

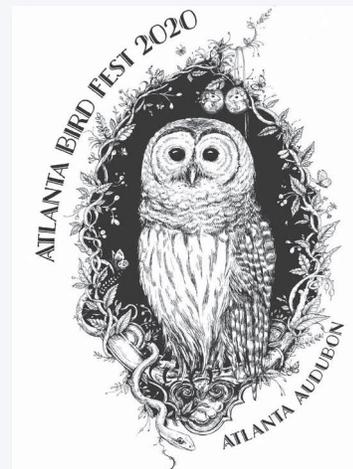


VOLUME XLVI, ISSUE 2, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest 2020 Opens to Members on March 3

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest 2020 will open on Tuesday, March 3, at 10:00 AM to Atlanta Audubon members and on Monday, March 9, to non-members. This year, between April 18 and May 17, Atlanta Bird Fest will offer nearly 40 different events, such as guided field trips to some of Georgia's best birding hotspots, educational workshops, and guest speakers. Joining us for Opening Weekend on April 18 and 19 is ornithologist and Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Scott Weidensaul. We'll wrap up with a Closing Celebration on May 17 at SweetWater Brewing with a keynote address from former social and civil justice journalist and creator of the Birding to Change the World program, Dr. Trish O'Kane. Your participation in Atlanta Bird Fest helps us raise critical funds to support Atlanta Audubon's mission to build places where birds and people thrive. Events offer something for everyone—from the beginner birder to more experienced bird nerd and to nature enthusiasts in general—all during Georgia's exciting spring migration period.

See the full schedule of events and register at www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest.



The Atlanta Bird Fest 2020 artwork features a Barred Owl designed by local artist Laura Bell.



Golden-crowned Kinglet, by Dan Vickers.

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Atlanta Bird Fest Events

Atlanta Bird Fest 2020 will feature more than 40 events ranging from field trips to speakers to workshops. Here is a sampling of what's in store:



Pollinators, Predators, and Pizza
Saturday, April 18



Warbler Weekend in the North Georgia
Mountains, May 2 and 3



Lilies at Flat Shoals Creek, with
Malcolm Hodges, Saturday, May 2



To the Bat Cave! Endangered Bats at
Fricks Cave Preserve
Saturday, May 9



Birds and Brunch at Serenbe
Saturday, May 9



Wine and Warblers in North Georgia
Saturday, May 16



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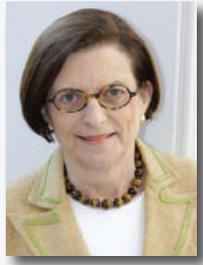
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Chirps from the Chair

By Esther Stokes, Board Chair

The shocking dual revelations from last fall that three billion birds have been lost in North America over the last 50 years and that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction due to climate change has put real numbers to the situation each of us has observed. In our own neighborhoods and across North America we are witnessing declining numbers of birds and loss of the habitats they need to thrive.

The news is both alarming and challenging. When dealt lemons, we must make lemonade! Instead of getting depressed, let's figure out positive things we can do to counter these trends. There are many ways Atlanta Audubon staff and volunteers are working to address conservation and climate change, but each of us individually and all of us collectively can redouble our efforts, expand our plans, develop new goals, refine our strategies, and do our best to help out.

Here are some things I think we can each do to help the birds and therefore the planet:

1. Support nonprofits that are engaged in advancing these issues, including Atlanta Audubon, with our volunteer time and our money. By working collectively, we can have our best chance to bring about substantial change.
2. Speak with our elected officials, asking them to be leaders on the front lines of conservation and climate if they aren't already. E-mail them, call them, write them... particularly when there are specific pieces of legislation that are coming up for a vote. They hear every day from lobbyists for private interests, but they don't necessarily hear from regular constituents who want to see the world made better for birds and people.
3. Educate ourselves and our friends and colleagues that quality greenspaces that are free of invasive plants and full of native plants that provide food and shelter are not only good for birds but are the places that people enjoy. In order to make progress, we must grow our wildlife sanctuary acreage, and we must work diligently to eradicate invasive exotics. Most people don't know these things; we must share the news.

4. Introduce people to the wonders of the natural world. Lives are transformed every day when individuals take a walk in a park, hike to observe wildlife, or pick up binoculars and discover a whole world they did not previously know. Share birds with friends, family, colleagues, folks we don't know, urban kids, and rural kids. Be intentional about this, providing opportunities to people who have never seen a park as a window to nature instead of just a place to play ball. The more people appreciate the natural world, the more they will join in our efforts. As our new Executive Director, Jared Teutsch, says, "All of us are birdwatchers; some of us just don't know it yet!"

Amazing turnarounds for nature have been accomplished through the years through hard work—Bald Eagle numbers are booming, Whooping Cranes are coming back from the brink of extinction, bird-safe windows are beginning to make a difference for migrating birds. Science has educated us, and people have worked for change. The same is true today; we can make a difference! So let's go for it; realistically, do we have a choice if we are passionate about our natural world?



Audubon

Two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction from climate change

Action Alert: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Is Under Attack

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is facing its most serious attack yet. Under direction from the White House, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doubling down on its efforts to undermine our most important bird protection law. The new proposal gives industries a free pass for bird deaths by exempting "incidental" bird deaths from enforcement. The proposed rule removes incentives for companies to adopt practices that protect birds from threats such as oil waste pits, and it eliminates MBTA penalties for companies that kill substantial numbers of birds, including from large oil spills such as Deepwater Horizon.

When the Deepwater Horizon oil spill killed more than one million birds in 2010, BP paid \$100 million in fines that went back to conservation—thanks to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. But now, this imperative law is now facing its most serious attack yet. The administration's proposed rule would give industries a free pass for bird deaths.

Learn more about this proposal and make your voice heard at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/>



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act has provided protection for birds like this Snowy Egret since 1918. Photo by Trudy Walden, Audubon Photography Awards.

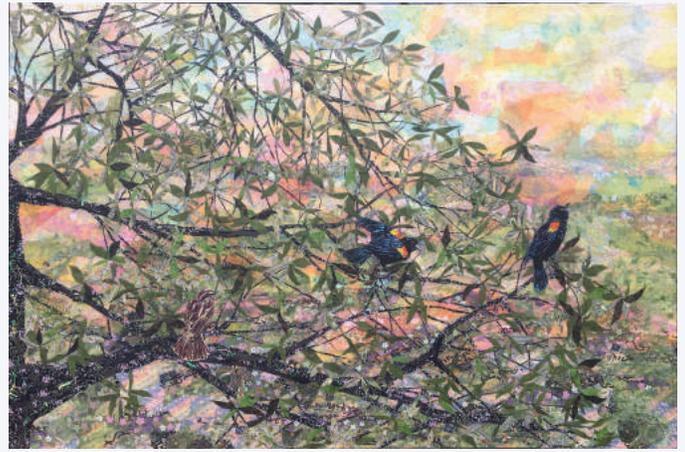
Call for Youth Art: Three Billion Art Exhibit to Open this Spring

In May 2020 the Hudgens Center for Art and Learning in Gwinnett County will feature an art show entitled *Three Billion*—representing the three billion North American birds that have been lost in the past 50 years, according to a recently released study in the journal *Science*. The causes for the loss of these birds, many of them familiar backyard birds, include habitat loss, overuse of pesticides, building strikes, and free-roaming domestic cats. *Three Billion* is a group show curated by Brickworks Gallery owner and artist, Laura W. Adams. The show will feature a small group of artists whose work either features the plight of birds or whose work celebrates nature, birds, and their habitats. All of the artists chosen have shown a long and strong commitment to protecting wild birds and their habitats.

In addition to the fine art programming of the show, a collaborative Children's Art Exhibit entitled #BringBirdsBack will be featured, where children of all ages can participate in creating a large collage. Youth aged 18 and under are invited to submit a piece of artwork for inclusion in the Children's Exhibit. Children's artwork must address the #BringBirdsBack call to action through depiction of one or more of the seven solutions to protecting birds laid out in the *Science* study. Complete information, including instructions on where to submit artwork, can be found at www.atlantaudubon.org/three-billion.

Three Billion Art Exhibit Public Opening | Saturday, May 9, 2020 | 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Hudgens Center for Art and Learning | 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Building 300 | Duluth, GA 30097 | The full exhibit will run from May 1 to August 20, 2020.



This paper collage on canvas, titled "Red Winged Blackbirds, Flock Series #1," by Laura Adams, will be on display during the exhibit along with work from other artists.

Order Your Atlanta Bird Fest 2020 T-shirts Today



The 2020 Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirts are on sale now. Featuring a design created by local artist Laura Bell, the shirts feature a Barred Owl, a species that may be found throughout Georgia. This year we are excited to partner with Recover Apparel to offer T-shirts that feature 100% recycled materials: 50% recycled PET from plastic bottles and 50% upcycled cotton, with each shirt taking eight plastic bottles out of the waste stream.

Style Info: • Unisex: Buffy Brown and Sweet Blue • Ladies: Sweet Blue

Unisex sizes are available in sizes small through 2XL, and ladies' cut shirts are available in sizes small through XL.

Please note that the ladies' style offer a more fitted cut, with a V-neck and capped sleeves. The unisex shirts are a more traditional cut, with high neck and regular sleeves.

Shirts are \$20 plus tax (and optional shipping) and may be ordered on our website at <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/shop-in-our-online-store.html>. Quantities are limited, so order soon.

ASK CHIPPY

Q: I am a part of a group of friends in the Atlanta area that gets together monthly to do a rather crazy assortment of projects. I was hoping to build birdhouses in the spring, but we don't want to build just pretty yard art. We want to support the birds that need us. We mostly all live in the suburbs around the city, not in the urban center. I am looking for advice about what species to build for. Do you have any insights? When should we aim to put them out?

A: We applaud your efforts and appreciate your thoughtfulness in wanting to help the birds that need it most. Brown-headed Nuthatches would be a great target species for your project. They're found throughout the state and have a tell-tale squeaky toy call. They eat pine seeds in the winter, but you'll find them around pine trees year-round. They actually use tools too! Sometimes Brown-headed Nuthatches will use a small piece of bark to pry away other bark flakes while foraging for insects. These tiny, charismatic birds are endemic to the southeastern United States but are declining due to habitat loss and will lose their preferred breeding habitat due to climate change. Installing nestboxes with a 1"-diameter opening is a great way to provide habitat. Brown-headed Nuthatches start nesting as early as February, so the earlier the better. Check out our website for more information and for nestbox plans.

<https://www.atlantaudubon.org/nest-boxes-for-nuthatches.html>



Brown-headed Nuthatch, by Dan Vickers.

—Chippy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

On Linda DiSantis

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 43rd in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers, board members and staff.)

Linda DiSantis was lacing up her running shoes, ready to leave the Atlanta Audubon board and take a victory lap when the powers-that-be told her not so fast—please, please, please stay through the end of this year. Nevertheless, it seems an appropriate time to note the heights the organization has achieved under her leadership as president/chair and then as a guiding force on the board.

Linda joined the board when Joy Carter was president and likes to point to a strategic planning decision made in 2015 that had a significant impact on where the organization was headed. The question was: Do we remain primarily a birding club or do we make a transition to becoming a conservation organization?

At the time there were only three staff members—an executive director, an education coordinator, and a membership coordinator—and only the ED was full time. Much of the work was done by volunteers, with the bulk of that by board members. The board decided to stick its neck out and send Atlanta Audubon on a conservation route. To do this, it knew it would need both a development director and a conservation director, for it would make little sense to have one without the other. Thus, Michelle Hamner and Adam Betuel were hired to fill the roles that they still hold. The organization has thrived once these steps were taken, with huge increases in membership and income. There's still plenty of room for volunteers, of course, but now much of the day-to-day work is done by the staff, and the board has a governing role.

Linda also worked to diversify the makeup of the board. "As organizations grow, they must recruit board members who have the skills the organization needs. That of course includes good birders but also people with skills such as finance, fundraising, strategy, and leadership experience. In addition, we are looking to diversify the board with people from

different backgrounds and ethnicity to help broaden perspectives and help the organization serve a broader community," she says.

Linda, who has lived in Atlanta since 1977, headed the organization in 2016-17 and oversaw a change in name for her office from "president" to "chair." Not coincidentally, she's a lawyer, with one of her specialties being governance. "Governance is something I really like," she says, explaining that when an organization has a board, the head of it should be the chair. Lately she's been advising the Georgia Native Plant Society, which is exploring whether it would like to make a transition similar

to that of Atlanta Audubon.

Linda has numerous accomplishments as a lawyer, among them being Atlanta city attorney under Mayor Shirley Franklin. She's also been affiliated with United Parcel Service, CARE, and Alston & Bird. Nowadays she has a small law firm in partnership with her son, Jeff DiSantis. But before Linda

became a lawyer, she was a nurse, having worked in Chicago, her hometown, and in Cleveland. Her undergraduate degree is from Georgia State University, as is her law degree.

She and her husband, Bob Kerr, live in Druid Hills. Bob, now retired, had a career in conservation. Among his many roles was as Georgia's state water wars coordinator in its tussles with Alabama and Florida. Linda has two children, Jeff, who has a son, Dennis; and daughter Denise Wingate, who has two sons, Quint and Gabe. All live in Atlanta.

Although Linda was long interested in birds, she says she didn't get serious about it until after she took the Master Birder class in 2012. "I wish I had started a whole lot sooner," she says. Her overseas birding adventures have taken her to Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Ecuador, and Norway. She and Bob spent most of January in Africa.



L to R: Phillip Nelson, Kay Grinnell, Linda DiSantis, Bob Kerr pause for a photo opp on the 2018 Atlanta Audubon trip to Guatemala.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for February: **Jason Ward, Jay Davis, Charlie Muise, Anne McCallum, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, and Jonah McDonald** ... to **Laura Waddick** for assembling the Atlanta Bird Fest postcard mailing ... to **Laura Adams** and **Andrew Feiler** for hosting the Audubon Photography Exhibit at Brickworks Gallery ... to **Danielle Bunch** and **Steve and Robyn Newman** for the sunset blackbirds tour of the Clayton County Water Authority's treatment wetlands ... to Climate Watch volunteers for winter 2020: **Michelle Hamner, Wayne Powell, Melanie Furr, Nikki Belmonte, Jay Davis, Steve Dupont, Sandy Murray, Toni Bowen, Vicki Williams, Victor Williams, Abby Back, Mary Nevil, Robyn Newman, Steve Newman, Amanda Woomer, Jim McMullian, Valerie McMullian, Max Brown, Lisbet Phillips, Peter Followill, Roseanne Guerra, Mark Pellergi, Dottie Head, Mary Ann Teal, Patrick Brisse, Julie Jacobson, and Brian Campbell** ... to restoration site bird survey volunteers **Jim McMullian** and **Valerie McMullian** ... to **Gina Charles, Larry Stephens, Stella Wissner, Les Cane, Phyllis Hawkins, Anita Chilcutt, Nannette Dooley, and Jennifer Ruscilli** for their help with February Peel & Stick ... to **Emily Farrell** for her presentation on Georgia bats to the January Monthly Meeting.

Travel with Atlanta Audubon to Oaxaca: Mexico's Birding Capital March 20 to 28, 2021

By Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation

Mexico is a country of diversity and abundance, from its landscapes, to wildlife, to culture, and food. When most people think of Mexico as a vacation destination, they envision pristine beaches, plates of tacos, cultural landmarks, and mountains. Mexico has it all, which is why an estimated 44 million travelers visited the country in 2019. For the bird lover, the biggest draw to Mexico may be the 1,100+ species that can be found within its borders. While endemic birds like the Blue Mockingbird and tropical eye candy like the Yucatan Jay make up a sizeable portion of those 1,100 species, Mexico is also a vital location to most of "our" migrant birds. Indigo



*White-throated Magpie,
by Shannon Fair.*

Buntings, Yellow Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles are a few of the species that overwinter in Mexico. Broad-winged Hawks and Mississippi Kites migrate through Mexico in the millions. Upland Sandpipers and Bay-breasted Warblers are just a few of the species that rely on Mexico for a migratory stopover.

When attempting to plan a trip to Mexico that best combined all of the diversity and richness outlined above, a single place came to mind. Oaxaca is the name of both a state as well as its capital city

and a place that most people do not know how to pronounce ("wa-HA-ka"). The city's historic colonial center and the nearby Monte Alban ruins constitute a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as they illustrate the rich history of the Olmecs, Zapotecs, Mixtecs, and Spanish in the region. Mole and mezcal are a few of the reasons this area is known for its food and beverages. Pine-Oak covered mountains, dry lowland forests, and an extensive coastline allow for Oaxaca state to impress with its ecosystem diversity. A unique regional flavor permeates Oaxaca and extends into its avifauna.

Oaxaca is the most bird-rich state in Mexico, with a species list hovering around 800. Of those 800, around 100 species are endemic to the region, a couple dozen are endemic to Mexico, and there are even a few birds endemic to just the state. Its location at the intersection of multiple major habitats, as well as its altitudinal gradient, provide an incredible diversity of birds within a relatively short distance. While it may seem incredibly distant from the parks of Atlanta and the north Georgia mountains, Oaxaca is a vital region for many of our migrants. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are a common winter resident. Least



*Rufous-capped Warbler, by
Yve Morrell.*

Flycatchers and other tricky Empidonax hunt for insects near Great Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds. Habitat protection and eco-friendly agriculture like shade-grown coffee across Oaxaca is not only important for the trogons and solitaires that spend the year in the region but also our fearless travelers from up north.

Over the past three years, Atlanta Audubon has offered a series of international birdwatching trips that connect our members and our programs with destinations important to Georgia's birds. On these tours, we have birded with amazing guides in fascinating places, we have had wonderful food, and we have shared local libations with new-found friends. And, of course, we have seen breathtaking birds. On the previous trips, we have detected roughly 800 species. As outlined above, Oaxaca Mexico is a perfect place to carry on these traditions, and I am excited to share with you the details of our 2021 international birding tour.

Our Oaxaca trip will take place in early 2021, from March 20 through March 28. I will be teaming up with Eric Antonio Martinez (of Mexico-Birding Tours) to co-lead a group of 10 birders through the state. Eric is a native Oaxacan who has been birdwatching and guiding for nearly 20 years. The first part of our trip will be spent exploring sites located in the Valley of Oaxaca. During these three days we will visit elevations ranging from 5,000 to 9,000 feet, spend time in small towns like Teotitlan del Valle (famous for its textiles and birds), and visit multiple habitats ranging from humid pine forests to more arid scrub lands. Collared Towhee, Red Warbler, and Dwarf Jay will be just a few of our top avian targets.

Midway through our trip we will visit the ruins of Monte Alban. This large pre-Columbian architectural site was the capital of the Zapotec civilization from 500 BC until 800 AD. Monte Alban will provide a great cultural visit, with some birding. Then we will transfer to the town of Hualtuco, the newest coastal city within the state that is known as a green destination. Here we will experience warmer temperatures as we explore tropical deciduous forests, head up the slopes nearby to visit a shade-grown coffee farm, and also take a boat trip five miles offshore to look for seabirds like Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Black Storm Petrel, and Galapagos Shearwater.

Our Oaxaca birding adventure will take us to one of the richest regions in Mexico, no matter what metrics you use. We will study local culture and eat tasty bites. We will learn about and visit the habitats that our migratory birds rely upon. Additionally, we will spend time in lush montane forests and tropical jungles as we spot between 200 and 300 species of birds.

Registration for this trip opens on March 1, and the group is capped at 10 participants. You can learn more details at <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/oaxaca-mexico-2021.html>. I hope you will join me on this adventure!



Pacific Screech Owl, by Yve Morrell.

Atlanta Audubon Welcomes Two Interns

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to welcome two new interns who will be working with us in the coming months.

Zaria Dyer joins Atlanta Audubon as our newest Greening Youth Foundation Intern. She is a senior at Agnes Scott College, where she is pursuing a B.S. degree with a major in biology and a minor in environmental sustainability. Zaria will be with Atlanta Audubon for a full year, thanks to an Audubon in Action Grant from National Audubon. Zaria will be working with the Conservation Program to further the work of the One Million Plants for Birds initiative, while also focusing on equity, diversity, and inclusion in conservation. Zaria is from Atlanta, Georgia, and spends her summers in the Caribbean, which influenced her to pursue a career in conservation and restoration biology. Zaria serves her community through service and volunteering as the president of Scotties for Change and working as a lab tech in the biology department. If you would like to know more about Zaria's Agnes Scott experience, visit her site at <http://zariadyer.agnesscott.org/>. Her favorite bird is the Northern Cardinal because they are both feisty and absolutely gorgeous.



Zaria Dyer joins Atlanta Audubon for a year-long internship through an Audubon in Action Grant

Alaina Bandanza joins Atlanta Audubon for a semester-long internship with Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Program to help certify a portion of the Agnes Scott Campus as an Wildlife Sanctuary. Alaina is also pursuing a B.S. degree with a major in biology and a minor in environmental sustainability at Agnes Scott College. A native of New Hampshire, Alaina is involved on campus as a peer advisor to the freshman class. She also works as a biology tutor in the Resource Center for Math and Science and as a volunteer in the Center for Sustainability. She is currently serving as president of the Bee Society to raise awareness on campus about the importance of pollinator conservation. Her favorite bird is the Mourning Dove because she likes that they are both goofy and skittish.



Alaina Bandanza joins Atlanta Audubon as an intern helping certify the Agnes Scott College campus as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Athos Menaboni: Framing His Journey

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Birth of a Georgia Artist

One of Georgia's most prominent artists, Athos Menaboni (1895-1990) is celebrated for his masterful renderings of birds. The exhibition will focus on these as well as his early works and art produced for corporate and private commissions, especially the often-praised Christmas card series produced for Robert W. Woodruff.

The lenders include individual collectors as well as the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Capital City Club, The Coca-Cola Company, Emory's Saint Joseph's Hospital, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Heritage Sandy Springs Museum and Park, Georgia Southern University, Kennesaw State University, and the Troup County Archives.

April 5 to June 21, 2020

- Opening Reception – April 4, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
- The museum is open daily except Mondays.
- There is an entrance fee.

Marietta Cobb Museum of Art
30 Atlanta Street SE
Marietta, Georgia 30060
www.mariettaartmuseum.org



Early Birds Book Club

The Early Birds Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 PM, before the Atlanta Audubon Monthly Meeting at Manuel's Tavern. In honor of Scott Weidensaul's, our Atlanta Bird Fest keynote kickoff speaker, love of owls, our March meeting will be an Owl Fest. Scott is the author of the *2015 Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*. Please read a book about owls—fiction, nonfiction, memoir, children's—and come ready to share with the group.

The Early Birds welcome all who enjoy reading about birds, birding, and birders. We are a "no commitment" book club—some folks come every time and others occasionally. For a list of past books and more details on those coming up, you can find us on the Atlanta Audubon website at www.atlanta-audubon.org/early-birds-book-club.

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, March 1, 2020

Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County)

8:30 AM

Leader: Jay Davis

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.644.6798

GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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, March 20, 2020

Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Mary Kimberly

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279

GPS: 33.909449, -84.325794

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Mason Mill Park (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, and Ranger Jonah McDonald.

Cell contacts morning of the walk: 404.483.7457

(Gus); 843.605.2959 (Jamie); 404-491-3670

(Ranger Jonah)

GPS: 33.807703, -84.307156

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 Lillie Kline, field trip coordinator, at lillie@atlantaudubon.org.

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.

Spring Plant Sales Are Coming Soon!

Spring is just around the corner, and Atlanta Audubon is gearing up for several native plant sales this spring. On Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, we will be collaborating with Blue Heron Nature Preserve and Beech Hollow Wildflower Farms for a native plant sale at our offices at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. There are several other native plant sales in the works for this spring, so keep your eyes out for more information in *Bird Buzz* and via e-mail.

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 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, reduce prey availability, and can run off into streams. Finally, native plants and the wildlife they sustain provide color and beauty, right in your own back yard. We hope to see you at a plant sale this spring.



Join Atlanta Audubon for our Spring Native Plant Sales. Bee balm photo by Dottie Head.

Now Hiring:

Atlanta Audubon Seeking Applicants for Education Coordinator

Atlanta Audubon is hiring a full-time Education Program Coordinator to join our team and assist with organizing and implementing community programs and workshops. This person will assist the Director of Education with a variety of youth and adult educational opportunities in line with the mission and vision of Atlanta Audubon. The application deadline is March 8, 2020. To learn more or to apply, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/job-opportunities.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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678.973.2437

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March Monthly Meeting

The Coyote Project, with Chris Mowry

Sunday, March 22, 3:30 to 5:30 PM • Manuel's Tavern

At the March Monthly Meeting, we'll be treated to a presentation from Chris Mowry on the Atlanta Coyote Project and their current collaboration with the Urban Wildlife Information Network, based out of Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. The project is studying the overall biodiversity (including coyotes) in Atlanta while also making geographic comparisons with other cities. Why study urban wildlife, including coyotes? Wildlife can be surprisingly abundant and diverse even in the densest of cities, including Atlanta. Studying urban animal communities helps us understand stressors on wildlife populations, species interactions, and sources of human-wildlife conflict in order to preserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, reduce property damage, foster safe neighborhoods, and encourage positive associations with wildlife.

Chris Mowry is an associate professor of biology at Berry College, in Rome, Georgia, a position he has held since 1994. Chris teaches courses in introductory biology, ecology, and conservation biology, and has an active research program centered on animal ecology. His research focuses on urban coyote populations in the metro Atlanta area through the Atlanta

Coyote Project, which he founded in 2014 with Dr. Larry Wilson (Fernbank Science Center, Emory University). Chris also studies the feeding ecology and conservation of non-human primates, particularly lemurs and African monkeys, as well as chytrid fungus in amphibians. Students are involved in all aspects of his research. He holds a B.A. in biology from Wake Forest University and an M.S. and Ph.D in ecology from Emory University.



Coyotes are part of Atlanta's urban landscape. Photo by Chris Mowry.

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.