

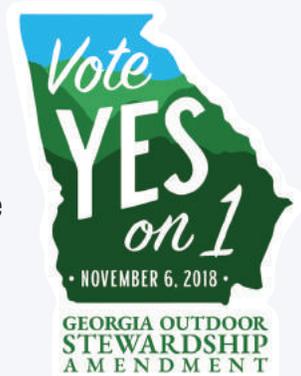
VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 9, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vote Yes on Amendment 1: The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act Is an Historic Opportunity to Protect Our Waters and Lands

On November 6, we have an historic opportunity to pass the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment and protect our waters and lands by constitutionally dedicating a portion of the existing sales tax on outdoor sporting goods without raising any taxes or creating new fees. If passed, this funding would:

- Protect lands critical to clean drinking water
- Acquire and improve parks and trails for children, families, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy
- Maintain and improve access to wildlife management areas and create new opportunities for hunting and fishing
- Support Georgia's economy and job creation

Atlanta Audubon encourages members to learn more about GOSA at www.GeorgiaOutdoorStewardship.org and to vote Yes on Amendment 1.



Eastern Screech Owl, by Mary Kimberly.

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Disney Conservation Fund Awards Grant for Project Safe Flight Atlanta

By Dottie Head

Atlanta Audubon Society has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) for Project Safe Flight Atlanta.

The grant is part of the Fund's focus on supporting local efforts around the world aimed at saving wildlife, inspiring action, and protecting the planet with more than \$75 million distributed to nonprofit organizations since 1995.

This conservation grant recognizes Atlanta Audubon's efforts to reduce bird-building collisions through Project Safe Flight Atlanta, a program designed to make Atlanta a more bird-friendly city. Project Safe Flight Atlanta is implementing solutions that directly impact conservation of migrating birds and can be modeled by urban centers across the United States.

"Atlanta Audubon Society is thrilled to again receive support from the Disney Conservation Fund for Project Safe Flight Atlanta," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Society's

executive director. "This is the second time we have received a DCF grant, and these funds will enable us to expand Project Safe Flight Atlanta and to work with local stakeholders to implement solutions to reduce the number of resident and migratory birds killed by building collisions."

Grant monies will be used to enhance monitoring efforts, data collection, and research. In addition, this funding will allow Atlanta Audubon to retrofit four buildings over the next two years with bird-friendly

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



From the Executive Director

By Nikki Belmonte

You are what you eat,
and so are birds.

We talk a lot about best practices for providing good-quality habitat for birds and wildlife in residential areas and parks, and we have made great strides in our on-the-ground habitat restoration projects and Sanctuary Certification programs. But it's going to take changes in all aspects of our lives to make a large-scale change in the quality of our landscape. Agriculture is one of the most significant aspects of society that has a long-lasting effect on environmental quality. To that end, Atlanta Audubon is partnering with our friends, Georgia Organics, on a campaign to educate people about the effects of pesticide use on birds and people.

Over the next several months, we are going to share tidbits and individual actions we can take to help birds, bugs, and food through *Wingbars*, our news feed, and social media. Our next bird focal species, to be announced soon, will help tie these themes together. My colleague, Alice Rolls, the executive director of Georgia Organics, is passionate about this topic, and we are creating these messages together. We will have a culminating Atlanta Bird Fest event that focuses on organic farming and the benefit to birds (details to come in late winter).

Food and conservation go hand in hand for Atlanta Audubon. literally, as shown in this photo of me enjoying



Nikki enjoying a cup of shade-grown coffee, by Dottie Head.

a cup of shade-grown coffee at a recent meeting. That is why we take time to build programs such as our shade-grown, organic coffee promotion, and our new collaboration with Xocolatl Chocolate. But we need to do more. Can you make a better choice of your snack food during your birding excursions this season? Can you pick one dish or ingredient to make a better food choice for birds this Thanksgiving? As we enter into the season of thanks and celebration, I hope to get your mind churning about the effects of pesticides and the opportunity in organic foods.

Give the Gift of Membership This Holiday Season

Give the gift of an Atlanta Audubon Society membership to friends and family this holiday season and introduce them to an inspiring world of bird appreciation, conservation, and habitat protection. It's also another great way to extend your own support of Atlanta Audubon's work to build places where birds and people thrive.

Gift membership recipients will receive a holiday card from Atlanta Audubon notifying them of your generosity or you may choose to have the holiday card sent to yourself to give in person. All regular membership benefits are bestowed upon gift recipients, including:

- 10 yearly issues of our print newsletter, *Wingbars*, and 12 monthly *Bird Buzz* e-newsletters;
- Discounts and priority registration on workshops and trips, including Atlanta Bird Fest;
- Invitation to our monthly meetings and speaker series;
- Option to certify a property through the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program (additional fee for certification); and
- Lending Library privileges.

Gift memberships begin at \$35 for individual membership. Junior and Student membership levels are also available for those younger individuals on your gift-giving list.

To purchase a gift membership, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/membership or call us Monday to Friday, 10 AM to 3 PM, at 678-973-2437. Inquiries may also be directed via e-mail to Dottie Head at dottie@atlantaudubon.org.



Positive Solutions for Keeping Cats and Birds Safe

By Lillie Kline

Outdoor, free-roaming cats are a hot button and widely controversial issue that unfortunately often pits organizations and neighbors against one another. Just as non-native English ivy and Chinese privet reduces both plant and animal diversity, invasive mammalian species like free-roaming domestic cats and stray dogs can devastate our ecosystems and prey upon our already-threatened native wildlife. Non-native species like domestic cats not only impact wildlife populations, but also face many dangers outdoors themselves. This is why Atlanta Audubon is strongly in favor of keeping cats safely indoors, in line with the Humane Society's recommendations for pet care and wildlife protection. No matter your stance on this important issue, we can all agree that the health and safety of our pets and our wildlife are of the utmost importance..

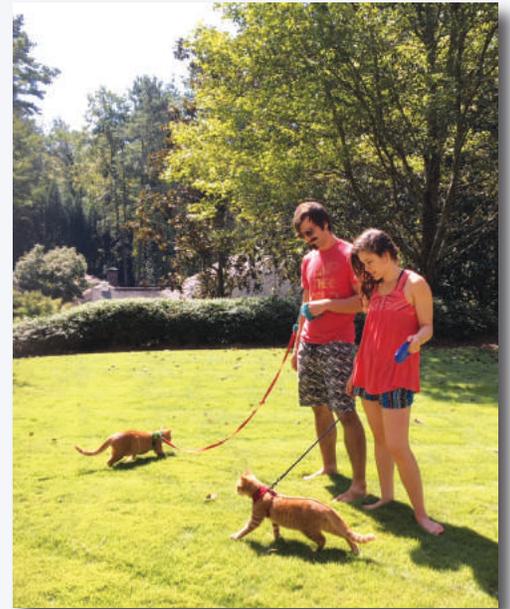
The good news? There are many ways for your cat to enjoy the great outdoors without endangering wildlife or themselves. "Catio," an enclosed play area similar to a hen house, are a great option for unsupervised outdoor time. Cats can also play outside in a fenced backyard with a pet parent nearby to make sure no one gets eaten and that kitty doesn't squeeze through the fence. Don't have a yard? Take a page out of Lisa Tantillo's and Zack Callaghan's book and train your cat to walk on a leash.

You may know Lisa and Zack better as Calou Calay, the talented artist duo who painted our Chimney Swift Tower in Piedmont Park. When they are not making art, however, the two spend their free time walking their rescue kittens Django and Pavi around the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Lisa's family had three cats growing up, the first of which was an outdoor cat that was allowed to roam freely. Sadly, Lisa tells me that their first cat "ended up eating poison because he was unsupervised. We found him dead under our house." After that painful experience, the family decided to keep their cats indoors.

Lisa, however, believes that cats are meant to be outside, so when she and her fiancée Zack adopted a pair of kittens this past year, it was important to them to find a way for Django and Pavi to experience the joys of being outdoors while keeping them safe from dangers like cars and coyotes. "We wanted to be able to go outside with them and for them to eventually be hiking adventure cats. We follow organizations like AdventureCats.org, which shows people traveling with their cats almost like dogs, and it seems like an awesome way to spend more time with their cats doing things they love. I want to keep wildlife safe from cats, but I also want to keep the cats safe from dangers," says Lisa.

For those who are interested in ways to keep both their pets and wildlife safe in the great outdoors, Lisa recommends harness training, but cautions that patience is key, and starting cats young is your best bet. "People underestimate how trainable cats are, especially if you work with them when they are hungry. They are very responsive and intelligent." Lisa and Zack's favorite outdoor cat resources include AdventureCats.org, Puppia harnesses, and Jackson Galaxy, who Lisa

(Continued on Page 6)



Lisa Tantillo's and Zack Callaghan's kitties enjoy outside time on their leashes. Photo by Eileen Tantillo.

ASK CHIPPY



Eastern Phoebes are known for being curious and unafraid of humans. Here is the bird near Ormwood Park checking out Ken's hat after gardening. Photo by Mary.

Q: My wife and I have a large family garden on a 6.5-acre wooded site in Ormwood Park. We have had a regular visitor for the last five years or more at our garden. He is almost tame, and tonight he landed on my hat while we were sitting outside after planting snap and yellow beans. I am an organic gardener and composter, and our bird friend stays with me in the garden when I stir up crickets, spiders, etc., which he loves! Could you please identify him for us?

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society. What fun to have this little bird land on your hat! Your photos make it possible to identify this bird definitively: it is an Eastern Phoebe, a member of the Flycatcher family.

There are many anecdotal reports of similar behavior by Eastern Phoebes, where they seem to be friendly or curious and not at all afraid to get close to humans. You might enjoy reading this story by Charles Seabrook from the AJC that appeared in 2013, where local birders report similar encounters with Eastern Phoebes: "Close Encounters of the Bird Kind" (<https://www.myajc.com/lifestyles/environment/close-encounters-the-bird-kind/s04fOVZQE19v7cnluYQAZL/>)



Eastern Phoebe, by Ken and Mary.

Happy Birding! —Chippy

Editor's note: We'd like to give a special thank you to Cheryl Beshke, the Atlanta Audubon volunteer who manages Ask Chippy and submits these articles to Wingbars. This is a behind-the-scenes role, so she is rarely recognized, but she does an outstanding job answering all of the questions that come in through our website. Thanks for your time and effort, Cheryl!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Amanda Woomer

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 32nd in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

For Amanda Woomer, her “aha moment” in birding started on Valentine’s Day 2015 when she attended an event at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve that she saw advertised somewhere. Our executive director, Nikki Belmonte, talked that day, the group saw about 20 species of birds, and she got hooked.

This fit perfectly with her love of animals and being outside. She then went on some bird walks, got friendly with Audubon movers and shakers Joy Carter and Linda DiSantis, and was invited to join the board. For the past few years she has been chair of the advocacy committee, working with the staff and other committee members to push issues that are important to Audubon. This includes the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act, a proposal on the November ballot that will dedicate up to 80 percent of the existing sales and use tax on outdoor sporting goods to the protection of the state’s lands, water, and wildlife without raising or creating any new taxes or fees. She’s also written letters to the U.S. Parks Service about various issues and been involved in communicating with other conservation groups about mutual concerns. All of this involves frequent communication with Nikki and our chair, Esther Stokes.

Amanda also cultivates an interest in art and photography and has used her talents to develop signs for the Exhibitat in Piedmont Park, which was

unveiled in September and was a joint project with the Piedmont Park Conservancy. It consists of a native plant garden and a tower for Chimney Swifts.

Amanda —let’s make that Dr. Woomer—is a native of Marietta, graduated from Georgia Tech, earned a master’s from Georgia State University and in July completed work on a doctorate from Kennesaw State University in international conflict management. This field includes working with Conservation International to help conservation organizations better manage conflicts.



Amanda Woomer

Her work history includes working in the for-profit sector after she earned her undergraduate degree, but about five years ago she went to work for the Carter Center. Her job involved supporting local nonprofits in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they monitored the mining and oil industries. She made about eight trips to that African nation. Recently she has taken a job in Houston with the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help victims of 2017’s Hurricane Harvey who are still trying to recover. When that gig ends in a couple of years, she hopes to return to her Georgia Tech area condo near the new Westside Park at Bellwood Quarry. In the meantime, she plans to stay as active as she can in Atlanta Audubon. Her immediate family consists of a dog and a cat, and they moved to Houston with her.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for October: **Jason Ward, Roseanne Guerra, Chris Lambrecht, Anne McCallum, Angie Jenkins, Vin Gleespen, Mary Kimberly, Adam Betuel, Gus Kaufman, Tom Painting, and Vinod Babu** ... to **Mark Pope, Kelly Bryan, Sean McGregor, Elaine DeSimone, Angie Kaliban, Maureen Carroll, Cheryl Hensley, Nancy Kennell, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Libby Langston, and Oliver Davidson** for volunteering for Project Safe Flight Atlanta ... to **Mark Pope, Sam Rapoport, and Barbara Kipreos** for bird banding help ... to **Steve Phenicie and Ellen Miller** for helping with the habitat restoration fund ... to **Victor Williams, Melinda Langston, and Robyn and Steve Newman** for their help with festival outreach ... to **Carlos Antonio Rodriguez-Saltos** for presenting at our September monthly meeting ... to **Jensey Shell, Marcia Jenkins, Larry Stephens, Toni Smith, Steve Cook, and Judy Candler** for helping with September Peel & Stick ... to **Sandy Miller and Laura Waddick** for helping with Annual Report mailing and to **Mary Nevil** for helping assemble the Sanctuary Tour boxes ... to **Jamie Borghardt, Mike Christie, Valerie and James McMullian, and Megan Wyatt** for representing Atlanta Audubon at the 2018 RayDay Festival ... to **Sandy Miller, Laura Waddick, and Mary Nevil** for their help with the membership mailing.

Photo-of-the-Month Winner

Congratulations to Stephen M. Wilks, of Clarkesville, GA, for being the first photo-of-the-month contest winner.

According to Stephen, this Eastern Towhee nest photo was taken on August 22, 2013 at 3:12 PM in Clarkesville, GA with a Canon 5D MK III and Canon 100-400 lens at 400 mm. Camera settings were ISO 4000, 1/500 sec SS and f6.3. Clear weather and no flash. Photo processed with Lightroom and ON1 software with no alteration of cropped image.

“Doing yard work one afternoon I noticed a nest with three eggs. I watched the nest daily with mom and dad coming into nest from behind the shrub. When I went one morning, the nest was empty. It was like losing a family member, but I hear them every morning in the area. It was a wonderful, fortuitous photo op,” says Wilks.



Eastern Towhee nestlings and parent. Photo by Stephen M. Wilks.

#GivingTuesday is on November 27: Support the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

This holiday season, we're asking for your support to help create even bigger impacts in the community in support of birds and habitat. With your help on #GivingTuesday this November 27, we hope to raise at least \$5,000 in just 24 hours. This year, we're joining forces with our partners at Blue Heron Nature Preserve and The Amphibian Foundation to raise funds to support our joint program, Atlanta Urban Ecologists. This intensive eight-month program for students in grades 8 through 12 gives participants the opportunity to discover the fascinating, rich ecology of metro Atlanta while providing hands-on field experiences in conservation and citizen science. The program allows students to study alongside experts in the field and establish a network of environmental professionals who can assist with their academic and career development. A portion of the funds raised will also allow us to offer full scholarships to students who would otherwise be unable to afford the program fees.

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that kicks off the charitable season of giving. Please join us with an online gift this holiday season at www.atlanta-audubon.org/donate.

Disney Conservation Fund Awards Grant for Project Safe Flight Atlanta

(Continued from Page 1)

window film to help prevent collisions. The first building that will receive window treatments is the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center, which the U.S. Green Building Council awarded platinum certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2009. Grant funding will also be used to create an educational video that will be used to further advocate for bird-friendly designs in new development projects and to educate the public, architects, building managers, and policy makers on bird-friendly building solutions.

"Trees Atlanta is very excited to be included as a beneficiary of this grant as so much of our mission revolves around the connection of wildlife to Atlanta's urban forest," says Greg Levine, co-executive director and chief program officer at Trees Atlanta. "Birds play such an integral part in our ecosystem and we're committed to providing and protecting their habitat around the city, including our headquarters, the Kendeda Center."

Project Safe Flight Atlanta is a conservation and engagement effort to understand the issue of bird-building collisions in metro Atlanta. Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers patrol selected routes during peak bird migration periods, collecting birds that have died or have been injured after colliding with buildings. Since Project Safe Flight Atlanta launched in 2015, more than 1,000 birds of 96 different species have been collected.

Current research estimates that between 365 million and 1 billion birds perish each year from colliding with buildings in the United States. Bright nighttime lights can disorient migrating birds or trap them in upward-facing beams of light, where they die of exhaustion or land in dangerous areas. During daylight hours, birds struggle with reflective surfaces when they stop to feed or rest, as they are unable to distinguish between a reflection and an open flyway.

The Disney Conservation Fund Grant will also be used to support a sub-program of Project Safe Flight Atlanta, called Lights Out Atlanta, to help reduce bird deaths caused by building collisions. Lights Out Atlanta is a voluntary program encouraging building owners and residential homeowners to turn off or reduce lighting from midnight to dawn during the peak bird migration periods. Participants pledge to reduce non-essential nocturnal lighting during peak migration periods of March 15 to May 31 (spring) and August 15 to November 15 (fall). More information and the pledge may be found at www.Atlanta-Audubon.org/lightsoutatlanta.

Recent DCF grant recipients were selected based on their efforts to implement comprehensive community wildlife conservation programs, stabilize and increase populations of at-risk animals, and engage communities in conservation in critical ecosystems around the world.

For information on Disney's commitment to conserve nature and a complete list of grant recipients, visit www.disney.com/conservation. For more information on Project Safe Flight Atlanta, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight.



CollidEscape Film was placed on the entire Discovery Center at the Chattahoochee Nature Center using the 2017 Disney Conservation Fund Grant. The Kendeda Center at Trees Atlanta and three other buildings will be treated using the 2018 grant. Photo by Dottie Head.

Atlanta Audubon Photo-of-the-Month Competition

Atlanta Audubon has launched a Photo-of-the-Month Competition. The competition is being organized by Ashkan Ojaghi, an Atlanta Audubon volunteer. By submitting an entry to the Photo-of-the-Month competition, entrants will have a chance to have their favorite bird photo appear in *Wingbars*, Atlanta Audubon's monthly newsletter, and it may be used in other Atlanta Audubon online and print publications. In addition, each winning photo will be published under the photographer's name along with details about the bird species and where the photo was taken. Photos must be submitted by the first of each month. To learn more or to read the complete guidelines, please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month.

Christmas Bird Counts Are Coming Soon To an Area Near You

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual tradition dating back to 1900, when ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census” that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunting them, as had previously been done.

Each year, from December 14 through January 5, thousands of volunteers across the Americas brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. The National Audubon Society and other organizations use data to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. At 119 years old, the annual Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running citizen science project in the nation.

During the 2017 Christmas Bird Count, counts were held in four “circles” around metro Atlanta, including In-town Atlanta, Marietta, Peachtree City, and Roswell. When the count results were in, 159 volunteers counted more than 40,500 individual birds representing more than 100 different species.

2018-2019 Atlanta Area Christmas Bird Counts:

- Marietta, Saturday, December 15, 2018. Contact: Angie Jenkins at angeliabeth@gmail.com

- Amicalola, Saturday, December 15, 2018. Contact: Georgann Schmalz at georgannschmalz@windstream.net
- Peachtree City, Sunday, December 16, 2018. Contact: Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaudubon.org
- Roswell, Thursday, December 20, 2018. Contact: Nikki Belmonte at Nikki@atlantaudubon.org
- In-town Atlanta, Saturday, January 5, 2019. Contact: Joy Carter at joy.carter52@bellsouth.net



Lauren Head, Melanie Furr, Dottie Head, and Mary Nevil covered the Milton circle during the 2017 Roswell CBC. Photo by Lauren Head.

For a complete listing of statewide Christmas Bird Count dates, locations, and coordinators, please visit the Georgia Ornithological Society at www.gos.org.

Atlanta Audubon Teams Up with Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate

Atlanta Audubon has teamed up with Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate in Krog Street Market to offer a new bird-friendly, 72% dark chocolate bar that is yummy for people and great for birds. The cacao beans used in this Atlanta Audubon bar are sourced from shaded farms that provide critical habitat for migratory birds, like warblers, tanagers, and other bird species on their wintering grounds. By purchasing this chocolate, you are helping conserve locations where birds and people thrive.

Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate (“chock-oh-LAH-tul”) is a chocolate micro-factory in Atlanta that makes dark chocolate, free of fillers and unnecessary ingredients but full of flavor.

Just in time for the holiday season, we will be offering a gift bundle that will be perfect for gift giving. Featuring a 4-ounce sample bag of our shade-grown, organic coffee, an Atlanta Audubon coffee mug, and a 2.6-ounce Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate bar, this gift bag will be priced at \$20 and will make the perfect teacher, hostess, or white elephant gift.

You may purchase these bird friendly bars at our office, at monthly meetings, and at other Atlanta Audubon events. We'll have it available for shipping in our online store during cooler months, but we can't ship when the weather is warm or it will melt. Limited quantities, so please purchase early.

To learn more about Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate, please visit their website at <https://www.xocolatlchocolate.com/>



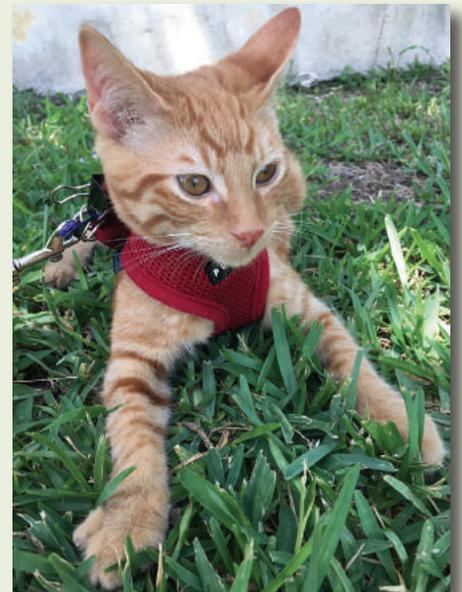
Positive Solutions for Keeping Cats and Birds Safe

(Continued from Page 3)

calls a “cat whisperer.” She tells me that he “has good videos on getting older cats used to a leash. He has some tutorials that are really great.”

When talking to neighbors with free-roaming outdoor cats about keeping them inside, Lisa emphasizes the importance of being respectful and cautions against an approach that condemns the cat owner. “I would be concerned about the welfare of their cat, as there are a lot of predators like coyotes that could kill your cat, in addition to lawn chemicals that can poison the cat. I would bring it up from that cat safety perspective. I would gauge the person’s response and then also mention the environmental impact.”

With so many wonderful options that keep pets and wildlife safe, enjoying the great outdoors with your cat has never been easier. With 432 species of North American birds in need of urgent conservation action, talking to your neighbors and making conscientious choices for wildlife has never been more important (State of the Birds, 2016).



Lisa Tantillo's and Zack Callaghan's cats are trained to walk on leashes.

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, November 3, 2018 **Piedmont Park (Fulton County)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770
GPS: 33.783750, -84.379111

Sunday, November 4, 2018 **Noonday Creek West Trail Head** **(Cobb County)** **8:00 AM**

Leaders: Angelia Jenkins and Vin Gleespen
Cell contact morning of the walk:
678.570.4891 (Angie)
GPS: 34.00125, -84.59163

Thursday, November 8, 2018 **Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Mary Kimberly
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279
GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 **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

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 eresalyle@gmail.com.

LIVE and LEARN

Guided Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge **January 19 to 21, 2019**

Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, for an incredible weekend of birding at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and other nearby hotspots in Titusville, Florida.

Merritt Island consists of 140,000 acres of salt marsh, freshwater impoundments, brackish estuaries, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, and scrub, offering a sanctuary for an abundance of plants and animals from both temperate and tropical climate zones, including more than 310 species of birds. It also supports more threatened and endangered animals (21 species) than any other single refuge in the continental U.S., including the Florida manatee, wood stork, gopher tortoise, and eastern indigo snake. Combined with the Canaveral National Seashore, the refuge supports the world's largest population of Florida Scrub Jays.

Full-day guided fields trips on Saturday and Sunday and a half day of guided birding on Monday, will provide opportunities to view wintering waterfowl and wading birds, as well as shorebirds, rails, scrub jays, and other wildlife.

A pre-trip orientation meeting and short workshop will be held on January 10 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Audubon office on Roswell Road.

Space is limited. Visit our website at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops to register online.

For more information, contact Adam Betuel at adam@atlantaudubon.org.

Please note that guests are responsible for their own food, travel, and lodging charges. Atlanta Audubon will reserve a block of rooms at a nearby hotel for those who are interested in reserving a room at a group rate.

Fee:

Member: \$250

Nonmember: \$285 (includes a one-year individual Atlanta Audubon membership)

Master Birder in good volunteer standing: \$225



*2018 Merritt Island Trip participants were treated to an up-close look at Florida Scrub Jays.
Photo by Dottie Head.*



The Merritt Island group visits the shoreline as well as inland destinations for an amazing weekend of birding. Photo by Dottie Head.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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678.973.2437

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November: No Monthly Meeting. Happy Thanksgiving! December: Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Sunday, December 9 • 3:00 to 5:30 PM

There will be no monthly meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. We will reconvene in December for the annual Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 9, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's.

We're trying something new this year.

We'll still be holding a silent auction as part of this year's Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party, but we're going to try something new. We're going to scale back the number of auction items and offer fewer, higher-quality items for bidding. Space concerns both at our office at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve and at Manuel's make this change necessary. We'll still be offering a great selection of items for sale in our store, including T-shirts, ball caps, our exclusive shade-grown, organic coffee blend, Xocolatl chocolate bars, bird earrings, notecards, books, and more. All proceeds benefit the conservation and education efforts of Atlanta Audubon.

This gathering will also serve as our annual meeting. We'll hold a brief business meeting to introduce and elect board members for 2019. Atlanta Audubon will provide a variety of appetizers, and, of course, additional food and beverages will be available for purchase. Please join us as we celebrate another successful year for Georgia birds.



We will be offering these new Atlanta Audubon Chimney Swift ornaments for sale at the Holiday Party on December 9 as well as in our online store by mid-November. The ornaments were designed by Tim Weberding Woodworking.

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.