



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 7, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Don't Miss the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour and Doug Tallamy Event

By Dottie Head

Atlanta Audubon will be hosting two amazing events in September that will appeal to birds and gardening enthusiasts alike. On **Thursday, September 14**, we'll host **An Evening with Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, at **7:30 PM at the Dunwoody Nature Center**. Tallamy will discuss what birds need from our landscapes to breed successfully, the important roles native plants play in maintaining food webs vital to birds, the benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and the consequences of failing to do so. Landscaping in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.

Then, on **Saturday, September 16**, Atlanta Audubon will host the annual **Wildlife Sanctuary Tour**. This year's tour will take place from **9 AM to 2 PM in North Atlanta**. The tour features six unique properties located along a 19-mile route that runs from Sandy Springs to Atlanta. The tour is self-guided, and visitors must provide their own transportation. The event will take place rain or shine. Please note, to respect the privacy of our private homeowners, Atlanta Audubon will provide street addresses and GPS coordinates of our private home participants via e-mail to ticket purchasers prior to the event.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, by Robert Johnson

Sanctuary #1: Lost Corner Preserve, 7300 Brandon Mill Road, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. GPS: 33.954160, -84.384409

Situated on 24 acres of beautiful woodlands and nature trails, Lost Corner Preserve is a destination for nature lovers and history buffs. The property dates to the mid-1800s and was once a working farm. The park features a community garden, greenhouse, apiary, walking trails, and a renovated cottage. Two fabulous white oak trees grace the walkway of the 100-year-old, beautifully renovated bungalow. Visitors will see Southern magnolia, black walnut, sweet gum, and a variety of overstory trees on the property. There is a community garden, an active beehive (tended by Sandy Spring Mayor Rusty Paul), and a pollinator/Monarch garden, featuring butterfly bush, morning glory, flowering quince, coral bell, and others. Take time to walk the short trail (about 8/10 mile) down to a stream. On your return trip, check out the small water garden, containing a variety of marsh and bog plants as well as the community garden and bee hives (safely enclosed behind fencing.)



Sanctuary #2: Private home, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. — If you're looking for inspiration for your shade garden, you will not want to miss this stop on the 2017 tour. This homeowner has created a showcase in her fully-shaded sanctuary in Sandy Springs. Originally part of a parcel of land owned by cartoonist Mark Dodd, this 1½-acre property is nestled in the woods on a sloped lot that leads down to a spring-fed stream. Admire the huge tulip poplars and other large trees as you meander down to the stream. Their gardens include a huge variety of plants, including Joe Pye weed, sweetspire, Jacob's ladder, mountain laurel, trillium, Piedmont azalea, tree olive, wood aster, St. John's wort, and a huge variety of ferns. Most of the plants in this garden are "rescues," and whimsical yard art adds color and variety to this relaxing landscape.

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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.



There has never been a more opportune time for us to come together for birds. Just when we think we are safe from more setbacks, more legislative rollbacks and exploitative measures are introduced that put our environment at greater risk. This summer I was fortunate to visit Glacier National Park and see arguably the most pristine waters in the United States. I got lost in alpine meadows and stands of western hemlock, watched American Dippers navigate gushing waterfalls, and slid gleefully down glaciers, all the while thinking, *THIS* is what we have to lose.

I was also out West to attend the National Audubon Convention. The convention's theme was "Elevate Audubon"—quite appropriate for the times. I was glad to share the experience with Linda DiSantis and Adam Betuel. Adam, in fact, made presentations on Atlanta Audubon's participation in Climate Watch and bird-friendly building work. We learned what chapters and states are doing across the nation and celebrated successes in the Atlantic flyway. We also visited with our colleagues from the Audubon Urban Collaborative Network. My main takeaway is that we are contributing greatly to the collective work in the Audubon network, but there is more we can do—that we've GOT to do—to ensure bird diversity is preserved and the habitats birds need are restored and protected.

From the Executive Director

By Nikki Belmonte



Participants from the Atlantic Flyway at the 2017 National Audubon Society Convention held in Park City, Utah. Photo by Hugh Simmons.

One of the National Audubon initiatives we are contributing to is *Plants for Birds*. Between our sanctuary certification and habitat restoration programs, we have strong outlets for educating about native plants and their benefits to people and wildlife. You will see in this issue of *Wingbars* that we're taking it a step further now by working with our partners, Chattahoochee Nature Center and the Georgia Native Plant Society, to provide specific plants for our species-specific focus, the Wood Thrush. This species is on every list of declining birds out there. We can, as an organization and as individuals, help curb the Wood Thrush's decline by providing its preferred habitat resources. That's how the Eastern Bluebird was saved: by you, me, and other groups that saw value in saving a species.

So I encourage you to come together with us and help scale our impact for the Wood Thrush, for native habitat, and for all that is at stake. We are not alone in this fight to save birds, and we all have the power to contribute.

Volunteers Needed for Habitat Work Days

Volunteers are needed for two habitat workdays at our Five Star Grant Sites.

- Saturday, September 9, at Friendship Forest
- Saturday, September 23, at Deepdene Park

Both work days will take place from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We welcome both individual and group participation in this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Adam Betuel at adam@atlantaudubon.org or call 678.973.2437.

Wood Thrush Plant Sale

Our hearts are bustin' for the Wood Thrush at Atlanta Audubon. The Wood Thrush is one of many once-common species declining from multiple threats, including loss of suitable habitat. You can help improve food and shelter for the Wood Thrush by adding their favorite native plants to your property.

Atlanta Audubon is piloting a Wood Thrush plant sale in partnership with the horticulturists at Chattahoochee Nature Center to allow you to purchase these native plants. To learn more about these plant species, click on the link below for our information sheet. Our efforts will also help contribute to National Audubon's Plants for Birds initiative to grow one million native plants for birds across the country.

Pre-order the following one-gallon container plants at <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/Wood-Thrush-Conservation> and pick them up during Chattahoochee Nature Center's Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30. There are limited quantities of each, so order now!

- Beautyberry: \$10/container
- Elderberry: \$10/container
- Hearts-a-Bustin': \$10/container
- Serviceberry: \$10/container
- Silky Dogwood: \$10/container
- Spicebush—SPECIAL just for Atlanta Audubon \$12/container



Bird Diversity and Human Health in Metro Atlanta

By Adam Betuel

Two years ago, my wife and I moved to Atlanta to join the Audubon family. As we've explored our new home, we have developed an appreciation for the restaurants on Buford Highway, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Ponce City Market, and pimento cheese! We're not the only ones to relocate to Atlanta. The metro area gained about 100,000 new residents last



Atlanta Audubon Volunteer Vinod Babu recording data collected during survey period. Photo by Adam Betuel.

year, and this growth is not expected to slow any time soon. The Atlanta Regional Commission estimates metro Atlanta will swell to more than eight million people by 2040. This growth will undoubtedly have environmental ramifications, and it is important that we understand and prepare for these impacts. In the coming decades, Atlanta will be challenged to protect our precious tree canopy, provide affordable housing, manage water usage, support human and environmental health, and preserve bird and wildlife diversity. Atlanta Audubon is working to be part of the solution by contributing to the understanding on the impacts of growth on our urban environment. One of the many projects with which we are involved is a partnership with Auburn University studying a common Atlanta pest—the mosquito.

Dr. Graeme Lockaby has spent his career studying water quality, biogeochemistry, and the effects of urban sprawl. These studies led him to investigate the mosquito and the factors contributing to its transmission of West Nile Virus (WNV). In a recent study by Dr. Lockaby and his colleagues, his team explored the variables that effect WNV prevalence in our metro area and how they are impacted by urbanization. The primary findings of this project were:

- WNV rate increased in poorer and older neighborhoods,
- As soil moisture increased, so did the likelihood of WNV,
- The greater the percentage of impervious surfaces, the greater the risk of WNV, and
- Areas with larger forest patches and pine trees had fewer cases of WNV.

While all of these variables shed light on WNV and its relationship with the urban environment, the finding that most caught Graeme's attention was that of forest size and composition. This finding led him to Atlanta Audubon Society.

Birds play a critical role in WNV transmission. The virus cycles between birds and mosquitos, as mosquitos bite birds and birds eat infected mosquitos. Thus the infection can be spread to other birds, mosquitos, and, ultimately, humans.

After WNV was first reported in the U.S. in 1999, it spread quickly from mosquitos to birds to humans. While it is easy to blame the spread of WNV on birds, studies have shown that areas with high bird diversity may be the key to slowing transmission. Not all birds develop the same level of the virus within their blood. Some species, like crows and jays, are strongholds of the virus, while other species, like the Northern Cardinal, do not carry high levels and thus do not allow easy transmission. As species diversity increases, the risk of WNV transmission decreases or holds stable at a lower level. The theory that diverse avian hosts within a population will reduce WNV rates is called the "Dilution Effect."

With the understanding that forest patch size and tree makeup affect WNV and with knowledge of the Dilution Effect, Dr. Lockaby and his team immediately looked toward the birds. Studies of the dilution effect have produced varying results, depending on the size of the study region and the

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ASK CHIPPY



Q: I have many bird feeders, and I am writing to ask for any suggestions in dealing with and preventing this horrible, contagious eye disease that afflicts finches. Two of my feeders may have started the problem, and I have since taken them down. They were replaced with feeders that won't hold moisture/rain. I have also been wiping down perches on my feeders with a weak bleach solution every day. Is there anything else you can suggest?

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society. There are two different diseases that can affect the eyes of finches, especially House Finches: Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis and avian pox. Both diseases are infectious, and although some birds may recover, blindness from these diseases can lead to starvation, exposure, and predation.

Birds with Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis may have red, swollen, watery, or crusty eyes. Sometimes they are so swollen or crusted over that it renders the birds blind. Avian pox is characterized by wart-like growths on the featherless parts of the bird, including the area around the eyes, the base of the beak, and the feet and legs. You have done the right thing by replacing and disinfecting your feeders. Some additional recommendations from Feederwatch.org are as follows:

- Space your feeders widely to discourage crowding.
- Be sure to remove any build-up of dirt around the food openings on your feeders. After cleaning with a dilute bleach solution, rinse well and allow your feeders to dry completely before rehanging them.
- Rake the area underneath your feeder to remove droppings and old, moldy seed.
- If you see one or two diseased birds, take down your feeder and clean it with a dilute bleach solution. You may also want to remove feeders for a few days to encourage sick birds to disperse.
- One final thing you can do is report your findings to Feederwatch. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology began a House Finch Disease Survey in 1994 that ended in 2008. However, Feederwatch is still collecting data with this protocol. The Feederwatch starts the second Saturday in November and runs for 21 weeks. You can find out more and sign up at <http://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/>

You can learn more about the disease and the research on it here: <http://feederwatch.org/learn/house-finch-eye-disease/>. Thanks for your concern for the birds!

Happy Birding! —Chippy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Steve Dupont

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 23rd in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

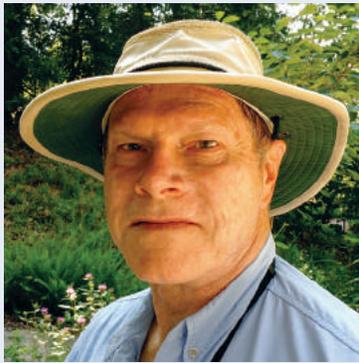
A scientist can retire, but that doesn't mean he turns off his scientific mind. Steve Dupont is satisfying his penchant for scientific inquiry through involvement in Atlanta Audubon's Climate Watch and Project Safe Flight. Steve says he especially enjoys discussing the results of the field work with Atlanta Audubon's conservation director, Adam Betuel.

Steve joined Atlanta Audubon just a few years ago, but quickly enrolled for the Master Birder class and got involved in Safe Flight by walking the Georgia Tech campus during spring and fall migration to search for birds killed in collisions with buildings. He has found it to be somewhat of a physical challenge because of the campus's hills and the need in many places to check behind shrubbery. As for Climate Watch, he has worked a six-mile square where Interstates 85 and 985 meet. Participants count birds at various sites within their assigned square, with the target species currently being nuthatches and bluebirds. The goal of the nationwide effort is to predict the effect that climate change will have on birds.

Steve, who lives in Duluth, grew up near Green Bay, Wis., but has lived in Georgia since 1973. He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin

and then pursued a career as a freshwater biologist. He became a research assistant at the University of Georgia and earned a master's in natural resources fisheries and freshwater ecology. Much of his career was spent on environmental impact studies for the nuclear power industry at sites around the country.

His interest in birds dates to when he was 13 or 14 and his family had a summer home in Wisconsin. A number of forested areas were nearby, which led to a general interest in wildlife. Although he pursued a career in freshwater ecology, birds became a hobby. Besides Atlanta Audubon, Steve is also active in several other organizations, including the Georgia Native Plant Society and the Georgia Trial Gardens in Athens. He holds a certificate in native plants from the Georgia State Botanical Garden, a program that functions something like Master Birder.



Steve Dupont

Steve, a widower since 1999, has two children—daughter Elizabeth Townsend, who teaches English to Japanese and South Korean students via the internet and went to UGA, and son Kenneth, who holds a doctoral degree in mechanical engineering and went to Georgia Tech. And oh yes, there's now a granddaughter, Eleanor, now just a few months old.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to **Mary Kimberly** for her four-years-plus as field trip coordinator and to **Teresa Lyle** for agreeing to replace her ... to our bird walk leaders for July and August: **Angie Jenkins, Anne McCallum, Jeff Sewell, Joy Carter, Sheila Stevens, Iris Schumacher, Rob McDonough, Leslie Edwards, Jason Ward, Mary Kimberly, Nathan Farnau, and Carol Lambert** ... to **Mark Mandica** of the Amphibian Foundation for his presentation at the July membership meeting ... to **Libby Hedaya, Mary Flynt, and Kathy Bronaugh** for staffing a table at the Mary Alice Monroe Book Signing event in June ... to **Mary Nevil** and **Laura Waddick** for their help with the Sanctuary Tour/Tallamy postcards ... to **Sandy Miller, Stephen Ramsden, Anita Chilcutt, Phyllis Hawkins, Andrea Abelman, Larry Stephens, and Nathalie Kinkade** for their help with Peel & Stick ... to **Libby Hedaya, Megan Wyatt, Melinda Langston, Mary Lou McClosky, Ellen Miller, and Mike Weaver** for their help with Atlanta Audubon outreach at community events ... to **Jason Ward, Vinod Babu, and Jean-Luc Betoulle** for helping with the Auburn University West Nile Virus study we are collaborating on ... to Master Birder and Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project founder **Stephen Ramsden** for hosting a Solar Astronomy and Eclipse Primer at Historic Fourth Ward Park in preparation for the eclipse, and to **Ben Jenkins** from the University of West Georgia for assisting him. They gave away 2,200 pairs of eclipse viewing glasses, 50 eclipse maps, and 363 diffraction gratings to the hundreds of visitors who dropped by.

Call for Important Bird People

Atlanta Audubon is looking for advocates who want to support Georgia's birds by monitoring some of the key issues that affect them. Over the last eight months, our Advocacy Committee has been a voice for the birds in discussions related to local development plans, state environmental legislation, and national budgeting decisions. We want to be a leading partner in the Atlanta and Georgia conservation community, a resource for businesses, politicians, organizations, and community leaders who are looking to address our most pressing environmental problems.

This is where you come in. Do you have a place or issue that you are interested in? Do you want to have a big impact on birds with just a small time commitment? Help us by becoming an **Important Bird Person (IBP)**. IBPs will support the work of Atlanta Audubon by monitoring issues or places that are of interest to them and providing updates to our Advocacy Committee. An example of how you can support this work is by monitoring proposed rules and legislation in your community. With your help, we can amplify the voice of Atlanta Audubon, extend our reach, and have a positive impact on Georgia's birds and natural environments. If you are interested, please contact Amanda Woomer at amanda.woomer@gmail.com.

Don't Miss the 2017 Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

Sanctuary #3: Private home, Atlanta, GA, 30327 — This private sanctuary is a wonderful example of doing big things in small spaces. In this compact city garden, the homeowner has created a delightful outdoor space and an oasis for butterflies and birds. With an amazing collection of feeders and nest boxes, this urban garden boasts a tranquil waterfall and pond complete with catfish, crawdads, and turtles. You'll also find a practical combination of vegetables and native plants, including hosta, spider lily, and ferns. A mix of overstory and understory trees, including oak and crepe myrtle, provides shade and creates a quiet place to relax and watch the wildlife that frequents this private sanctuary.



Sanctuary #4: Emma Wetlands at Blue Heron Nature Preserve, 1 Emma Lane, NE, Atlanta, GA 30342. GPS: 33.864059, -84.374811 —

Emma Wetlands is a nine-acre tract that is part of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve off Roswell Road in Buckhead. Created in 2000 after a community effort to preserve seven acres of floodplain from development, the Blue Heron Nature Preserve has blossomed into a multi-tract preserve. The goal is ultimately to connect all the properties to Path 400. In 2016, Atlanta Audubon Society, in cooperation with Blue Heron and other partners, received a Five Star Urban Fish and Wildlife grant to restore habitat and monitor bird populations on the property. Over the past two years, volunteers have removed a large number of invasive plants and replaced them with native perennial and woodland species, including cardinal flower, cutleaf coneflower, devil's walking stick, dogwood, eastern red cedar, cinnamon fern, and mistflower. In addition, a wildlife viewing blind was constructed to provide an observation point for the wetlands, which are teeming with birds and other wildlife.

Stop #5: Private home, Atlanta GA, 30305

Certified in August 2017, this wooded garden, located across the street from the Bobby Jones Golf Course, is a work in progress, but what a beautiful addition this property is to our network of certified sanctuaries. One of the homeowners is an artist, which will become apparent as you meander through the garden. Along the shaded path, you will encounter a delightful variety of artwork and statuary, some she created and other items imported from her husband's native South Africa. The property features a beautiful tree canopy with several specimen trees, and a delightful variety of shrubs, flowering plants, vines, and herbs. Asters, salvia, cardinal plant, climbing hydrangea, mountain laurel, toad lily, clematis, wild ginger, and May apple are only a short list of the many plants that inhabit this fabulous sanctuary. Take the time to walk down the spiritual path to the left of the house to the sacred space where the homeowners were recently married. The path was created to bring light into a previously undefined space and provide a respite area where one can enjoy the birds, chipmunks, and squirrels that frequent this area.



Note on Atlanta History Center: The Atlanta History Center does not open to the public until 10 AM on Saturday, September 16, but they remain open until 5:30 PM and will honor our tickets throughout the day. Please plan your tour visit to arrive at AHS at 10 AM or after.

Stop #6: Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta GA, 30305. GPS: 33.841823, -84.386237 —

Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to partner with the Atlanta History Center on the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. The Atlanta History Center has 22 acres of greenspace, collectively known as the Goizueta Gardens. The Goizueta Gardens, which feature six interpretive gardens, including the Mary Howard Gilbert Memorial Quarry Gardens, the Smith Family Farm, Swan Woods, Sims Asian Garden, and the Frank A. Smith Rhododendron Garden. With such diversity in its outdoor spaces, Atlanta History Center provides a mosaic of habitats for birds, including native plants, large trees, understory trees, shrubs, and perennials. Large trees, including American beech and white oak, provide ample cover and food for birds. Understory trees, such as native eastern redbud, Southern magnolia, and sourwood are also prevalent. A variety of native shrubs, including oakleaf hydrangea, American beautyberry, bottlebrush buckeye, and others may be found throughout the garden. You won't want to miss this stop on the 2017 tour.



Tickets are \$24 for Atlanta Audubon Society and Atlanta History Center members and \$30 for non-members and are available online at www.AtlantaAudubon.org or by calling the office at 678.973.2437. Tickets may be purchased on tour day at all tour sites using cash or check. Credit cards will be accepted at the Lost Corner Preserve site. Visitors may start the tour at any of the five sites along the tour and proceed at their own pace to each of the other sites. Volunteers will be available at each location. Please note that public restroom facilities are only available at the Lost Corner Preserve and the Atlanta History Center. Atlanta Audubon will be selling its own blend of shade-grown coffee, limited quantities of Cole's bird seed, bird earrings, note cards, field guides, and other items on the day of the tour at the Lost Corner Preserve location.

Atlanta Audubon Society wishes to thank event sponsors Rock Springs Restoration and GFWC Dunwoody Women's Club, as well as our three private property owners, Atlanta History Center, Blue Heron Nature Preserve (at Emma Wetlands), and Lost Corner Preserve for their support of the 2017 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, proceeds from which will support the education and conservation efforts of Atlanta Audubon Society. Atlanta Audubon Society is committed to building places where birds and people thrive. We create bird-friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.

THANK YOU

To Our 2017 Annual Fund Donors!

We are pleased to announce the generous support of our members and friends for the 2017 Annual Fund. This year, 137 donors flocked together to raise more than \$24,000 as of July 31. Gifts of every size combine to support our work as Atlanta's leading organization dedicated to building places where birds and people thrive. Donors shown are as of July 31, 2017. If you would like to contribute to the 2017 Annual Fund, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/donate to make an online gift or to print a gift form which can be mailed in. Thank you for supporting Georgia's birds.

Every attempt has been made to include all donors and to accurately identify them. If you believe there has been an error, please contact Michelle Hamner at michelle@atlantaudubon.org or 678-973-2437 so that we can correct our records.

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Bird Diversity and Human Health in Metro Atlanta

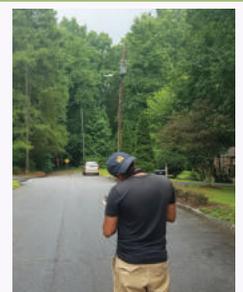
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pathogen being passed. Atlanta provided the perfect opportunity to investigate the dilution effect and the role of urban birds on human health. Atlanta Audubon was thrilled when we were contacted by Dr. Lockaby and his new M.S. student, Nicole Castaneda, with an offer to collaborate.

As the Auburn team continues to collect data on mosquitoes, habitat components, measures of urbanization, and socioeconomic measures, a few Atlanta Audubon volunteers and I have been busy documenting avian diversity at each study site. We use five-minute point counts and note all birds seen or heard

as well as their distance and the way they are engaging with the environment (foraging, singing, etc.). By the time you read this, we will have just completed our third and final month of sampling for the year.

Atlanta Audubon is committed to building places where birds and people thrive. We Auduboners know that birds are an environmental indicator, that species diversity is crucial, and that these factors must be considered as growth continues. We hope this study helps shed light on the roles birds play in our environment, the importance of diversity to a healthy ecosystem, and how to best manage urbanization.



Atlanta Audubon volunteer Jason Ward taking a point count during one of the West Nile Virus Surveys. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Bird ID Challenges: Fall Edition

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM

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

When that uncommon flycatcher sallies out from a branch in your yard, will you know it's not the usual Eastern Phoebe? Want to make better sense of those confusing fall warblers and tanagers? How do you tell the

thrushes apart? If these tough bird ID challenges still puzzle you, then this workshop is for you. Join Conservation Director Adam Betuel as he walks you through some of the most difficult identification challenges of our resident and migratory fall birds. Secure your space by registering at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops.

Fee: Members: \$40 Non-members: \$50
Master Birders in Good Volunteer Standing: \$35

Atlanta Urban Ecologists Program

The Atlanta Urban Ecologists program for youth in 8th to 12th grade will guide students in the discovery of the fascinating, rich ecology of metro Atlanta, providing opportunities for hands-on field experiences, conservation, and citizen science. Orientation will be held on September 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Subsequent sessions will be hosted by a different environmental nonprofit organization, taking place on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM from October to May. Perfect for students interested in pursuing careers in science or conservation or those who just enjoy being outside in nature, the program will provide students with opportunities to learn alongside experts in the field, as well as meaningful experiences in the outdoor places that make Atlanta the "City in a Forest." Students will establish a network of environmental professionals who can assist with their academic and career development while having fun outdoors with their peers. The program will culminate in May with a canoe trip on the Chattahoochee River and a graduation lunch. Program fee: \$400, includes nine hands-on weekend sessions, course materials, canoe trip, T-shirt, and graduation lunch.

Early Bird Registration: \$350 by August 31.

For session dates and descriptions and to register, visit www.atlantaudubon.org/atlanta-urban-ecologists. Need-based scholarships are available. E-mail Melanie@atlantaudubon.org for a scholarship form.

Offered in partnership by Atlanta Audubon Society, Amphibian Foundation, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Trees Atlanta, and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance.



*A bird banding session at Emma Wetlands.
Photo by Melanie Furr.*

eBird Workshop Thursday, October 12, 2017 6:30 to 8:30 PM Atlanta Audubon Society

Do you keep track of the birds you see? Did you know this information can be used by scientists to inform conservation decisions that benefit birds and people?

Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's Director of Conservation, for a hands-on workshop to guide you through the various uses of ebird, the free online checklist program that is revolutionizing the way information about birds is collected and shared. No prior experience needed.

In this workshop you will learn to:

- Keep track of the birds you see (and see more birds!)
- Use ebird to figure out where to look for certain species or plan birding trips
- Share checklists with friends
- Explore interactive range maps, migration patterns, occurrence data, and more
- Understand how ebird data is being used by scientists and the conservation community

To get the most out of the workshop, participants are asked to go to www.ebird.org and create a free ebird account before attending this class. Participants with iPhones can also download the free eBird app. Please bring your laptop computer or smart device to the workshop.

Member Fee: \$20

Nonmember Fee: \$25

eBird

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, September 2 Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of walk: 404.759.7770

GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

Tuesday, September 12 Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton County)

9:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC)

Leader: Chris Lambrecht

Cell contact: 770.891.0955

GPS: 34.002356, -84.382846

Wednesday, September 13 Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Anne McCallum

Cell contact morning of walk: 678.642.7148

GPS: 33.601464, -84.346874

Saturday, September 16 Cochran Shoals (Interstate North) (Cobb County)

7:30 AM

Leader: Nathan Farnau

Cell contact morning of walk: 404.849.3843

GPS: N 33 54.105, W 84 26.634

Saturday, September 16 Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Friends of Constitution Lakes

Leaders: Joy Carter and Mary Kimberly

Cell contacts morning of walk: 404.822.0030

(Joy); 404.308.6279 (Mary)

GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

Saturday, September 30 Friendship Forest Wildlife Sanctuary (DeKalb County)

8:30 AM

Leader: Vinod Babu and Leslie Edwards (Georgia Native Plant Society)

Cell contact: 413.230.6276 (Vinod)

GPS: 33.813722, -84.240833

Saturday, September 30 Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)

9:00 AM

Leader: Tom Painting

Cell contact: 585.465.0034

GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

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.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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678.973.2437

*Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit
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September Monthly Meeting

Solar Spectroscopy: How the Nature of Light Affects Wildlife Viewing and Imaging
Sunday, September 24, 2017, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Northern Cardinals are red and Indigo Buntings are blue, but we only know that thanks to specialized cells in our eyes. When light hits a bird, the bird absorbs some of the light and reflects the rest of it. Which wavelengths are reflected and which are absorbed depends on the properties of the object. When you look at a bird, the wavelengths of reflected light determine what color you see.

Join us on Sunday, September 24, at Manuel's Tavern, for a fascinating presentation by Master Birder Stephen Ramsden, as he discusses **Solar Spectroscopy: The Nature of Light and How It Affects Wildlife Watching and Imaging.**

Stephen is founder of the world's largest solar astronomy outreach program, The Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project. He is a Navy veteran and retired Air Traffic controller. Stephen brings the latest in narrowband solar telescopes to bring solar activity in the Sun's photosphere and chromosphere to the eyes of students around the Southeast. Established in 2007, the Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project has spread worldwide. Each year, Stephen and his partners reach roughly 300,000 people at more than 400 events in 23 countries. The Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation and relies on donations for support.



How do we see bird color? Photo by Victor Tyokht.

Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 N. Highland Avenue, NE, 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.