

## Candidates for the 2018 Board of Directors

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to present **Craig Bell**, **Gina Charles**, **Roarke Donnelly**, and **Shannon Fair** for election to the Board of Directors. These candidates will bring a wealth of experience and talents to the Board. In addition, current board members Charles Loeb, Rusty Pritchard, and Esther Stokes are up for reelection for a second term. New and renewing Board members will serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2018. Elections will be held at the Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 10, from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern. Please plan to attend. Please review the short biographical sketches of each of our candidates.



Tufted Titmouse, by Dan Vickers



**Craig Bell** joined Georgia Power's corporate communication team serving as a media and issues management specialist. Before joining Georgia Power, Craig was an external affairs specialist at the Federal Emergency Management's (FEMA) Region IV office. Prior to working with FEMA, Craig served 20 years as a reporter, photojournalist and producer in several media markets, including Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and Memphis. As a journalist, Craig is no stranger to crisis communications and has covered numerous national events such as 9/11, the BP gulf oil spill, the Times Square bombing attempt, Nashville floods, and others. Craig is originally from the "Magic City" of Birmingham, Alabama, where his family still lives and where his mother worked for Alabama Power for 25 years. He currently lives in Atlanta and is the proud father of Jordan and Aidan Bell.



**Gina Charles** grew up in Indiana, where she married her high school sweetheart, John. They moved to London, England, and had their first son, William, age 19, who attends High Point University. Three years later they moved back to Atlanta and had their second son, Jack, age 17, who attends Whitefield Academy. Gina became a stay-at-home mother, but kept very active in the boys' school throughout their education. She and her family are avid travelers, and Gina has birded in many different parts of the world. She became a Master Birder in the fall of 2011 and stays involved through workshops and volunteering at the office and events. She shares her enthusiasm for birding with kindergarteners to senior citizens, hosting these groups in her back yard. Gina is also a member of National Audubon Society, ASPCA (American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Gina loves to cook, garden, and participate in Bible Study Fellowship, where she is a group leader.



**Roarke Donnelly** is a professor of biology at Oglethorpe University and a master bird bander with special interests in ecology, behavioral ecology, urban ecology, bird conservation, and STEM education. He regularly teaches 10 courses in biology and statistics, including ornithology at a wilderness field station in northern Minnesota, and maintains an active research program. Both the teaching and research have generated open-access teaching modules, manuscripts in several scientific journals, an edited book, and an audio guide to bird identification. Beyond work, Roarke enjoys cheering for the Atlanta United as well as hiking, birding, and mountain biking around Georgia with family and friends.



**Shannon Fair** is the director of international analytics within the Innovative Solutions Group at TransUnion. She is responsible for providing analytics solutions and credit scoring services to banks, credit reporting agencies, and other financial institutions across the globe, as well as establishing model governance standards and new hire training programs for all of TransUnion's international analytics teams. Shannon grew up in New Smyrna Beach, Florida and has a master of science degree in statistics from the University of North Florida and bachelor of science degrees in mathematics and statistics from the University of Florida. She has been an active member of Atlanta Audubon since 2012 and also serves as the membership chair for the Georgia Ornithological Society. Shannon lives in Atlanta and frequently birds in her spare time around Georgia, the U.S., or just about any place in the world that her work takes her.

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## Board of Directors 2017

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Retired Attorney

**Esther Stokes** | Vice Chair  
Stokes Landscape Design

**Ellen Miller** | Secretary  
State of Georgia

**Charles Loeb** | Treasurer  
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**Mary Kimberly**  
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**Melinda Langston**  
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**David Schaefer**  
Latin American Association

**Michael Wall**  
Georgia Organics

**Victor Williams**  
Byers Engineering

**Amanda Woomer**  
The Carter Center

### STAFF

**Nikki Belmonte** | Executive Director  
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**Adam Betuel** | Director of Conservation  
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**Melanie Furr** | Director of Education  
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**Dottie Head** | Director of Membership  
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**Teresa Lyle** | Field Trip Director  
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**Melinda Langston** | Wildlife Sanctuary  
Program Coordinator  
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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.



# Chirps from the Chair

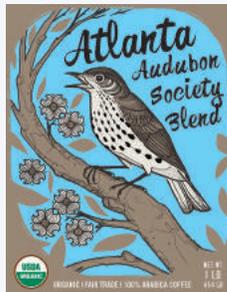
By Linda DiSantis

It is hard to believe that this is my last column for *Wingbars* as chair of the Board. I have had the honor of serving as the chair since January 2016 during an amazing growth spurt for Atlanta Audubon. When I joined the Board in January 2013, Atlanta Audubon was seeking to discover its potential. The Board held a retreat that January, and the conversations were about hard choices and an enhanced direction for the organization. Since that time, we have seen major strategic changes that were generated by two Board retreats, each resulting in a thoughtful plan that forged the next phase of Atlanta Audubon's growth. Hiring Nikki Belmonte as the executive director and creating new staff positions, which Nikki filled with very qualified people, has moved Atlanta Audubon further into the realm of a true conservation organization. Atlanta Audubon is a different organization from the one I joined in 2012, and those differences are improving

conservation, education, and advocacy for birds and habitat. I have one more year of my term on the Board and will, like you, our loyal members, stay involved.

There are a few people I must thank for making my job easier and for supporting our efforts: Joy Carter, who ably served as head of the Board before me and laid the foundation for the work we have done during my time; Nikki, Adam Betuel, Melanie Furr, Dottie Head, and Michelle Hammer, whose unwavering loyalty and hard work make things happen every day; Esther Stokes, a very capable Board member and well-known professional and community leader, who will become chair on January 1 and will serve ably to take Atlanta Audubon to even bigger places; and to the Board members who have given their best thinking and hard work to their governance role at a time when they were called upon to make big decisions and work hard to grow and support Atlanta Audubon.

And finally, I want to send a special thank you to two Board members whose terms are ending this year. Victor Williams has been a stalwart Board member for 20 years and has seen and been part of many changes over that time. Mary Kimberly is familiar to many of you for her big role is managing the field trip coordination for so long. Mary has been a very able Board member and has served the organization well. We will miss both of you on the Board, but we know you will stick around and continue to help Atlanta Audubon advance and grow. Thank you for being part of our change.



## This Coffee Is For the Birds

### Atlanta Audubon Launches New Coffee Promotion

By Dottie Head

Atlanta Audubon is excited to announce a new campaign for our certified organic, shade-grown coffee with a special offer just in time for holiday gift giving. We're launching a newly designed bag featuring the Wood Thrush, designed by Athens-based artist David Hale, and new packaging from our friends at Café Campesino in Americus. This is the same Wood

Thrush design we used on the Atlanta Bird Fest logo for 2017, and we're thrilled to be able to re-purpose this logo for our shade-grown coffee bags.

There are a couple of big changes coming to Atlanta Audubon's Coffee Campaign. First, we're lowering the price per bag of our certified organic, shade grown coffee variety to \$14/pound. And, during November and December, we'll be running a holiday special. Purchase six bags or more for \$12/pound. It's the perfect gift for that person on your list who has everything.

In addition, we're launching a new Atlanta Audubon Coffee Club. For a \$25 annual fee, coffee club members may purchase our Café Campesino, shade-grown coffee at \$12/pound. There's no minimum or maximum amount to purchase. Coffee Club members who would like to take advantage of our holiday six-bag special may purchase the coffee for \$11/pound.

Why drink certified organic, shade-grown coffee? Loss of habitat is one of the biggest threats facing birds, particularly migratory species like the Wood Thrush. The Atlanta Audubon focus species of 2017-2018, the Wood Thrush spends its summer months here in Georgia but winters in the forests of Central America. Shade-grown, organic coffee farms provide safe and vital ecosystems for migratory birds, including the Wood Thrush, and allow coffee plants to grow in their preferred shade conditions.

The Atlanta Audubon blend is sourced from shaded farms that provide critical habitat for our thrushes, tanagers, and warblers while on their winter grounds. By purchasing our shade-grown, organic blend, you are helping create and preserve locations where birds and people thrive. Our blend is a combination of Latin American coffees and has nice acidities, a sweet fruity flavor, and a medium body. A portion of your purchase will go to Atlanta Audubon Society to advance our conservation programs, including a program to restore habitat for the Wood Thrush.

The Atlanta Audubon blend comes from Café Campesino, a wholesale roaster-distributor located in Americus, Georgia, specializing in artisan-roasted, specialty-grade coffee. Café Campesino is a founding member of Cooperative Coffees, a green coffee importing organization committed to fair or alternative trading relationships between farmers and roasters. They are also a member of the Fair Trade Federation and Georgia Organics.

# Special Membership Offer: Give the Gift of Membership and Get Three Months Added to Your Membership

Are you struggling with what to gift purchase for that person on your list who has EVERYTHING? How about a membership in Atlanta Audubon Society? We will send the gift recipient an attractive holiday card acknowledging your gift, plus they'll receive 10 issues of *Wingbars*, 12 issues of *Bird-Buzz*, and discounts and priority registrations for Atlanta Bird Fest and other events. You will also be helping further Atlanta Audubon's conservation and education programs to help make Atlanta a more bird-friendly community.

We're running a special offer in November and December. Purchase a gift membership at the individual level (\$35) or higher, and we'll add three months to YOUR membership term. It's a win-win for everyone! Simply purchase the gift membership online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/membership](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/membership) or call Dottie Head, director of membership and communications, at 678.973.2437 and she can process the gift over the phone.

## Now Collecting Auction Items for 2017 Holiday Party and Silent Auction on December 10

We are now collecting auction items for our annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction, scheduled for Sunday, December 10, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern. We are interested in trips, cabin rentals, artwork, photos, books in good condition, binoculars, spotting scopes, mountain/beach/lake house weekends, bird houses/feeders, or other bird-related items. If you have auction items you would like to donate, please contact Dottie Head at 678.973.2437 or e-mail her at [dottie@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:dottie@atlantaaudubon.org).

**Volunteers needed:** We need volunteers to help with setup, check out, and clean up for our annual auction. If you can help, please e-mail Dottie at [dottie@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:dottie@atlantaaudubon.org). Thank you.

## Please Consider Atlanta Audubon in Your Year-End Giving Plans

YOUR support of Atlanta Audubon is building places where birds and people thrive. As another year comes to a close, we are thankful for your generous support of Atlanta Audubon Society. Please consider including Atlanta Audubon in your year-end giving plans. Your gift to Atlanta Audubon this holiday season will lead the way for safer built landscapes, ensure habitat is a key layer to communities, allow for greater investment in educators teaching through the lens of birds, and develop a conservation ethic with metro Atlanta youth. If you would like to make a year-end gift to Atlanta Audubon, you may make your gift online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate). Thank you!

## Now Hiring: Part-time Administration and Finance Manager

Atlanta Audubon seeks an administration and finance manager to lead financial and small-business activities, to manage a roughly \$700,000 annual budget, and play an integral role in advancing the organization. This is a new position at Atlanta Audubon. With a rapidly growing organization, a high priority for the administration and finance manager will be to work closely with the executive director and other staff to upgrade and improve current systems to be more efficient and informative. S/he will process all accounting transactions and will maintain a system of controls to ensure accountability in collection of fees and in appropriate the use of assets. S/he will be responsible for timely and accurate financial reporting. The administration and finance manager will also be responsible for general office management and human resources management. A minimum of five years of professional experience in accounting and financial management, including experience in budgeting, finance, daily accounting activities, and accounting oversight and controls is required. Applications are due by 11:59 AM on December 11, 2017. For more information or to download a job description, please visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/job-opportunities>.

## ASK CHIPPY

*Dear Chippy,*

*We would like to attract Wood Thrush to our yard. Are there any plants you can suggest that might lure them in?*

*-Em*



*Dear Em,*

Thanks for asking such an important question. Winter is a great time to consider adding new plants. If you review the [atlantaaudubon.org/bird-conservation-section](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/bird-conservation-section) you will find help regarding how to develop habitat for a bird-friendly yard, including a list of plant nurseries. If you meet the criteria, you might consider certifying your property as a wildlife sanctuary through Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Program ([www.atlantaaudubon.org/backyard-wildlife-sanctuary-certify](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/backyard-wildlife-sanctuary-certify)).

The Wood Thrush prefers the interior of the forest. They sing their beautiful song from the lower canopy of deciduous or mixed eastern forests. They are ground foragers, and you will often spot them looking through leaf litter for everything from insects to salamanders, which makes up most of their spring and summer diet. Spring flowering plants pull in the pollinators (insects). Adding layers of fruit trees and shrubs will cover fall into winter. Depending on your yard and the amount of available light, here are some native plants that may attract Wood Thrush to your yard.

Elderberries	Virginia creeper	Raspberries	Pokeweed	Blueberries	Black cherry	Grapes	Black gum
American beautyberry	Jack in the Pulpit	Rhododendron	Magnolia	Spicebush	Dogwood	American holly	

*Happy planning and planting!*

*-Chippy*

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Melinda Langston

(This is the 26th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenicie

*“Hopefully, people will read this and say,  
‘I want to be a certifier.’”*

Folks, there you have it: Melinda Langston, our Wildlife Sanctuary Program coordinator, needs more certifiers. Although there are about 35 certifiers on the books, only five or six are active, and she could use some more to cover ever-expanding metro Atlanta. Atlanta Audubon has certified properties in such far-flung places as Gainesville, Jasper, Newnan, and even Clayton, and Melinda tries to visit the sites herself when she can. The program has certified about 450 properties since it began close to 15 years ago, and interest seems to be on the rise, with around 45 properties certified this year as of early October, vs. an average of 20 or 25 in the past.

Melinda attributes the growing interest to increased concern about habitat loss and climate change. Some participants are looking for advice; others want to wear a feather in their conservation caps. Some properties cover much bigger acreages than in the past, and some are publicly held by the city of Atlanta and DeKalb and Fulton counties. The Atlanta Audubon board has set a goal of 1,000 properties by 2020.

Melinda took a somewhat unexpected path to the coordinator's position. After retiring a few years ago, she

began to look for volunteer opportunities but soon grew tired of fund-raisers and work days. She knew Atlanta Audubon President Linda DiSantis, and Linda told her about the coordinator's position. Melinda knew nothing about the program and wasn't even a birder, but Linda convinced her that she was right for the job. Melinda plunged in wholeheartedly, joining Audubon about two years ago, assuming the role of coordinator almost immediately, and taking the Master Birder class in the fall of 2016. Her other Atlanta Audubon volunteer efforts have included Bird Fest, the Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, and staffing Atlanta Audubon tables at various events. She also recently joined the Atlanta Audubon Board.



*Melinda Langston is the volunteer coordinator for the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program. Photo by Dottie Head.*

Melinda, who lives in Druid Hills, is originally from Statesville, N.C., but has been in Atlanta since 1967. She earned a degree from the University of Georgia, majoring in art and interior design, and spent 31 years working for the City of Atlanta. She worked for eight years in the office of Mayor Andrew Young, mostly in watershed management, and for the last eight years of her career as director of water conservation. She and her husband,

Angelo Fuster, have two adult daughters: Allison, who lives in Atlanta and is a mental health counselor, and Julia, who is at Wake Forest University.

# THANK YOU!

## A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for November: **Jason Ward, Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman, Anne McCallum, Sandy Murray, Lillie Kline, Joy Carter, Iris Schumacher, and Tom Painting** ... to **Maggie Stephen, Robyn Newman, and Steve Newman** for assisting with the fall open house at Blue Heron Nature Preserve ... to **Vinod Babu** for leading the field trip for our Master Birder challenge winners ... to our intern, **Kelsey McKenna**, for her work on a new climate change presentation and info card ... to Project Safe Flight volunteers **Mary Kimberly, Laura Kimberly, Steve Dupont, Shawn Taylor, Vinod Babu, Cathy Cornelius, Kelly Bryan, Linda DiSantis, Bob Kerr, Gavin MacDonald, Maureen Carroll, Waverley Eubanks, Elaine Desimone, Steve Rushing, Cindy Wolfe, Chrishanna Desrosiers, and Laura Northrop** ... to **Stella Wissner, Larry Stephens, Anita Chilcutt, Sandy Miller, and Phyllis Hawkins** for their help with October Peel & Stick ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, and Laura Waddick** for their help with the end-of-year appeal and membership mailings ... to **Stephen Ramsden, BJ Glick, and Max Brown** for their help with festival outreach ... to **Gus Kaufman and Franklin Abbott** for leading a wellness and beginning birding workshop at Sweetwater Creek State Park and contributing the proceeds to Atlanta Audubon.

## Birders Needed: 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 118 years old, the annual Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running citizen science project in the nation.

During the 2016 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 93 different species.

(Continued on Page 7)

## 2018 Climate Watch: Volunteers Needed

Beginning in January 2018, Atlanta Audubon will again be working with National Audubon on the Climate Watch Survey, and we need volunteers to help. The Climate Watch Survey relies on the network of Audubon chapters to collect data to test the accuracy of the 2014 Climate Report. Climate Report models projected where species will occur between 2020 and 2080 and how, if at all, ranges will shift between now and then. Climate Watch surveys provide National Audubon with field-collected data from across the country to compare with their projections, allowing adjustments to be made.

Volunteers will be asked to survey for two species—Eastern Bluebirds and nuthatches (including Brown-headed, White-breasted, and Red-breasted)—during the January 15 to February 15, 2018, survey period. The ability to distinguish these species by sound is extremely helpful, but not required. Each team of surveyors will be assigned to a specific area, and volunteers will conduct 12 five-minute point counts to record all bluebird and nuthatch species that are seen or heard.

This survey is important because it provides sound data that will guide future projections about bird populations and how climate may affect them. If you are interested in helping, contact Adam Betuel at adam@atlantaudubon.org or 678.973.2437.

# EYES on EDUCATION

by Melanie Furr

Third graders at Cleveland Avenue Elementary School enjoyed a bird walk and bird banding demonstration in November while breaking in 30 new pairs of binoculars provided as a gift to the school as part of our *Connecting Students to STEM through Birds* project, funded by the Morgens West Foundation. The students were eager to learn the names of the birds around their school and thrilled to get outside and use the binoculars. Adam set up mist



Golden-crowned Kinglet, by Adam Betuel

nets near the bird-friendly garden (recently installed at the school as part of the project) and talked to the students about why scientists band birds. We were lucky to catch a Northern Cardinal and Golden-crowned Kinglet for the students to see up close, and the students were fascinated by the tiny, colored bands and tools Adam uses. Every student wanted their finger measured in millimeters. Getting students outside and watching their excitement as



Breaking in binoculars at Cleveland Elementary School. Photo by Melanie Furr.

they discovered all the bird life in their own schoolyard was a pretty satisfying way to spend the day. I think these excited faces say it all!



Students were excited to get an up-close look at a Golden-crowned Kinglet caught in the mist net. Photo by Melanie Furr.



All of the students wanted their fingers measured for band size. Photo by Melanie Furr.

## Travel with Atlanta Audubon to Guatemala: November 24 to December 3, 2018

Atlanta Audubon is very excited to be offering a trip to Guatemala in 2018. Guatemala is three-fourths the size of Georgia but has a species list of 740 birds. Habitat varieties ranging from mountainous highlands to coastlines to tropical rainforests are all squeezed together in this tiny Central American nation. In addition to its natural beauty, Guatemala also features fascinating cities, historical monuments, and cultural destinations. To guide us between birding hotspots and ancient temples, we have partnered with a local Guatemalan company, Cayaya Birding. Two field ornithologists, Knut Eiserman and Claudia Avendaño, run Cayaya. They have been leading trips locally for 15 years. In addition to trip leading and ecotourism, Knut and Claudia have been active in research, conservation, and publishing and in growing ornithology throughout Guatemala.

For a portion of this trip, we will be staying at shade-grown coffee farms, taking a coffee tour to learn about the harvesting process, and enjoying all the birds (including the Wood Thrush), both temperate and tropical, that benefit from this type of cultivation.

Guatemala is a wonderland of bird life. On our trip, we will be looking for highland bird specialties such as the Pink-headed Warbler, Azure-rumped Tanager, Rufous Sabrewing, and Long-tailed Manakin. After we tour the western portion of the country, we will fly to the easterly Peten region. There, some of our top targets will be the Keel-billed Toucan, White-fronted Parrot, Ocellated Turkey, and the Orange-breasted Falcon. In addition to the amazing birdwatching, we will make time for some truly exceptional cultural experiences. Stops to the markets in Antigua and multiple days on the grounds of Tikal National Park will supplement the coffee tour and breathtaking landscapes.

For complete trip information, pricing, or to register, please visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/Guatemala-2018>.



Pink-headed Warbler, by Claudia Avendaño

# LIVE and LEARN

## With These Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops

### Master Birder Winter 2018

Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to offer our popular Master Birder course in Roswell this winter. An orientation and the first session will be held on **Saturday, February 24, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM**. Subsequent Saturday sessions will be held **March 3, 10, 17,** and **one Sunday (March 25) from 10:30 AM until 3:30 PM at (surprise location)**. These sessions will be preceded by a **guided bird walk from 8:00 to 10:00 AM at a nearby hotspot** and will include a break for lunch. A final exam and graduation luncheon will occur on **Saturday, March 31, at the Atlanta Audubon office at 10:30 AM**.

The Master Birder course is an introduction to ornithology, designed to provide participants with bird identification skills and general knowledge of birds, their life histories, and habitat requirements. Course content includes classification and identification of birds, birding equipment, bird songs and calls, bird behavior, anatomy and physiology, bird ecology, flight and migration, and bird conservation. Weekend class sessions are complemented with bird walks and a graduation celebration. Upon graduation, Master Birders are encouraged to complete annual volunteer service for Atlanta Audubon and receive added membership benefits such as exclusive workshops or field trips, as well as early bird or discounted registration for workshops.

A course fee of \$400 includes classes and guided walks, course materials, and the graduation luncheon. Online registration for the 2018 winter course opens in December at [www.atlantaudubon.org/master-birder-program](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/master-birder-program). Spaces are expected to fill quickly, so don't delay. Please email Melanie Furr, director of education, at [melanie@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:melanie@atlantaudubon.org) if you have questions.



*Elegant Trogon,*  
by Alan Schmeirer

### Monsoon Magic in Southeast Arizona with Ken Blankenship and East West Birding Tours | July 25 to 30, 2018

Along with the monsoon rains of July and August comes the famous "Second Spring" in Southeast Arizona. Agaves and other nectar-producing flowers burst into bloom, grasses explode with new growth, and many bird species respond to the bounty of resources. Some species wait until the rainy season to breed, while others get busy with a second or third brood. From grassland sparrows like Botteri's, Cassin's, and Grasshopper to Sierra Madrean pine-oak-juniper forest specialties like Elegant Trogon, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and Olive Warble to arid habitat birds like Varied Bunting, Five-striped Sparrow, and Gilded Flicker, it's a full slate of special birds to behold, many of which occur nowhere else in the United States. And let's not forget the hummingbirds. We'll be making a stop at Tucson Audubon's Paton Center for Hummingbirds, where we hope to see several species, including the dazzling Broad-billed Hummingbird, a Southeast Arizona specialty.

Melanie Furr, director of education, will be hosting this trip with Ken Blankenship, a native Georgian and past Atlanta Audubon field trip leader. With more than a decade of experience of birding in the Southwestern United States, Ken relocated to Arizona in 2015 to pursue his dream of living among the "Sky Island" mountains of Southeast Arizona. Ken has spent countless hours in the field in all seasons, learning the ebb and flow of special migrants, breeding birds, and wintering species of the deserts, grasslands, high elevation canyons, riparian corridors, and montane conifer forests.

**Trip cost:** \$1,195 members\*, \$1,300 Non-members\* \*Based on double occupancy. Single supplement: Add \$225. Price includes van transportation from the Tucson International Airport, five hotel nights with breakfasts, dinners, and four full-day guided field trips to hotspots including Saguaro National Park, Santa Catalina Mountains (Mount Lemmon), Madera Canyon, Florida Canyon, Paton Center for Hummingbirds, Hunter Canyon, Ash Canyon B&B, Huachuca Canyon, Garden Canyon, and more. For more information, e-mail Melanie Furr at [melanie@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:melanie@atlantaudubon.org).



*Southeast Arizona Landscape,* by Ken Blankenship

### Becoming a Better Birder

**Saturday, February 10, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Join Georgann Schmalz for a two-hour workshop to improve your skills and increase your enjoyment of birding. This class is a must for any new birder who feels somewhat overwhelmed by the skills of more advanced birders. Time will be spent learning good techniques of birding in the field and choosing good optics, books, and sound devices. Not only will participants develop key identification skills under Georgann's expert guidance, they will also experience the satisfaction that better birding can yield. Georgann holds a master's degree in ornithology, taught at Fernbank Science Center for 29 years, and is three-time past president of Atlanta Audubon. She is a wealth of information and entertainment.

The workshop will be held at the Atlanta Audubon Society office. Space is limited, so secure your spot by registering online at [www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops). **FEE:** \$35 Atlanta Audubon members \$45 Non-members

### Birding by Ear

**Saturday, February 10, 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

This fun two-hour program with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz is for anyone who is interested in learning to identify birds by songs and call notes. Participants will learn the characteristics of bird songs and techniques of birding by ear. Information will include examples of components of bird songs such as tempo, rhythm, pitch, and quality. Handouts will include a list of mnemonics and phonetics for use in the field. We will not play dozens of songs and show dozens of bird photos. Instead, the course emphasizes how to listen and what to listen for so that even new songs from birds you have not encountered before can be learned and memorized.

The class will be held in the Atlanta Audubon Society classroom at Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Space is limited, so secure your spot now by registering online at <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops>.

**FEE:** \$35 Atlanta Audubon members \$45 Non-members

# 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.

*Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: [www.atlantaudubon.org/field-trips](http://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.*

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
**Piedmont Park (Fulton County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770  
GPS: N 33 47.025, W 84 22.746

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
**Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes  
Leaders: Joy Carter and Mary Kimberly  
Cell contacts morning of the walk: 404.822.0030 (Joy) 404.308.6279 (Mary)  
GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Co-sponsored by Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC)  
Leader: Wes Hatch  
Cell contact morning of the walk:  
GPS: 34.002356, -84.382846

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**Huie Ponds of the CCWA and the Newman Wetlands Center (Clayton County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Leaders: Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.758.4551  
GPS: 33.471926, -84.305015

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**Morningside Nature Preserve (Fulton County)**  
**Zonolite Park (DeKalb County)**  
**8:30 AM**

Leaders: Vinod Babu and Gus Kaufman  
Cell contacts morning of the walk:  
413.230.6276 (Vinod); 404.483.7457 (Gus)  
GPS: 33.809783, -84.352133

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)**  
**10:00 AM**

Leader: Tom Painting  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 585.465.0034  
Advance reservations required at 404.929.6400  
GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

**Wednesday, December 13, 2017**  
**W.H. 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, January 6, 2018**  
**Piedmont Park (Fulton County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Leader: Jason Ward  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770  
GPS: N 33 47.025, W 84 22.746

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**  
**Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (Alabama)**  
**9:00 AM**

Leader: Bob Orenstein  
Cell contact: 770.329.0116  
Please contact Bob at [rmorenstein1960@gmail.com](mailto:rmorenstein1960@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018**  
**W.H. 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, January 13, 2018**  
**Huie Ponds of the CCWA and the Newman Wetlands Center (Clayton County)**  
**8:00 AM**

Leaders: Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.758.4551  
GPS: 33.471926, -84.305015

**Thursday, January 18, 2018**  
**Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)**  
**8:30 AM**

Co-sponsored by Friends of Murphey Candler Park  
Leader: Mary Kimberly  
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279  
GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476



*Barred Owl, by Dan Vickers*



*Vinod Babu  
Conducting  
Point Count*

*(Continued from Page 4)*

## 2017-2018 Atlanta Area Christmas Bird Counts

- Roswell, Thursday, December 14, 2017. Contact: Nikki Belmonte at [Nikki@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:Nikki@atlantaudubon.org)
- Marietta, Saturday, December 16, 2017. Contact: Angie Jenkins at [angeliabeth@gmail.com](mailto:angeliabeth@gmail.com)
- Peachtree City, Sunday, December 17, 2017. Contact: Brock Hutchins at [brockhutchins@bellsouth.net](mailto:brockhutchins@bellsouth.net)
- Floyd County, TBD. Contact: Owen Kinney at [okinney@darlingtonsschool.org](mailto:okinney@darlingtonsschool.org)
- Atlanta, Saturday, December 30, 2017. Contact: Joy Carter at [joy.carter52@bellsouth.net](mailto:joy.carter52@bellsouth.net)
- Amicalola, TBD. Contact: Georgann Schmalz at [georgannschmalz@windstream.net](mailto:georgannschmalz@windstream.net)

For a complete listing of Christmas Bird Count dates, locations, and coordinators, please visit the Georgia Ornithological Society at [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org).

*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](mailto:teresalyle0@gmail.com).*



## ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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678.973.2437

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# December: Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Sunday, December 10, 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern



Please make plans to join us for the annual Atlanta Audubon Society Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 10. We'll have a variety of unique auction items, gift baskets, trips, and other items for the bird-lover on your gift list. Our store will also be open and well stocked with a selection of T-shirts, bird earrings, notecards, Wood Thrush ornaments, books, and other items. All proceeds will 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 2018. Atlanta Audubon will provide a variety of appetizers, and, of course, additional food and beverage will be available for purchase. Please join us as we celebrate another successful year for Georgia birds.

# January Monthly Meeting

The Effects of Piscicides Use on American Dippers with Roarke Donnelly  
Sunday, January 28, 2018, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Modern fishery restorations routinely use piscicides to remove invasive fishes before reintroduction of native fishes. While this technique is effective and relatively inexpensive, piscicides are toxic to some benthic macroinvertebrates and reduce the abundance and richness of these species for three to 24 months. The implications of this loss for higher trophic levels have not been studied but could be large enough to at least offset the benefit of the restoration. Roarke tested for a substantial trophic effect by measuring the body condition of breeding American Dippers before, during, and after piscicide treatment and introduction of Westslope Cutthroat Trout near Bozeman, Montana. He will present the results of this 14-year study and his policy suggestions.

Roarke Donnelly is a professor of biology and the director of environmental studies at Oglethorpe University. He is an ornithologist, ecologist, and conservation biologist by training, with special interests in bird conservation and urban ecology.



*American Dipper, by Dan Vickers*

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.