



Atlanta Audubon Awarded Grants for Conservation and Education Initiatives

Atlanta Audubon is the recipient of three recent grant awards that will assist us in adding new resources through our conservation and education programs.

Thanks to a grant from the **Cherokee Garden Club**, Atlanta Audubon will be able to produce two new interactive, educational displays focusing on the connection between native habitats and the food sources and resources they provide to birds and other wildlife. The displays, which can be used anywhere from school programs to community festivals, will be made in the form of a pop-up banner-type game where participants will try to throw bean bags representing different native food sources through cut-out holes featuring birds or other wildlife that depend upon those foods (for example, a student will throw a bean bag depicting native thistle through the hole illustrated by an American Goldfinch). We look forward to engaging students and adults alike as we broaden the understanding of native plants and their importance for Georgia's birds.

For the third year, **Wells Fargo** is supporting Atlanta Audubon's Connecting Students with STEM through Birds program with a grant to fund schoolwide resources at one of our participating partner schools. Each year, Atlanta Audubon works with two elementary schools for a full academic year for comprehensive instruction and training using STEM concepts through the lens of birds. With help from our planting partner, Convivial Gardens, Atlanta Audubon staff, students, and teachers construct outdoor learning areas at each partner school. These new learning spaces feature bird-friendly native plants and nest boxes, and students and teachers are instructed on how to care for and utilize the spaces for years to come. Funds from Wells Fargo will help us provide additional schoolwide resources for our partner schools, including bird- and nature-themed books for the school library, classroom sets of binoculars, and copies of our 13-unit Learning About Birds curriculum.

Chimney Swifts in Tucker will soon have a new nesting and roosting location thanks to a grant from the **Georgia Ornithological Society**. This grant will fund the construction of a 12-foot-tall Chimney Swift

Tower in Tucker's Henderson Park, a popular birding hotspot and well-loved community park. Chimney Swifts in North America have experienced dramatic declines in their population over the last several decades due to loss of nesting and roosting habitat as people remove dead, hollow trees and cap their homes' chimneys. Educational signage will also be installed near the Chimney Swift tower to educate the public about Chimney Swift conservation, and Atlanta Audubon looks forward to hosting community Swift Night Out events in Henderson Park to view the tornado-like descent of communally-roosting Chimney Swifts into the tower on evenings during fall migration.



Atlanta Audubon's Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel (back left), and Director of Education, Melanie Furr (far right), delivered a classroom set of binoculars to The Main Street Academy, one of our Connecting Students with STEM through Birds partner schools, earlier this spring.



Henderson Park in Tucker will be the site of a new Chimney Swift tower thanks to a grant from the Georgia Ornithological Society. Photo by Melanie Furr.



Prothonotary Warbler, by Michelle Hamner.

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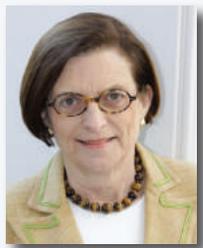
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Could Your Garden or Large Property Become an Atlanta Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary?

By Esther Stokes, Board Chair

My husband Jim and I have recently moved two blocks to a new (old) home with entirely different gardens from our former home. We missed our birds and all the entertainment they provided at the old house, so we began to set up feeders at our new place. Nothing happened! We moved the feeders, and still nothing happened!

There were robins poking around in the lawn, and there were some towhees foraging in the leaf litter. But no birds at our feeders. After what seemed like forever but in reality was measured in months, one day out of the blue the birds started noticing our efforts. We began to get chickadees at the feeders, and they were followed by many other birds. Now we have an amazing array of birds, feeding at various feeders, dining on various carefully-selected items.

Perhaps the biggest hit has been the simple bird bath we added, where all the birds seem to want to go to bathe or have a drink. A clutch of chickadees has been raised in a nest box, and we have catbirds nesting in the tangle between us and our neighbor. We have endless feeder activity, although recently we have been visited by the grackle bullies who steal the suet and try to intimidate the other birds.

I have been removing Asian plants and installing native plants where it is feasible, and the birds are very interested in the blueberry bushes we have installed. We are continuing to add natives, even in the hot weather, in an effort to have our garden be as attractive as possible to the summer resident birds.

So what do we now need to do to take that extra step, to become an Atlanta Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary? This is certainly the long-term goal. However, we still have a lot of English ivy on banks and quite a few Asian plants in the shrub areas. But, we see that goal on the horizon, and we really want to get there.

This story may be familiar to many of you who have done these same things to attract the birds. Atlanta Audubon has big goals for our wildlife sanctuary program—we would like to certify many hundreds of wildlife sanctuaries in neighborhoods and parks and corporate campuses and farms all across the Atlanta metro. And it can start at home. It can include all of us.

Melinda Langston, the very capable leader of our sanctuary program and an Atlanta Audubon board member, has been ably orchestrating an expansion of the program, and Leslie Edwards, another board member, has brought her professional expertise to the task of finely honing our work. An impressive group of Atlanta Audubon certifiers fans out across the metro to inspect applicants and (hopefully) certify their properties.

Is your residence or your nearby city park a certified Atlanta Audubon wildlife sanctuary? If not, join me in carefully plotting to get it there. Start with the website www.atlantaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification, build the plan, and carry through to successful completion. Because these efforts represent something each of us can do to help birds and wildlife, to make a difference in our world.

As conservation biologist and National Geographic fellow Thomas E. Lovejoy has observed, "If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big environmental problems of the world." Please join me in this work. We can do this!



Is your yard ready to be certified as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary? Photo by Andrea Greco.

Final Chance to Make an Impact with a Gift to the 2019 Annual Fund

If you're receiving this issue of *Wingbars* through the mail, you may be wondering about the addition of the small envelope. We hope you will consider returning this envelope to us with your gift to the 2019 Annual Fund. Help us send a message, with your gift, that building places where both birds and people thrive is a priority in Atlanta. Our biggest source of funding at Atlanta Audubon is YOU, and our reach throughout Georgia on behalf of birds is magnified through your support. All donors to the 2019 Annual Fund who make their gift by July 31, 2019, will be acknowledged in the September issue of *Wingbars*. You can also make your Annual Fund gift online at www.atlantaudubon.org/donate. Thank you for your continued support!

Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Coming in September 2019

September is just around the corner, and once again Atlanta Audubon will celebrate the inextricable connection between birds and native plants during the second annual Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. We have a great lineup, including:

- **Saturday, September 14** – Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. The annual Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will take place from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at various locations in Intown Atlanta. Stay tuned for additional details on locations for the 2019 tour.
- **Saturday, September 21** – Concrete Jungle Ramble. Join Jason Ward, bird walk leader and National Audubon Fund II Apprentice, and representatives from Concrete Jungle for a bird walk and tour of some of the urban trees from which Concrete Jungle harvests.
- **Sunday, September 22** – Wrecking Barn Farm Brunch with Atlanta Audubon and Georgia Organics. Join us for a farm-to-table brunch and bird walk at Wrecking Barn Farm in Loganville as we explore the relationship between sustainable agriculture, insects, and birds.
- **Thursday, September 26** – Swift Night Out at Brickworks Gallery. Atlanta Audubon will once again partner with Brickworks Gallery for a Swift Night Out to see the resident population of Chimney Swifts descend into the Brickworks Gallery chimney around dusk.
- **Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28** – Chattahoochee Nature Center Native Plant Sale. Atlanta Audubon will collaborate with CNC on their fall native plant sale to help people find bird-friendly native plants for their landscapes.

- **Sunday, September 29** – Chalk Art Festival at the Exhibit at Piedmont Park. Last year's Chalk Art Festival was such a big hit we decided to bring it back for 2019. This year, we'll have multiple categories for artists, including levels for individuals and families as well as for nonprofit organizations and corporations. Prizes will be awarded to the chalk art winners in several different categories.

Registration and ticket sales will begin in mid-July. More information on these events will be available later this summer in *Wingbars* and *Bird Buzz*, and on our digital platforms.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Indian Pink, by National Audubon.

ASK CHIPPY



Q: *I have many bird feeders, and I am writing to ask for any suggestions in dealing with and preventing this horrible, contagious eye disease that afflicts finches. Two of my feeders may have started the problem, and I have since taken them down. They were replaced with feeders that won't hold moisture/rain. I have also been wiping down perches on my feeders with a weak bleach solution every day. Is there anything else you can suggest?*

A: Thanks for contacting Atlanta Audubon. There are two different diseases that can affect the eyes of finches: Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis and avian pox. House Finches are particularly susceptible to both of these. Both diseases are highly infectious, and although some birds may recover, blindness from these diseases can lead to starvation, exposure, and predation. Birds with Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis may have red, swollen, watery, or crusty eyes. Sometimes they are so swollen or crusted over that it renders the birds blind. Avian pox is characterized by wart-like growths on the featherless parts of the bird, including the area around the eyes, the base of the beak, and the feet and legs.

You have done the right thing by replacing and disinfecting your feeders. Some additional recommendations from Project Feeder Watch include:

- Space your feeders widely to discourage crowding.
- Be sure to remove any build-up of dirt around the food openings on your feeders. After cleaning with a dilute bleach solution, rinse well and allow your feeders to dry completely before rehanging them.
- Rake the area underneath your feeder to remove droppings and old, moldy seed.
- If you see one or two diseased birds, take down your feeder and clean it with a diluted bleach solution. You may also want to remove feeders for a few days to encourage sick birds to disperse.
- One final thing you can do is report your findings to Project Feeder Watch. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology began a House Finch Disease Survey in 1994 that ended in 2008. However, Project Feeder Watch is still collecting data with this protocol. You can find out more and sign up at <http://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/>

You can learn more about the disease and the research on it here: <http://feederwatch.org/learn/house-finch-eye-disease/>.

Thanks for your concern for the birds.



House Finches are particularly susceptible to eye diseases. Photo by Dan Vickers.

-Chippy

Volunteer Spotlight on Joy Carter

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 37th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

What Joy Carter has done for Atlanta Audubon ranges from soup to ... well, if not nuts, let's say coffee and chocolate. Joy, who was on the board for many years and was president for about four of them, has now stepped back a bit. So what has she been up to lately?

That's where the coffee and chocolate come in. Joy has been involved with Atlanta Audubon's selling of shade-grown, bird-friendly coffee from the start about 10 years ago. In about 2008, Joy and Dave Butler, a fellow board member, heard about Café Campesino at Sweet Auburn Market, paid a visit, and established ties with Nema Etheridge, the firm's marketing director. Café Campesino came up with an Audubon blend made from beans from Guatemala, Colombia, and Peru, and Atlanta Audubon has been in the coffee business ever since. During the 2018 Atlanta Bird Fest, Joy led a birding and coffee trip to the roastery in Americus and in this year's Atlanta Bird Fest headed "Birds & Beans on the Atlanta Beltline." She's also hosted an Atlanta Audubon coffee class at her Ormewood Park home.

Her role with Audubon chocolate is much more recent. Joy helped establish ties with Xocolatl, which has a micro-factory at Atlanta's Krog Street Market. Audubon chocolate bars have been marketed since late last year and are made from cacao beans sourced from shaded farms that provide critical habitat for migratory birds.

Joy's involvement with Audubon dates to sometime before 2006. Always a plant person, she happened to attend the Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Tour one year when it had a stop at Georgia Perimeter College and picked up some

Atlanta Audubon literature. She noticed that a Master Birder class was coming up, so she enrolled. Among the things the class did was visit Constitution Lakes—just minutes from Joy's house. She had no idea it existed but became fascinated with its birds, and her interest in Audubon sprouted from there.

She still heads Atlanta's Intown Christmas Bird Count, leads bird walks, and participates in Youth Birding Competition in which her grandson, Fallou, competes. Other family members are her husband, Ken Boff, who works for the City of Atlanta in IT project management and is also an Audubon Master Birder; daughters Danielle and Juliana, both of Atlanta; son Alastair of Philadelphia; and her mother, Katherine Carter, who

celebrated her 100th birthday this year and has lived with Joy for many years. Katherine, by the way, likes to bird from her window.

Joy is a native of Macon but has lived in Atlanta for about 45 years and is a graduate of Mercer University. She sold real estate for 10 or 15 years but got out when the Great Recession hit. She has not birded extensively overseas but went on Atlanta Audubon's trip to Guatemala last fall and has checked out the Camargue region of France along the Mediterranean. She and Ken will be on the upcoming Audubon trip to Costa Rica in January 2020.

As for the soup part, Joy's homemade creation is always the culinary highlight of the annual post-CBC wingding at her house, attended by just about everybody who is anybody in Atlanta birding. She's experimented but finds that chili and gumbo go over the best.



Joy Carter and husband Ken Boff were on the Atlanta Audubon birding trip to Guatemala last fall that visited the Tikal ruins.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to the entire staff for all the work to pull off a successful and growing Atlanta Bird Fest ... to some bird walk leaders for May we didn't mention earlier: **Mary Kimberly, Adam Betuel, Dave Butler, and Jonah McDonald** ... to bird walk leaders for June: **Mary Kimberly, Jason Ward, Anne McCallum, Angie Jenkins, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, Rob McDonough, and Warren Walter** ... to **Lane Thomas and Claire Mills** for help at Migratory Bird Day at Zoo Atlanta ... to **Judy Killeen** for her work at Keeping Georgia Wild at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center ... to **Sandra Murray and BJ Glick** for working both days of the butterfly festival at Chattahoochee Nature Center ... to **Pam Higginbotham** for teaching the Master Naturalist class at Smithgall Woods ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, and Laura Waddick** for assisting with the spring Annual Fund mailing ... to **Laura Waddick, Marcia Jenkins, Nannette Dooley, and Anita Chilcutt** for their help with June Peel & Stick ... to **Mary Nevil** for her help assembling materials for our annual Taking Wing professional development for educators ... to **Cheryl Beshke** for serving as "Chippy" and answering the Ask Chippy questions...

Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

This September Atlanta Audubon presents the 2nd Annual Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month with a series of events to highlight the importance of native plants for birds and other wildlife. Events throughout the month include our annual Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, the Chalk Art Festival in Piedmont Park, a farm-to-table brunch with our partners at Georgia Organics, our first Swift Night Out at Brickworks Gallery, and more. **We need your help!** If you or a business you know is interested in sponsoring Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, please consider sponsoring at the individual Patron level or as a business sponsor. Sponsorships begin at \$250, and sponsors receive such benefits as complimentary Wildlife Sanctuary Tour tickets, business name/logo on promotional materials, social media recognition, and more. Contact Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaudubon.org with any questions.

The Power of a Passerine Remark

By Melanie Furr

During a recent family trip to Guatemala, after an incredible morning of birding and seeing a pair of Resplendent Quetzals, I asked a local birding guide what had sparked her interest in birds. Like many young girls of Mayan heritage, she explained, as a teenager she helped to provide for her family by weaving beautiful textiles with flowers, birds, and other designs to sell to tourists. One day while working at her family's stall in the local market, a woman complimented her handiwork, pointing to a bright orange-and-black bird and remarking, "The Baltimore Oriole is my favorite bird." Until that moment, the guide noted, she had only a vague awareness of birds adorning her fabrics and didn't know the names of most of them. She could identify and embroider the quetzal, the national bird, but she had never seen one. Her newfound awareness that the birds on her textiles not only had names but could be seen piqued her curiosity. A simple remark about an oriole turned out to be pivotal in shaping her future career.

In my role as an educator for Atlanta Audubon, I regularly notice how little the average person knows about the birds that share our back yards, but I also have the pleasure to see how simple exchanges, or even a passing remark, can have life-changing impacts. On more than one occasion when I have taken students birding, a child has exclaimed, "This is the best day of my life!" While I realize that children have short memories, I don't underestimate the impact that a new awareness of birds can have on a child's life. This spring, when Adam and I delivered 30 pairs of new binoculars to The Main Street Academy, one of our partner schools in our Connecting Students to STEM through Birds project, the third- and seventh-grades classes we took outside were fascinated by the American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds catching insects on the ball field and the Red-tailed Hawk soaring overhead. Although the students regularly have recess on this field, none had ever paid any attention to the birds. Now, with a native plant garden on campus and a class set of binoculars, students will regularly have opportunities to admire their bluebirds and robins. Soon after our visit, the teacher reported back that several students kept asking when they could go birding again. Who knows, some of these students may even go on to pursue careers in science or conservation!

Our Atlanta Urban Ecologists program, a partnership with several environmental nonprofits that exposes teens to hands-on outdoor learning and careers in conservation, is another program that seems to be

sparking the next generation of environmentalists. In a previous *Wingbars* you read about Isabella Asztalos, the Norcross teen who spearheaded the effort to certify her local park as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary after participating in the program. More recently, another past participant reached out to me unexpectedly to let me know that "being part of the Atlanta Audubon Urban Ecologists program inspired me to do even more to get involved and put myself out there" and that she has been selected to participate in the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps this summer. Ayub Farah, a participant whose family came to Atlanta as refugees from Ethiopia, struggles in school but can name all of his backyard birds by sight and sound. He lights up whenever he gets to go out birding, and his skills inspire confidence and leadership that he doesn't feel in the classroom.

As I get ready to head off to Atlanta Audubon's multi-day summer professional development workshop at Amicalola Falls, I am excited to introduce another cohort of educators to the fascinating world of birds and witness their "spark moments." We typically find Scarlet Tanagers in the parking lot, which always elicits lots of oohs and aahs, but the teachers, most of them new to birding, will be equally excited to identify their first Eastern Towhee, recognizing the song from their own back yards. Teachers regularly report that the workshop, which trains participants how to use birds to teach core subjects, is not only valuable, but life-changing as well. With their new awareness and interest in birds, teachers implement the training in a variety of ways, including creating new lessons, planting bird-friendly school gardens, starting after-school bird clubs, and participating in community science projects. Recently a former participant e-mailed me to let me know the training was "still the best thing I have done in forever" and that she now has a class set of good binoculars for her students to use. Providing teachers with the training

(Continued on Page 7)



Ayub Farah at an Atlanta Urban Ecologists session. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Photo of the Month Winner



Connecticut Warbler by David Cree.

Since this is a combined issue of *Wingbars*, we decided to select two winning photos for this issue. However, the winning photographs were taken by the same person: David Cree, of Peachtree City.

The July Photo of the Month Winner is this Golden-winged Warbler taken on Brawley Mountain, GA, on a pleasant spring morning. David was using a Nikon D3 camera set at ISO 640, 1/640, f6.3, using a Nikon 500 mm f4.0 with a Nikon 1.4X teleconverter.

The August Photo Winner is a Connecticut Warbler shot taken in Manitoba, Canada, with a Nikon D5 camera set at ISO 4000, which David notes was set too high but this was a once-in-a-lifetime shot, 1/6000, f7.1, with a Nikon 800mm f5.6 with a proprietary Nikon 1.25X teleconverter.

The Photo of the Month competition is open to anyone, and all winning submissions will be published in *Wingbars*. Ashkan Ojaghi, the volunteer coordinator of the photo contest, encourages people to resubmit photos if they do not win in a particular month. For more information or to enter the monthly competition, visit www.atlantaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month.



Golden-winged Warbler by David Cree.

Atlanta Audubon's Habitat Restoration Fund Application Period Now Open

Atlanta Audubon and its partners play an important role in creating bird resiliency in the Southeast. Through our collaborative conservation and engagement programs, we are building places where birds and people thrive. Thanks to a generous gift to Atlanta Audubon last year from an anonymous donor honoring Doug Downing, we were proud to establish the Habitat Restoration Fund.

The Habitat Restoration Fund aims to increase high-quality habitat for birds while also increasing community partnerships and educational outreach. Modeled after our other habitat restoration projects, the Habitat Restoration Fund invites community groups, friends groups, municipalities, and other

property managers to apply for this competitive opportunity to receive consulting and services to restore critical habitat. This can include removal of invasive, exotic plant species, installation of bird-friendly native plants, garden/habitat design services, bird monitoring, and community programs. For 2019, two project sites were chosen: Henderson Park in Tucker and Candler Park in Atlanta.

The application deadline for the 2020 award period is September 2, 2019. One project for 2020 will be chosen by committee and announced at the end of October. To learn more about eligibility, criteria, and schedule for this new opportunity, please go to www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration-fund.



Candler Park received a Habitat Restoration Grant in 2019 to restore a bird-friendly wetland habitat along the riparian corridor in the north-central portion of the park. Photo by Perry Smith.

The Scottie Johnson Spirit Award

In 2018, the Atlanta Audubon community lost an incredibly dedicated volunteer and dear friend, Ms. Eleanor Scott Johnson. Scottie, as her family and friends called her, was an avid birder and long-time volunteer of Atlanta Audubon. There wasn't a task that Scottie wasn't up for—from giving educational presentations to walking a Project Safe Flight Atlanta route to certifying wildlife sanctuaries to writing the Ask Chippy column, Scottie always raised her hand to help us out. She was a nurse, a mother, a Master Birder, and a wonderful human being with an amazing spirit. Although we lost Scottie to cancer last year, we will celebrate her spirit, kindness, and perseverance annually by honoring an outstanding volunteer with the Scottie Johnson Spirit Award.

This year at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration, the inaugural Scottie Johnson Spirit Award was awarded



The Scottie Johnson Spirit Award recipient Anne McCallum with Nikki Belmonte.

to Ms. Anne McCallum. Anne has been a dedicated and generous volunteer of Atlanta Audubon for more than a decade. In addition to leading monthly field trips at Reynolds Nature Preserve, Anne is an artist and an author, and has volunteered her time and talent to Atlanta Audubon through her creativity and kindness. Anne created Chippy, our Chipping Sparrow friend who is featured in our Learning About Birds curriculum as well as our monthly Ask Chippy column in *Wingbars*. Anne has generously donated her artwork for greeting cards and publications. She is committed to bird conservation and has been a regular volunteer at the Panola Mountain bird banding station for many years. Anne and her husband, Jim, and son, Eddie, are well known in our community as avid birders. We thank Anne for her dedication to helping us to build places where both birds and people thrive.

2018 Volunteer Recognition

Volunteers have been the most significant part of Atlanta Audubon since its inception. Volunteers started programs like the wildlife sanctuary program, field trips, speaker series, and even our newsletter, *Wingbars*. We normally recognize our volunteers at our August Monthly Meeting. However, it's time for us to celebrate our volunteers on a larger stage. From now on, we will recognize high-achieving volunteers during the Closing Celebration of Atlanta Bird Fest. This year the following people were honored for their incredible volunteer effort in 2018: Les Cane, Mim Eisenberg, Shannon Fair, Charles Loeb, Susan Loeb, Teresa Lyle, Anne McCallum, Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, Steve Phenicie, Ralph Smith, Maggie Stephen, and Laura Waddick. All honorees received a copy of *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips from North America's Top Birders*.

Have you completed volunteer work for Atlanta Audubon? Please log your hours at www.atlantaaudubon.org/volunteer so you may be considered for recognition in the future.



This year the following people were honored for their incredible volunteer effort in 2018 (L to R): Anne McCallum, Susan Loeb, Charles Loeb, Les Cane, Laura Waddick, Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, Shannon Fair, Maggie Stephen, and Steve Phenicie. Not pictured: Mim Eisenberg, Teresa Lyle, and Ralph Smith. Photo by Dottie Head.

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, July 6, 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, July 10, 2019

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, August 3, 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

Saturday, August 10, 2019

Blue Heron Nature Preserve (Fulton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Rob McDonough

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.754.8159

GPS: 33.865682, -84.380775

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

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, August 31, 2019

Cochran Shoals CRNRA (Interstate North)

7:30 AM

Leader: Nathan Farnau

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.849.3843

GPS: N 33 54.105 W 84 26.634.

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.

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 Jason Ward, field trips director, at jward@audubon.org.

LIVE and LEARN UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Master Birder Fall 2019

Begins October 5, 2019

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to offer our popular Master Birder course again this fall. This fall's class will take place at the Newman Wetlands Center in Hampton, GA. The class will run from October 5 through November 9. Please check the website for additional dates and locations.

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 \$425 includes classes and guided walks, course materials, and the graduation luncheon. Online registration for the 2019 fall course opens in early July at www.atlantaudubon.org/master-birder-program. Spaces are expected to fill quickly, so don't delay! Please e-mail Director of Education Melanie Furr at melanie@atlantaudubon.org if you have questions.



Registration for the Fall 2019 Master Birder Class will open in July. Photo of the Winter 2019 graduates, by Melanie Furr.

The Power of a Passerine Remark (Continued from Page 5)

and tools to take students outside for hands-on learning and observation will ensure that we light the spark for bird conservation in the next generation.

I know first-hand how transformative a simple bird walk can be. It was just seven years ago that I went on my first bird walk, where the guide pointed out several species that were new to me and wowed me with his ability to identify birds by their songs. I am blessed to now have the opportunity to share the joy of birding with others. When students tell me during a program that they

wish they could go birding every day (and they often do), I happily remind them that they can. Birds are accessible to all of us when we stop and pay attention, and as birders, we all have the potential to light a spark in a new birder, even with a simple gesture or passing remark. Share your love of birds with others. Point out a pretty bird or an interesting behavior to a passerby. You never know whose life you might change.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Please note that there will not be an Atlanta Audubon Monthly Meeting at Manuel's Tavern in July. We will resume our monthly meetings on Sunday, August 25, with a presentation from Jason Ward, Atlanta Audubon field trip leader and National Audubon Fund II Apprentice.

August Monthly Meeting

Sunday, August 25, 2019 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM • Manuel's Tavern

From the Bronx to Birding with Jason Ward

Jason Ward, host of *Birds of North America*, Atlanta Audubon field trip leader and writer for National Audubon Society, reflects on his unorthodox path to birding, why birds mean so much to him, and why he looks toward a bright, colorful future in birding.

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.

Early Birds Book Club

By Mary Nevil

The Early Birds The Early Birds will not meet in July since there is no monthly meeting, but if you would like to read ahead, the August selection is *THE SUN IS A COMPASS: A 4,000 Mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds* by Caroline Van Hemert. The book covers the epic adventure of Van Hemert and her husband, Pat, as they travel by foot, canoe, skis, raft, and kayak from Washington State to the Arctic Ocean and on to the Bering Sea. Van Hemert, a wildlife biologist and ornithologist, brings a depth of knowledge to the animals and they encounter along the way. The Early Birds will meet at 2:00 PM on August 25 at Manuel's Tavern.

In September, the Early Birds will host Kit Robey, author of *Cardinal Coat and Other Stories*. We will also hear from Anne McCallum about her book, *What Birds Say and Do*. Everyone is invited to share a favorite children's book about birds.



Jason Ward will present at the August Monthly Meeting. Photo by Jessie Parks.

