

Wingbars

A Quarterly Publication of Georgia Audubon

AUGUST 2020



**GEORGIA
AUDUBON**

Stretching Our Wings: Atlanta Audubon Society Is Now Georgia Audubon

Name change reflects updated statewide focus and more help for birds

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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Georgia Audubon and is published four 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 Georgia Audubon.

Cover photo: Tree Swallow by Robert Cook

We have big news! Effective immediately, Atlanta Audubon is becoming Georgia Audubon. With our new name comes a new statewide focus and partnerships with other chapters across Georgia to scale out successful programs, amplify the good work already being done, engage more people and more diverse communities, and enhance conservation efforts for birds across Georgia and the Atlantic Flyway.

This change has been in the works for years, and we are excited to finally make it a reality. Interest in birds and birdwatching has soared during the COVID-19 crisis and, as the only staffed chapter in Georgia, we are uniquely positioned to become a statewide organization. With the recent news that North America has lost more than three billion birds in our lifetimes and the dire forecast of National Audubon's most recent climate report, the time to act on behalf of Georgia's bird populations is now.

"With an ever-growing list of conservation threats facing Georgia birds and their habitats, there is a clear need for habitat restoration and resilience, education, and community engagement on a statewide level," says Executive Director Jared Teutsch. "As Georgia Audubon, we will seek to adopt a broader focus to connect birds and people across the state."

Over the past year, we have met with other Audubon chapters in Georgia, National Audubon, the Georgia Ornithological Society, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other public and private partners to discuss this change, and we have received overwhelming support.

"Our goal is to add to the good work that is taking place statewide, not supplant it," says Teutsch. National Audubon has coastal programs in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, but not in Georgia. Georgia Audubon will fill this gap and will be able to add resources to address the myriad of issues facing our coastal birds, including Red Knots, Wilson's Plovers, and many other imperiled species that live and migrate along Georgia's 100-mile coastline.

As Georgia Audubon, we will work with statewide Audubon partners to scale out conservation and education programs for the benefit of birds and people. A partnership is in the works between Georgia Audubon, the Jekyll Island Authority, and Georgia Sea Grant to create a Georgia Audubon Coastal Fellow position to build conservation capacity on the coast.

In addition, Georgia Audubon recently received a generous grant to fund community engagement work and to develop a comprehensive strategy to take

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Executive Director's Column

Building Places Where Birds and People Thrive Throughout Georgia



Jared Teutsch

Change—the one constant in life that forces birds and people alike to adapt and be resilient. Like so many of us, Atlanta Audubon has embraced change as a way to build a more inclusive and resilient future. During the COVID19 pandemic, we've embraced resiliency by creating a host of new digital content that has allowed us to connect more people to birds than ever before. So many people have discovered the wonder of the birds right outside their windows, and we have been busy providing them with useful information and skills to embrace this newfound interest. But there are still more people we want to reach. After all, everyone is a birder, they just may not have had the opportunity yet.

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors and staff made the bold decision to take the next step in fulfilling our mission by expanding our impact from that of a regional organization as Atlanta Audubon to one that will leverage our experience to do more for statewide conservation and education work as Georgia Audubon. Our work as Georgia Audubon will build upon the past four decades of our successful programs in conservation, education, and community engagement. In addition to scaling out existing programs that address threats to birds and people in our state, we will add much-needed capacity to areas such as coastal bird and habitat conservation, and community engagement to increase accessibility to birds and nature.

Our success must be measured by more than a name change, though. Now more than ever, we must use our platform as a statewide leader to leverage a greater impact in conservation and education programming, and increase representation and access for all communities to appreciate and enjoy nature.

I've spent time with so many of you these past few months, as we talked to our friends at the local Audubon chapters in Georgia, our neighbors and partners at other conservation organizations, and our longtime supporters. I appreciate your support and enthusiasm as we take these bold steps and ask that you join our migration from the mountains to the coast and everywhere in between to build places where birds and people thrive throughout Georgia.

COVID-19 Update and Georgia Audubon

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and ramifications for our upcoming events and programs. The staff has done a remarkable job of pivoting our work to include a host of virtual and digital events, and we are slowly resuming limited in-person activities with safety measures in place. The Georgia Audubon offices will remain closed until we can ensure the safety of our staff at the office. Given the nature of our shared space at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve, we are not sure when that will be. In the meantime, staff continue to work at home, and you can reach them via e-mail at the addresses on page two of *Wingbars*. You may also call and leave a message on the answering machine, as we are checking messages regularly. Thanks for your patience!

Wildlife Sanctuary Program Growing and Thriving

By Gabe Andrle, Habitat Conservation Program Coordinator

This year got off to a slow start for the Sanctuary Program due to the public health crisis. After a brief hiatus, Zaria, our Greening Youth Intern, and I began visiting properties again in mid-spring. By early summer, we had certified ten new residential wildlife sanctuaries. These included an incredible array of greenspaces managed by people who have wildlife at the front of their minds. It was very encouraging to see people taking advantage of extra time at home to work on supporting wildlife in their own yards by removing non-native invasive plants and replacing them with native plants and other resources for birds. With more than 30 properties still pending, we are busy catching up, and we are extremely excited that our wonderful Avian Advocate Volunteer certifiers will soon resume certification visits as well.

What is an Avian Advocate Volunteer certifier? They are our Wildlife Sanctuary Program volunteers who have strong plant identification skills and know what makes a quality sanctuary. They visit properties that have applied to our program to assess whether or not the property meets our requirements. If you are interested in becoming an Avian Advocate Volunteer or participating in some of the training workshops, please contact gabe.andrle@gerogiaaudubon.org

This work would not be possible without our volunteer team. Thanks to their support, we are excited to announce that updates and expansions are coming to our Wildlife Sanctuary Program. As part of becoming Georgia Audubon, we plan to expand the Wildlife Sanctuary Program beyond metro Atlanta and eventually statewide. We have been working with the National Audubon GIS team to update our application process that will make registration easier for applicants and allow us to better examine data and share results. We are also working on two new programs to complement our existing residential program. One will be focused on recognizing the work being done to support wildlife in unique spaces, such as college campuses, cemeteries, and buildings. The second will recognize efforts to support wildlife on large pieces of private and public lands across Georgia. Be on the lookout for more information about these programs soon.



Purple Bee Balm at the Tapestry Community, by Dottie Head.

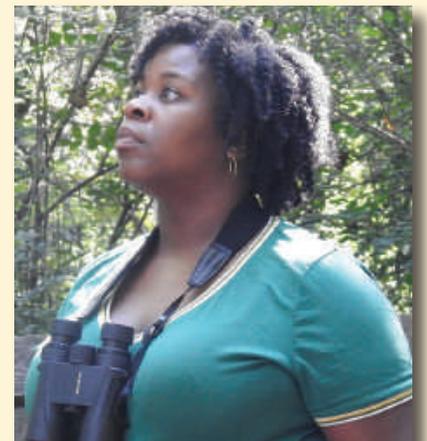
Kiana Leveritte Joins Georgia Audubon as Education Program Coordinator

Georgia Audubon is delighted to welcome Kiana Leveritte to the flock as our new Education Program Coordinator. She will be a familiar face to many, as she completed a one-year internship with Atlanta Audubon back in 2019 focusing on the Wildlife Sanctuary Program thanks to an Audubon in Action grant and partnership with the Greening Youth Foundation. As our full-time Education Program Coordinator, Kiana will assist Director of Education Melanie Furr with adult and youth programs and education and help the organization reach out to a diversity of audiences.

A native of Illinois, Kiana received her bachelor's degree in environmental science natural resources management from Tuskegee University in May 2018. Following her internship with Atlanta Audubon, Kiana accepted a position with the U.S. Forest Service, where she served as the Community Development and

Partnership Coordinator for the Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network. We're delighted to welcome Kiana back to the new Georgia Audubon.

"I feel so blessed with such an amazing opportunity, and look forward to learning new things, making a difference, and soaking in all that I can while working with Georgia Audubon. Being in the outdoors is my happy place," she says.



Kiana joins Georgia Audubon as the new Education Program Coordinator. Photo by Dottie Head.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT On Steve Phenicie

By Dottie Head

Since October 2014, Steve Phenicie has been writing our Wingbars column featuring one of our Atlanta Audubon volunteers, board, or staff members. To date, he has submitted 45 different profiles introducing us to the people who keep the wheels of our organization turning. For our inaugural issue as Georgia Audubon, we decided to turn the tables and interview HIM.

Steve Phenicie likes talking to people and writing about them, too. He's had a lot of experience, both as a volunteer for *Wingbars* newsletter and in a journalism career that spanned 37 years.

A native of Adrian, Michigan, Steve earned his Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Central Michigan University and worked as a reporter for newspapers around the country, ranging from Maine to Michigan to New York. In 1987, he received an offer from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to be a copy editor on the business desk. He accepted and migrated south.

There was not a particular "spark" moment when Steve became interested in birds, but when he was

a child his family moved into a house on a hill with few trees. His father and mother planted a bunch of trees along the edge of the yard—mostly evergreens like spruce and Scotch pines. As Steve grew, so did the trees, and his family quickly noticed the trees were loaded with a variety of bird species. His folks put out feeders to draw the birds in closer. Steve says the whole family enjoyed watching the birds, particularly in winter, when the birds' bright plumage stood in stark contrast to the white snow.

Steve and his wife, Lisa Slotznick, met on a trip to Lisbon, Portugal, over the holidays of 1985-86. Steve arrived in Portugal, but his luggage did not, so he immediately became

the center of attention. "That night before dinner, Lisa walked up to me in the hotel lobby and introduced herself," he says. Lisa lived in Philadelphia at the time, and Steve was living in Kansas City. They came to Atlanta when they both got jobs here and married in 1988.

Steve and Lisa bought a house in North Fulton, then later one in the Peachtree Corners area. "Putting up a bird feeder seemed like part of being a homeowner," said Steve. It was then that Steve started paying closer attention to the birds, and he began learning what species he was seeing. Learning to identify common birds enhances your outdoor experience, he

said. Whether you're in the woods, at the grocery store, in a parking lot, or at the lake, there are always birds around. Since he lives near the Chattahoochee River, Steve hears lots of Fish Crows, and he has learned from Adam Betuel, director of conservation, that their populations are expanding in the metro area.

In 2007, Steve retired from the AJC and started looking for something to keep him busy. He was already a member of Atlanta Audubon and began attending monthly meetings and other events. He started volunteering shortly after that and served as one of *Wingbars* volunteer proofreaders for six years before being tapped to write the Volunteer

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Steve and Lisa on an ox cart ride in Cambodia with the Mekong River in the background on Steve's birthday in 2018.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to all of our members, donors, partners, volunteers, and friends whose support and guidance have made our expansion to Georgia Audubon possible ... to **Stephen Ramsden, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Charlie Muise, and Jason Ward** for serving as volunteer field trip leaders during our weekly Facebook Live Virtual Bird Walks during COVID-19 and to Charlie's son, **Allan Muise**, for also playing a role on one of the walks ... to **Stephen Ramsden** for hosting a Bird Photography Webinar for Atlanta Audubon ... to **Malcolm Hodges, Chris Mowry, Larry Wilson, and Jonah McDonald** for their flexibility in presenting our monthly meetings as webinars instead of live events ... to **George Armistead, Jason Ward, Matt Johnson, Josh Engel, Abby Sterling, Giff Beaton, Bryan Lenz, Paul Smith, Jennie Carr, Eric Antonio Martinez, Katie Barnes, Pierre-Alexandre Dumas, Rob Ripma, John Rowden, and Nate Swick** for presenting during our three Birds & Beer Sessions hosted by **Adam Betuel** ... to **Mary Nevil** for keeping the Early Birds Book Club going and helping us transition to virtual meetings (while we are all grounded by the pandemic).

Species Profile: The Red Knot

By Dottie Head, Director of Membership and Communications

The Red Knot is a rufous-breasted, robin-sized bird that makes one of the world's most epic migratory journeys, travelling nearly 9,000 miles from the southern to northern hemispheres each spring, then turning around and doing it all over again each fall. Occurring on all continents except Antarctica, Red Knots travel from High Arctic nesting areas to wintering locations in South America, Africa, and Australia.

There are three subspecies of Red Knots found in North America, and all three are in decline. Listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the *rufa* subspecies migrates along the eastern U.S. coast. Their migration is perfectly timed to coincide with the egg laying of the horseshoe crab. Arriving between April and May, Red Knots pause their journey to gorge on horseshoe crab eggs and replenish energy stores. A single Red Knot needs to eat roughly 400,000 eggs during stopover to complete migration. More than 30 percent of the population of *rufa* Red Knots visits the Georgia Coast each year. Based on a band re-sighting study, the stopover population of *rufa* Red Knot on southward migration has been estimated at 23,400 birds, while up to 13,775 birds have been documented using the area on northward migration, according to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Like many birds, Red Knots were decimated by market hunting in the 1800s. Passage of the Migratory



A pair of Red Knots in non-breeding plumage.
Photo by Gail Deterra.

Bird Treaty Act in 1918 ended the slaughter, but in recent decades populations of Red Knots from eastern North America have declined sharply due to the unsustainable harvest of horseshoe crabs, coastal development, and sea level rise induced by a changing climate. Between 1980 and 2000, *rufa* Red Knot numbers have declined by nearly 75 percent, making these birds a flagship species for shorebird conservation.

“Red Knots demonstrate the true magic of avian migration, traveling from end to end across the Earth,” says Adam Betuel, director of conservation. “They rely on a healthy coastline, plentiful horseshoe crab eggs,

predictable climate, and few beach disturbances—all of which are in short supply along the Atlantic coastline. Georgia is blessed with an amazing habitat and a network of organizations working to preserve and improve habitat for this threatened species, but there is much work to be done.”

According to the American Bird Conservancy, humans harvest horseshoe crabs for fertilizer and livestock feed, and for its rare blue blood, which is sensitive to endotoxins and is used to test



Red Knot in breeding plumage, by Brian Kushner.

human drugs and medical devices for contamination. Beginning in the 1980s, people began to harvest horseshoe crabs in unsustainable numbers for conch and eel bait, which fueled steep declines of both horseshoe crabs and Red Knots. Other migrating shorebirds that feed on horseshoe crab eggs include the Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Dunlin.

“The horseshoe crab, more than 450 million years old, is one of Earth's oldest animals. It survived the cataclysms of the planet's mass extinctions, including one where 96 percent of sea life perished. And now, we are drawing down its time, and the time of many shorebirds, dependent on horseshoe crab eggs, whose numbers are also plummeting. Ending the killing of hundreds of thousands of horseshoe crabs for bait every year, and substantially reducing the hundreds of thousands bled annually for medical testing, are critical steps to enabling birds of “untrammled wildness and freedom” to fly freely once again,” writes Deborah Cramer in a recent article in *Orion* magazine. Deborah is the author of the award-winning book *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey* and was the keynote speaker at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration in 2016.

In Georgia, Red Knots have two distinct wintering strategies. One population travels from breeding grounds in the High Arctic to winter in southern Argentina and Chile, stopping over in Georgia to feed before continuing its migratory journey. A second group breeds in the High Arctic but will spend the winter months along the southeastern coast, from Virginia down to South America. Along its range, including Georgia, biologists are working to gain a

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Meet Donnie Lanier: Albany Audubon's Bluebird Guru

By Kathie Entz, Albany Audubon Society

American Birds magazine placed the Eastern Bluebird second on the Blue List in 1978. Created by National Audubon in 1971, the Blue List was an early warning system for species that were experiencing a reduction in population or range. In response, The Albany Audubon Society founded a bluebird housing project with the ambition of restoring bluebird populations in South Georgia under the initial

leadership of Lloyd Kinney. Kinney enlisted the help of Donnie Lanier, and together they installed their first bluebird nesting box in Camp Osborn, a local Boy Scout Camp. The following year they expanded the program, adding additional boxes in Smithville. In the 1980s, Kinney began experiencing some health issues so Donnie took the lead, and he has been spearheading the Eastern Bluebird nesting box project in Albany ever since.

The Albany Audubon Society chapter was founded in 1972. Donnie Lanier and his wife, Sylvia, joined the local chapter six years later. Donnie retired from the City of Albany after 32 years as an engineer and Director of Public Works. All three of his children still reside in the Albany area. Renowned Georgia wildlife artist David Lanier is his son. Donnie's passion for Eastern Bluebird conservation is ongoing. The simple beginnings of adding the first birdhouse has grown from Albany, located in Dougherty County, to surrounding counties. Currently there are more than 500 Albany Audubon Society bluebird nesting boxes along 14 different routes, with 30 to 70 nest boxes along each route!

Each year, Donnie uses wood scraps from homes under construction and other donated items, such as paint and nails, to build the boxes for the next season. He estimates boxes need to be replaced every five years and builds 50 to 100 boxes each year to replace old boxes and add new ones. A series of natural disasters in the past 18 months, including two tornadoes and Hurricane Michael, destroyed quite a few boxes, damaged homes, and significantly altered the landscape, making this work even more important. Donnie says that some are even stolen each year.

Eastern Bluebirds nest in wide-open areas. Donnie installs the nest boxes at least 500 feet apart and four to seven feet off the ground for optimal results. Eastern Bluebirds are not as picky about the box openings, so Lanier builds some boxes with circular holes and others with a horizontal entrance. According to Lanier, bluebirds will typically build a nest two to three times a year, building each nest on top of the last nest, and lay four to five eggs with each brood. Each year the Albany Audubon Society cleans and maintains the nesting boxes. In the winter months, Society members record data on each box. Information is collected for each box, including the number of nests, unhatched eggs, current occupants, and the physical condition of the nesting box. This data is used for research projects by students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Eastern Bluebirds compete for nesting boxes with sparrows, flying squirrels, snakes, wasps, ladybugs, and other insects. The nests are easy to identify because bluebirds create "neat nests" using pine straw, whereas a sparrow nest in a bluebird box will appear "junky and unorganized." Bluebird boxes that are located near south Georgia's expansive pecan groves are also susceptible to herbicide spray, adding an additional challenge for successful nests.

Donnie's enthusiasm for the bluebird project is contagious and is a family affair. His brother-in-law, Will Smith, has donated wood for the boxes, and Donnie also taught him how to build them. Will has begun a route in Georgetown, Georgia. Donnie has already begun construction on boxes for this year, with more than 200 cut out and ready to assemble. At age 90, and with four decades of dedication to the Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes, he is undoubtedly Albany's official Bluebird Guru.



Donnie Lanier, age 90, is Albany Audubon Society's Bluebird Guru.



Eastern Bluebird, by Kathie Entz.



A selection of Donnie's hand-built bluebird boxes. Photo by Kathie Entz.

Fall Migration Is Coming: Bird Fest 2020 Kicks Off on September 19

Though COVID-19 put a kink in our Bird Fest plans this spring, we are pleased to announce that most events have been rescheduled for dates between September 19 and October 18. Bird Fest 2020 offers more than 40 events for bird and nature enthusiasts, including guided field trips, educational workshops, and guest speakers. It is one of our largest fundraising events each year, so your participation in and support of Bird Fest provide critical funds for habitat restoration, youth education programs, community events, species-specific conservation, and more. Registration for Bird Fest 2020 will re-open to Georgia Audubon members on Monday, August 10, and to non-members on Monday, August 17. Space may be limited in some events due to existing registrations from the spring. To learn more and to view the full schedule of events, please visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfest.



Carolina Chickadee, by Michelle Black.

Stretching Our Wings *(Continued from Page 1)*

existing conservation and education programs directly to diverse communities throughout the state. We'll be collaborating with other Audubon chapters to build a statewide presence of diverse volunteers such as field trip leaders, naturalists, and program leaders to ensure representation of all races and cultures in our work and programs.

Finally, Georgia Audubon is already working with other chapters to scale out existing programs. This fall, we will be working with Oconee Rivers Audubon to streamline both organizations' Wildlife Sanctuary Programs into a unified program and to offer a fall native plant sale with pickup locations in Atlanta and Athens. In addition, in collaboration with Ocmulgee Audubon, we will be offering an Atlanta and Macon cohort of our popular Master Birder Class. We will be reaching out to other chapters in the weeks and months to come to explore ways we can combine efforts to do more good for Georgia's birds and engage more diverse communities in the joy of birds and birding.

"Georgia Audubon knows that when we protect birds and the places they need, we are building communities where birds and people can thrive

together," said David J. Ringer, chief network officer of the National Audubon Society. "Georgia Audubon is an influential and effective partner organization to the National Audubon Society and our national network of chapters and student clubs. We're confident Georgia Audubon will continue to grow their advocacy efforts and groundbreaking programs to benefit the birds, people, and economy of Georgia, and we look forward to growing our partnership."

As an existing member of Atlanta Audubon, your membership will automatically become a Georgia Audubon membership. We'll continue offering free field trips, Bird Fest, Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, and all of the great workshops and programs you have always enjoyed. But we'll also be adding some exciting new digital programming, additional in- and out-of-state trips, and other programs across the state.

Our new Georgia Audubon logo features the Redheaded Woodpecker on an oak branch. Look for more information on these changes throughout this newsletter.



Species Profile: The Red Knot *(Continued from Page 3)*

better understanding of this species by studying arrival times and stopover duration, and estimating populations.

You will often see Red Knots on Georgia beaches and mudflats from September to May with their medium-sized beaks to the ground, searching for horseshoe crab eggs, bivalves, and small crabs. They are easy to recognize in the rufous-red breeding plumage and a plumb, football-like shape. Immature birds and non-breeding birds are a non-descript gray and white and can easily blend in with other shorebirds.

In the coming year, Georgia Audubon plans to hire a coastal biologist to work closely with existing staff from

the Department of Natural Resources and Manomet to expand research capabilities and advocate for policies that protect horseshoe crabs and Red Knots.

"Georgia's 100-mile coastline is unique in its shape, tides, and relative intactness compared to other places along the Atlantic Coast and is a critical habitat for many bird species, including the Red Knot," says Betuel. "The reliance of the *rufa* Red Knot on our beaches and marshes highlights the work that we must do to make our coast welcoming to these birds. Georgia Audubon is excited to do our part along the Georgia Coast and add capacity to the amazing work that is already taking place."

Thank You to our 2020 Annual Fund Donors

We are pleased to announce the generous support of our members and friends for the 2020 Annual Fund. This year, 157 donors flocked together to raise more than \$36,000. Gifts of every size combine to support our work to build places where birds and people thrive. Donors shown represent gifts received as of June 15, 2020. If you would like to contribute to the 2020 Annual Fund, please visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/donate to make an online gift or to print a gift form which can be mailed. **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 Beverly Fooks at beverly@georgiaaudubon.org or 678-973-2437 so that we can correct our records.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT On Steve Phenicie

(Continued from Page 4)

Spotlight column. His first article was in October 2014 and featured a profile of Mary Kimberly, Atlanta Audubon volunteer and former board member. Steve says he enjoys writing this column because it has allowed him to get to know a number of people that he never would have met otherwise.

After the 2014 volunteer profile, Mary and Steve became friends, and she introduced him to another organization—Terrific Tuesday Adventures, a hiking club. The group meets every Tuesday for a different hike all over the metro area. They've hiked at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Kennesaw Mountain, Red Top Mountain and everywhere in between. A history buff, Steve also belongs to the Gwinnett History Book Club.

In addition to being an avid hiker, Steve is a world traveler. His travels have taken him to 65 countries, ranging from Vietnam and Cambodia to eastern and western Europe, Belize, Guatemala, New Zealand, and more. Steve joined the Atlanta Audubon trip to Costa Rica in January, but not all of his trips are bird related.

Steve says it's hard to pick a favorite destination, but he really loves England. One of his favorite trips was a hike across England in 2008 during Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. "Every time you turned on the TV, you would hear "God Save the Queen,"" he says.

A former board member of Atlanta Audubon, Steve volunteers for the annual Intown Christmas Bird Count and regularly participates in habitat restoration workdays. He also serves on the selection committee for Georgia Audubon's Habitat Restoration Fund Grant. Each September, he and Lisa enjoy volunteering at the annual Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, and they have learned lots of great tips on enhancing their yard for birds.

Steve says Lisa was not originally big on birding, but she's becoming more interested as she begins to learn to identify more species. "Maybe she'll become a birder when she retires in a few years," he says. Lisa is currently an actuary at PricewaterhouseCoopers. They have one adult son, who lives in Boston, Mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be adding additional virtual events and field trips throughout the fall. Please check our website or our *Bird Buzz* e-newsletter for additional updates.

Note on Field Trips and other in-person events: Georgia Audubon is cautiously resuming limited in-person events as we continue to monitor the COVID outbreak. We are currently limiting field trips to 10 participants each and asking people to register and agree to abide by a set of safety precautions. Please visit our field trip page at www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips to register.

AUGUST

Field Trip: Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

Saturday, August 1

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip: Chattahoochee River CRNRA (Cobb County)

Sunday, August 9

7:30 AM

Leader: Jay Davis

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County)

Wednesday, August 12

8:00 AM

Leader: Anne McCallum

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Bird Fest 2020 Registration Re-opens for Current Georgia Audubon Members

Monday, August 10

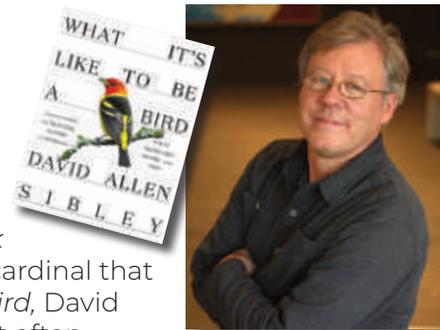
www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfest

Webinar: Birds and Beer Featuring Special Guest David Sibley

Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00 PM

Georgia Audubon and Eagle Eye Book Shop will cohost the next installation of our popular online Birds and Beer, featuring special guest author and illustrator David Sibley. Join us on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 PM for this conversation, followed by an audience Q&A, moderated by Georgia Audubon's Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel, as they discuss David's newest release and *New York Times*' bestseller *What It's Like to Be a Bird*. "Can birds smell?" "Is this the same cardinal that was at my feeder last year?" "Do robins 'hear' worms?" In *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, David Sibley answers the most frequently asked questions about the birds we see most often.

This special, large-format volume is geared as much to non-birders as it is to the out-and-out obsessed, covering more than two hundred species and including more than 330 new illustrations by the author. Tickets to this virtual event may be purchased online at www.georgiaaudubon.org/digital-resources. A portion of each book sale will be donated to Georgia Audubon by Eagle Eye Book Shop.



SEPTEMBER

Field Trip: Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

Saturday, September 5

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County)

Wednesday, September 9

8:00 AM

Leader: Anne McCallum

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip: Chattahoochee River CRNRA (Cobb County)

Sunday, September 13

8:00 AM

Leader: Jay Davis

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Webinar: 2020 Virtual Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Sunday, September 13 at 3:30 PM

This year's Wildlife Sanctuary Tour is going to look a little different due to COVID-19. Instead of an in-person tour, we'll be offering a virtual tour with Gabe Andrie, Habitat Conservation Program Coordinator, giving us a virtual tour of some of our great Wildlife Sanctuaries to show how you can transform your yard into a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. Tickets for this virtual event are on sale now at www.georgiaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-tour.



The 2020 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will be a virtual event on Sunday, September 13.
Photo by Dottie Head.

Webinar: Nature's Best Hope with Doug Tallamy

Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 PM

See the complete listing on the back page of *Wingbars*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER *(Continued from Page 10)*

Georgia Audubon and Oconee Rivers Audubon to Collaborate on Fall Native Plant Sale

As part of Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, Georgia Audubon and Oconee Rivers Audubon, in Athens, will be collaborating on a fall native plant sale. We will partner with Beech Hollow Wildlife Farms to bring you a large selection of bird-friendly, native plants for your landscape. Plants may be ordered online from September 1 to 18, and we will have pickup dates in late September at Blue Heron Nature Preserve and at an Athens location to be determined. Visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/plant-sales for more information.

OCTOBER

Field Trip:

Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

Saturday, October 3

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip:

Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County)

Wednesday, October 14

8:00 AM

Leader: Anne McCallum

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Field Trip:

Morgan Falls Overlook Park (Fulton County)

Saturday, October 17

8:00 AM

Leader: Roseanne Guerra

Registration required at

www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Georgia Audubon Master Birder (one cohort in Atlanta and a second in Macon)

October 17 to November 21

Georgia Audubon is excited to offer two Master Birder courses this fall, one in the Atlanta area and a second in Macon in coordination with Ocmulgee Audubon Society. Due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19, the fall course will consist of virtual webinars for both groups on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and in-person Saturday field trips at birding hot spots. Georgia Audubon will coordinate the Atlanta cohort field trips, and we will partner with Ocmulgee Audubon Society for the Macon area field trips. The course begins with a virtual orientation session and first class on Saturday, October 17, and concludes with a final exam and virtual graduation on November 21. Class size is limited. Learn more or register at www.georgiaaudubon.org/master-birder-program.



2019 Fall Master Birder grads, by Melanie Furr.

Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips. As always, we encourage field trip participants to check the Georgia 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.

Early Birds Book Club

The Early Birds Book Club has moved online during COVID-19 and will likely continue meeting virtually through 2020. Please visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/early-birds-book-club for status updates or to register for the virtual book club event.

Here's what we'll be reading in the months to come:

August: *Creation*, by Katherine Govier. An historical novel about Audubon's journey to Labrador.

September: *Birds and Art*, in response to David Sibley's new book. Select a bird artist to share with the group.

October: *Cuckoo: Cheating by Nature*, by Nick Davies.

The Early Birds welcome all who enjoy reading about birds, birding, and birders. We are a "no commitment" book club—some folks come every time and others occasionally. For a list of past books and more details on those coming up, you can find us on the Georgia Audubon website. If you wish to join the Early Bird's e-mail list for announcements and reminder notices, please e-mail Mary Nevil at mbnevil@gmail.com



The Early Birds Book Club is currently meeting virtually and welcomes new members.

Wingbars

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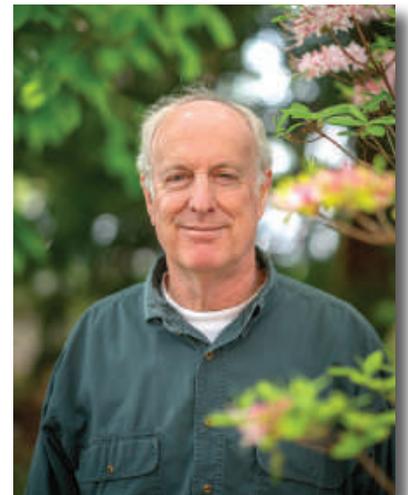
Webinar: Nature's Best Hope with Doug Tallamy

Thursday, September 17, 2020 • 7:00 PM

Georgia Audubon is thrilled to welcome award-winning author and entomologist Doug Tallamy for a webinar on the evening of September 17. This is an amazing opportunity to hear Doug's message of hope and to learn how we all can be part of the solution to address declining biodiversity and save birds, too.

About the Presentation:

Recent headlines about global insect declines, the impending extinction of one million species worldwide, and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can and must take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.



*Doug Tallamy will present to Georgia Audubon on his new book, Nature's Best Hope, on Thursday, September 17.
Photo by Rob Cardillo.*

Learn more or purchase tickets at www.georgiaaudubon.org/doug-tallamy.