

# Wingbars



GEORGIA  
AUDUBON

A Quarterly Publication of Georgia Audubon

AUGUST 2022

## Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Returns in September

Special Guest Kenn Kaufman for the Closing Weekend on September 24 and 25

By Dottie Head

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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.

Indigo Bunting by Jessica Nelson

This September Georgia Audubon will celebrate the fifth annual Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, a celebration of Georgia's native plants and the key role they play for birds and other wildlife. One of the biggest threats to birds in Georgia is habitat loss. As urbanization increases and natural habitats disappear, native plants can go a long way to restoring the habitat birds need. Fortunately, we can provide birds with high-quality resources simply through thoughtful landscaping utilizing native plants.

We have an array of fun, educational events lined up for this year's Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. Tickets are now on sale for these events. Learn more or register at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month).

**Fall Native Plant Sale  
Online Sale Opens Tuesday,  
August 30**

**Online Sale Closes Sunday,  
September 25**

**Pickup Dates:**

**Saturday, October 1 in Lexington/Athens  
Sunday, October 2 in Decatur/Atlanta**

Georgia Audubon and Oconee Rivers Audubon Society are partnering with Beech Hollow Wildlife Farms on our Fall Native Plant Sale to bring you a large selection of bird-friendly, native plants for your landscape. Plants will be ordered online, and pickup locations will be available in both the Atlanta and Athens areas. For more information, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/plant-sales](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/plant-sales).

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American Goldfinch on purple coneflower.  
Photo by Will Stuart.

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From the Executive Director

# Native Plants, Birds and Bees



Jared Teutsch

In the last five decades, the biodiversity that we have lost worldwide and even in Georgia is simply stupefying. The world is much less dynamic and interesting and heterogeneous than even 10 or 20 years ago. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, only 737 native plant species are protected by the Endangered Species Act. About 25% of the 20,000 total native plant species in North America are at risk of extinction. That's a problem. As more and more native plants are pushed out by exotic, invasive species, it can feel like we're always a step behind. You think you pulled all the privet? It's back. The English ivy seems to spread no matter what you do. And yes, the kudzu keeps growing. And yet there is hope.

All of us know the value native plants bring to our gardens. They provide essential ecosystem services for native insects and birds alike. They mitigate the effects of climate change, helping capture carbon in their fiber and the soil far better than invasive species. And they are often more resilient to drought and flooding than non-native species.

It also helps that there is a growing demand for native plants. Georgia Audubon



Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Eastern redbud.  
Photo by Sharon Dobbins.

has been working with native plant nurseries across the state, helping support a system of supply chain growers offering a diverse array of native plants for every yard and property type. Those plants are important for bird habitat and key to supporting our Georgia Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuaries as a growing network of a resilient tapestry of native landscaping, offering shade, food, shelter and aesthetics to birds and people alike. Because as we all know, when birds thrive, people thrive.

I hope you'll join us this fall as we celebrate all things native plants during Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month and highlight a few of the hundreds of wildlife sanctuaries that so many of you have built over the years.

# Chapter Spotlight: Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society

By Doug Walker, Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society

With a mission to educate the public about birds, other wildlife, and habitat, and to provide opportunities for our community to appreciate the natural world, the Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society focuses on birds and wildlife in the central Savannah River area, around Augusta, Georgia, and Aiken, South Carolina.

## Hollow Creek Water Quality Monitoring

Since 2006 Augusta-Aiken chapter volunteers have been monitoring the water quality in Hollow Creek at Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Aiken County, South Carolina. The quality of this waterway is threatened by urban, industrial, and agricultural development within the watershed. This program provides early warning of water quality changes. We accomplish this through monitoring of Hollow Creek to detect changes, and reporting changes to proper authorities for rectification. The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program provides the procedures, training, and a forum for sharing test results with local and state groups concerned with water quality issues.

Through our efforts, we hope to maintain high water quality in sources used by wildlife and people in Aiken County, South Carolina. Additionally, the program increases awareness of non-point source water pollution issues among the team members and Audubon chapter members. Dissemination of the data encourages and builds partnerships between the Audubon chapter and local residents, local environmental groups, state

government representatives, and state environmental agencies. Summary reports of our data are submitted to the Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary, Audubon



Volunteers conduct water monitoring in Hollow Creek. Photo used with permission from Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society.

South Carolina, South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, GAAS, Savannah Riverkeeper, Edisto Riverkeeper, Friends of the Edisto, and other interested parties. Additionally, our database is currently being used as a teaching tool in a local high school biology class taught by a team member.

Project expenses run about \$500 per year, and funding is provided by the Augusta-Aiken Audubon local chapter, Audubon Cooperative Funding grants, and a one-time grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for microscopes.

During our sixteen years of monitoring, we have found the stream water quality has been good to excellent. Only once have we reported high bacteria counts to a state agency.

## Travel with Georgia Audubon in 2023

Limited space still remains in some of our upcoming trips in 2023.

Georgia Audubon offers small-group travel hosted by Georgia Audubon staff and in the company of other bird and nature enthusiasts to regional, domestic, and international destinations.

Registration is currently open:

- Sax-Zim Bog and Northern Minnesota: Winter Specialties — February 9 to 13, 2023
- Northern Michigan: Kirtland's Warbler and Upper Peninsula — May 30 to June 5, 2023 – limited space remains
- Maine: Mountains to the Sea — June 11 to 15, 2023 — Full: Waitlist available
- Northern Utah and the Mountain West's Most Wanted — July 11 to 16, 2023

For more information and full itineraries, please visit the Georgia Audubon Travel Program webpage at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/travel](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/travel). Additional details about future travel opportunities, including dates and itineraries, will be released in an upcoming issue of our bi-monthly e-newsletter, *BirdBuzz*. You can sign up to receive *BirdBuzz* at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/newsletters](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/newsletters).

A graphic for the Georgia Audubon Travel Program. It features the Georgia Audubon logo at the top left. The text "REGISTRATION NOW OPEN" is prominently displayed in orange and white. Below this, the website "GEORGIAAUDUBON.ORG/TRAVEL" is listed. The graphic includes four circular images of birds: a puffin, an owl, a yellowthroat, and a junco. At the bottom, a list of travel destinations is provided: Northern Minnesota in Winter, Maine (full-wait list available), Northern Michigan, and Northern Utah.

GEORGIA AUDUBON

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

GEORGIAAUDUBON.ORG/TRAVEL

- Northern Minnesota in Winter
- Maine (full-wait list available)
- Northern Michigan
- Northern Utah

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT On Georgann Schmalz

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 54th in a series on Georgia Audubon volunteers, board members, and staff.)

Georgann Schmalz wasn't there when Noah released that dove from the ark to search for dry land, but she's still been around birding and Audubon for what seems like forever. She bought her first pair of binoculars for \$20 at Sears with quarters she had saved when she was around 10 years old. That was well over a half a century ago.

She's perhaps best known locally for having been president of what was then Atlanta Audubon three times in the late 1990s and early 2000s and being the "founding mother" of the Master Birder program. After retiring in 2000 from Fernbank Science Center, she had become a DeKalb County Master Gardener and decided that a similar program was needed for birds. "I wanted to keep teaching, and Audubon would help me do that," she says. To date, more than 400 people have graduated from the program.

Georgann's accomplishments are extensive. After graduating from Clemson University with a master's degree in ornithology in 1972, she was at Fernbank for 28½ years. Her job included teaching ornithology, ecology, and animal behavior to grades K-12, adult workshops on natural history, and birding trips.

She has held bird identification workshops for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, The Longleaf Alliance, and the Mississippi, Louisiana,

Alabama and Kentucky state wildlife agencies. She has also been involved with the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Important Bird Areas of Georgia, consulted on environmental education projects, and written the bird curriculum for a joint program between Ecuador and Georgia.

Georgann has written more than 50 articles for the *Fernbank Quarterly* and *The Oriole*, the journal of the Georgia

Ornithological Society. She ran a banding station in Fernbank Forest, conducted schoolyard wildlife habitat workshops for DeKalb County Schools, and certified backyard wildlife sanctuaries for Audubon.

She opened a business, Birding Adventures Inc., to escort people to birding hotspots both domestically and overseas. She no longer offers trips but invites others to use bird materials available on her website, [birdingadventuresinc.com](http://birdingadventuresinc.com). She still teaches classes for Georgia Audubon. And awards? Georgann's won her share.

Georgann is a native of Niles, Ill., and got her undergraduate degree in biology from Northeastern Illinois University. She and her husband, Jim Buckley, live in Dawson County. Jim taught meteorology at Fernbank, and she jokes that he knows more about birds than most meteorologists, and she knows more about meteorology than most birders. They have "no children yet," she says.



Georgann Schmalz

# THANK YOU!

## A Million Thanks...

... to **Tom Wilson** for presenting at the June Monthly Meeting at Manuel's ... to **Mary Nevil** for her continued coordination of the Early Birds Book Club and for her assistance with revisions to Georgia Audubon's updated Learning About Birds curriculum, coming later this summer! ... to **Roxann Drew, Leena Shah, Steve Rushing, and James Stratton** for helping to spread bales of broomsedge in our restoration meadows at Panola Mountain State Park ... to **David Paddock, Nancy Downs, Price Gardner, Wendy Hoback, Krupa Loke, Dee Bonelli, Sally De Lange, Cynthia Fleck** and the illustrious **Steve Phenicie** for taking part in our new bi-monthly workdays coordinated with the Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy at the Island Ford Pollinator Garden located at the headquarters of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area ... to **Marilyn Huffman, Connie Reinke, Sheryl Berg, Lisbet Phillips, Gabe Andrie, Melanie Sherman, and Jamie Madigan** for help with plant sorting and pickup during our Spring Native Plant Sale ... to Project Safe Flight volunteers **Nancy Kennell, Kelly Bryan, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Cynthia Peng, Coralie Jean-Noel, Maureen Carroll, Cheryl Hensley, Sarah Carline, Paul Miller, Adrienne Miller, Jay Davis, Erin Feichtner, Brian Campbell, Cameron Wethern, Cherie T, and Amberlee** ... to Climate Watch volunteers **Wendy Hoback, Mark Pellegrini, Robert Emond, Roseanne Guerra, Brian Campbell, Lisbet Phillips, and Mary Nevil** ... to our Avian Advocates **Paula Grad, Lou Clymore, Kelly Plasket, Georgia LaMar, Barbara Powell-Schager, Alison Huff, Betsy Kurimo-Beechuk, Margaret A. Stephen, and Andrea Williams** for continued help with the Wildlife Sanctuary Program ... to field trip leaders **Rebecca Dill, Josh Jackson, Jay Davis, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, Anne McCallum, Shannon Fair, Alex LoCastro, Stephen Ramsden, Jim Lester, Robert McDonough, Roseanne Guerra, and Kevin O'Toole** ... to **Melanie Vickers, Stella Wissner, Michelle Thompson, Leena Shah, Nancy Duval, Margaret Stephen, Judy Killlean, Phillip Prichard, Angie Lewis, Steven Rushing, Dave Butler, Les Cane, Kathryn Jackson van Detta, Donna Shapiro, and JoAnna Parkman** for volunteering to help at tabling events and festivals.

# Thank You to Our 2022 Annual Fund Donors

We are pleased to announce the generous support of our members and friends for the 2022 Annual Fund. As of July 10, 2022, 173 members and friends flocked together to raise more than \$43,500. Gifts of every size combine to support our work to build places where birds and people thrive. Donors shown represent gifts received as of July 10, but it's not too late to pledge your support. If you would like to contribute to the 2022 Annual Fund, please visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/donate](http://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 Jason Taylor, Development Manager, at [jason.taylor@georgiaaudubon.org](mailto:jason.taylor@georgiaaudubon.org) so that we can correct our records.*

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# Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Returns in September

(Continued from Page 1)

## **Wildlife Sanctuary Tour in DeKalb County Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Tickets: \$20 for Georgia Audubon Members / \$30 for non-members**

We're excited to bring back the Georgia Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour as an in-person event for 2022. This year's tour will feature five great properties along a 28-mile route in DeKalb County. You can read the property descriptions in this issue of *Wingbars* or at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-tour](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-tour).

## **Webinar: Reflections from a Bird Bath: What Game Cameras Can Teach Us About Fruit Eating Birds, with Jim Ferrari Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 PM FREE**

Join ecologist Jim Ferrari in this webinar as he describes his seven-year study of seed deposition to the bird bath in his Macon, GA, yard. Jim collects seeds, records the visiting birds, and (for the past year) has trained a game camera on his bird bath to learn more about seed dispersal by birds. Themes covered in the talk include seasonality of fruit production, native vs. non-native plants, which bird species have the broadest fruit diet, and more.



*Northern Cardinal in a bird bath. Photo by Anthony Louviere.*

## **Webinar: Creating a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary, with Alex LoCastro Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 PM FREE**

Learn how to promote the conservation and well-being of birds and other wildlife in your green space. We will cover everything from food, water, and shelter to keeping wildlife safe. Whether you are an experienced gardener and birder or just getting started, there will be something for you to learn. Get connected to resources that can help you on your journey, and learn how you can get your space certified as a Georgia Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

## **Plant ID Workshop, with Gabe Andrie Thursday, September 22, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM Location: Henderson Park, Tucker Cost: \$20 for Georgia Audubon members / \$30 for non-members**

Join Georgia Audubon Habitat Program Manager, Gabe Andrie, for a beginner plant identification workshop, where you will learn how to identify some of the most common native and non-native plant species of the metro Atlanta area. No experience is necessary. You will leave equipped with the basics for starting to understand what plants shape the many amazing ecosystems birds rely on for survival.



*Cochran Shoals CRNRA. Photo by Dottie Head.*

## **Field Trip with Kenn Kaufman at Cochran Shoals CRNRA Sunday, September 25 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**This is an exclusive opportunity for Georgia Audubon members only.**

**Cost: \$50/person (Note that there is also a \$5 daily parking fee per car that will be payable on site, or you may display your annual National Park Services pass.)**

**Location: Marietta, GA (Cobb County)**

**Difficulty Level: Moderate, with 2 to 3 miles of walking on flat paths**

**Limited to 20 participants**

Join us for an exclusive opportunity for Georgia Audubon members only to take a field trip during fall migration with birding legend Kenn Kaufman.

The Cochran Shoals unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) is a favorite metro Atlanta birding spot due to its location along the Chattahoochee River that attracts a healthy mix of birds, especially during migration. During the height of migration, the species totals here reach the high 60s, with the highlight being a great variety of migratory warbler species, including Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, as well as other seasonal species, like Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak that forage in the trees alongside the river. This guided trip will be led by Kenn Kaufman and Georgia Audubon staff.

## **Sunday, September 25 3:30 to 5:00 PM at Monday Night Brewing Garage Cost: \$30 for Georgia Audubon members / \$35 for non-members**

**Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Closing Celebration Birds and the Undiscovered World, with Kenn Kaufman (see page 12 for additional details on this event)**

# Georgia Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour Property Descriptions

**Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Rain or shine**

*Please note this is a self-guided tour, and participants must provide their own transportation. A list of tour stops/addresses will be sent via email to registered participants the week of the event. Guests may tour the properties in any order they choose.*

After two years of hosting virtual Wildlife Sanctuary Tours during the pandemic, we're excited to once again host an in-person Georgia Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour on Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This year's tour will feature five properties along a 13-mile route in DeKalb County. Join us to gain inspiration on how you can transform your yard into a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. Each featured property has been certified by Georgia Audubon as a Wildlife Sanctuary because it provides four essential criteria for attracting birds and other wildlife: food sources (at least 50% native plants), nesting sites, shelter, and water sources.

We are excited to feature these several wonderful properties on this year's tour.

## Deepdene Park (part of Olmstead Linear Park)

At 22 acres, Deepdene Park is the largest section of Olmsted Linear Park, which runs along Ponce de Leon Avenue between Druid Hills and Decatur. Deepdene occupies the easternmost end of the string of parks that comprise Olmsted Linear Park and is a largely wooded park that boasts some of the largest trees in the area.

The park is situated on a beautiful sloping landscape that is shaped by a

meandering stream running the length of the greenspace.

A variety of native plants, birds, and other wildlife can be found in the deep shade of this forest.

Led by the Olmsted

Linear Park Alliance, Georgia Audubon was able to partner on a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to restore wildlife habitat in this park. The work continues to this day to remove non-native invasive plants and replace them with native plants.



*Bridge at Deepdene. Photo by Adam Betuel.*

## Mary Scott Nature Park

**4150 Briarcliff Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30345**

Located off Briarcliff Road in northeast Atlanta, Mary Scott Nature Park is a true hidden gem for any lover of native plants.

In total, the park consists of 11 acres of beautiful and diverse canopied forest, all connected by a single loop trail. The high level of biodiversity found at the park can be credited to its team of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are members of



*Pollinator garden at Mary Scott Nature Preserve. Photo by Dottie Head.*

the Georgia Native Plant Society. Together, they regularly remove invasive plants from the park while adding new and rare native species, many of which are accompanied by plant identification signs for the benefit of visitors hoping to learn more about Georgia's native plants. The area was certified as a Georgia Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary in 2021.

**Note regarding private homes on tour:** *To protect the privacy of the private property owners who have generously agreed to have their homes on our 2022 tour, we are keeping names and addresses private. We will share names and addresses with registered tour participants a few days prior to the September 10 tour.*

## Private Property #1

This property is one of the most impressive private residences that Georgia Audubon has certified in the last few years. It features hundreds of native plant species

in a two-acre area. The owner has put a lot of work into creating winding trails that extend all the way from the house at the top of the hill down to the nearby Peachtree Creek. The property is a true wildlife sanctuary in every sense of the word, with tons of beautiful birds, insects, mammals, and more calling the area home. In short, this property will be a great place for tour attendees to get many ideas for their own outdoor areas and give them something to aspire to.



*Property #1 features nearly two acres of restored habitat along Peachtree Creek. Photo by Dottie Head.*

## Private Property #2

Located near East Atlanta Village, this property is a great example of what dedicated homeowners can accomplish in a relatively small area. The property is a standard urban Atlanta tract of land consisting of less than 0.2 acres, but you can hardly tell, because of how many wonderful and rare native plants are nestled in its front and back yards. Tour attendees will have lots to learn from this homeowner and the many little changes that have been made since starting the process of converting it to native habitat.



*The homeowners at Property #2 have created an oasis for birds. Photo by Dottie Head.*

## Private Property #3

This private property is another shining example of what can be accomplished by homeowners who invest the time and effort to make their outdoor area as diverse and wildlife-friendly as possible. The property is owned by a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society, and the owner has planted more than 200 species of native plants over the years, many of which were obtained at GNPS's native plant rescues. At just under one acre, this area serves as a good middle ground between the other two properties, and visitors will once again have much to learn from its owner.

# Georgia Audubon Welcomes Three New Staff Members

Please join us in welcoming three new staff to Georgia Audubon. Sheridan Alford joins Georgia Audubon as our new Community Engagement Manager, Catie Iber has taken over as our new Finance and Administration Manager, and Jason Taylor is coming on board as the new Development Manager.

**Sheridan Alford** is an Environmental Educator with a recently completed Master of Natural Resources in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management degree from the University of Georgia. Her fieldwork has taken her across the American South, and led to work with PBS Nature, Oboz Footwear, and others to enhance the minority experience within the outdoors. She helped organize the movement Black Birders Week, whose goal is to increase the visibility and representation of Black birders in the field and to elevate and support diversity in the birding community at large. Sheridan is passionate about community science, youth involvement, and the benefits of ecotherapy for mental health.



*Sheridan Alford*



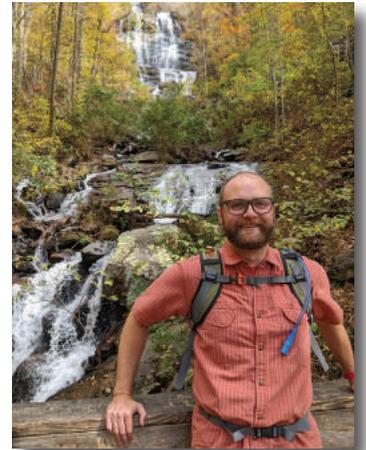
*Catie E. Iber*

**Catie E. Iber** joins Georgia Audubon with more than 25 years of accounting experience. A graduate of Furman University, Catie has spent the past several years as a finance consultant. This has given her a great deal of experience in industries ranging from nonprofits and manufacturing to medical and corporate accounting. She is a

Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor, a Certified Microsoft Office

Specialist, and a Notary for the State of Georgia. Her areas of expertise are handling large amounts of data, creating an easily digestible explanation of accounting complexities, technical and transactional accounting, reconciliations, technology, software/hardware conversion, consulting, training, and special projects. She is a well-rounded team player who loves to sing and spend time in nature. As a volunteer with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, she has been involved in cleaning trash from our waterways and taking part in conservation work for years.

**Jason Taylor** is a native Georgian who grew up exploring the outdoors with a field guide in hand. He carried this passion to Emory University, where he majored in history, while also co-majoring in human and natural ecology. After college, Jason's professional path led him to the environmental education community. Starting as a naturalist, he made his way around the environmental/humane education landscape



*Jason Taylor*

of Atlanta, working for nature centers, Zoo Atlanta, and Piedmont Park Conservancy. One of Jason's greatest accomplishments was creating, from scratch, an education department at Atlanta Humane Society, bringing much-needed humane education to thousands of students in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Most recently, Jason worked at Emory University as Associate Director of Alumni and Constituent Giving, managing a staff of students who reached out to alumni and friends of Emory to engage, steward, and fundraise. Jason lives in the Upper Westside of Atlanta with his dog Murphy, but enjoys escaping the city to hike across Georgia and beyond to flip logs and rocks for snakes as he goes. At home, he enjoys gardening heirloom vegetables and is a sucker for a craft beer and a good movie, particularly if it's kaiju or sci-fi/fantasy.

## Species Profile: The Gray Catbird

*By Steve Phenicie*

People hearing the Gray Catbird for the first time have been known to exclaim incredulously, "A bird made that sound?" Yes, it did – this common, widespread bird is well known for making a mewing sound like that of a cat. It also mimics the calls of other birds as well as tree frogs and mechanical sounds. Because of its well-developed vocal organ, it even has the ability to make two different sounds at once.

The catbird is mostly gray, of course, but its coloration has some touches that might play well with a Madison Avenue ad executive. The long tail is dark gray to black, and the bird has black eyes, legs, bill, and "cap." Best of all, look for the chestnut-colored feathers under the tail. In size, the catbird is slightly smaller than a Northern Mockingbird.

*(Continued on Page 9)*



*Gray Catbird on American beautyberry. Photo by Will Stuart.*

# Patron Opportunities Available for Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month

We invite you to join us as a Patron Supporter of this September's Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. Patrons will receive special recognition and event access opportunities. Patron support of Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month can be enjoyed at the \$250 or \$500 level. Patron benefits, depending on level of support, may include Patron recognition in event communications, invitation to a small group field trip with guest leader Kenn Kaufman, tickets to our in-person Sanctuary Tour, and tickets to our

## PATRON SPONSORSHIP

Thank you for your Patron support of Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month. Gifts support Georgia Audubon's mission to build places where birds and people thrive through our conservation, education, and community engagement programs.



### \$500 PATRON LEVEL

### \$250 PATRON LEVEL

PRIVATE PATRON FIELD TRIP WITH KENN KAUFMAN



N/A

SIGNED KENN KAUFMAN BOOK



TICKETS TO THE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TOUR

TWO TICKETS

TWO TICKETS

**AND**

**OR**

TICKETS TO THE CLOSING KEYNOTE FEATURING KENN KAUFMAN

TWO TICKETS

TWO TICKETS

\$20 FALL PLANT SALE VOUCHER



NAME LISTING ON RECOGNITION MATERIALS



Closing Celebration, featuring a keynote address by Kenn Kaufman. Learn more and pledge your Patron support by September 1 at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/ggnpatron](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/ggnpatron).

## Species Profile: The Gray Catbird (Continued from Page 8)

Although catbirds sometimes appear in the open, they like to hide in thickets, brambles, and shrubby or brushy areas, particularly near water, including the Chattahoochee River. Their triangular-shaped range map stretches from Nova Scotia to British Columbia to Panama, with the winter range generally being limited to the Atlantic seaboard. A few linger far to the north, however, if they can find food. Catbirds apparently migrate mostly at night. Birds breeding in the Northwest seem to migrate east before turning south in fall, since they are rarely seen in the Southwest. In the winter the bird is rare north of Georgia's Fall Line. At least in the East, populations seem to have been growing in recent decades.

In breeding season, a nest is built mostly by the female in dense shrubs, thickets, briar tangles, or low trees, usually three to 10 feet above the ground. The structure is a large, bulky cup of twigs, weeds, grass, leaves, and sometimes pieces of trash, lined with rootlets and other fine materials. Mama catbird usually lays four greenish-blue eggs, although there can be from two to six. Incubation is by the female only and lasts about 12 or 13 days. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young leave the nest about 10 or 11 days

after hatching. There are two broods per year. Catbirds won't take any bullying from Brown-headed Cowbirds: If a cowbird lays eggs in the nest of a catbird, the adult catbirds usually puncture and eject them.

The catbird's diet is heavy on insects and berries. Especially in early summer, it consumes many beetles, ants, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, and other insects, as well as spiders and millipedes. Nestlings are fed almost entirely on insects. In fall and winter it eats many kinds of wild berries and some cultivated fruit. On rare occasions it catches small fish. At feeders, catbirds have been known to eat doughnuts, cheese, boiled potato, and corn flakes. Native fruit-bearing trees and shrubs such as dogwood, winterberry, and serviceberry might attract them to your yard.

The phrase "in the catbird seat" means being in a position of advantage and is based on the fact that the bird likes to make its mocking calls from a secluded perch. The term is rooted in the South and was popularized by the sportscaster Red Barber, who called Major League Baseball games from the 1930s through the 1960s and titled his autobiography *Rhubarb in the Catbird Seat*.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Georgia Audubon Master Birder Program

October 11 through November 19, 2022 (see full schedule on website)

Cost: \$450

Registration is now open for our popular Master Birder Program. The fall session will run from October 11 through November 19, with virtual sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and field trips on Saturday or Sunday each week. This year, we will be hosting three fall Master Birder cohorts, two in the Atlanta area, and a third for those in the Hilton Head Island/Savannah area, in collaboration with Hilton Head Audubon and Ogeechee Audubon.

Course content includes classification and identification of birds, birding equipment, bird songs and calls, attracting birds and backyard wildlife habitat, anatomy and physiology, bird ecology, bird behavior, flight and migration, and bird conservation. Upon graduation, Master Birders are encouraged to complete annual volunteer service for Georgia Audubon or their local Audubon chapter to receive added membership benefits such as early registration opportunities and discounted event fees.

The course will fill quickly, so please register soon. To learn more or register, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/master-birder-program](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/master-birder-program).

## Early Bird Book Club

The Early Birds continue to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM to discuss books about birds, birding, and birders. The group will meet virtually on Zoom for August and September, but the October meeting will be in person prior to the Georgia Audubon Meeting at Manuel's. The book selection for August is *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, by Dara McAnulty. In September we will read *Vesper Flights*, by Helen MacDonald, and October will feature *Life List*, by Olivia Gentile. To be included on the Early Birds email notification list, please send a request to [mbnevil@gmail.com](mailto:mbnevil@gmail.com).



## AUGUST

### Webinar: eBird 2.0

Instructor: Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation

Thursday, August 4, at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$10 for Georgia Audubon members / \$12 for non-members

Do you need a refresher on or are you looking to up your eBird skills? Are you interested in better understanding all the ways you can utilize eBird data? Join Adam Betuel, Georgia Audubon's Director of Conservation, for a workshop guiding you through the various uses of eBird. This webinar is geared toward eBird users who are comfortable with the basic aspects of eBird but who need to learn more. It is ideal for those who want to learn more about eBird's various tools and how they can make you a better birdwatcher. Register at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/virtual-events](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/virtual-events).

**Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden**

**Saturday, August 6, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips).

**Field Trip: Legacy Park | Leader: Josh Jackson**

**Sunday, August 7, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Chattahoochee Nature Center | Leaders: Abby Cox and Dottie Head**

**Sunday, August 7, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum**

**Wednesday, August 10, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Fernbank Forest | Leaders: Gus Kaufman and Jamie Vidich**

**Saturday, August 13, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden**

**Saturday, August 20, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips).



Song Sparrow. Photo by Sally Stone.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER** *Please see Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month article for full listing of September events.*

**Field Trip: Dunwoody Nature Center | Leader: Shannon Fair**

**Saturday, September 10, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips).

**Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum**

**Wednesday, September 14, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Sweetwater Creek State Park | Leader: Giff Beaton**

**Saturday, September 17, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden**

**Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips).



*Purple coneflower. Photo by Dottie Head.*

## OCTOBER

**Field Trip: Fernbank Forest | Leaders: Gus Kaufman and Jamie Vidich**

**Saturday, October 8, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum**

**Wednesday, October 12, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Morgan Falls Overlook Park | Leader: Roseanne Guerra**

**Saturday, October 15, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

**Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden**

**Saturday, October 15, at 9:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips).



*Bay-breasted Tanager.  
Photo by Adam Betuel.*

**Georgia Audubon at Manuel's: International Travel Update, with Adam Betuel and Melanie Furr**

**Sunday, October 23, at 3:30 PM**

**In person at Manuel's Tavern, 602 N. Highland Ave., N.E., Atlanta**

**Free but registration requested at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-audubon-at-manuels](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-audubon-at-manuels).**

In the past few years, Georgia Audubon has greatly expanded its travel program. From the Georgia Coast to North Dakota all the way down to Paraguay and Argentina and across the Atlantic to Spain, Georgia Audubon travelers have joined us for some unforgettable adventures. These trips not only provide amazing opportunities to see new birds and new places, but they also illustrate the ways birds connect our world.

Join us for a presentation from Melanie Furr, director of education, and Adam Betuel, director of conservation, as they recap three of Georgia Audubon's recent international trips: Spain, Argentina, and Costa Rica. Melanie will share slides and stories from the recent trip to Southwestern Spain, where the group saw soaring Griffon Vultures and Spanish Imperial Eagles, White Storks nesting on medieval rooftops, the announcement of spring by the arrival of bee-eaters and rollers, and hundreds of migratory birds making incredible flights across the Strait of Gibraltar. The group tallied 190 species during this 10-day tour of the region's best birding sanctuaries, enjoying Spanish food and culture in spectacular landscapes along the way.

Then, Adam Betuel, director of conservation, will recap a pair of Georgia Audubon's recent international trips to Costa Rica and Argentina. In Costa Rica, the group soaked up Resplendent Quetzals, tracked down the very localized Volcano Junco, and tallied more than 80 species on a single afternoon boat trip. Also, Adam will highlight a recent journey to Argentina. While Argentina and the Southern Cone are always worth a visit, this trip was specially timed so that the group could look for long-distance migratory shorebirds, many of which stop over in Georgia, on the way to their wintering grounds. Additionally, the group visited the largest penguin colony in South America, searched for the critically endangered Yellow Cardinal, and kept their eyes peeled for amazing mammal life, ranging from Guanaco to Elephant Seals to Southern Right Whales. Adam will share exciting photos and stories from these trips and offer teasers about upcoming domestic and international trips that you may be interested in joining.

**Field Trip: Chattahoochee Nature Center | Leaders: Abby Cox and Dottie Head**

**Sunday, October 30, at 8:00 AM**

To learn more or sign up, visit [www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips)

# Wingbars

**GEORGIA AUDUBON**

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678.973.2437

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## Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Closing Celebration Featuring Kenn Kaufman

Sunday, September 25, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM

Monday Night Brewing Garage, 933 Lee Street, SW, Atlanta, 30310

Tickets: \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. Each ticket includes admission to the Closing Keynote Event, two beer tickets (age 21+), non-alcoholic beverages, and light refreshments.

Learn more or register at [www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month).

### Birds and the Undiscovered World, with Kenn Kaufman

The advances of modern science, and the reality of instant global communication, may lead us to assume that everything in our world is well known. But this is an illusion: in fact, the unknown is all around us, beginning right outside our doors. A close look at the world of birds and nature is enough to remind us that we are still surrounded by fascinating mysteries. Kenn Kaufman will draw on the adventures of his own life to talk about the unknown realms of nature, the potential for discovery, and the power of personal observation to rekindle our sense of wonder.

#### About the speaker:

Kenn Kaufman became fascinated with birds by the age of six. As a professional tour guide, he led birding tour groups to all seven continents, but today he works as an artist, writer, and editor. He has written 13 books about birds and nature, including *Kingbird Highway*, *Lives of North American Birds*, and his own series of nature guides, Kaufman Field Guides, now published by HarperCollins. His most recent book is *A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration*, published in 2019. Kenn is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, a field editor for the National Audubon Society, and an official "birding expert" for *Birds & Blooms* magazine.



*Eagle Eye Book Shop will be setting up a pop-up store at this event so that guests may purchase copies of Kenn Kaufman's books for autographing.*