



VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 1, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

# SAVE THE DATE:

## Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 featuring Julie Zickefoose and Janisse Ray



Tufted Titmouse, by Dan Vickers

Atlanta Bird Fest is back for 2018. Each weekend from April 14 through May 13, 2018, enjoy exciting field trips, workshops, and other events to celebrate and enjoy Georgia's exciting spring migration period.

We are excited to welcome two special guests for Atlanta Bird Fest 2018. Author and illustrator **Julie Zickefoose** (*Eden, The Bluebird Effect, and Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*) will join us during our opening weekend on April 14 and 15. Joining us for our Closing



Author and illustrator Julie Zickefoose will be part of the Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 opening weekend on April 14 and 15.

Celebration on May 20 at SweetWater Brewing is author and environmentalist

**Janisse Ray** (*Ecology of a Cracker Childhood, The Seed*

*Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food, and Drifting into Darien: A Personal and Natural History of the Altamaha River*). Look for more information soon on both of these Atlanta Bird Fest events.



Janisse Ray, noted Georgia author and environmentalist, will be the keynote speaker at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration on May 20 at SweetWater Brewing.



Designed by Atlanta-based artist Kyle Brooks (aka BlackCatTips), the 2018 Atlanta Bird Fest logo features a Pileated Woodpecker.

Other event highlights for Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 include searching for nocturnal and migratory birds at Pine Log WMA, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Piedmont NWR, nature photography workshops, Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia coast, Wildflowers and Birds at Sweetwater Creek State Park, a nature sketching workshop, and more.

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 will be for sale soon.

**Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest events will open to Atlanta Audubon members on March 1 and to the public on March 8.** Please visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest) for more information and to preview the full schedule of events.

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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

**2018** is a big year. Atlanta is in the national spotlight, it's a major election year, and it's an Olympic year. As I'm writing, I'm passively watching the winter Olympic trials. Two figure skaters performed programs inspired by birds. Karen Chen, named to Team USA after her skate, incorporated birds into her costume and choreographed her own program with birds as her muse. It was a beautiful performance. Talk about passion and commitment. It's hard not to be inspired and hopeful this year.

This year marks 100 years since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act passed into law, the most important legal measure that protects wild birds. To commemorate this milestone and emphasize the importance of birds in a time when almost every wildlife and environmental protection policy is being stripped or challenged, Atlanta Audubon has joined many organizations to celebrate the "Year of the Bird" and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.

Atlanta Audubon is going to make it a memorable Year of the Bird. Going into 2018 with our fresh strategic plan and aggressive goals, we aren't shying away from leaving our own mark here in Georgia. We've already



started by creating a story map about our focal species, the Wood Thrush. Check it out here: <http://gis.audubon.org/AtlantaAudubon/woodthrush/>. We'll increase our impact on habitat quality with more restoration projects and bird-friendly gardens. We'll also make native plants more accessible through horticultural partnerships and awareness campaigns while growing the Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program. You'll also find us working with partners to make buildings safer with window treatment projects to decrease bird collision deaths. Much, much more is in store.

Just like the Olympics, individual participation is key to the success of the team... or the flock in our case. I hope you'll take some inspiration from what we're trying to accomplish and commit yourself to protecting birds far into the future, too. Your individual conservation actions of installing nest boxes, planting natives, and shutting off your lights at night are so important. Together, we can make 2018 an amazing Year of the Bird.

## Project Safe Flight and Lights Out Atlanta Updates: Route Volunteers Needed and Sign the Pledge

By Adam Betuel

Spring migration starts as early as March here in Atlanta, so we are once again seeking volunteers to assist us with both of our bird-collision related projects.

For the past two years, Atlanta Audubon has been monitoring the metro-area for birds that collided with buildings through our **Project Safe Flight Atlanta** program. Thanks to our teams of committed volunteers, we have been able to detect over 900 bird collision victims comprising 89 different species in just two years. It is abundantly clear that we have a collision issue right here at home.

In an effort to make Atlanta a more bird-friendly city, we launched **Lights Out Atlanta** in spring 2017. The program asks commercial property managers and residents to take achievable steps toward reducing light pollution. Studies have shown that reducing nighttime lighting, especially during migration, can save the lives of our migrating birds. It can also help your bank account and maybe allow you to see a few more stars. If you haven't already taken the Lights Out Atlanta pledge, please consider doing so. If you are able, try educating your employer about this issue and see if they will consider the corporate level pledge.



In the past two years, Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers have collected more than 900 birds of 89 different species, like this Blackburnian Warbler.  
Photo by Adam Betuel.

(Continued on Page 5)

# Stock Up on Native Plants for Wood Thrush at Our Spring Plant Sales

By Lillie Kline

This spring, Atlanta Audubon will once again be partnering with Chattahoochee Nature Center and Blue Heron Nature Preserve on native plant sales to help expand habitat for native birds. The sales will highlight nectar-producing plants that provide resources for hummingbirds and orioles. The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) sale will take place March 30 to 31 and April 6 to 7. The Blue Heron Nature Preserve Sale will be held on April 21 in conjunction with an Open House and Earth Day activities for the whole family. Once again, we'll be pre-selling plants for both sales with limited quantities available. The presale for the Chattahoochee Nature Center Sale begins Monday, March 5 and for the Blue Heron sale on Monday, March 19.

The biggest threat to birds here in Georgia is habitat loss. Fortunately, any homeowner can provide birds with high quality resources simply through some thoughtful landscaping. The welfare of birds is intimately linked to the quality of food and shelter found in their habitats. As urbanization increases and natural habitats disappear, native plants can go a long way to restoring the habitats birds need. Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to be a partner in the Plants for Birds Initiative in the Audubon Chapter Network. The goal of the Plants for Birds Initiative is to plant one million native plants to create habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Native plants give every gardener the opportunity to sustain wildlife right in his or her own backyard.

You may be wondering, "Why native plants? Birds seem to love my nandina." Charles Darwin can help us with this answer. It all comes down to evolution—our native plants have spent millions of years co-evolving with our native insects. The plants provide nutrients to the insects which, in turn, constitute an irreplaceable food source to our birds. This becomes especially important during breeding season when birds rely almost exclusively on this high protein item to feed nestlings. An often-cited figure from the research of entomologist Doug Tallamy notes that native oaks support over 550 species of caterpillars, while the beautiful, non-native gingkos that line many of our streets support just five.

Due to lack of coevolution, the vast majority of non-native ornamentals are wholly unpalatable to insects. A pest-free garden may, on the surface, sound positive, and this is the reason that many gardeners plant these species. Unfortunately, this choice robs our wildlife of food sources. In a healthy ecosystem with a diversity of players, predators have enough resources to ensure that insect "pests" do not become a problem. By the way, please don't plant nandina—those gorgeous winter berries contain hydrogen cyanide, a poisonous compound implicated in the deaths of untold numbers of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins.

Native plants not only provide the highest quality resources to wildlife, but have many benefits to people as well. Homeowners can save water by reducing lawn



Dwarf red buckeye



Annual Salvia



Anise Hyssop



Bee Balm by Mim Eisenberg

size, and the added plants can even help control flooding. Native plants are hardy and well-adapted, so they thrive without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, which hurt our pollinators and can runoff into streams. Finally, native plants and the wildlife they sustain provide color and beauty right in your own backyard. If your property provides high quality habitat, please consider having it certified as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary—it's for the birds!

For complete growing descriptions or to order, visit our website at <https://www.atlantaudubon.org>. A listing of plants for the Blue Heron Nature Preserve Plant Sale will be available on our website as soon as we have an inventory.

## Plants available for the Chattahoochee Nature Center sale:

**Yellow Giant Hyssop** (*Agastache nepetoides*) Fast-growing perennial with showy greenish-yellow flowers. Tolerant of summer heat and humidity. Long, late summer bloom, sometimes extending to first frost.

**Anise Hyssop** (*Agastache foeniculum*) Herbaceous perennial shrub noted for its mid- to late-summer bloom of lavender to purple flowers in terminal spikes and its anise-scented leaves.

**Red Buckeye** (*Aesculus pavia*) A large deciduous shrub that produces orange-red flowers about the time that hummingbirds are returning in the spring.

**Standing Cypress** (*Ipomopsis rubra*) Biennial or short-lived perennial with red tubular flowers. Each flower has a narrow corolla tube which flares at the end to form a five-lobed star. Flowers are scarlet red on the outside and yellow dotted with red on the inside.

**Annual Salvia** (*Salvia coccinea*) Short herbaceous annual with red flowers—the only sage native to the U.S. to have this. It generally will survive winter only in frost-free areas. Flowers bloom in loose spikes from mid-summer into fall.

**Wild Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) Also known as Canadian Columbine and Red Columbine. An herbaceous perennial with striking red and yellow bell-shaped flowers.

**Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*) A twining vine that needs a trellis or fence upon which to grow. It blooms early in the year with one major flush in spring and then several other, smaller flushes throughout summer and fall.

**Bee Balm** (*Monarda didyma*) A spreading, clump-forming perennial that produces dense, rounded clusters of bright red, tubular flowers in early summer.

**Jewelweed** (*Impatiens capensis*) A readily self-seeding annual that grows on weak stems, it is best grown in naturalized clumps or allowed to self-seed in wilder areas. It produces small orange flowers that bloom throughout the summer and fall and seed pods that "pop" when touched.

**Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) A short-lived perennial that produces showy, red flowers at the end of terminal spikes, mid-summer to fall. Happily re-seeds in damp places.



Annual Salvia



Coral Honeysuckle by Dan Vickers



Standing Cypress by James Steakley

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Elaine DeSimone

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 27th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

Elaine DeSimone says that being involved with Project Safe Flight gives her a chance to do something for birds without a major time commitment. The program, an effort to understand bird/building collisions in metro Atlanta, aims to determine what species are involved, how many birds are affected, what parts of town are problematic, and what can be done about it.

Elaine checks for dead birds at three buildings in the vicinity of Ashford-Dunwoody Road in Dunwoody, but they aren't near each other. All have a history of bird collisions and are under the same property manager, who has a good relationship with Atlanta Audubon. "It's kind of sad to see so many bird casualties but always good to save any," Elaine says. She hopes what she does can help bring changes.

She has also been involved in Neighborhood Nestwatch, a Smithsonian program run via Fernbank Museum. Volunteers invite bird banders to visit their yards once a year to band the birds there. A few birds have shown up in Elaine's

yard in Brookhaven more than once, including a cardinal with a deformed beak. She's heartened by the fact that the banders have told her that the bird might not have survived were it not for her feeders. Her other activities include the Christmas Bird Count, her children's schools, and local politics.



Elaine DeSimone

Elaine, who was born in Cincinnati, lived most of her life in South Florida until moving to Atlanta about 20 years ago. She holds a degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa and pursued a career in magazine writing and editing and proposal writing for a financial services firm. Since having children, she's been a stay-at-home mom to son Dylan, 13, and daughter Tessa, 11. Her husband,

Jon, is an IT project manager.

Elaine has belonged to Audubon for only two or three years and has been a birder for only five or six. Not working outside the home stimulated her interest in birds, since she has more time to look at them in her backyard and experiment with different feeders, she says.



## ASK CHIPPY

Hi Chippy,

We had a bird come through our yard last week. It was as big as the large hawks that hunt the squirrels that live here. It was black and looked very similar to the crows that also visit our yard, only HUGE.

I got a couple pictures and looked them up on the internet. Common Raven was what I came up with. This bird had to be at least 20 inches long, maybe bigger.

From what I see on looking him up is that he is a long way from Blue Ridge. So my question is has anyone else spotted one in the Atlanta area? I was truly shocked when he landed in a tree 80 feet away.

— Brent

Dear Brent,

Thanks for sending this question to Atlanta Audubon. The Common Raven was once abundant in the North American wilderness. Due to westward expansion, the Raven was hunted nearly to extinction by 1800. The population has recovered somewhat, but now their numbers are mostly impacted by wilderness depletion. Ravens seek remote areas of forest, tundra, or mountain to live. Mostly in solitary pairs, they mate for life. Ravens are not migratory, though some do head south during fall and winter.

I checked the GABO site to see if any had been reported in your area and did not find any reports. You can also check Georgia Birders Online (GABO) and sign up for their email alerts at <http://www.gos.org/georgia-birders-online>. I went to eBird and focused on your outlying area recently and within the last few years. The information displayed in graphs indicate northeast of your location, Ravens have been sighted. eBird.org is easy to join and use. This is an active part of Citizen Science connected to Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon. Both sites would appreciate this listing.

We would love to see your pictures of the raven.

# THANK YOU!

## A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for December and January: **Joy Carter, Mary Kimberly, Jason Ward, Wes Hatch, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman, Tom Painting, Chris Lambrecht, Anne McCallum, Angie Jenkins, and Bob Orenstein** ... to **Susan Loeb, Brooke Vacovsky, and Barbara Kipreos** for their help with our banding efforts at Emma Wetlands ... to **Kathryn Jackson-VanDetta, Marge Igyarto, and Andrea Ableman** for hosting and volunteering for the coffee tasting at Wild Birds Unlimited Vinings ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, Max Brown, Les Cane, Robyn and Steve Newman, Ken Boff, and Sue King** for their help with the annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction ... to **Georgia LaMar, Melinda Langston, Les Cane, Little St. Simons Island, Jack and Martha Fasse, Kathryn Jackson Van-Detta and Wild Birds Unlimited Vinings, Seth Dietchman, the Dunwoody Woman's Club, Marge Igyarto, Mary Nevil, Sandy Miller, Phyllis Hawkins, Max Brown, Jack Lawing, Pam Higginbotham, Mary Kimberly and Gavin MacDonald, Judy Candler, Daniel Zdonczyk, Stella Wissner, Stephen Ramsden, and John Yow** for donating items to our 2017 Silent Auction ... to **Larry Stephens, Stella Wissner, Max Brown, Anita Chilcutt, Phyllis Hawkins, and Judy Candler** for their help with December Peel & Stick.



Common Raven by Melanie Furr

Happy Birding! — Chippy

# You Might Be at a CBC Party If...

By Steve Phenicie

The comedian Jeff Foxworthy made a name for himself with his “You might be a redneck” jokes. Here’s my version of “You might be at a party after a Christmas Bird Count” if you hear remarks that sound like this:

“Joy, this soup is great!”

“At first we got real excited because we thought it was a Golden Honker. Then it flew out from behind the bush, and we could see that it was only a Purple-bellied Whoze-whatsit.”

“Where are they hiding the wine?”

“Otis and I are booked on a trip to North Slambezia in March with Lotsa Bird Adventures.”

“They weren’t going to let us bird there, but Tillie Lou mentioned that she knows John Bigwig, so the security guard unlocked the gate for us.”

Have you noticed on GABO that they have been seeing a Tufted Spider-Catcher down in Boondocks County?”

“I see on eBird that there’s an irruption of the Arctic Flamingo this year.”

“The birding is no good there now that they’ve put in all those lights at the strip club next to the woods.”

“In previous years, Bedraggled Park has always had tons of Hooded Canaries, but there wasn’t a one there this year.”

“We had planned to go to Out-of-the-Way Nature Preserve, but we ran out of time.”

“We didn’t see as many species as they did, but that’s because they had Billy Jim Sharpeye on their team.”

“Seeing that Fort Lauderdale Warbler was a lifer for me, and Wanda said it was for her too.”

“Is anybody going to the GOS meeting? I was going to go with Clara Jane, but her husband is sick so she can’t go, and I don’t want to go alone.”

“To get in there to bird, you have to park in the lot at Dogmeat Burgers, but they don’t care.”

“Pink-eyed Cacklebirds have been coming to my feeder. I think it’s the special blend of horseradish and macadamia nuts I’ve been giving them.”

## ACTION ALERT: Public Hearing Regarding Oil and Gas Drilling off Georgia Coast Scheduled for February 28

**The proposed five-year plan exposes critical shorebird habitat and coastal communities to dangerous and unnecessary oil drilling**

**What:** Public hearing regarding oil and gas drilling off Georgia coast.  
**When:** Wednesday, February 28 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.  
**Where:** Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel  
One Hartsfield Centre Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30354.

Atlanta Audubon Society has joined National Audubon Society; 100 Miles Georgia; Sierra Club; Georgia Conservancy; Environment Georgia; Center for a Sustainable Coast; 141 cities and counties, including Georgia communities, Savannah, Brunswick, Hinesville, St. Mary’s, Kingsland, Porterdale, and Tybee Island; and a long list of other conservation organizations and coastal communities in opposing a proposal by the White House to vastly expand oil drilling off America’s beaches and coasts, including Georgia’s 100-mile coastline.

The proposed White House plan includes parts of the outer continental shelf (OCS) along the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Atlantic seabirds and shorebirds that would be especially at-risk from offshore oil and gas development include Red Knots, Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Greater Shearwaters, Sooty Shearwaters, and Roseate Terns.

National Audubon Society and other organizations are encouraging the White House to limit offshore drilling to locations where leases are already active. Expanding lease sales to sensitive marine areas off the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific coasts threatens critical bird habitat as well as the economic viability of hundreds of coastal communities.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is holding a series of public hearings regarding the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (OCS) <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate/>. Public hearings will take place across the country using an open-house format, so participants can arrive any time during the scheduled meeting time. At the hearings, participants can ask questions, share information, talk with BOEM team members one-on-one, and learn more about the National OCS Program.

Atlanta Audubon’s Advocacy Committee will be attending and submitting comments at the public hearing on **Wednesday, February 28 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel**. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting to present a statement or learn more about the proposal. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Amanda Woomer, Advocacy Chair, at [Amanda.woomer@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.woomer@gmail.com).

Participants are also being encouraged to submit written comments to inform BOEM of specific issues, impacting factors, environmental resources, alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigation measures to consider in its analyses. For those unable to attend the meeting, BOEM will soon be offering a Virtual Meeting Room where participants can visit the same stations available at the open-house meetings. There they will be able to review and download the same handouts and posters offered at the meetings. For more information visit <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate>.



Red Knot, by Dan Vickers

## Project Safe Flight and Lights Out Atlanta Updates

(Continued from Page 2)

For those who would like help even more, consider becoming a monitor for Project Safe Flight Atlanta. While 900 birds is way too many birds to find, it is undoubtedly a small snapshot of what is really happening. More volunteers allow us to better survey our region and get a clearer picture of the extent of our problem. The more robust the dataset, the more success we will have in approaching those who can help us create a bird-friendly community.

If you are interested in helping, please email conservation director Adam Betuel at [adam@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:adam@atlantaudubon.org) or visit our website to take the Lights Out Atlanta pledge.

# EYES on EDUCATION

## Now Accepting Scholarship Applications for Hog Island 2018

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, 2018. 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, 2018. 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: For campers that are 14 years old, you CANNOT fly independently to camp due to airline restrictions.



Arctic Puffin photo taken by Julia Weil, recipient of the 2017 Edward Barnsley Scholarship for Youth.

### How to Apply

The Atlanta Audubon scholarship application is available on our website at <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/scholarships>. The completed application should be submitted via email to [melanie@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:melanie@atlantaudubon.org) by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 23. Winners will be notified no later than March 1. For additional information, contact Melanie Furr at [melanie@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:melanie@atlantaudubon.org) or 678.973.2437.

## Coming Soon: Great Backyard Bird Count

Do you love watching your bird feeders? Atlanta Audubon Society is seeking citizen scientists to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 16 through 19, 2018. On these four days, birdwatchers from across the globe will be counting birds and sharing the information with a community of other bird watchers in near real-time. The Great Backyard Bird Count collects and displays data in order to create a "snapshot" of the distribution and abundance of birds worldwide in the month of February. This snapshot helps scientists get a 'big picture' glimpse of current trends in bird populations.

Created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society in 1988, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first participation-based project to collect and display data from birdwatchers across the globe. Last year, more than 210,000 birdwatchers from more than 140 countries participated in the count and together counted 5,940 different species of birds, including 671 in the U.S. In 2017, Georgians counted 210 different species of birds and ranked 11th among states for the most checklists submitted.

Participants must:

1. Register for the event at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.
2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the counting period.
3. Enter results on the Great Backyard Bird Count website by clicking "Submit Observations" on the home page.

For more information, please visit the Great Backyard Bird Count webpage at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.



Red-breasted Nuthatch,  
by Joel McNeal

# 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.

**Saturday, February 3**

**Piedmont Park (Fulton County)**

**8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770

GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

**Saturday, February 3**

**Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)**

**9:00 AM**

Leader: Tom Painting

Cell contact morning of the walk: 585.465.0034

Advance reservations required at 404.929.6400

GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

**Sunday, February 4**

**Noonday Creek Trail, East trailhead on Bells Ferry Rd (Cobb County)**

**8:00 AM**

Leader: Angelia Jenkins

Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.570.4891

GPS: 34.023854, -84.548456

**Wednesday, February 7**

**Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)**

**8:00 AM**

Leader: Mary Kimberly

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279

GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476.

**Wednesday, February 14**

**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

**Friday, February 16**

**Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County)**

**8:00 AM**

*Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes*

Leaders: Joy Carter and Mary Kimberly

Cell contacts morning of the walk: 404.822.0030

(Joy); 404.308.6279 (Mary)

GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

**Saturday, February 17**

**GBBC at Chicopee Lake**

**Chicopee Lake (Hall County)**

**8:00 AM**

Leader: Peter Gordon

Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.617.8826

GPS: 34.226653, -83.824594

**Saturday, February 17**

**Land O' Lakes section of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve (Fulton County)**

**7:45 AM**

Leader: Lillie Kline

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.921.8900

GPS: 33.865832, -84.379892

*Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: [www.atlantaudubon.org/field-trips](http://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.*

*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](mailto:teresalyle0@gmail.com).*

## LIVE and LEARN

### With These Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops

#### Master Birder Winter 2018

Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to offer our popular Master Birder course north of I-285 this winter. An orientation and the first session will be held at the Atlanta Audubon Society office on Saturday, February 24, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Subsequent Saturday sessions will be held on March 3, 10, 17, and Sunday (March 25) from 10:30 AM until 3:30 PM at the John's Creek Environmental Campus (located at 8100 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Alpharetta). These sessions will be preceded by a guided bird walk from 8:00 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, March 31, 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, bird behavior, anatomy and physiology, bird ecology, 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 such as exclusive workshops or field trips, as well as early bird or discounted registration for workshops.

A course fee of \$400 includes classes and guided walks, course materials, and the graduation luncheon.

Online registration for the 2018 winter course is open at [www.atlantaudubon.org/master-birder-program](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/master-birder-program). Please email Melanie Furr, Director of Education, at [melanie@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:melanie@atlantaudubon.org) if you have questions.



*Master Birder Class of Winter 2017 graduation picture.*



## ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4055 Roswell Road ♦ Atlanta, GA 30342  
678.973.2437

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# February Monthly Meeting

Birds and How to Photograph Them

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

**J**oin Atlanta Audubon member and photographer Daniel Zdonczyk for a presentation on bird photography, featuring some of the amazing photos he has captured in 20 years as a photographer. His talk will cover field set up, photographer tools, and composition, and he will be available to answer questions you may have about how to get the best shot of birds you are photographing.

Daniel Zdonczyk is a neurologist originally from Argentina. He discovered his passion for bird photography more than 20 years ago and has been honing his skills at various wildlife refuges across the U.S. as well as in Latin America. Recently, hummingbirds have captivated his interest, and he has made several trips to Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Peru to capture the beauty of these ethereal jewels.



*Green-breasted Mango by Daniel Zdonczyk*



*Scintillant hummingbird by Daniel Zdonczyk*

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.