



VOLUME XLV, ISSUE 5, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Coming September 2019

Save these dates in September 2019 when Atlanta Audubon will once again celebrate the inextricable connection between birds and native plants during the second annual Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. We've got a great lineup in the works, 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. Once again, Atlanta Audubon be collaborating 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 Exhibitat 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.

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 Society.

Prothonotary Warbler, by Michelle Hamner.

INSIDE

From the Executive Director	2
Protect Georgia's Birds	2
Community Science Opps	3
Ask Chippy	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
A Million Thanks	4
Photo of the Month Winner.....	5
Native Plants for Bluebirds.....	5
Bird Fest Special Thanks	6
Field Trips & Live and Learn.....	7
Monthly Meeting Info.....	8



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/atlanta-audubon-society/>



AtlantaAudubonSociety



@AtlantaGAudubon



Find us on:
facebook

Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available for Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month

Interested in sponsoring the month-long activities of Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month this September? Individual sponsorships begin at \$250, and sponsors receive benefits including complimentary Sanctuary Tour tickets, squares for the Chalk Art Festival at Piedmont Park, individual or business name/logo on promotional materials, social media recognition, and more. Please visit the Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month website for more information at www.atlantaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.

Board of Directors 2019

Esther Stokes | Chair
Rusty Pritchard | Vice Chair
Ellen Miller | Secretary
Charles Loeb | Treasurer
Linda DiSantis | Past Chair

Craig Bell
Charles Bowen
Gina Charles
Roarke Donnelly
Leslie Edwards
Angelou Ezeilo
Shannon Fair
Jairo Garcia
Melinda Langston
Evonne Blythers Lapsey

Ellen Macht
David Schaefer
Michael Wall

ADVISERS

Marcia Bansley
Giff Beaton
Mark Berry
Raphael Bostic
Robert Cooper
Stacia Hendricks
John Pruitt

STAFF

Nikki Belmonte | Executive Director
nikki@atlantaaudubon.org

Adam Betuel | Director of Conservation
adam@atlantaaudubon.org

Melanie Furr | Director of Education
melanie@atlantaaudubon.org

Michelle Hamner | Director of Development
michelle@atlantaaudubon.org

Dottie Head | Director of Membership and Communications | *Wingbars* Editor
dottie@atlantaaudubon.org

Victor Fiorese | Administrative and Finance Manager
victor@atlantaaudubon.org

Beverly Fooks | Membership and Development Associate
beverly@atlantaaudubon.org

Open | Conservation Program Coordinator

Ryan Schultz | Education Program Coordinator
ryan@atlantaaudubon.org

Mim Eisenberg | *Wingbars* Proofreader
mim@wordcraftservices.com

COORDINATORS

Jason Ward | Field Trips Coordinator
jward@audubon.org

Melinda Langston | Wildlife Sanctuary Program Coordinator
sanctuary@atlantaaudubon.org

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

Over the past two weeks, I've been watching mama and papa chickadees tirelessly tending to their hatchlings in the nest box in our backyard. I was telling my coworker, Ryan, about this little family, and he pondered what the parents would do once the babies were out and on their own. In my head, I was recounting the days when I raced to get both a baby and a preschooler to bed so I could get to the other things I had to do, like laundry, preparing baby food, finishing work, and getting to bed myself. I said to Ryan, "I don't think they're getting a break. Life keeps going." Sure enough, the chickadees fledged today. I'm not sure there is anything cuter than a fledgling chickadee. The parents fussed about, noisily encouraging their young to follow along, forage, and take cover. Their squeaks and trills warbled between frustration and pride. Those chickadees will continue to grow their family, nourishing their young through the early survival stages to the thriving stages, and do it all over again.

It is so encouraging to see nature in action. It fuels the staff here at Atlanta Audubon. We are not unlike those chickadees—we work our tail feathers off! That's why I hope you will support us in this year's Annual Fund campaign. All of the staff at Atlanta Audubon are tirelessly working toward that vision of a conservation-minded and fully engaged Georgia where birds prosper, habitats flourish, and public understanding grows. We



Carolina Chickadee by Michele Black,
Audubon Photography Awards.

get closer and closer as we expose more people to the incredible world of birds and the joy of birding through our programs.

You will be receiving a letter from me about the 2019 Annual Fund. Your support in the past has helped us grow into a strong organization that has firmly embraced its mission of building places where both birds and people thrive. However, just like being a parent, we are not done with the care and feeding of Atlanta Audubon. Please help us survive and thrive so we can move closer to our vision. You can donate to the Annual Fund at www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate.

Atlanta Audubon Seeks a Part-time Conservation Program Coordinator

We're sad to announce that Lillie Kline, our previous Conservation Program Coordinator, has taken a full-time position with another organization. As the first person in that role, Lillie helped form and refine the position, and we are grateful for the excellent accomplishments she made. The Conservation Program Coordinator will manage and assist in the implementation of conservation programs under the direction of the Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. The main focus of this position will be habitat-related work, such as the Plants for Birds programs, Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program, and support of the habitat restoration projects. The position will entail program and volunteer coordination, some field work, and some event/special programs management. We're looking for a passionate individual with a good working knowledge of Georgia's birds and plants and solid communication and coordination skills. To learn more about this opportunity, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/job-opportunities. Applications will be accepted through June 16.

Protect Georgia's Birds with a Gift to the 2019 Annual Fund

Atlanta Audubon's largest source of funding is YOU! Our spring Annual Fund complements your yearly membership dues, and both are integral to our success. Birds need our help more than ever right now, and every gift makes a difference. Make your gift online at www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Community Science Opportunities Abound During Breeding Season

By Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation

Though spring migration has ended, there are still many exciting bird watching opportunities. Even though bird diversity in Atlanta takes a significant dip after the migrants continue north, June is the perfect time to really learn about local birds and to dive into the interesting world of breeding behavior. This month, many of our year-round residents will have fledglings around, while returning migrants are just beginning breeding activity. This time of year overflows with speckled eggs, chirping babies, nests of all shapes and sizes, and an auditory flood that will make the most nature-centric of us feel alive.

Many of our members have invested in nest boxes or martin gourds and for years have enjoyed the synchrony of the early summer and the new life that comes with it. Others have periodically observed a robin with a wet piece of grass heading toward a nest or maybe even had a pair of Carolina Wrens use an old bike helmet or watering can to raise a brood. While all of these avian encounters are exciting and illustrate why we feel so connected to nature through birds, there are ways we can add even more to these observations. Like eBird and the Christmas Bird Count, there are community science programs that focus on breeding behavior that educate the bird lover and inform the conservationist.

NestWatch is a Cornell Lab of Ornithology program that is accessible to bird enthusiasts of all levels. Via their website or app, users can learn how to safely monitor a pair of birds during the entirety of the nesting process while also providing data to researchers. NestWatch also provides you with information on how to find a nest that is not in a box, species specific details, how to attract a species to your space, and all the intricacies of the chick rearing process. Once you are familiar with the data entry process, this program will allow you to keep records of your nest box or tree cavity year after year and see how the birds in your yard are have fared over time. It truly

is a fun and easy way to connect with the birds of your patch while gaining a better understanding of bird behavior.

Requiring a bit more skill and limited in the number of participants, the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a jewel in the community science arena. Like the Christmas Bird Count, the BBS is a long-term dataset dating back to 1966. Famed ornithologist Chandler Robbins started the BBS in hopes of monitoring breeding populations of birds over large geographic areas, specifically in the post-pesticide era. Though the causes of bird declines today may be different or more diverse, the valuable data collected during the BBS can be used by researchers and managers to better understand population changes and determine appropriate responses.

So how does one conduct a BBS? BBS surveys take place during the peak of the breeding season, from late May through June in Georgia. Each survey is done along a predetermined route of 24.5 miles that was randomly chosen years ago to provide a sampling of the habitat of that region. The observer conducting the count stops along their route every half mile, totaling 50 stops, and completes a three-minute stationary point count. All birds seen or heard are recorded, as are the number of vehicles that pass by during the survey window. BBS routes start about 30 minutes before sunrise and take roughly five hours to complete. In Georgia, there are more than 90 BBS survey routes, and across the U.S. there are more than 4,100 total routes.

(Continued on Page 6)



American Robins in a nest,
by Dan Vickers.

ASK CHIPPY

By Cheryl Beshke, aka Chippy



Q: I have a female towhee that comes to my house every day and continually jumps at our window. I am concerned that she might hurt herself. There are no plants in the window or anything I can think of that might attract her. Any suggestions?

A: Thanks for contacting Atlanta Audubon. I don't think you need to worry too much about your Eastern Towhee (the picture you have attached is actually a male). He sees his reflection in the glass and thinks it is a threat to his territory. He likely has a nest in the vicinity and is aggressively defending it. This behavior is quite common, especially among Northern Cardinals, American Robins, and Northern Mockingbirds.

You can try to cover the window to block the reflection, but these birds are known to continue to search for the "rival bird" by moving to other windows that are reflective. Covering the reflective area as thoroughly as possible will probably give you the best results. You can try placing decals or paper shapes inside or outside the window. Soaping the window completely or in a tight pattern might also work. Some people suggest placing a non-reflective screen outside the window, two to three inches from the glass, or adding one-way transparent film or opaque plastic to the windows. Even putting an outdoor plant or flower basket to block the window may help. If you can endure it, the best course of action may be to just wait until the end of the breeding season, when this behavior should stop.

Hope this helps. Thanks for caring for the birds.

-Chippy



The perpetrator poised for the next attack.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

On Michelle Hamner

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 36th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

If your mattress is so lumpy with cash that you can't sleep at night, it might be time to see Michelle Hamner. Michelle, you see, is Atlanta Audubon's director of development and therefore is in charge of seeing that funds flow into the organization's coffers. When she started four years ago, the organization brought in about \$300,000 annually; contributions have swelled to nearly \$1 million now.

She was the spark plug behind the highly popular and revenue-generating Atlanta Bird Fest, which just concluded its fourth year. Where did the idea come from? When Michelle took her job, Nikki Belmonte, our executive director, handed her an old folder concerning a former Atlanta Audubon birdathon event and told her she might want to consider doing a similar fund-raiser. Michelle looked around and found that Golden Gate Audubon in the San Francisco Bay Area was holding a month-long birding festival, and Atlanta's event was initially modeled after that one. Bird Fest has been huge, Michelle says, in reaching membership goals and getting people engaged. This year a number of events sold out in just minutes, and most of the others filled up, too.

As for seeking outside help, Atlanta Audubon submits 25 to 35 grant proposals a year, with a contract grant writer doing about 10 of them, Nikki handling a few, and Michelle doing the rest. Her efforts are coordinated with such staff members as Adam Betuel, director of conservation, and Melanie Furr, director of education. She also works closely with Dottie Head, director of membership and communications.

Although it isn't part of her day job, Michelle took on the task of heading the Christmas Bird Count last season in Peachtree City, where she lives. The person who had done it for more than decade had moved away. The circle is bird rich but in the past was birder poor. The number of species spotted was in the high 80s or low 90s each year, but not enough birders participated that all the sectors got covered. However, the most recent count had about 20 participants, with lots of new faces, because "I was able to sucker some people in," Michelle says.



Michelle Hamner is the director of development for Atlanta Audubon. Selfie by Michelle Hamner.

Although Michelle was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., she has lived most of her life in metro Atlanta except for a time in Nashville and when she attended the University of Georgia. She earned a bachelor's degree and then a master's in public administration with an emphasis on nonprofit management. Her work stops include the EARTH University Foundation, which is based in Atlanta but supports the mission of the university in Costa Rica, Emory University, and the Southern Hope Humane Society. She was formerly on the board of the wildlife rescue organization AWARE, based in Lithonia, and is now on the board of Southern Conservation Trust, a land conservation and environmental education organization that has protected more than 32,000 acres across the Southeast through conservation easements and public nature areas.

Michelle and her husband, Kenny, are the parents of two boys: Owen, 7, and Reid, 6. Michelle says that Kenny, who works in digital marketing at Edelman in Atlanta, is more of a hiker than a birder and that she usually brings up the rear on family outings because she has stopped to look at birds.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to some bird walk leaders for April we didn't mention earlier: **Roseanne Guerra, Iris Schumacher, and Andrew Baxter** ... to our bird walk leaders for May: **Nathan Farnau, Jason Ward, Anne McCallum, Mike Weaver, Ellen Miller, and Bob Zaremba** ... to **Steve DuPont** for the University of North Georgia Earth Day event ... to **Kiana Leveritte** for the annual KITE festival ... to **Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, and Sandra Murray** for the Murphey Candler Earth Day event ... to **Warren Walter** for the Florence Marina State Park event ... to **Charlotte Main** for the Sawnee Mountain Earth Day event ... to **Lane Castagnacci and Claire Mills** for the Atlanta Girls School bird walk ... **Leslie Edwards, Melinda Langston, and Theresa Hartz** for certifying for the Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program...to Project Safe Atlanta Flight volunteers: **Kelly Bryan, Sean McGregor, Elaine DeSimone, Angie Kaliban, Maureen Carroll, Cheryl Hensley, Nancy Kennell, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Nancy Eilen, Jamie Vidich, Clarissa Hood, Tempel Dingman, Linda Keleher, Ken Boff, Vin Gleespin, Shawn Taylor, Ananda Woods, Phoebe Janflove, and Abigail Cliché**...to Fulton County Spring Bird Count participants: **Giff Beaton, Michelle Hamner, Richard Candler, John Patten Moss, Jason Ward, Nathan Farnau, Shannon Fair, William Pixler, Malcolm Hodges, Jamie Vidich, Vin Gleespen, Paul Campbell, Natalie Bailey, Chris Skelton, Henning von Schmeling, and Lillie Kline**...to **Jamie Vidich** for leading a bird walk at the Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill...to **Larry Stephens, Les Cane, Gwen Barnett, Mamie Kerr, Nannette Dooley, Max Brown, and Gina Charles** for their help with April Peel & Stick.....to **Leslie Edwards** for her outstanding presentation on Native Plants and Natural Communities from a Bird's-eye view at the April Monthly Meeting.....to **Nancy Hamilton, Les Cane, Sandra Murray, and Sally Davis** for helping with the Tree Talk sponsored by Atlanta Audubon.

Native Plants That Feed Your Bluebirds

By Ellen Honeycutt, Georgia Native Plant Society



Male Eastern Bluebird on a Nestbox.
Photo by Melanie Furr.

The Eastern Bluebird is a native, year-round bird in Georgia, and I know it's one that encourages a lot of us to learn more about the birds in our landscape. I am thrilled each spring to see a pair build a nest in one of my boxes. During the winter, I put out suet for them and a few mealworms, especially on very cold days, but during the spring and summer I let my plants provide for them.

Insectivores like the Eastern Bluebird eat insects primarily as adults and exclusively when still in the nest. A diet of insects includes flies, spiders, bees, beetles, wasps, and caterpillars.

A recent study of breeding Carolina Chickadees found that the adults provided as many as 9,500 insects to a nest of four chicks over a two-week period. I certainly never realized that I had 9,500 insects in my garden, but the birds manage to find that many for their babies as well as more for themselves.

Growing insects for your resident (and visiting) insectivores is not hard to do when you use native plants as the backbone of your garden. Native insects evolved with native plants, and they flourish when those are available, creating lots of offspring for the birds to eat. Entomologist Doug Tallamy helped us to appreciate the closeness of this relationship with his book *Bringing Nature Home*. The book included a list of the native plant groups that support the largest number of insect herbivores (those that eat plants as part of their life cycle), such as butterflies and moths.

Fortunately, the number one plant group is the mighty oak (the scientific genus *Quercus*). It supports more than 550 different species of insects. Most of us have oaks in our landscapes already, and these native giants are in parks and along roadsides, attracting female insects to lay eggs and feeding insectivorous birds in the process. We didn't even know, did we? The trees aren't defoliated by these insects because the birds keep the insect populations in check.

Oaks can't do it alone because many insects use something else, so let's see what else is on Dr. Tallamy's list. Number two is the family that includes native cherries and plums (the scientific genus *Prunus*). The black cherry

that dropped tiny fruits on the driveway supports more than 450 insects, so it's worth keeping. Additional trees and shrubs that support high numbers of insects are willow (*Salix*), birch (*Betula*), crabapple (*Malus*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), maple (*Acer*), elm (*Ulmus*), pine (*Pinus*), hickory (*Carya*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus*).

Perennial plants are hosts for insect herbivores, too. We all remember the relationship that monarch butterflies have with milkweed, right? At the top of the list for perennials is goldenrod (*Solidago*), a group of plants that has many well-behaved members that bring beauty to our fall gardens; it supports more than 115 types of insect herbivores. Other plants in the list include aster (*Symphyotrichum*), sunflower (*Helianthus*), Joe Pye weed and boneset (*Eupatorium*), violet (*Viola*), geranium (*Geranium*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), and iris (*Iris*).

Most of these plants also have beautiful flowers that bring in the other insects that birds eat,

such as bees, beetles, and butterflies as well as the predatory (and just as tasty to birds) arthropods like spiders. Using native plants in your garden brings a veritable smorgasbord of insect meals for your bluebirds, warblers, and many others. Spring is a great time to add native plants to your garden. Some of the best native plant sales happen in late March through April. Make your list of insect-growing plants now, and rest easy all summer long while your garden feeds the birds for you.



Ellen Honeycutt is a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society and an expert on Georgia's native plants.

Photo of the Month Winner

The June Photo of the Month Winner is Esther Little, of Roswell. This photo of a Pine Warbler was taken at 9:30 AM on March 14 following a rain shower. Esther was using a Nikon D3500 camera set at ISO 2500 and 1/500 with a 300 mm lens.

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.atlantaaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month.



Pine Warbler, by Esther Little.

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Contributed to an Amazing 4th Annual Bird Fest!

Atlanta Bird Fest Event Leaders Vinod Babu, Giff Beaton, John Becker, Nikki Belmonte, Adam Betuel, Eric Bowles, Zeb Brown, Danielle Bunch, Richard Candler, Joy Carter, Nema Etheridge, Shannon Fair, Nathan Farnau, Melanie Furr, Barbara Gray, Roseanne Guerra, Wes Hatch, Malcolm Hodges, Ellen Honeycutt, Carolyn Johnson, Gus Kaufman, Lillie Kline, Christy Knight, Bill Lotz, Anne McCallum, Jonah McDonald, Rob McDonough, Stephen Ramsden, Elaine Read, Iris Schumacher, Ralph Smith, Dan Vickers, Jamie Vidich, Jason Ward, and Matt Weyandt.

Atlanta Bird Fest Volunteer Ambassadors Nikki Belmonte, Ken Boff, Michele Buchanan, Joy Carter, Linda DiSantis, Beverly Fooks, Melanie Furr, BJ Glick, Michelle Hamner, Dottie Head, Marcia Jenkins, Jeff Kerlagon, Lillie Kline, Georgia LaMar, Margaret Lamb and family, Kiana Leveritte, Anne and Jim McCallum, Stephen Ramsden, and Margaret Stephen.

Event Partners Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Café Campesino, Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy,

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Clayton County Water Authority, Cubihatcha Outdoor Center, Eagle Eye Bookshop, Frank Hamilton School, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Lula Lake Land Trust, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Trees Atlanta, Serenbe, Smithgall Woods State Park, Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate, and Zoo Atlanta.

Atlanta Bird Fest Patron Supporters Jay and Janie Bogan, Donna Bryans-Gensler, Michele Buchanan, Kathleen Casses and John Little, Ann and Jim Curry, Patricia C. Davis and Curtis A. Johnson, Leslie Edwards and Jay Pakchar, Janice Edwards, Shannon Fair, Jack and Martha Fasse, Nancy Hamilton, Pam Helms, William and Elizabeth Higginbotham, Mary Kimberly and Gavin MacDonald, Ellen Macht, Susan Maclin, Jim and Sally Morgens, Susan Bell Morris, Steve and Robyn Newman, Katharine O'Hare, Tom Painter and Carla Roncoli, John and Andrea Pruitt, Katharine and Ronald Robey, Jonathan Spingarn, Larry Stephens, Teresa Stickels, Esther and Jim Stokes, and Tucker Butterfly Garden/Trees of Tucker.

Finally, thank you to each of our Atlanta Bird Fest sponsors for your generosity:



Interface®



Colonial Pipeline Company



Farm Burger

Intown ACE Hardware

Whole Foods Market Merchant Walk

Community Science Opportunities Abound During Breeding Season

(Continued from Page 3)

During the month of June, I become immersed in breeding biology and both of these community science programs. Before entering the office, I often check the bluebird boxes across the Blue Heron Nature Preserve or search for cup nests along the creek. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks have nested in the same clump of trees near the Emma Wetlands since I first moved to Atlanta, and it always give me warmth and excitement to see them try again. I input all of this data into NestWatch and enjoy comparing the current year to previous years. I am lucky enough to have two BBS routes, and they are one of my favorite things to do each year. One of my routes begins just north of Metter and allows me to enjoy the birds and dusty roads of the Coastal Plain habitat. Mississippi Kites, Common Ground-Doves, Loggerhead Shrikes, and the occasional Prothonotary Warbler bring me joy on that typically warm morning each year. A couple of weeks after completing this route, I sample the bird communities of Walker and Dade County in the extreme northwest corner of our state. Ridges and valleys as well as quaint family farms dot this route, as do the Ovenbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, Worm-eating Warblers, and Indigo Buntings. These two surveys remind me each year that we have such an amazing diversity in habitats and avian life here in Georgia.

So while the last Cape May and Canada Warblers are making their way north, I encourage you all to not just dream of the fall to come but rather devote yourself to learning more about those nesting chickadees and towhees. Try to find a nest or some newly-fledged babies. This isn't easy but it is a worthy challenge, and you will learn much along the way. When the House Wrens stake claim to your nest box, give them some study and report your findings. Monitor them safely and consciously. Be active with community science, visit parts of the city or state that maybe you haven't in the past, and enjoy the excitement and energy that flows from this summer season.



A nest full of Eastern Towhees,
by Stephen Wilks.

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, June 1, 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, June 12, 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

Sunday, June 16, 2019

Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)

9:00 AM

Leader: Warren Walter

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.314.6014

Cost: This program is free for Fernbank Museum members and Atlanta Audubon Society members.

Advance reservations are required at 404.929.6400.

GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Murphrey Candler Park

8:00 AM

Leader: Mary Kimberly

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279

GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476

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.

Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: www.atlantaaudubon.org/field-trips. As always, we encourage field trip participants to check the Atlanta Audubon Field Trips web page before any of these trips to check for updates, changes, typo corrections, etc., and for the most up-to-date information. Also, frequently trips are added after the newsletter deadline has passed.

LIVE and LEARN

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Georgia Geology Workshop with Dr. Bill Witherspoon

Sunday, August 18, 2019, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30342

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to offer this fascinating workshop with geologist and author Dr. Bill Witherspoon. Attendees will learn the geologic differences between Georgia's regions. A slideshow with animations reveals how the Blue Ridge and Piedmont were assembled from separate pieces scattered across an ancient ocean. In a hands-on activity, attendees will learn to recognize local rocks and minerals. The rest of the program will focus on the geology of favorite outdoor spots in the Atlanta area, from Kennesaw Mountain and the Chattahoochee Palisades to the "monadnock madness" of Stone, Arabia, and Panola Mountains. Weather permitting, we will go outside to examine the geology of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve.

Dr. Witherspoon has taught geology to K-12 students and their teachers for 17 years at DeKalb County Schools' Fernbank Science Center. He is co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, a full-color, 320-page guide that aims to engage the general reader with the earth science that lies behind Georgia's natural wonders and history. Since publication in 2013 as part of Mountain Press Publishing's popular series, more than 6,000 copies of the book have been sold. Dr. Witherspoon will have copies of his book available for sale at the workshop for \$24 plus tax. Credit or check, or \$25 cash.

For more information or to register, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/workshops

Price: \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members



Workshop participants will learn about the different geologic regions of Georgia, including the "monadnock madness" of Stone, Arabia, and Panola mountains. Photo by Dottie Head.

Early Birds Book Club

The Early Birds book for June is *A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration* by Kenn Kaufman. In this new book, Kaufman focuses on the migration through Magee Marsh on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie, Ohio. New technological advances in tracking birds and migration dangers, such as wind turbines, are also discussed. Early Birds will meet at 2:00 PM on June 23 at Manuel's Tavern.

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 Wilderness* 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 that they encounter along the way.





ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4055 Roswell Road ♦ Atlanta, GA 30342

678.973.2437

Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



Wingbars is printed on recycled paper.

www.AtlantaAudubon.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Atlanta, GA
Permit #917

June Monthly Meeting

Sunday, June 23, 2019 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM
Manuel's Tavern

In line with our mission to build places where birds and people thrive, Atlanta Audubon's Connecting Students to STEM through Birds program combines education and conservation to create bird-friendly outdoor classrooms, connect students with hands-on STEM learning, and spread the joy of birding in metro Atlanta Title I schools and their communities. Previously funded

by gifts from Wells Fargo Foundation and the Morgens West Foundation, this unique program provides schools with a native plant garden, binoculars, field guides, and other resources, as well as in-school training for teachers and educational programming for students. To top it off, partnering schools are certified as Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries. Join Melanie Furr, Atlanta Audubon's education director, and Daniel Ballard, owner of Convivial Gardens, LLC to learn how this unique program is inspiring diverse young audiences to become the conservationists of tomorrow. In addition, Daniel, whose work emphasizes organics, edibles, wildlife habitat, and natural playscapes, will share tips about how to choose the right plants and create your own oasis for the birds.



Daniel Ballard "digs in" at Usher Collier Elementary School. Photo by Dottie Head.



Melanie Furr helps a group of students with a plant at Usher Collier Elementary School. Photo by Dottie Head.

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.