another species, and other perils from an urbanizing world can lead to an unexpected change for an individual bird or even a species. Our avian friends are so perfectly adapted to their surroundings that any shift in the niche they inhabit can be disastrous.

Changing climate is one such force that can be problematic, if not exterminatory, for many of our feathered friends. The overwhelming majority of scientists across all fields, but especially natural scientists, support the viewpoint that our climate is changing and that humans are playing a major role in this change. The climate and environmental forces that allow our planet to function are extremely complex, and completely understanding how they function currently, let alone how things may be in the future, is a difficult task. Advanced climate models are becoming more intricate and robust, but at their core they are still projections. While certain components are consistent across most forecasts, many specifics are still being clarified. Will a certain location become drier or wetter? How long until some changes occur? How will a species respond to the changes it experiences? How quickly can our environment adapt?

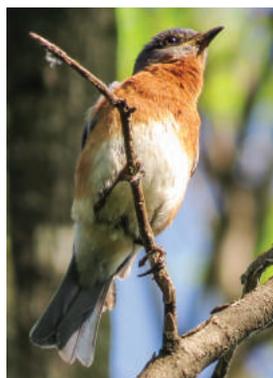
In 2014 the National Audubon Society (NAS) released The Climate Report. This publication took millions of citizen-submitted datasets and paired them with scientific findings to construct models for more than 500 North American bird species. They wanted to understand how birds may be affected by a changing climate, how soon, and what species are at most risk. Their findings indicated that 314 of the 588 species studied are imminently threatened by climate change. These 314 species are expected to lose, at a minimum, 50% or more of their current range by the year 2080. Among these 314 species

were some of our most charismatic and well-known birds including the Bald Eagle, Common Loon, American Woodcock, and the Southeast's own Brown-headed Nuthatch. Immediate recommendations to preserve important bird areas and lower our carbon usage were put forth by NAS.

Though the report by NAS is only a few years old, the next steps in understanding how birds are responding to climatic changes have already begun, and we at Atlanta Audubon are proud participants. Climate Watch is a pilot program organized by NAS that utilizes the larger network of Audubon chapters to collect data in an effort to test the accuracy of the models that formed the backbone of The Climate Report. In The Climate Report, models projected where species will occur in the year 2020 and how, if at all, ranges have shifted over that period of time. Climate Watch provides NAS with field-collected data from across the country to compare with their projections, allowing adjustments to be made.

So what exactly are we doing for this Climate Watch pilot? To test the models used in the Climate Report, it was decided that the bluebird species (Eastern, Western, and Mountain) would serve as the best options for further investigation because they are easily recognizable by most Audubon members and staff, their ranges cover nearly the whole United States, and these species are expected to have range expansions, decreases, and stasis (respectively) if the predictive models are accurate. By surveying for these species, comparisons between updated field data and the models can be made and then used to adjust predictions across other species.

Last summer I recruited a dozen volunteers to help me monitor Eastern Bluebirds across the metro area. Our region was divided into six-by-six-mile squares and within a subset of these squares, volunteers



Eastern Bluebird photo taken during Summer 2016 Climate Watch surveying.
Photo by Adam Betuel.

conducted 12 five-minute point counts, a stationary bird survey where all species heard or seen are noted. Careful planning and care were taken to make sure point counts occurred in habitat where Eastern Bluebirds are typically found. Also, each survey location was at least 200 meters from any other study area. All surveys occurred over a two-week span during the breeding season, and all observations were inputted to eBird.

The next round in Climate Watch monitoring is set to begin in mid-January 2017. In addition

to surveying for bluebird species, we will also be studying nuthatches. This could be very interesting here in Georgia as we are experiencing an irruption of the highly sought after Red-breasted Nuthatch. Expanding the number of focal species and continuing to monitor for these species over time will provide sound data that will inform the next projections about our birds and how climate may affect them.

The Climate Watch pilot program allows us to locally conduct citizen science, engage and educate our members and the community about one of the largest threats to our birds, and contribute to a conservation effort that includes over 40 Audubon chapters nationwide. On a larger scale, the data we collect and the conclusions drawn from that data will have lasting effects on the actions taken by researchers and policy makers today and in the future. Climate change is a very real threat for our birds and our planet as a whole, and I hope that our chapter's contribution can help conserve our birds. Life is already hard for our birds. Let's do what we can to conserve our birds, help our climate, and do what is right for all of us.

You can learn more about the NAS Climate Report at <http://climate.audubon.org/>



Brown-headed Nuthatch by Christy Cox.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Angus Pritchard

(This is the 17th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenice

Angus Pritchard is only in the 11th grade, but he is already a veteran birder, having pursued his pastime since he was 7. Two years ago, when a leader was needed for a sector of the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count, he stepped in and has been leading the effort there each year since then.

His sector's best spots are a couple of DeKalb County parks, Shoal Creek Park off Glenwood Road (good for the various blackbirds, Angus says) and Exchange Park, where Columbia Drive crosses I-285. Last year the group saw 55 species, which was exceeded by only three of the 14 sectors in the count. Most of the other team members are family members and friends. Angus, a student at Decatur High School, is the son of Rusty Pritchard, an ecologist and Atlanta Audubon board member. His brother, Ewan, 13, is also a birder, and their mom, Joanna, likes to bird when she isn't taking care of their 8-year-old sister, Beatrice.

Angus says he has always been interested in nature but got involved in birding via the Youth Birding Competition. Teams of children and teens try to find as many bird species as possible throughout Georgia in 24 hours. The 2017 event is set for April 29-30. Angus's team always seems to do well. He says his interest was stoked by Tim Keyes, a family friend and a wildlife biologist with the

Department of Natural Resources, who started the competition in 2006. Three years ago, when Angus was in eighth grade, he painted a picture of a Yellow-rumped Warbler that was the grand prize winner in the competition's T-shirt art contest. Lately Angus has been trying his hand at painting other types of wildlife, such as fish and insects. In 2014, Angus was invited to join the Youth Advisory Board of the Race 4 Birds Foundation, an organization working to promote youth birding competitions nationwide.



Angus Pritchard gets friendly with an Arctic Tern on the Farne Islands off the coast of Britain.
Photo by Angus Pritchard.

Angus attended the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine in 2016, via an Atlanta Audubon scholarship, and before that won a scholarship from the Georgia Ornithological Society to attend Camp Colorado in the Rocky Mountains. There he got to visit birding hotspots across northern Colorado for a week.

As of this writing, his life list stood at 548 for the world. This includes a trip to Scotland, where his mother is from, and Belize in 2010, where he accompanied

his dad on a teaching assignment. Angus, of course, will soon be applying to colleges and seems to lean toward the University of Georgia. He knows a number of professors there and likes the fact that the institution has facilities in Costa Rica. He is thinking about a career in wildlife management or conservation.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

...to our bird walk leaders for December and January: Jason Ward, Tom Painting, Dave Butler, Mary Kimberly, Lieren Forbes, Joy Carter, Sheila Stevens, Rob McDonough, Anne McCallum, Bob Orenstein, Angie Jenkins, and Linda Edwards ... to Steve Phenice, Melissa Betuel, Martha Brown, Wende Johnson, Theresa Hall, Amy Cudd, Awet Eyasu and his children, Melissa Faulkner, Michael Schaaphok, and Dean Moore for the habitat restoration work at Friendship Forest in Clarkston ... to everyone who donated auction items for the 2016 Silent Auction, including Georgia LaMar, Melinda Langston, Little St. Simons Island, Jack and Martha Fasse, Cheryl Coble, Omnicron, Adreé Harris, Catharine Kuchar, Virginia Dunbar, Les Cane, Deb Jenkins, Pam Higginbotham, Roseanne Guerra, Lorna Campbell, Wild Birds Unlimited Vinings, Wild Birds Unlimited Atlanta, George Burkett, Stella Wissner, Nikki Belmonte, Judy Candler, Tom Painter, Kathy Watson, the Dunwoody Woman's Club, Mim Eisenberg, Seth Dietchman, Iris Schumacher, Lyn Cosby, Patty McLean, Linda Edwards, Gavin MacDonald, Mary Kimberly, Linda DiSantis, Stuart Arey, Irene Belinfante, Joy Carter, Mary Nevil, David Butler, Ellen Miller, Woody Hickox, Nancy Hamilton, Elizabeth Austin, Anne and Jim McCallum, and Bob Johnson ... to Mary Nevil, Stella and Jack Wissner, Iris and Scott Schumacher, Les Cane, Sarah Vassey, and Sandy and Simon Miller for their help with the 2016 Holiday Party and Silent Auction ... to Manuel's Tavern for hosting the 2016 Holiday Party and Silent Auction ... to Larry Stephens, Max Brown, Anita Chilcutt, Monica Ritchie, Kit Robey, and Sandy Miller for their help with November peel and stick ... to Judy Killeen and Roseanne Guerra for their help with educational outreach.

ASK CHIPPY

Q: I purchased a large bag of bird feed in September. It's been in my laundry room which does receive heat, but isn't overly hot. I've been putting seed out about three times a week, but would it still be fresh since the room isn't really cool? I recently read that bird seed should be stored in a cool place. I don't want to make the birds sick.

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society. My hunch is that your birdseed is fine stored in your laundry room. It is best to store seed in a cool, dry place, but unless your laundry room is especially hot or humid, the seed should remain fresh until you have used it all.

You should store seed securely in strong containers that cannot be raided by other critters. The best bet is to store seed in plastic or metal containers with tight fitting lids. One advantage to storing your seed in the laundry room is that it is probably protected from insects, rodents and other pests.

Make sure the seed does not get wet or too hot as it could rot or develop mold or mildew, which can be dangerous or fatal to birds. Spoiled seed will generally have a strong, musty odor, and, it may be discolored. If seed is clumped or sprouting, this



is another sign that the seed is unsuitable for feed. If you see any of this occurring, it is extremely important to dispose of all of the bad seed and to thoroughly wash and disinfect the container before refilling it with fresh seed.

You should also inspect your seed for signs of insects, either alive or dead. If there is a crack or hole in the bottom of the storage container, the seed at the top may appear fresh, but seed at the bottom may be contaminated.

If you notice that birds have stopped visiting your feeders, this may be another sign that the seed is no longer palatable. In this case, dispose of the seed and thoroughly wash and disinfect the feeders before filling it with fresh seed.

Happy Birding!

—Chippy

Master Birder Winter 2017

Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to offer our popular **Master Birder** course on the south side of town this winter. An orientation and the first session will be held on **Saturday, February 25**, from **10:00 AM until 3:00 PM at the Atlanta Audubon office at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve**. Subsequent sessions will be held **three Saturdays (March 4, 11, 18) and one Sunday (March 26) from 10:30 AM until 3:30 PM at Newman Wetlands Center in Hampton, GA**. These sessions will be preceded by a guided bird walk from 8:30 to 10:00 AM at a nearby hotspot and will include a break for lunch. A final exam and graduation luncheon will occur on **Saturday, April 1, at the Atlanta Audubon office at 10:30 AM**.

The Master Birder course is an introduction to ornithology, designed to provide participants with bird identification skills and general knowledge of birds, their life histories, and habitat requirements. Course content includes classification and identification of birds, birding equipment, bird songs and calls, attracting birds and backyard wildlife habitat, anatomy and physiology, bird ecology, bird behavior, flight and migration, and bird conservation. Weekend class sessions are complemented with bird walks and a graduation celebration. Upon graduation, Master Birders are encouraged to complete annual volunteer service for Atlanta Audubon and receive added membership benefits.

You must be an Atlanta Audubon Society member to register for the Master Birder Course. A course fee of \$400 includes classes and guided walks, course materials, and the graduation luncheon. Master Birders may be offered exclusive workshops or field trips, as well as early bird or discounted registration for workshops. If you wish, you will be added to the Master Birder ListServ® and to the Facebook group, which act as a means of communication and of sharing knowledge.

Online registration is currently open at www.atlantaaudubon.org/master-birder-program. Please email Director of Education Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaaudubon.org if you have questions.

Scholarships

Now Accepting Scholarship Applications for Hog Island 2017

For more than two decades, Atlanta Audubon Society has awarded two annual scholarships to attend National Audubon's renowned summer ecology camps. Camp fees and up to \$300 travel expenses are provided by the scholarship.

Louisa Echols Scholarship for Educators

The Louisa Echols scholarship will enable the recipient to attend Audubon Camp at Hog Island in Maine to enhance his/her knowledge of the environment and incorporate that knowledge on the job. The scholarship recipient will attend "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" from July 16 to 21, 2017. The recipient will participate in a host of Audubon Camp field trips, including a boat trip to the restored Atlantic Puffin and tern colony on Eastern Egg Rock, intertidal explorations, and hiking through Hog Island's unspoiled spruce-fir forest. The camp's inspiring and experienced instructors will discuss the latest trends in environmental education and share their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging children with nature and citizen science.

More information about the camp is available at <http://hogisland.audubon.org/sharing-nature-educator-s-week>.

Eligibility:

- Be a teacher or environmental educator in the metro Atlanta area currently teaching science, natural history, or environmental education.

- Be available for an interview with the Atlanta Audubon Scholarship Committee.
- Be willing to participate in three Atlanta Audubon Society activities within a year of camp, including writing an article about the experience for *Wingbars*.
- Be 18 years or older.

Edward Barnsley Scholarship for Youth

The goal of the Edward Barnsley Scholarship is to instill in the recipient a love, respect, and sense of stewardship for the natural world by attending Audubon's "Coastal Bird Studies for Teens" at Hog Island in Maine from June 11 to 16, 2017. During this intensive camp session, the scholarship recipient will work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists on field identification, bird ecology and conservation. The program provides participants with the opportunity to observe Audubon's seabird conservation field research in action, and it is the only Hog Island program that lands participants on Eastern Egg Rock during the puffin breeding season.

More information about the camp is available at <http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens>.

Eligibility:

- Be a student in the metro Atlanta area with an avid interest in birds.
- Be willing to participate in three Atlanta Audubon Society activities within a year of camp, including writing an article about the experience for *Wingbars*.
- Be 14 to 17 years old. **Note:** Campers who are not 14 years old CANNOT fly independently to camp due to airline restrictions.



Atlanta Audubon is offering two scholarships for Hog Island Camps this summer.
Photo by Melanie Furr.

HOW TO APPLY: The Atlanta Audubon scholarship application is available on our website at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/scholarships>. The completed application should be submitted via email to melanie@atlantaaudubon.org.

The application must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 10. Winners will be notified no later than March 1.

For additional information, contact Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaaudubon.org or call 678.973.2437.

LIVE and LEARN

With These Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops

What's That Bird? Winter Workshop

Thursday, January 26, 2017 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Join Conservation Director Adam Betuel as he walks you through some of the most difficult identification challenges of our local winter birds. Are you having a hard time determining if that bird at your feeder is a House or Purple Finch? Were those little brown birds skulking in the bushes Swamp or Song Sparrows? Is that a Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawk staring down from above? If these tough bird ID challenges still puzzle you, then this workshop is for you.

Class will be held in the Atlanta Audubon classroom at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Space is limited, so secure your spot now by registering online at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/adult-workshops>. Your payment confirms your registration. For more info, contact Adam at adam@atlantaaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.

FEE: Atlanta Audubon members: \$40
Non-members: \$50
Master Birder in Good Volunteer Standing: \$35



House Finch
by Dan Vickers.



Purple Finch
by Dan Vickers.

Raptor ID Workshop

Sunday, February 5, 2017 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM

From their hunting prowess to their majestic soaring, raptors captivate our attention with their gracefulness and power, be it from the trail or from the highway. More than a dozen species of raptors rule the skies over Georgia, but they can be difficult to distinguish at a distance. Learn the basics and the secrets to making raptor identification easy with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz. She will focus on behaviors, habitats, and enough general information that will make recognizing these birds in the field a "no-brainer."

The workshop will be held in the Atlanta Audubon Classroom at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Space is limited, so secure your spot by registering online at www.atlantaaudubon.org/adult-workshops.

For more info, contact Educational Director Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.

FEE: Atlanta Audubon members: \$40
Non-members: \$50
Master Birders in Good Volunteer Standing: \$35



Raptor ID Workshop will teach you how to ID birds like this Cooper's Hawk.
Photo by Dan Vickers.

Birding by Ear

Sunday, February 5, 2017 • 1:00 to 3:00 PM

This fun two-hour program with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz is for anyone who is interested in learning to identify birds by songs and call notes. Participants will learn the characteristics of bird songs and techniques of birding by ear. Information will include examples of components of bird songs such as tempo, rhythm, pitch, and quality. Handouts will include a list of mnemonics and phonetics for use in the field. We will not play dozens of songs and show dozens of bird photos. Instead, the course emphasizes how to listen and what to listen for so that even new songs from birds you have not encountered before can be learned and memorized.

Class will be held at the Dunwoody Nature Center. Space is limited, so secure your spot now by registering online at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/adult-workshops>. Your payment confirms your registration. For more info, contact Education Director Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.

FEE: Atlanta Audubon members: \$40
Non-members: \$50



NestWatch Workshop

Thursday, February 23, 2017 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Whether in a nest box or birdhouse, in a nearby tree or shrub, along a fence row or in an old planter, the delicate and amazing nesting cycle of birds happens all around us. Collecting data about our breeding birds allows us to better understand population trends, the effects of habitat loss and climate change, as well as ways we can help our imperiled species. Join our Director of Conservation Adam Betuel as he outlines program NestWatch, a free nationwide nest monitoring program run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Through this program, you take on the role of field biologist and collect data that aids our feathered friends.

Topics covered during the workshop include

- Nesting information for some of our common breeding birds
- Tips for locating nests
- How to safely monitor each nesting attempt
- How to enter data and manage your NestWatch account
- How NestWatch data aids scientists across the country
- Ways that Atlanta Audubon uses NestWatch for conservation



Bluebird nest with eggs.
Photo by Melanie Furr.

The workshop will be held in Atlanta Audubon's classroom at Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Space is limited, so register early at www.atlantaaudubon.org/adult-workshops. Your payment confirms your registration. For questions about the workshop, contact Adam Betuel at adam@atlantaaudubon.org.

FEE: \$15

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.

Editor's note: In the interest of saving space (and trees), Atlanta Audubon is reducing the field trip listings in our newly redesigned *Wingbars* to date, location, time, contact information, and GPS coordinates. 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.

Saturday, February 4
Piedmont Park (Fulton Co.)
8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.759.7770
GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

Sunday, February 5
Noonday Creek (east section) (Cobb Co.)
8:00 AM

Leader: Angelia Jenkins
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.570.4891
GPS: 34.023854, -84.548456

Wednesday, February 8
Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton Co.)
8:00 AM

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

Friday, February 10
Panola Mountain State Park (Rockdale Co.)
8:30 AM

Leader: Lieren Forbes, Interpretive Ranger,
Panola Mountain State Park
Phone contact day of walk: 770.389.7801 (park office)
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

Saturday, February 11
Fernbank Forest (DeKalb Co.)
9:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Fernbank Museum of Natural History
Atlanta Audubon Society and Museum Members Only
Leader: Tom Painting
Cell contact, morning of walk: 585.465.0034
GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

Saturday, February 18
Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton Co.)
8:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Chattahoochee Nature Center
Leaders: Adam Betuel and Jason Ward
Cell contacts morning of walk:
407.492.1139 (Adam); 404.759.7770 (Jason)
GPS: 34.002356, -84.382846

Saturday, February 25
Constitution Lakes (DeKalb Co.)
8:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes
Leaders: Joy Carter and Sheila Stevens
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.822.0030 (Joy)
GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

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 Field Trip Director Mary Kimberly at mmkimberly1954@gmail.com.

Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops Continued from Page 5

Becoming a Better Birder

Sunday, March 12, 2017 • 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Join Georgann Schmalz for a two-hour workshop to improve your skills and increase your enjoyment of birding. This class is a must for any new birder who feels somewhat overwhelmed by the skills of more advanced birders. Time will be spent learning good techniques of birding in the field and choosing good optics, books, and sound devices. Not only will participants develop key identification skills under Georgann's expert guidance, they will also experience the satisfaction that better birding can yield. Georgann holds a master's degree in ornithology, taught at Fernbank Science Center for 29 years, and is three-time past president of Atlanta Audubon. She is a wealth of information and entertainment.

The workshop will be held in the Atlanta Audubon Classroom at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Space is limited, so secure your spot by registering online at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops. For more info, contact Education Director Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.

FEE: Atlanta Audubon members: \$40
Non-members: \$50

Shorebird Weekend

Class Session: Sunday, March 12, 2017 • 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Join Atlanta Audubon for this unique workshop highlighting the shorebird migration that coincides with the spawning of horseshoe crabs. This spectacular phenomenon brings hundreds of migrating shorebirds to our very own Georgia coast, including Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, and more...all in breeding plumage! This two-part workshop consists of a class session on shorebird identification with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz in the Atlanta Audubon classroom (March 12) and a coastal trip (May 12 to 14) led by Atlanta Audubon Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. The trip kicks off with a Friday evening session (7-9 PM) on Shorebird Conservation taught by DNR Wildlife Biologist Tim Keyes. Weather and seas permitting, we'll 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 tentative schedule also includes birding coastal hot spots such as Jekyll Island and Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge.

Participation is limited, so secure your spot now by registering online at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops. For registration questions, contact Education Director Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaudubon.org. Questions about the trip may be directed to Adam at adam@atlantaudubon.org.

FEE (excludes food and lodging): Atlanta Audubon Members: \$275
Non-members: \$300
Master Birders in good volunteer standing: \$250



www.AtlantaAudubon.org

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*Witness hundreds of shorebirds in breeding
plumage during their spring migration.
Join us for our Shorebird Weekend!*



Photo by Dan Vickers.

February Monthly Meeting

Bob Jensen from Chocoley Raptor Center, Marquette, Michigan
Sunday, February 26, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Bob Jensen from the Chocoley Raptor Center (CRC) of Marquette, Michigan, will talk about raptors in the far north. Based in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Lake Superior, the center rescues, rehabilitates, and releases sick and injured predators. The presentation will focus on falcons, hawks, owls, and eagles, their northern environment, and the problems they face.

Bob Jensen was born in Minnesota and has lived in Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, Illinois, Singapore, Tokyo, Fargo and now, Marquette. He spent his working career in aviation, his last 21 years as an airline regulator with the Federal Aviation Administration. He feels he is still involved in aviation; just a different phase. He also volunteers at the local Mediation Center and works on local stream conservation projects with Trout Unlimited.

Bob co-founded the Chocoley Raptor Center (CRC) with Jerry Maynard in 2012, and both are now in their fifth year of rescuing raptors. The CRC's primary mission is education. To that end, 95 education programs were completed in 2016, reaching approximately 3,000 kids and 2,000 adults.



Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 North Highland Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Ample, free parking is readily available to the south of the building. Food and drink are available for purchase.