

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta Audubon Society Upcoming Events

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Atlanta Audubon Society offers a variety of adult education programs, youth programs and school programs throughout the year. In addition, Atlanta Audubon sponsors more than 150 bird walks each year throughout metro-Atlanta. These events are free and open to the public. School programs and adult programs are also available by appointment for a small fee. For a complete listing of bird walks and other educational offerings, please visit our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org.

Media Note: Photos to accompany these events and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y319s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.

Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Meeting: Wet Sand/Dry Sand: Georgia's Significant Role in Shorebird Survival

Sunday, March 25, 2018, from 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Manuel's Tavern, 602 N. Highland Ave., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30307

Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Meetings are free and open to the public

Presenters:

Brad Winn, Director of Shorebird Habitat Management, Manomet Center

Tim Keyes, Wildlife Biologist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Abby Sterling, Research coordinator, University of Georgia

Along the sweep of its 100 mile distance, curving from Savannah to St. Mary's Rivers, the vast marshes, expansive sandbars, exposed mudflats, and unique barrier islands, form a rich mosaic of habitats that numerous shorebirds depend upon. Whether it's the Red Knot that travels from southern South America, stopping along the way here in coastal Georgia to rest and refuel as it migrates up to the Arctic to nest, or the Wilson's plover that spends its summers on our Georgia beaches raising chicks despite the relentless sun, tides and predators — these birds are charismatic, tough and fascinating. Both Brad and Abby have been studying and working for the conservation of shorebirds over the years and want to share their findings. The importance of Georgia for the long-term conservation of local nesting species, and the species that travel huge distances to get here, has become increasingly clear. Come learn about the incredible birds that breed, stage, and winter on our coastal landscapes throughout the year. Through an engaging talk and compelling photographs, learn about what is being done to build appreciation, help protect, and manage habitat for shorebirds through a growing coalition of numerous partnerships within the state, the country, and even through international cooperation. Come get to know the birds that make our beaches their home.

For more information, please visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/monthly-meetings>.

Atlanta Bird Fest 2018

April 14 through May 20, 2018

Various locations around metro-Atlanta

Atlanta Bird Fest is back for 2018. Each weekend between April 14 and May 20, Atlanta Audubon will be offering exciting field trips, workshops, and other events designed to engage not only members, but also nature enthusiasts from across the Southeast during Georgia's exciting spring migration period.

Please visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events> for more information.

Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest featuring Julie Zickefoose

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Cost: \$15 for Atlanta Audubon or Chattahoochee Nature Center members / \$20 for non-members

Location: Chattahoochee Nature Center / Ben Brady Lakeside Pavilion

Why and how do baby songbirds develop so quickly, some launching into flight only 11 days after hatching? In 2002, Julie Zickefoose began to draw and paint wild nestlings day by day, bearing witness to their swift growth. Over the next 13 years, Julie would document the daily changes in 17 bird species from hatching to fledging. *Baby Birds* is the enchanting result, with more than 500 life studies that hop, crawl and flutter through its pages. In this talk, Julie shares her influences as well as her artistic process, a must-see for the aspiring natural history artist. Art and science blend in every Zickefoose pursuit, as the scientist's relentless curiosity joins the artist's quest for beauty. The work, wonder and fun of studying nestlings, including being foster mother to orphaned hummingbirds, chimney swifts and bluebirds, makes for an irresistible and highly inspirational presentation.

Writer/artist Julie Zickefoose, author of *Letters from Eden*, *The Bluebird Effect*, and *Natural Gardening for Birds* is a Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Julie loves to introduce people to birdwatching, speaking at a number of festivals around the country, and now leads natural history excursions abroad. Because she believes birds to be the most vibrant vessels for the life force, painting baby birds as they grow has been her favorite project to date. She lives with her family on an 80-acre wildlife sanctuary in Appalachian Ohio, and is now at work on a book about a remarkable wild Blue Jay named Jemima.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Birding the Land O'Lakes Habitat Restoration Area

7:45 AM to 10:00 AM

Trip Leader: Lillie Kline, Atlanta Audubon Conservation Program Coordinator

Limited to 20 participants

Free to attend, but registration required

Land O'Lakes is a current habitat restoration project site in Buckhead that Atlanta Audubon has undertaken in partnership with Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Rock Springs Restoration, The Amphibian Foundation, and Greening Youth Foundation. We will look for resident birds and spring migrants including warblers, vireos, and thrushes. The property has a well-maintained, relatively flat mulched trail and boardwalk. We may visit the adjoining Emma Wetlands property as well. Due to limited parking at the site, we will meet at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve main campus located at 4055 Roswell Road across from Pike Nursery and carpool the short distance to Land O'Lakes.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Open House, Student Art Show, and Native Plant Sale at Blue Heron Nature Preserve

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Blue Heron Nature Preserve, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342

Cost: Free to attend

Drop in for family-friendly activities and a native plant sale at our office headquarters at Blue Heron Nature Preserve, one of the last remaining wild green spaces in Buckhead. This event is free to attend,

but we ask that you register to help us with our planning.

A sampling of the Open House activities:

- **Student Art Show** – Join us to admire student-submitted artwork celebrating Nature and Birds in Georgia.
- **Guided Bird Walk** – Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from us.
- **Meet live reptiles, amphibians, and other critters** from The Amphibian Foundation
- **Opening of the Art of Nature exhibit** featuring the work of six local artists.
- **Live performances** with the Green Theatre Group.
- **Turtle Sanctuary** dedication with The Amphibian Foundation.
- Perk up and help conserve Wood Thrush habitat with a complimentary cup of Atlanta Audubon's signature blend of Café Campesino shade-grown coffee.

The native plant pre-sale begins on March 19. Please check back to reserve your plants for pick-up at the sale. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Berry College Eagle Viewing and Gena Flanigen Photography Tour

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: TBD

Limited to 25 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy, driving required between stops

Berry College's Bald Eagle couple first appeared on the main campus in Rome, GA, in the spring of 2012. Since that time, they have continued to nest in the top of a tall pine tree and have successfully fledged 9 offspring. This year's eaglets will be in the branching stage in April and usually fledge around the first or second week of May. We'll begin the morning with a bird walk highlighting birding hotspots on campus, and then spend ample time at the eagle nest with Berry College student docents on hand to answer questions.

Following the nest viewing, we will continue to the College's Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum to view local wildlife and eagle photographer Gena Flanigen's current exhibit featuring the Berry College eagles, birds, and other wildlife on and around campus.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Workshop: Building Your Wildlife Sanctuary

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Instructor: Ellen Honeycutt

Limited to 16 Participants

Location: Atlanta Audubon, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy, classroom setting

Do you enjoy attracting birds and other beneficial wildlife to your yard? Do you know which types of plants will attract hummingbirds or which plants are the top producers of fruits for other birds? Do you have invasive plants you want to rid from your yard? Join Ellen Honeycutt from the Georgia Native Plant Society for this workshop on how to create a Wildlife Sanctuary on your own property. You'll learn which plants give the biggest bang for your buck in terms of food production, shelter, and nesting sites and which plants you may want to avoid. Learn how to manage your Wildlife Sanctuary without the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides and where to go within north Georgia to source native plants for your

own landscaping needs. Each participant will also receive a hummingbird feeder, compliments of Central Garden & Pet. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Constitution Lakes Park

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leaders: Joy Carter and Jay Davis

Limited to 20 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy to moderate, 2-mile hike on relatively flat surfaces, some uneven terrain

Today an urban nature preserve in DeKalb County, Constitution Lakes Park was once the site of a 19th-century brick company that excavated Georgia's famous red clay. The excavation pits, now filled with water, comprise the duo of the Constitution Lakes. This is an easy, gently rolling, approximately 2-mile loop winding through nature habitats on the two lakes via long boardwalks. It's also the site of Atlanta's iconic Doll's Head Trail -- a short hike through displays of sometimes-creepy, yet fun, displays of bricks, toys, and tiles collected at the park. We'll explore these wildlife-filled wetlands and marshy lakes looking for several nesting species such as Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Common Yellowthroat, Belted Kingfisher, and Wood Duck. We will also expect to see vireos, kinglets, several species of warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, herons, Great Egret, woodpeckers, and perhaps a few shorebirds. Please note that there are no restroom facilities onsite. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Meeting: Sea Turtle Research on Wassaw Island, Ga.

Sunday, April 22, 2018, 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Manuel's Tavern, 602 N. Highland Ave., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30307

Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Meetings are free and open to the public

Join us for our monthly meeting at the iconic Manuel's Tavern. Kristina Williams, Director of the Caretta Research Project of the Savannah Science Museum, will join us to discuss the different species of sea turtles found along the Georgia coast and reasons for their historic decline. She'll discuss the Caretta Research Project's work on recovery efforts and walk us through a field season on Wassaw Island to show how the group is helping to save Georgia's loggerhead sea turtles. The Caretta Research Project is a hands-on research, conservation, and education project that studies and protects the threatened loggerhead sea turtles that nest on the beaches of Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge on the coast of Georgia. The project began in 1972 and continues today as the longest continuously run turtle tagging program in the U.S. In addition, the Caretta Research Project serves as an "eco-vacation," where the public can join researchers on Wassaw Island for one-week sessions between May and early September, assisting in researching and protecting the loggerhead sea turtles.

For more information, please visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/monthly-meetings>.

Workshop: Birding 101 - Beginning Birder

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Instructor: Melanie Furr, Atlanta Audubon Director of Education

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

Limited to 16 Participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy, classroom setting

Birds are fascinating, familiar, and accessible – their colors and songs add beauty to our everyday lives. If you'd like to get started with birding or improve your birding skills, join Melanie Furr, Director of Education for Atlanta Audubon, for a how-to class that will help you develop your skills and enhance your enjoyment of our feathered friends. Participants will learn about the common birds of our area and techniques for

identifying new birds. We'll also share information on attracting birds to your yard and choosing the best optics, field guides, and smartphone apps to enhance your birding experience. Your newfound skills are sure to enrich your enjoyment of the outdoors and keep your mind active! If time allows, we'll head outdoors to put our birding skills to the test. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Birding by Boat at Cubihatcha Outdoor Center

7:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Trip Leader: Zeb Brown and Melanie Furr

Location: Cubihatcha Outdoor Center, 100 Collins Road, Locust Grove, GA 30248

Limited to 12 Participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy, must be able to board and debark the boat on your own

Built in 1999, Cubihatcha Outdoor Center encompasses almost 1,000 contiguous acres designated to protect and improve wildlife habitats, which also providing a space for public education and enjoyment. Participants will be treated to a boat tour of one of the reservoirs, where we will explore a variety of habitats. In addition to many species of songbirds, we hope to see lingering winter and resident waterfowl, as well as herons, cormorants, and perhaps a Bald Eagle. We'll also learn about the Wood Duck conservation efforts being done at the center. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Volunteer Work Day: Planting Day at Land O'Lakes Habitat Restoration Site

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Project Leader: Lillie Kline, Atlanta Audubon Society

Location: 3931 Land O'Lake Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342

Free, but registration required

Limited to 25 participants

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Land O' Lakes is a current habitat restoration project that Atlanta Audubon has undertaken in partnership with Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Rock Springs Restoration, The Amphibian Foundation, and Greening Youth Foundation. This work day will focus on replacing the many invasive plant species we've already pulled with bird-friendly native plants. We will also keep an eye out for resident birds and spring migrants, including warblers, vireos, and Wood Thrush, our 2017-18 conservation focal species. Tools, plants, and snacks will be provided. Please be sure to bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and clothes that can get dirty. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Garrard Landing & Watershed Workshop at Johns Creek Environmental Campus

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Patrick Maurice

8000 Holcomb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Ga. 30022

Cost: Free to attend, but registration required

Difficulty Level: Easy, level walking trails on packed gravel

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to partner with Fulton County on our first "water-themed" Atlanta Bird Fest event, hosted at the Johns Creek Environmental Campus in Alpharetta. JCEC is uniquely situated by the Chattahoochee River and our morning will begin with a guided bird walk at Garrard Landing. Birding highlights should include several migrating warbler species, vireos, Wood Thrush, tanagers, and perhaps a shorebird or two. Following the bird walk, we'll tour the JCEC to learn about the important watershed conservation efforts being undertaken in Fulton County. Finally, Fulton County's landscape architect, Steve Sanchez, will guide participants through the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary-certified native

plant gardens on campus. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast

Class Session: Monday, April 16, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Audubon office with

Georgann Schmalz

Coastal Trip: May 4 to May 6 from 7:00 PM Friday through 1:00 PM Sunday

Coastal Trip Leader: Adam Betuel

Limited to 20 participants

Cost: \$250 for Atlanta Audubon Master Birders / \$275 for Atlanta Audubon members / \$300 for non-members

Difficulty Level: Moderate, multiple terrain types, potential for prolonged walking, full days of birding

Description: Join Atlanta Audubon for this unique workshop and coastal trip highlighting the shorebird migration that coincides with the spawning of horseshoe crabs. This spectacular phenomenon brings thousands of migrating shorebirds to our very own Georgia coast, including Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, and more...all in breeding plumage! This two-part workshop consists of a class session led by Georgann Schmalz on shorebird identification (April 16) in the Atlanta Audubon classroom at Blue Heron Nature Preserve, followed by a coastal trip led by Atlanta Audubon's Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. The coastal trip kicks off with a Friday evening session on May 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Shorebird Conservation taught by Tim Keyes, DNR Wildlife Biologist. Weather and seas permitting, we'll take a boat trip exploring the Altamaha River Delta at places such as the north end of Little St. Simons Island, Little Egg Island, and Wolf Island Bar. The schedule also includes birding coastal hotspots such as Jekyll Island and Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area. Registration fee does NOT include travel, lodging, or food. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Wings & Wildflowers at Sweetwater Creek State Park

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leaders: Malcolm Hodges & Vinod Babu

Limited to 15 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Moderate, slow pace with some steep steps

This walk will include portions of the White and Red trails at Sweetwater Creek State Park, approximately 1.5 to 2 miles long, depending on pace and side-tracking. We will walk through moist hardwood forests, some with rich cove, north-aspect affinities, and also some dryer pine/oak/hickory forests near the tops of bluffs, hoping to see some of the wildflowers, shrubs, and trees associated with these Piedmont forest types. Original forests at Sweetwater Creek State Park varied widely from frequently-burned montane longleaf pine/oak to rich streamside moist forest, but human disturbance in the 19th and 20th centuries was heavy, with mills, development, small-scale agriculture, and fire suppression; thus, forest biodiversity is a subset of its original abundance. Birds to be expected in spring include a typical suite of resident birds of forest, creek, and lake, spiced with a few neotropical migrants if we're lucky. For photographers, in addition to small wonders, views will include the Manchester Mill ruins, rocky rapids along Sweetwater Creek, and views of natural forests across and down the creek. Malcolm Hodges can also interpret the lichens present, if any are curious. Following our hike, participants are invited to join trip leaders on a picnic lunch (BYOL) beside the lake. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle, or display your annual park pass (available for purchase in the Visitors' Center). For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Workshop: Introduction to Bird Photography

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Workshop Leader: Eric Bowles

Limited to 15 participants**Location: Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.****Cost: \$50/person****Difficulty: Easy, classroom setting with easy wooded trail walking**

Whether you are using a compact camera, a phone, or a DSLR camera, you still want to create good bird photographs. How can you use your camera and make better photos? You don't need expensive gear to make good bird photos. In this workshop, you'll receive tips, suggestions, and answers to help you make better photos with your camera. We'll talk about equipment and its limitations, exposure settings, focus, and basics of bird composition. Then, time and weather permitting, we'll head outside for a short walk and hopefully some photography to practice what you've learned. Professional nature photographer Eric Bowles will lead this half-day class for beginner to intermediate photographers. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Workshop: Intermediate to Advanced Bird Photography Tips and Techniques**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM****Workshop Leader: Eric Bowles****Limited to 15 participants****Location: Atlanta Audubon classroom at Blue Heron Nature Preserve****Cost: \$50/person****Difficulty: Easy, classroom setting with easy wooded trail walking**

You've got a good camera but your bird photographs are not quite as good as you'd like. What makes a great bird photo? How do you make better bird photos? How do you make images of difficult subjects such as birds in flight or songbirds in a wooded area? How do the situations affect your choice of camera settings? We'll answer all these questions and provide tips and techniques to help you make better bird photographs. Then, time and weather permitting, we'll go out in the field to hopefully practice what we've learned in the class. Professional nature photographer Eric Bowles will lead this half-day class for intermediate and advanced photographers. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Volunteer Work Day: Trail Building Day at Land O'Lakes Habitat Restoration Site**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM****Project Leader: Brooke Vacovsky, Blue Heron Nature Preserve****Location: 3931 Land O'Lake Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342****Free, but registration required****Limited to 15 participants****Difficulty Level: Moderate**

Land O' Lakes is a current habitat restoration project that Atlanta Audubon has undertaken in partnership with Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Rock Springs Restoration, The Amphibian Foundation, and Greening Youth Foundation. This work day will focus on continuing work that has been done clearing and building a trail through the property. We will also keep an eye out for resident birds and spring migrants, including warblers, vireos, and Wood Thrush, our 2017-18 conservation focal species. Tools, plants, and snacks will be provided. Please be sure to bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and clothes that can get dirty. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Nocturnal Birds at Pine Log WMA**5:15 AM to 10:00 AM****Location: Pine Log WMA, Rydal, GA**

Trip Leaders: Shannon Fair and Iris Schumacher

Limited to 14 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty: Moderate, no restrooms onsite

Early risers will be rewarded with a cacophony of nocturnal bird calls from species such as Eastern Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-will's-widows, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls. As day breaks, we'll be treated to the dawn chorus of dozens of breeding and migratory warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and more. Carpooling with high-clearance vehicles at Pine Log WMA is preferred. The group will meet at Pine Log WMA to begin birding at 5:15 AM; please factor in your driving time to Pine Log. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Northeast Georgia Specialties: Grouse, Ravens, Warblers, and More

7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Trip Leaders: Bill Lotz and Dan Vickers

Limited to 14 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Moderate, ample driving

Northeast Georgia birding offers the opportunity for several species that you likely won't find anywhere else in the state. Need Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, or Cerulean Warbler for your state list? This trip will hit several northeast Georgia hotspots for these species, including Ivy Log Gap, Gumlog Road, and Brasstown Bald (the highest spot in Georgia). The group will stop for lunch in Blairsville following morning birding at Ivy Log Gap and Gumlog Road. The afternoon will be spent exploring Brasstown Bald.

Note: Carpooling will be necessary with 3 to 4 high-clearance vehicles. The cost of lunch and entrance fees (\$5 per person) at Brasstown Bald are NOT covered in the trip fee. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Birds in Art and Ancient History: Michael C. Carlos Museum

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Trip Leader: Barbara Gray, Docent, Michael C. Carlos Museum

Carlos Museum at Emory University

Limited to 20 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty Level: Easy

The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets art and artifacts from antiquity to the present. The museum is one of the Southeast's premier ancient art museums with major collections of art objects from ancient Egypt, Nubia, Near East, Greece, Rome, ancient Americas, Africa, and Asia, as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present. Join us for a bird walk through the galleries of the Carlos Museum where we will explore the ways that people from around the world have looked at the avian world and how it has impacted religion, political propaganda, and art in the ancient Americas, Greece, Egypt, Rome, the Near East, and Africa. Visitors will find diverse representations of birds throughout the collection, even in the form of ancient mummies! For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Warbler Weekend**Classroom Workshop: TBD****Weekend Trip: Friday, May 11 to Sunday, May 13****Trip Leader: Theresa Hartz****Limited to 11 participants****Cost: \$150/Atlanta Audubon members or \$175/non-member**

Stretch your neck and warm up those ears. It's time to prepare for spring migration. Theresa Hartz will lead participants to various hotspots in the North Georgia mountains, where it's possible to find more than 20 species of warblers, many of which will be singing on their breeding grounds. Participants in recent years have even seen the unusual Brewster's Warbler, a hybrid formed by a Golden-winged Warbler and a Blue-winged Warbler. The group will visit some mountain hotspots as well as some new warbler-rich locations. This guided trip will be preceded by a classroom session in April (date TBD). Registration fee does not include food or lodging. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Migratory Birds and Coffee: Cafe Campesino Roastery Tour**6:00 AM to 3:00 PM****Trip Leaders: Joy Carter and Bob Sargent****Limited to 16 participants****Cost: \$40/person****Difficulty: Moderate**

What could be better than bird watching and coffee? Not much, in our opinion! Join us for a fun morning of birding, followed by lunch and coffee sampling at Café Campesino, the company that provides Atlanta Audubon with its tasty blend of shade-grown coffee. We'll meet in Atlanta and carpool to Ocmulgee National Monument just outside of Macon. There, we'll look for migrating warblers, vireos, tanagers, and more. From Macon, we'll continue to Americus, GA, home to Café Campesino Roastery, for lunch, coffee tastings, and a tour of their facilities. Each participant will receive a one-pound bag of Atlanta Audubon's shade-grown coffee blend to take home for your next perk-me-up. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Paddling the Chattahoochee River: Marshes of Bull Sluice Lake**10:00 AM to 3:00 PM****Trip Leader: Jerry Hightower, Ranger, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area****Limited to 25 participants****Cost: \$30/person****Difficulty Level: Moderate**

We are excited to partner with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) to offer this guided paddle trip (canoes and kayaks provided). We will launch our canoes and kayaks at Sandy Springs Overlook Park in Fulton County just above the historic Morgan Falls Dam. We will leisurely paddle along the shore of Bull Sluice Lake and into the back sloughs and marsh areas in search of the abundant wildlife that can often be seen. The Gold Branch Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area will make up the western shoreline for much of our paddle.

This tranquil area is home to cattails, marsh grasses, and aquatic plants. Bird enthusiasts will be treated to Osprey, herons, swallows, Belted Kingfisher, and hopefully Bald Eagle and shorebirds. Fish, turtles, and deer are frequent sights along the trail.

Participants should pack a lunch/snack/beverage to enjoy along the river during the midpoint of the trip.

All equipment, including raft and life jacket, is provided by the National Park Service.

Additional notes on skill requirements: Paddling uses your core muscles, arms, and shoulders. Anyone with injuries in these areas may have difficulty. All participants must be able to swim competently and enter/exit the raft without assistance. Life jackets must be worn during the entire trip. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Owl Prowl and Night Hike at the Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center

6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Trip Leader: Jerry Hightower

Limited to 150 Participants

Cost: Free, but registration required

Difficulty: Easy

Join the National Park Service for a family-friendly evening celebration around the campfire with a guided night hike and live owl programs by AWARE Wildlife Center. Enjoy the spring evening as you roast marshmallows over an open fire and walk along a forest trail enjoying the nocturnal sights and sounds. Discover new facts about the wildlife of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and their nocturnal habits. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes suitable for walking on a forest trail. Don't forget your flashlight!

The Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center is located at 8615 Barnwell Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022. Carpooling is recommended due to limited parking. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Birding a Picturesque Northeast Georgia Valley & Hike to Rabun Bald

7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Trip Leaders: Jay Davis & Laura Hardy

Limited to 12 participants

Cost: \$30/person

Difficulty: Strenuous, 3 miles round-trip with a steady 1,000 elevation gain

We will spend the morning and early afternoon birding and hiking in Northeast Georgia, beginning the day in Dillard, Georgia, searching for birds in this picturesque valley. Then we will head up into the southern edge of North Carolina where we drop back into Georgia to reach the northern trailhead to Rabun Bald. Rabun Bald is the second highest mountain in Georgia, and a reliable place to find nesting Canada Warblers. The hike is moderately strenuous at 3 miles round-trip (in and out), with a steady elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. You'll need to be in at least moderate physical condition to accomplish the hike.

We will eat lunch on the summit (please bring a bag lunch!), so you will need a backpack for your lunch and at least two bottles of water. Wear shoes that are comfortable for walking in rocky or muddy conditions.

If the weather cooperates, expect to see 65 to 80 species of birds, including Canada Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Eastern Meadowlark.

We will meet at 7:30AM in the Dillard House parking lot (Dillard, Georgia) and finish between 2 and 3 PM back down in the Dillard Valley. More information will be sent to registered participants. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/abf-events>.

Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration featuring Janisse Ray
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
SweetWater Brewing Company | 195 Ottley Drive, Atlanta, GA
\$25/person for Atlanta Audubon members
\$30/person for non-members
Special Offer: 4 member tickets for \$90

Join Atlanta Audubon on Sunday, May 20, at SweetWater Brewing Company as we celebrate the conclusion of Atlanta Bird Fest 2018. We will celebrate our Atlanta Bird Fest participants and volunteers, as well as award prizes to our [Birdathon Challenge](#) participants. Tasty brews will be provided courtesy of SweetWater Brewing Company (ages 21+).

This year we are excited to welcome celebrated Georgia author and environmental activist Janisse Ray as the keynote speaker for our Closing Celebration. Her address, *Our Life with Birds*, will be a lyrical and heartfelt look at the wild creatures that instill such passion, especially those that inhabit the environs of our home state, why we follow them and name them, and what they teach us about the world. She will highlight a half dozen remarkable natural history events that will help us love the birds of Georgia with even more dedication. Join us to hear this clarion call for the protection of wild places and a defense of hope.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events>.

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