

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**SOUTHGATE FARM IN MERIWETHER COUNTY RECOGNIZED AS ATLANTA AUDUBON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) October 18, 2019** – Atlanta Audubon Society has officially recognized **Hummingbird Haven at Southgate Farm**, in **Meriwether County**, as an **Atlanta Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary**. The 41-acre tract contains a mixture of pasture, fields, and woods along with improved garden areas containing a variety of native and pollinator-friendly plants. Hummingbird Haven at Southgate Farm is the first Meriwether County property certified as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program encourages both private and public properties to enhance their land for birds and other wildlife by installing native plants and providing food, water, and shelter for birds and other wildlife.

Hummingbird Haven is part of Southgate Farm, owned by Roslyn and Bill Johnson. Roslyn is a Master Gardener in Coweta County and Bill recently completed the Master Naturalist Certification, making them well qualified to transform their acreage into a certified wildlife habitat.

The 41-acre Southgate Farm is one of several parcels of the original, much larger Fuller Farm that was subdivided and sold nearly two decades ago. For the past 17 years, the Johnsons have used the property to breed, raise, and sell horses for the Olympic equestrian sport of Eventing. When not tending the horses, Roslyn and Bill have been fueling their gardening/naturalists passion by creating a large pollinator garden, or a “Hummingbird Haven” as they refer to it, featuring a variety of native plant species, including *rudbekia*, milkweed, American beautyberry, cardinal flower, and many others.

“The combination of fields, woods, creeks, and blue hole springs are just a small part of what makes this place special,” says Roslyn Johnson. “While some development is inevitable, our rural lands, water, and wildlife are precious and deserve our support. My husband, Bill, and I decided to do our small part to help preserve this beautiful land.”

“Atlanta Audubon is thrilled to work with Roslyn and Bill Johnson to add Hummingbird Haven at Southgate Farm to our network of more than 550 certified wildlife habitats in Atlanta and north Georgia.

This is our first Atlanta Audubon-certified Wildlife Sanctuary in Meriwether County, but we hope it won't be our last," says Gabe Andrie, habitat conservation program coordinator for Atlanta Audubon.

For more information on certifying a property as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification).

**Media Note:** Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://bit.ly/2xT2BmQ>.

*Atlanta Audubon Society is building places where birds and people thrive. We create birds -friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.*

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