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Atlanta Ranks High in Threats to Birds from Window Collisions

By Dottie Head, Director of Membership and Communication.

Atlanta ranks high in the threats to birds from window collisions, according to a recently released study by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During fall migration, Atlanta ranks number four. In the spring, Atlanta ranks number nine for the potential for collision-related deaths. Atlanta Audubon is studying bird-building collisions and taking steps to reduce bird fatalities through its Project Safe Flight Atlanta and Lights Out Atlanta programs.

The Cornell study ranked metropolitan areas where, due to a combination of light pollution and geography, birds are at the greatest risk of becoming attracted to and disoriented by lights and crashing into buildings. The research was published in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. It combines satellite data showing light pollution levels with weather radar measuring bird migration density.

Chicago, Houston, and Dallas ranked one through three during both fall and spring migration. Because many birds alter their migration routes between spring and fall, rankings of the most-dangerous cities change slightly with the season, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During spring migration billions of birds pass through the central U.S.; therefore cities in the middle of the country comprise the most-dangerous list for that season. Fall bird migration tends to be more intense along the heavily-light-polluted Atlantic seaboard, which is why four eastern cities make the list in autumn.

Each year, an estimated 365 million to one billion birds die in the U.S. after colliding with buildings. In Atlanta, Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers patrol selected routes during peak bird migration periods collecting birds that have died or been injured after colliding with buildings. Since the program began in 2015, volunteers have collected more than 1,200 birds of 100 different species.

In an effort to reduce the number of bird-building collisions, Atlanta Audubon launched the Lights Out Atlanta Program in spring 2017. A voluntary program, Lights Out Atlanta encourages building owners and residential homeowners to turn off or reduce lighting from midnight to dawn during peak bird migration periods. Participants pledge to reduce non-essential lighting during peak migration periods of March 15 to May 31 (spring) and August 15 to November 15 (fall). The pledge is available on the Atlanta Audubon website at www.atlantaaudubon.org/loa. Since Lights Out Atlanta launched in spring 2017, nearly 300 homeowners and 16 commercial properties have pledged to turn the lights out to help birds.

"We were saddened, but not terribly surprised when we received a call from Cornell letting us know about this study and sharing that Atlanta ranks high in the number of bird-building collisions," says Adam Betuel, director of conservation for Atlanta Audubon. "The Atlantic flyway is a major migration path for many birds, and millions of birds pass through Atlanta each spring and fall on their way to and from wintering grounds in South and Central America. We hope to use this data to help us enact meaningful programs, like our Lights Out Atlanta Program, to reduce the number of collisions and educate the public about ways they can help. Cornell estimates that a quarter-million birds die from collisions with houses and residences each year, so homeowners in the metro area can play an important role through simple steps, like turning out the nighttime lights during spring and fall migration."

For more information on Project Safe Flight Atlanta and Lights Out Atlanta, please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight-atlanta or www.atlantaaudubon.org/loa.



Since 2016, Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers have collected more than 1,200 birds of 100 different species. Photo by Adam Betuel.



Prothonotary Warbler, by Michelle Hamner

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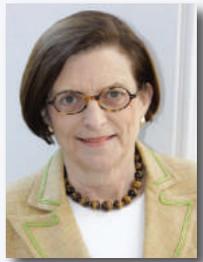
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Chattahoochee RiverLands Study: A Vision for the Future of Our Urban River

By Esther Stokes, Board Chair

Can you name another major city that has a largely undisturbed river running through or along it? Most cities have development all along their rivers, and there is often little natural habitat remaining. But in Atlanta's case, we have a remarkable treasure at our doorstep in the form of the Chattahoochee River. Yet much of it is inaccessible.

A remarkable \$1.5 million study (that's a *big* study) is under way right now that will ultimately develop a vision and master plan for the public realm along 100 miles of the Chattahoochee River, from Buford Dam in the north to Chattahoochee Bend State Park at the southern end. Led by the Georgia office of the Trust for Public Land, funded by the Atlanta Regional Commission, the City of Atlanta and Cobb County, this Chattahoochee River Greenway (now officially known as Chattahoochee RiverLands) Study began last fall and will take 18 months to complete.

If you attended the March Atlanta Audubon monthly meeting, you heard Walt Ray, from the Trust for Public Land, and Byron Rushing, from the Atlanta Regional Commission, make a presentation about this study. We are just in the early stages, however, and there is much to come. What Walt says is this: "We want people to stay focused on the big concept: a seamless public realm along the Chattahoochee River."

SCAPE, a national landscape architecture and urban design studio, is the firm chosen to lead the study, along with other national and local entities, including Bio-habitats, Gresham Smith, New South Associates, Edwards-Pittman, Good Thinking Atlanta, and local leaders Dr. Na'taki Osborne Jelks and Dr. Richard Milligan.

Atlanta Audubon is participating in this planning process as part of the Chattahoochee Working Group, which is comprised of stakeholders representing city and county governments, civic leaders, and area nonprofits. The group meets monthly. Atlanta Audubon is also participating in the three sub-area groups (north, middle, and south). Because of this participation, we will have a

number of opportunities to influence the process, and we want to make our views known.

The study so far has drilled down to learn what is known about the 100-mile area—its history, its significant sites, its ecological resources, the health of the river, and its demographics now and in the future. The study is taking note of racial disparities along the river, with many communities lacking access to the river.

Think of the many important things to consider in this study. If we want to have more access to the river and want to connect trails, roads, and utility corridors, how do we balance providing more access to the river while conserving this amazing treasure?

What does Atlanta Audubon hope for out of the study? Many positive things for birds and habitat! We want to speak up for quality habitat along the river. We want to see our remarkable tree canopy along the river retained and conserved, and we want our resident and migrant birds and other wildlife to be able to continue to use the corridor safely. We want to see excellent water quality in the river and its tributaries. We want to ensure that all our citizens have equal access to the river and that diverse voices are included in determining its future. I'm sure this list could be quite lengthy!

We need to perceive the importance of this study and resulting master plan for our part of Georgia. The study can have a significant impact on all of us. If you want to learn more about the project as it goes along, see www.chattahoocheeriverlands.com, currently under construction as I write this. Atlanta Audubon will be following the study closely and will contribute our unique perspective related to birds and habitat as it goes along. Stay tuned.



The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study will develop a vision and master plan for the Chattahoochee River, from Buford Dam to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. Photo by Mary Kimberly.

Spring Migration Is Upon Us!

By Jason Ward, Fund II Apprentice, National Audubon Society

Spring migration is upon us, and it is like Christmastime for birders. Countless neotropical jewels are making their way over our city each night as they fly north to their breeding grounds. As the sun rises, warblers, vireos, tanagers, and more will stop and feed, mainly on insects, as they refuel for the next leg of their journey. If you are in the right place at the right time, you'll be granted front row seats to this spectacle. Finding the "right place" can take some pre-planning. It's an inexact science, but with the right tips, you'll find yourself in migratory heaven. I'm going to share some of my personal favorite Fulton County birding destinations with you in this article.

Piedmont Park

I'll start with Piedmont Park, I mean, come on, did you expect me to start elsewhere? Sure, I may be biased, since I lead monthly bird walks there, but Piedmont Park is really an amazing place for birds. Despite being in midtown Atlanta, almost 200 species have been recorded there. Every eastern

warbler you can imagine can be found within the park's 180 acres. There are also a variety of habitat in the park, from Six Springs wetlands, to Lake Clara Meer, and there's even a large flat meadow that attracts Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe after a rain shower. It also scores points for its easy-to-navigate terrain and parking accommodations.



Scarlet Tanager, by Linda Steele, Audubon Photography Awards.

PROS: Smooth terrain, kid-friendly, large parking deck.

CONS: Noisy, noisy, and noisy.

MOST NOTABLE MIGRANT: Blue-winged / Golden-winged Warbler hybrid (spring 2014)

East Palisades Unit of CRNRA

Staying inside the perimeter, we have the East Palisades Unit of the Chattahoochee River Nature Recreation Area. Terrain here can be a bit trickier, as you begin at a pretty high elevation and descend down a trail that's roughly three-quarters of a mile long on the way down to the river. Birders here are usually greeted by singing vireos the moment they step out of their cars. Upon hiking down the trail, some of the more numerous migrants can be Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. It is the closest thing to a Kennesaw Mountain-like experience in Fulton County, since many of the birds here are near eye level, due to the elevation of the trail.

PROS: Amazing views, quiet trails.

CONS: The hike back up to the trailhead can be exhausting.

MOST NOTABLE MIGRANT: Swainson's Warbler (spring 2018)

Rogers Bridge Trail

Moving to the northern end of Fulton County, we have one of my personal favorites—Rogers Bridge Trail in Johns Creek. I discovered this area thanks to fellow birder Nathan Farnau, after seeing his many reports on eBird of some really cool species. This trail has a small parking lot, capable of fitting maybe five vehicles, which can be a gift and a curse. The lack of parking spots guarantees that you'll have a nice, peaceful hike as you look and listen

(Continued on Page 4)

ASK CHIPPY



Q: Are there any safe weed killers that won't harm birds or bees?

A: Thank you for your concern for the birds and understanding that weed killers can have an effect on wildlife. When property owners apply to Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program, we recommend that they minimize or eliminate the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides. Because herbicides are developed to target biological processes harmful to plants, they are not acutely toxic to animals. However, they can have more indirect effects, such as contaminating groundwater and surface water and affecting soil properties, chemistry, and microbial populations.

A common ingredient in many weed killers is glyphosate, which has been in the news recently because of lawsuits alleging links to cancer in humans. Evidence is growing that glyphosate may impact the metabolism, growth, and reproduction of aquatic creatures and could be altering the essential gut bacteria of animals such as bees.

How, then, can you control weeds in your lawn? One solution is to apply a corn gluten product each spring to control weeds. Home Depot sells a product under the brand name of Green It, a product they describe as "a new ready-to-spray corn based pre-emergent derived from locally grown corn and manufactured in North America. It works by releasing organic dipeptides (proteins) into the soil to prevent weed seeds from establishing." For weeds that have already sprouted, the best method of elimination is pulling by hand. You can make a home remedy for eliminating small outbreaks of weeds in your lawn, however, with items you probably have in your pantry. A combination of vinegar, salt, and liquid dish soap sprayed directly on weeds may do the trick. According to an article on the HGTV website, "acetic acid in the vinegar and the salt are both very good at drawing moisture from weeds. Dish soap acts as a surfactant, which is an agent that will reduce the surface tension that can cause the weed-killing concoction to bead on the leaves instead of being absorbed by the plant. On a warm, sunny day, the results of this homemade spray will be obvious in a matter of hours as weeds turn brown and wither." It's important to note that this is not a systemic weed killer—it will not travel to the root system of the plant. Multiple applications of your homemade weed killer may be necessary for stubborn weeds. It is also not selective—it can kill anything it comes in contact with.

Natural Weed Killer (from HGTV)

1 gallon white vinegar 1 cup salt 1 Tablespoon liquid dish soap

Combine ingredients in a spray bottle and treat weeds at the sunniest time of day for best results.

Thanks for your concern for the birds.

-Chippy

Volunteer Spotlight on Ellen Miller

(This is the 35th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenicie

She's listened to a tale about Atlanta's "Ivory-billed Woodpeckers." Told people where to park at the Sanctuary Tour. Counted birds. Done office work. Worked as an ambassador during Atlanta Bird Fest. Sold plants and birdseed. Been board treasurer even though she's not a numbers person. Served on committees. Even been the organization's president. Ellen Miller's volunteer work for Audubon is long and varied.

Ellen first got involved with Atlanta Audubon when she took the Master Birder class in 2002 or 2003. She has served as a board member at various times and was the Atlanta Audubon president in 2007 and 2008. She's now the secretary and did a stint as co-treasurer with Tom Painter when no one else could be found to fill the job. She always participates in the Atlanta and Marietta Christmas Bird Counts and has also done the ones in Dublin and Amicalola Falls. Ellen is heavily involved with the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) and served as secretary for several years. She's now GOS's first vice president, which means that she arranges for field trips and speakers.

Ellen is a native of East Point and has lived most of her life around Atlanta except for a time in Athens and South Carolina. She attended the University of Georgia for two years, then graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in philosophy. She

earned a master's degree in human resources from the University of South Carolina. Most of her work career has been in human resources in the private sector, but a few years ago she took a job in state government in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. She says her job is halfway between being an attorney and a psychologist and "when managers want to fire people and stuff, I work with them." If all goes as expected, she plans to retire in a year and half. She now lives in Monticello, which is about 60 miles southeast of Atlanta, on some peaceful family property that was a farm a long time ago.



Ellen Miller has birded (and elephanted) in India.

Ellen's birding adventures have taken her to such places as Texas, South America, India, Panama, and Costa Rica, but she describes one to Tanzania and Kenya as the best she's ever been on.

As for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, that experience came when she volunteered to do office work and one day listened to a caller who reported the Ivory-billed. Because this was extremely unlikely if not

impossible, a bemused Ellen said, "Please send us a picture." Alas for birders everywhere, no such picture was forthcoming. The Atlanta Audubon staff says that such reports aren't unusual from people who are really looking at Pileated Woodpeckers.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for April: **Jason Ward, Anne McCallum, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, Robert McDonough, Angie Jenkins, Mary Kimberly, Rick Taylor, and Warren Walter** ... to bird monitors at focal conservation sites: **Mary Kimberly, Jane Seward, and Ed McCallum** ... to Project Safe 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, and Ken Boff** ... to the volunteer certifiers who have helped with the Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program since the first of the year: **Maggie Stephen, Leslie Edwards, Charles Loeb, Beth St. Jean, Les Cane, Sheryl Berg, and Georgia LaMar** ... to **Vin Gleespen** for doing an event at the Chattahoochee Nature Center called "Flying into the Future" ... to **Michele Buchanan** for being all-around utility player, teaching programs and participating in events ... to **Jack Fasse, Martha Fasse, Kelly Bryan, Larry Stephens, Jensey Shell, Les Cane, Anita Chilcutt, and Sandy Miller** for their help with April Peel & Stick ... to **Byron Rushing and Walt Ray** for presenting at the March Monthly Meeting on the Chattahoochee River Lands Greenway Study ... to **Nannette Dooley and Max Brown** for helping set up the Atlanta Bird Fest Opening Keynote.

Spring Migration Is Upon Us!

(Continued from Page 3)

for birds—just as long as you can get one. There is a 1.8-mile long, paved trail that eventually leads to an old bridge near the Chattahoochee River. Along that trail, sparrows can be seen darting back and forth, while warblers sing from the treetops, and there is hardly a moment where there aren't multiple birds of prey in the sky. There's a point along the trail where you have the option of breaking off of the paved trail and climbing a short hill leading to a grassy trail that encircles a beautiful retention pond. Yellow-breasted Chats may be found here all spring and summer, singing their weird mimicked songs. American Woodcock are also frequently heard and seen here early in the morning, and during the late afternoon/early evening peenting

and doing their courtship flights in the fields. This park is Fulton's best-kept secret in terms of bird diversity. You truly never know what will show up here.

PROS: Super quiet hikes, large variety of birds.

CONS: Small parking lot, the occasional dog off leash flushing Killdeer through the field.

MOST NOTABLE MIGRANT: Pectoral Sandpiper (spring 2017)

Whether you choose to visit one of these hotspots or go birding in your neighborhood park, this is the most wonderful time of the year. I wish the best of luck to you all, and I hope to see you out birding!



Summer Tanager, by Megumi Aita, Audubon Photography Awards.

Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month 2019

Save these dates in September 2019 when Atlanta Audubon will once again celebrate the inexorable 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 Lillie Kline, Atlanta Audubon habitat conservation program coordinator, and representatives from Concrete Jungle on 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**

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. at

- **Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28 – Chattahoochee Nature Center Native Plant Sale.**

Once again, Atlanta Audubon will partner 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. Orpheus Brewing will once again brew a special beer for us, and prizes will be awarded to the chalk art winners.

More information on these events will be available later this summer in *Wingbars* and *Bird Buzz*, and on our digital platforms.



Last year, the Sierra Club won the grand prize for the Chalk Art Festival for their fabulous design created by The Marke Team. Photo by Dottie Head.

Photo of the Month Winner

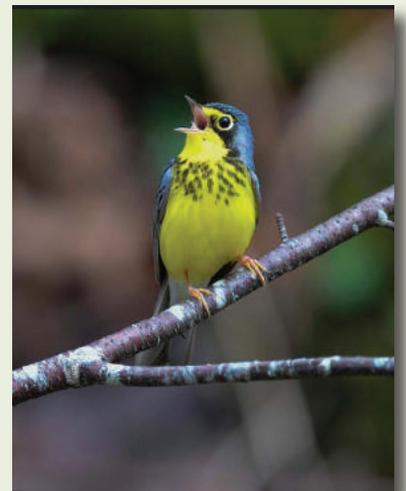
The May Photo of the Month Winner is David Cree of Peachtree City. He submitted two spectacular photos, and we couldn't pick a clear winner so we decided to choose them both. The first is a photo of a Canada Warbler, taken on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Asheville, NC. David uses a Nikon D4 camera with a Nikon 800 mm lens with a 1.25X teleconverter set at 1/125 second, ISO 1600.



Mourning Warbler, by David Cree.

The second photo is of a Mourning Warbler taken at his rental home in Keene, NY, in the Adirondack Mountains on a cool overcast day. Same camera and lens as the Canada Warbler shot, but set at f7.1, 1/400 second, ISO 800.

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.



Canada Warbler, by David Cree.

Raffle Ticket Sales Ending Soon: Charley Harper Quilt

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Atlanta Audubon member Mary Kimberly has generously donated this 52" x 57" quilt entitled "A Festival of Birds" for a special Atlanta Bird Fest raffle. Pieced by Mary and machine-quilted by Regina Carter, this one-of-a-kind quilt features fabric from the Birch Organic Fabrics' Charley Harper line and is valued at \$500. The quilt has a hanging sleeve on the back and will be presented to the winner with a hanging rod for display on a wall if desired. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$5/ticket or \$20/5 tickets. The raffle drawing will be held at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration at SweetWater Brewing on Sunday, May 19. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win. For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/raffle.



Forsyth County Parks, Atlanta Audubon Install CollidEscape Film to Prevent Bird Collisions at Sawnee Mountain Park

By Dottie Head, Director of Membership and Communications

Visitors to Sawnee Mountain Park will notice some new window treatments on the Community Building windows, including images of Georgia birds and wildlife and tiny dots adorning the glass. The purpose of the treatments is to prevent birds from flying into the windows, an all too common problem. The project is thanks to a partnership between the Forsyth County Park and Atlanta Audubon, with a grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF).



The CollidEscape films used at Sawnee Mountain show photos of Georgia birds and wildlife. The films prevent birds from flying into the windows, but are completely transparent from the inside to allow visitors a clear view of the outside. Photo by Adam Betuel.

The treatments are a special CollideEscape film that reduces the transparency of the glass, preventing bird-window strikes. The CollideEscape film is applied to a building's windows and breaks up the reflection, allowing birds to avoid a collision, saving them.

"Since 2015, Atlanta Audubon has been studying bird-building collisions in the metro area through our Project Safe Flight Atlanta Program," says Adam Betuel, director of conservation for Atlanta Audubon. "Since the program began, we have collected more than 1,200 birds of 100 different species that have perished due to building collisions."

"We have been working with a number of parks and nature centers, like Forsyth County, to treat problematic buildings to protect birds," says Betuel. "We also hope to educate the people who pass through these buildings about the problem of bird-building collisions and show them that there are many easy solutions to this problem."

In 2018, the Atlanta Audubon Society was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) as part of the Fund's focus on reversing the decline of threatened wildlife around the world. The conservation grant recognizes Atlanta Audubon's efforts to reduce bird-building collisions through Project Safe Flight Atlanta, a program that monitors birds and collects data on deaths by collisions, and its companion program, Lights Out Atlanta, to encourage residential and commercial buildings to reduce nighttime lighting to prevent bird deaths.

Sawnee Mountain Park was chosen as a demonstration building 1) because they were experiencing bird collisions and 2) the park has high visitation, which presents a unique opportunity to educate the public on steps they can take to reduce bird-window collisions at home.

"This effort showcases bird conservation practices. Our visitors can see CollideEscape in practice and see how they can help birds in their homes as well," said Joseph Daugherty, natural resources management supervisor for Forsyth County Parks.

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.

Friday, May 3, 2019

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (Cobb County)

7:30 AM

Leaders: Nathan Farnau, Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of the walk:

404.759.7770 (Jason)

GPS of parking lot: N 33 59.127 W 84 34.852

Saturday, May 4, 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, May 4, 2019

Stone Mountain Park Bird Trail (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Chris Showalter

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.625.7004

GPS: 33.7931, -84.1465

Wednesday, May 8, 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, May 11, 2019

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (Cobb County)

7:30 AM

Leaders: Mike Weaver, Ellen Miller

Cell contact morning of the walk:

404.574.8915 (Ellen)

GPS of parking lot: N 33 59.127 W 84 34.852

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Peachtree Creek Greenway (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leaders: Adam Beutel, Dave Butler, and

Jonah McDonald

Saturday, May 25, 2019

Cochran Shoals CRNRA (Cobb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Bob Zaremba

Cell contact morning of the walk: 770.422.5730

GPS: 33°55'18.1"N 84°26'21.2"W

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 Teresa Lyle, field trip director, at teresalyle0@gmail.com.



Limited Space Remains in Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 Events

Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 wraps up on Sunday, May 19, with our Closing Celebration at SweetWater Brewing, but there's still time to get your birding fix this spring. Limited space remains in several events. Check out the complete schedule of events at www.atlantaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest for more information.

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. When you receive your Annual Fund letter, please consider a donation to support our many local education and conservation programs. Birds need our help more than ever right now, and every gift makes a difference. You may also make a gift online at www.atlantaudubon.org/donate. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

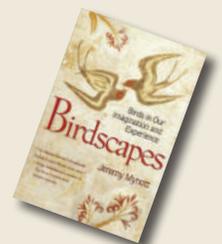


American Goldfinch on purple coneflower. Photo by Dan Vickers.

Early Birds Book Club

The Early Birds now has a page on the Atlanta Audubon website located under News and Events – Monthly Meetings at www.atlantaudubon.org/early-birds-book-club. Here you can find all the titles we read in 2018 and to date in 2019. By May 1, you will also see the books we will have chosen for June and August. Beginning this year we started including book reviews by Early Bird readers or friends. The Early Birds will not meet in May since there is no member meeting.

By Mary Nevil





ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Permit #917

**Please note that there will not be an Atlanta Audubon Monthly Meeting at Manuel's Tavern in May.
Please join us for the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration at SweetWater Brewing Company.**

You're Invited: Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration Featuring Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd

**Sunday, May 19, 2019 • 3:00 to 6:00 PM • Sweetwater Brewing Company
\$25/person for Atlanta Audubon members | \$30/person for non-members**

Join us on Sunday, May 19, at SweetWater Brewing Company as we celebrate our month-long celebration of Atlanta's best birding destinations, educational workshops, and other events of Atlanta Bird Fest 2019. We will celebrate our Atlanta Bird Fest participants and volunteers, as well as award prizes to our Big Day Challenge participants. We will also be recognizing Atlanta Audubon's most dedicated volunteers from 2018.

This year we are excited to welcome national weather and climate expert Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd. His keynote address, *Zombies, Cola, and Birds: How Are They All Connected to Climate Change*, will use these very disconnected topics to weave a contemporary narrative about climate science. He will use accessible examples to illustrate how climate change impacts people, birds, the economy, and more.

Ticket inventory is low for the Closing Celebration, and we encourage purchasing tickets in advance. More information and tickets can be found at www.atlantaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest.



Zombies, Cola, and Birds: How Are They All Connected to Climate Change will be the subject of Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd's talk at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration.

SweetWater Brewing Company is located at 195 Ottley Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30324.