



# Three Billion



Above, detail of "Ascension of the Masses", Patricia A. Griffin

February 6 - April 24 2021  
Hudgens Center for Arts and Learning

curated by Brickworks Gallery Owner and Artist, Laura W. Adams  
co-sponsored by Georgia Audubon

Three Billion. In my lifetime, North America has lost almost one third of its native bird population – some three billion birds. These birds aren't just the birds that we have known to be in distress, such as the California Condor and the Whooping Crane. These are birds much more familiar to us: Meadowlarks, White-throated Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, wood warblers, Chimney Swifts. We live with these birds. They delight us with song, they dazzle us with their patterns and colors, they amaze us with their epic migrations.

*Science* Magazine published in September of 2019 a ground-breaking study undertaken by biologists associated with a number of North American and Canadian scientific organizations. 48 years of data were analyzed, finding losses among most biomes of birds. Forest birds amounted to a third of the total loss. Grassland bird numbers have declined by 53%. Coastal bird numbers are down by a third. Aerial insectivores such as swallows, nighthawks and flycatchers declined by 32%. Spring migrations shown through radar, are down by 14% in the last ten years.

What is the cause of these dramatic declines? The primary cause is habitat loss. Then there are the other human-caused problems such as window collisions, vehicles, power lines, communication towers, and domestic cats. Pesticides cause losses from poisoning and from loss of insects for food. The threats are real, but there is hope.

Birds are beautiful, fascinating, but most importantly, they are resilient. Seventy years ago the "Father of Wildlife Conservation," Aldo Leopold, lamented the decline of his beloved Sandhill Cranes of the Wisconsin marshes in his essay, "Marshland Elegy." He wrote of the concept of "The Land Ethic," reminding us that we are the members of a greater community than just us as humans. We are citizens of nature, and our fellow citizens include the land, the water and the creatures that live alongside us. His essay and his conservation work helped rebuild the Sandhill Crane population from a couple hundred birds left when he was alive, to a population nearing one million today.

The artists of this exhibit join me in becoming the trumpets that sound and elevate the awareness of what is happening to the avifauna around us. There are things we can do to help our fellow bird-citizens. We can grow native species in our yards, reduce our pesticide applications, put stickers on our windows, turn our outdoor lights off during spring and fall migration, and drink shade-grown coffee. We can support the work of conservation groups, such as our co-sponsor, Georgia Audubon, which is dedicated to building places where birds and people thrive.

We hope this art inspires you to join us.

Laura Adams  
Curator of "Three Billion" and  
Fellow Artist



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February 6 - April 24, 2021

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curated by Laura W. Adams, owner and artist at Brickworks Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
co-sponsored by Georgia Audubon

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for more information about the show, please contact Laura W. Adams: [laurawadams@comcast.net](mailto:laurawadams@comcast.net)  
or call Laura W. Adams: 912-596-3147  
or visit The Hudgens Center Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hudgenscenter>

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participating artists:

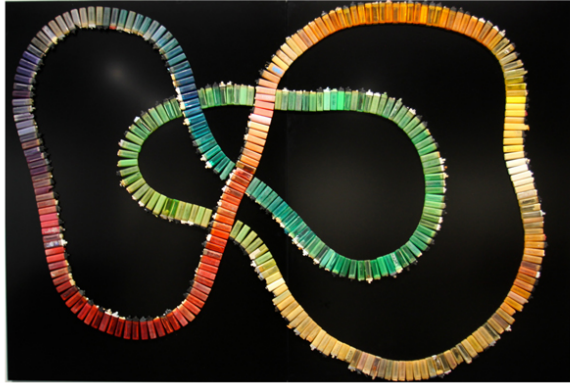
Laura W. Adams, Atlanta, GA  
Kate Breakey, Tuscon, AZ  
Chris Condon, Atlanta, GA  
Eileen Doughty, Vienna, VA  
Mary Engel, Athens, GA  
Patricia A. Griffin, East Stroudsburg, PA  
Pam Longobardi, Brookhaven, GA  
Ashlee Mays, Knoxville, TN  
Chris Wilson, Marietta, GA  
Brittany Wilund, Waialua, HI



“Barn Owl”, Photograph by Kate Breakey



“Vera”, mixed media sculpture by Mary Engel



"Rainbow's End", Bic Lighters and Wood, Pam Longobardi



"Marsh Alert", Tupelo, metal, oak sculpture by Chris Wilson



"Woodstork Dance", paper collage by Laura W. Adams