



VOLUME XLV, ISSUE 3, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Georgia Ornithological Society Awards Grant to Atlanta Audubon for Big Creek Greenway Habitat Restoration

By Michelle Hamner, Director of Development

Atlanta Audubon was recently awarded a grant from the Georgia Ornithological Society's (GOS) Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants fund to implement bird-friendly habitat restoration at Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta. Grant funding from GOS will combine with funding from Patagonia Atlanta to allow Atlanta Audubon to restore ten acres of important habitat along a stretch of the Greenway. The focus of this restoration project will be to create bird-friendly habitat by removing invasive and exotic plant species such as Chinese privet and oriental bittersweet, and installing native plants that will assist resident and migratory birds to use the area as nesting, foraging, and stopover habitat.



Atlanta Audubon recently received grants from GOS and Patagonia to restore bird-friendly habitat at Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta. Photo by Nikki Belmonte.

In addition to the restoration work, Atlanta Audubon will monitor bird activity at the site and will create a set of data from which to better inform conservation decisions in the future. In particular, the data we will collect through field surveys and banding sessions will focus on individual and species movement, survival rates, annual apparent reproductive success, habitat selection, species density at focal locations, site fidelity, and dispersal of offspring. Additionally, this project will allow Atlanta Audubon to conduct volunteer work days and community education programming, which will help raise awareness of the importance of birds and healthy habitats.

Big Creek Greenway is a linear park that runs approximately eight miles from its northernmost point near Windward Parkway in Alpharetta to its southernmost point near Mansell Road in Roswell. This park has proved to be very important greenspace for resident and migratory birds in Fulton County, with more than 180 bird observations recorded on eBird. Birds which will benefit from the habitat restoration work include several species that are listed on Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), including the Brown-headed Nuthatch, Common Grackle, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, and Rusty Blackbird. SWAP is a statewide strategy to conserve populations of native wildlife species and the natural habitats they need before these animals, plants, and places become rarer and more costly or difficult to conserve.

Big Day Challenge Kicks Off on April 13

It's time to clean off your bins and brush up on your bird songs: the annual Big Day Challenge will run from April 13 through May 12. Like a walk-a-thon, but for all of us bird nerds, the Big Day Challenge is a fun, competitive event to raise funds from friends and family while birding this spring to support Atlanta Audubon's education and conservation programs. Complete your Big Day Challenge during one of the Atlanta Bird Fest events with help from

one of our guides or find your own spot to bird. You can choose to build a Big Day Challenge team or go it alone for a fun, different activity. Prizes will be awarded to participants at our May 19 Closing Celebration at SweetWater Brewing in a variety of categories, including Top Fundraiser, Best Bird, and Most Species Observed. Get more information and sign up to compete at www.atlantaaudubon.org/birdathon.



Prothonotary Warbler, by Michelle Hamner

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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 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 Atlanta Audubon Society.



From the Executive Director

By Nikki Belmonte

Your starter kit for all things birding is right around the corner.

Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 will get underway on April 13. We are proud to offer more than 30 workshops, trips, and programs that span from the North Georgia mountains to the Georgia coast. Atlanta Bird Fest is a great way to dive into spring headfirst, eyes wide, ears perked, and binoculars in hand.

The purpose of Atlanta Bird Fest is to grow awareness of and affinity for birds by offering a variety of ways for people to experience and enjoy them. We offer ways for people to build their skill sets in bird identification, photography, drawing, and gardening. We offer adventures—explore waterfalls, bat caves, longleaf pine forests, the mountains at early dawn, and even the Atlanta BeltLine. And we offer amazing stories and radical ideas through our special guest speakers, who bring unique

perspectives of bird lovers and environmental stewards to cast hope in our collective effort to protect birds.

And beer. We will have a specialty beer brewed by SweetWater just for us for the Closing Celebration on May 19.

This is the time to branch out, bring a friend, take a hike, and explore Georgia through the lens of birds. What better way to spend a spring weekend than birding on the river, eating bird-friendly chocolate, or sipping on some wine while catching glimpses of warblers? I hope you will join me in participating in the 4th Atlanta Bird Fest and introduce someone new to the world of birds and birding.



Big Year Birder Noah Strycker to Open Atlanta Bird Fest 2019

Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 kicks off its month-long celebration of birds, nature, and Georgia's natural history on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14. This year we are excited to welcome Big Year Birder and author Noah Strycker for several events on opening weekend, including a keynote address on Sunday, April 14, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center.

In 2015 bird nerd Noah Strycker of Oregon became the first person to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus, car breakdowns, mudslides, torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life.

Birding on seven continents and carrying only a pack on his back, Strycker enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders to tick more than 6,000 species, including Adelie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda.

Noah will reveal the inside story in his address, "Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year." In addition, copies of his book will be available for sale, and Noah will sign books following the keynote address.

Tickets are available at \$25/person for Atlanta Audubon members or \$30/person for non-members. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest. Your participation in Atlanta Bird Fest supports Atlanta Audubon's education and conservation programs.



Noah Strycker will give the keynote address at the Atlanta Bird Fest Opening Celebration on April 14.

Project Safe Flight Volunteers Needed

Project Safe Flight Atlanta is gearing up for spring patrol season, and Adam Betuel is actively recruiting additional volunteers to help. This entails walking an early morning, pre-determined route around select structures, taking notes on collisions, collecting dead birds for scientific purposes (Atlanta Audubon has all necessary permits), and occasionally helping injured birds. Monitoring season runs from March 15 to May 15 and from August 15 to November 30 each year. If interested, please email Director of Conservation Adam Betuel at Adam@atlantaudubon.org.

Atlanta Audubon Awards Habitat Restoration Fund Grants to Candler Park Conservancy and Henderson Park

By Dottie Head, Director of Membership & Communications

Atlanta Audubon has awarded two Habitat Restoration Fund Grants to Candler Park Conservancy, in Atlanta, and Henderson Park, in Tucker. These are the first two awards through Atlanta Audubon's new Habitat Restoration Fund Grants Program, which was made possible through the generosity of a private donor and will support bird-friendly habitat restoration work.

Candler Park

Candler Park encompasses 55-acres of historic green space, including a public golf course and a range of other recreational amenities, situated on the eastern side of Atlanta at the confluence of Freedom Park and Olmsted Linear Park. Since a successful stream restoration project in 2006 and 2007, Candler Park's riparian corridor has evolved into a thriving urban wetland ecosystem hosting a range of native flora, birds, and other wildlife. However, the park's riparian corridor is currently overgrown throughout its quarter-mile length with invasive and exotic plant species like Porcelain-berry, privet, and Japanese Chaff Flower.

Through the habitat restoration grant, Atlanta Audubon will fund the professional removal of these invasive and exotic plants, and installation of bird-friendly, site-appropriate, native plants. This work will be performed in cooperation with Candler Park Conservancy, the City of Atlanta, and other stakeholders. Atlanta Audubon and Candler Park Conservancy may also explore other opportunities enabled by the habitat restoration project, such as bird species abundance monitoring, community outreach programs, and Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification.

Henderson Park

Located in Tucker, Henderson Park is a 103-acre park that includes soccer fields, a playground, Lake Erin, and walking trails. The improvement project will take place along the Native Plant and Wildlife Walk, a paved path meandering through a corner of the park. The project goal is to restore a



At Candler Park, the Habitat Restoration Fund Grant will be used to remove invasive and exotic plants and install bird-friendly, site-appropriate, native plants. Photo by Perry Smith.

natural Georgia Piedmont habitat to provide sanctuary for birds and other wildlife and offer educational opportunities for the community, including bird walks and seminars for adults and youth. The DeKalb County Master Gardeners, a volunteer group that manages trail maintenance in the park, submitted the grant application.

(Continued on Page 6)

ASK CHIPPY

By Cheryl Beshke, aka Chippy



Northern Mockingbirds are known for their assertive personalities. Photo by Mary Nell Dexter, Audubon Photography Awards.

Q: Greetings, Chippy. We have had a pair of aggressive mockingbirds guarding our feeders for the past six months or so, and I need some advice on how to deal with them.

We have two feeders—one in the front yard and one in the back—and they seem to take turns guarding both, flying in to chase away other birds who've dropped in for a snack. The other birds seem to have become wary of visiting us due to our less-than-gracious NOMOs.

As a native Mississippian (whose state bird is the mockingbird), I enjoy having them nearby and love hearing them sing, but I'd like to continue to attract a variety of birds to our yard. What should we do?

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society.

Northern Mockingbirds are known for aggressively chasing intruders away from their territory, and their aggressiveness is not limited to the nesting season. It can last all year long. "Intruders" are not limited to other birds—I have seen Northern Mockingbirds harass cats and dogs too. They will even dive bomb people. In fact, a study led by a professor at the University of Florida showed that mockingbirds can remember people who have threatened them. If they later spot that person, they will dive and swoop at them, even grazing the top of their heads.

It sounds as if the mockingbirds guarding your feeder have decided your yard is their territory. One possible solution would be to move the feeder to another location in the yard, as far from the current location as possible. The new location might be outside what they consider their territory. Adding more feeders, generously spaced apart, may also help. Some people have suggested putting food that a mockingbird would prefer over seed, such as suet or fruit, at their own feeder in a far corner of the yard to lure them away from the seed feeder.

I hope that one of these suggestions will solve your problem so that you can enjoy all the birds that want to dine (and sing!) in your yard..

—Chippy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT On Cheryl Beshke

(This is the 34th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenicie

She's sort of like Clark Howard and Walter Reeves, only with a birding twist. In case you've ever wondered just who writes "Ask Chippy" for *Wingbars*, look to Cheryl Beshke.

The column came about when the Atlanta Audubon office became swamped with calls from the public asking lots of birding questions, and the staff, not as big as it is now, sought a volunteer who might like to answer them. After becoming a Master Birder in 2010, Cheryl volunteered for the job and shared the duties for a number of years with the late Eleanor "Scottie" Johnson. Artist Anne McCallum came up with the character Chippy the Chipping Sparrow about a decade ago to be used as a complementary illustration with Atlanta Audubon's Learning About Birds curriculum and other publications.

"When we decided that there needed to be a more direct way for people to submit questions about birds, we thought Chippy was the best bird for the job, so we gave him his own e-mail address. Chippy also makes an appearance in Anne's book, *What Birds Do and Say*," says Nikki Belmonte, our executive director.

Since Scottie's death, Cheryl has produced the column by herself. But there's more to it than what you see in *Wingbars*. She gets at least a couple of questions every month, and sometimes around 10, and tries to answer them all via e-mail. The busiest times are in early spring and during the fall, when birds are migrating. Cheryl doesn't always know the answers, but she does research and consults

with knowledgeable people, thereby increasing her own birding expertise.

Cheryl has belonged to Atlanta Audubon for close to 10 years. Before that she was a "look what's in my back yard" kind of birder, she says, but got more serious when a Rufous Hummingbird stayed at her home for a couple of months after



Cheryl travelled to Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, where she had the opportunity to handle Albert, a Eurasian Eagle Owl. Photo by Sharon Soo.

an ice storm during her first winter in Atlanta. In addition to being "Ask Chippy," Cheryl searches an area around Duluth for bluebirds as part of Climate Watch and takes part in Audubon's book club, which meets regularly at Manuel's before membership meetings.

Cheryl grew up in the Detroit area, lived in Boston for a time, and moved to Atlanta about 15 years ago. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and earned advanced degrees from Boston College and the University of Georgia. Her day job is as an English teacher at Notre Dame Academy, close to

her home in Duluth. Cheryl is the mother of triplet daughters. Laura lives in Atlanta, and Megan is in law school at the University of Michigan. Sadly, Cheryl is mourning the death of her third daughter, Rosalie, in December.

By the way, if you have a question for "Ask Chippy," go to the "Contact Us" page on the Atlanta Audubon website, make a right click on "Ask Chippy Your Bird Related Questions," then copy the e-mail address.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to the following for their help with the winter 2019 Climate Watch survey: **Nikki Belmonte, Mary Nevil, Joel Owen, Michelle Hamner, Wayne Powell, Melanie Furr, Sandy Murray, Cheryl Beshke, Abby Back, Brian Campbell, Robyn Newman, Steve Newman, Jim McMullian, Valerie McMullian, Max Brown, Lisbet Phillips, Therese Murphey, Laura Hunt, Julia Weil, and Roseanne Guerra** ... to our bird walk leaders for March: **Jason Ward, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, Angie Jenkins, Anne McCallum, Warren Walter, Mary Kimberly, and Roseanne Guerra** ... to **Laura Adams** and **Andrew Feiler** for hosting the Audubon Photography Awards Exhibit at Brickworks Gallery ... to **Marcia Jenkins, Larry Stephens, Stella Wissner, Rosemary Crump-Sims, Nannette Dooley, and Vin Gleespen** for their help with March Peel & Stick ... to **Will Lewis** and **Sam Merker** for presenting their songbird research at the February Monthly Meeting ... to **BJ Glick** and **Angie Lewis** for leading bird walks at Smith-Gilbert Gardens during the Great Backyard Bird Count ... to Atlanta Audubon intern **Kiana Leveritte** for speaking to students for Career Day at Heritage Academy (Atlanta) ... to **Amanda Woomer**, who is on leave from our board for this year while she is working in Houston, but who put together the board self-assessment we deployed in the fall of 2018 and led a discussion of the key findings from the self-assessment.

Atlanta Bird Fest Raffle: Charley Harper Quilt

Atlanta Audubon member Mary Kimberly has generously donated this 52" x 57" quilt entitled "A Festival of Birds" for a special Atlanta Bird Fest raffle. Pieced by Mary and machine-quilted by Regina Carter, this one-of-a-kind quilt features fabric from the Birch Organic Fabrics' Charley Harper line and is valued at \$500. The quilt has a hanging sleeve on the back and will be presented to the winner with a hanging rod for display on a wall if desired. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$5/ticket or \$20/five tickets. The raffle drawing will be held at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration at SweetWater Brewing on Sunday, May 19. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win. For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, please visit www.atlantaudubon.org/raffle.



Quilt detail.



Quilt front.

Tips for Responsible Birding Abroad

By Lillie Kline, Habitat Conservation Program Coordinator

Many of our members love birds so much that they travel internationally to see new ones, myself included. I have visited more than 30 countries at this point and have seen the likes of quetzals in Costa Rica, hornbills in Borneo, and hoatzins in Brazil. Travel is an amazing way to gain respect for new cultures, try new foods, and see new birds. Did you know that as a birder, you can have a positive impact on the communities you visit as well? Below you will find my top tips for sustainable and ethical travel as a birder. Now go plan that trip!

1. **Take public transportation** – Using public transportation is an easy way to reduce your impact while traveling, and it provides the opportunity to both live like the locals, and, on long distance buses or trains, see much more of a country. When I lived in Costa Rica, I treasured the moment on my way home from a weekend birding adventure that the pavement stopped and the gravel slowed us down enough for me to look into the valleys and identify birds out the window. The buses I have taken in developing countries have typically been pretty comfortable and well air-conditioned. I have taken gorgeous train rides across Italy, Hungary, and Malaysia, and have navigated the remarkably clean metros of Munich, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Now, have I hopped short flights to save time? Yes. Are there areas where air travel is far safer than overland? Absolutely. Just do your research and try and speak with someone who lives in the area or who has travelled there before.
2. **Hire local guides** – Using a local guide as we do on our Atlanta Audubon trips provides income to the local community and creates an incentive for these communities to value and protect nature. My favorite travel birding website, The Fatbirder, recommends bringing an old pair of binoculars to gift to a local in order to help him or her get started as a guide. I hired a local for a morning in the Dominican Republic who was just starting out, and I actually had a lot of fun teaching him about the birds. I had a guide specific to the country, whereas his was of the whole Caribbean.
3. **Stay in locally-owned lodges** – Eco-lodges can be controversial for the communities in which they exist. Some community members may benefit from the tourism, like my Dominican guide, while others may feel resentment and exclusion. In light of this, try to find lodges owned by locals, or that at least employ the local population.
4. **Support sustainable tourism activities** – When I worked at University of Georgia's campus in Costa Rica, we facilitated a number of activities in our neighbors' homes, including shade-grown coffee tours, cooking classes, and homestays. For our neighbor Eliza, these coffee tours meant she could work from home and spend time with her daughter instead of taking the 30-minute motorcycle ride up a mountain into town every day. Their coffee farm not only supported their family, but also the avian community. These activities offered tourists a glimpse into the everyday life of rural San Luis, but they also provided an important source of income to a vulnerable population. Many agri-tourism opportunities now exist, but in order to support operations that benefit both birds and people, look for farms that grow a polyculture, limit pesticide use, and pay their workers a living wage.
5. **Demand that guides bird ethically** – On my trip to Brazil last summer, I was furious about the way I saw a guide, over and over, call birds in and then continue relentlessly with these birds already in great view. To be clear, the guide is not the problem—it's the tourists. When I spoke with him about what I considered unethical use of playback, he told me it was his job to make tourists happy, and if they do not see the birds well or get good photos, they won't be happy. We must put the needs of

wildlife before our own and demand these same values from our guides. Review the ABA's Birding Ethics, trust your gut, and don't be afraid to say something to your guide or to other tourists—but always be respectful.

6. **Purchase carbon credits** – With international travel, flying is often unavoidable. Consider joining Janisse Ray in her pledge not to use air travel, but if you do make the trip, carbon offset programs can help lower your footprint. Delta has ingeniously teamed up with The Nature Conservancy and will calculate how much money you need to donate to offset your Delta flight. Do your research when choosing carbon offset programs to ensure your money goes to a well-managed effort that impacts local communities positively.
7. **Skip the plastic and treat the tap water** – Of course you want to drink clean water when you travel abroad, but did you know you don't have to drink bottled water to do so? Bringing a reusable water bottle and a water treatment method is more sustainable, more convenient, and can be more cost-effective. Steripens that emit UV light are a great option that instantly sanitize your water out of the tap. The major disadvantage is that they run on lithium batteries, so I always bring some iodine tablets as well—they nuke anything. If you don't like the taste of iodine, try Aquamira. I treat the tap water in every country I travel to, including India and Mexico, and have never once had a problem. Travelers Against Plastic is a great resource to check out.
8. **Bring a collapsible, reusable grocery bag** – A reusable grocery bag that collapses is great for a quick trip to the store while you're traveling to pick up essentials (mine are usually peanut butter, instant oatmeal, and cookies), but it also doubles as a place for your wet clothes, muddy shoes, or extra storage for bringing home souvenirs.
9. **Bring your own cutlery** – If you are traveling somewhere you expect to be trying street food, bring reusable silverware or chopsticks. This is also handy when you're trying to make oatmeal in your hotel room in Brunei because it is Ramadan and everything is closed and you are starving. By the way, try street food! Your money will support local people, it will probably be delicious, and in my experience, street food is much safer than the internet would have you

think. Just make sure you're up to date on typhoid prevention if traveling to developing countries.

Support local NGOs doing wildlife conservation – Local organizations working alongside the community are often in the best position to implement wildlife conservation that also fits with the community's needs. While conducting my master's research in Nicaragua, my team worked with the local NGO, Paso Pacifico, to study how isolated trees in smallholder cattle ranches can provide resources to birds as well as improve rancher livelihoods. We were able to complete our fieldwork on local ranches due to the strong trust that Paso Pacifico had built in the community. If you see an organization doing great work on your travels, support them.



Inhotim, Brazil



Serra da Canastra, Brazil

Hog Island Scholarship Winners for 2019

By Melanie Furr, Director of Education

Atlanta Audubon Society is pleased to announce our scholarship winners for 2019. The recipients will attend National Audubon Society's ornithology camps this summer on Hog Island, Maine.

Heather Brown is the recipient of the Louisa Echols Scholarship, which provides an educator with the opportunity to attend National Audubon Society's Educator's Week. Heather teaches gifted students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Heritage Academy, a Title I public school in southeast Atlanta. She credits her father for instilling a love of the outdoors in her at a young age, and although she has always been curious about birds, she says her interest deepened last summer after attending Atlanta Audubon's Taking Wing professional development, which trains teachers how to use the study of birds to engage students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and other subjects. The training sparked a "new passion" that she has already begun to share with her students, most of whom have few opportunities to connect with nature. Heather hopes that by sharing her passion for nature and conservation that her students will develop it too. We know that Hog Island camp will invigorate her teaching and give her great new ideas for the classroom.



Heather Brown attended the 2018 Taking Wing Program. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Janelle Booker will attend Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens as the recipient of the Edward Barnsley Scholarship for Youth. Nicknamed "Bird" as a child, Janelle's favorite bird species is the Great-tailed Grackle, which she sees during regular trips to see family in Texas. She says their beautiful iridescence and boldness with humans sparked her interest. Janelle is a member of the Science National Honor Society and a junior at Norcross High School, where she runs track. She was an enthusiastic participant in Atlanta Audubon's Atlanta Urban Ecologists program during the 2017-2018 school year. This program, offered with our partners, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, The Amphibian Foundation, and several other non-profit conservation organizations, provides teenagers with opportunities to learn alongside experts in the field and have fun outside with their peers. As an aspiring wildlife veterinarian, Janelle came to each session ready to learn, and she is excited to learn from ornithologists at Hog Island as well.



Janelle Booker prepares to plant a tree during an Atlanta Urban Ecologists Session. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Congratulations to Heather and Janelle. We can't wait to hear about your adventures!

Atlanta Audubon Awards Habitat Restoration Fund Grants

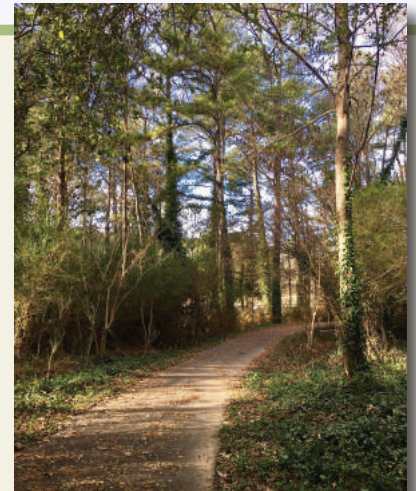
(Continued from Page 3)

As part of the grant, Atlanta Audubon is working with Henderson Park and DeKalb County Master Gardeners to provide the following services that will benefit both park users and the birds and other wildlife that rely on this park for habitat:

- Professional invasive and exotic plant removal
- Bird-friendly, native plant installation
- Birds species abundance monitoring
- Seasonal on-site bird banding
- Volunteer work days and citizen science monitoring
- Community outreach programs at project site and nearby facilities as appropriate, and
- Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification

The project will include large-scale removal of invasive, non-native plants, such as Chinese privet and Japanese wisteria. In their place, Atlanta Audubon will install bird-friendly native trees and shrubs that provide fruit, seeds, and nectar for birds and other wildlife. In addition, Henderson Park plans to install educational kiosks and signs along the trail, and they will also add a water feature, bird feeders, and bird houses. The restored habitat along the trail will serve as an outdoor education center for bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, seminars for the community, and outdoor education classes for children.

To learn more about the Habitat Restoration Fund Grant, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration-fund.



Native Plant and Wildlife Walk at Henderson Park. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Photo of the Month Winner

The April Photo of the Month Competition winner is Steve Griffin, of LaGrange, for this photo of a Carolina Chickadee, taken on an overcast day in his backyard.

- Equipment and settings: Canon 5D Mark IV mounted on a RRS tripod
- 100-400 Canon II lens set at 400 mm, 1/250 @ f5.6, ISO 800
- Small adjustment and cropped in Lightroom

The Photo of the Month competition is open to anyone, and all winning submissions will be published in *Wingbars*. Ashkan Ojaghi, the volunteer coordinator of the photo contest, encourages people to resubmit the same or new photos if they do not win in a particular month. For more information or to enter the monthly competition, visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month.



This shot of a Carolina Chickadee is the winner of the April Photo of the Month Competition. Photo by Steve Griffin.

FIELD TRIPS

are open to the public and free (unless otherwise noted). We welcome everyone from beginners to advanced birders. No registration is necessary except where indicated below. The only fees that apply are parking fees at some venues such as state and national parks. Any applicable fees will be listed in the field trip description on the website.

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770

GPS: 33.783750, -84.379111

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Anne McCallum

Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.642.7148

GPS: 33.601464, -84.346874

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Atlanta History Center (Fulton County)

9:00 AM

Leader: Robert McDonough

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.754.8159

GPS: 33.8418 N, 84.3863 W

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Lullwater Park at Emory (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leaders: Gus Kaufman and Jamie Vidich

Cell contacts morning of the walk: 404.483.7457

(Gus); 843.605.2959 (Jamie)

GPS: 33.79541, -84.31011

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)

9:00 AM

Leader: Warren Walter

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.314.6014

GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

Advance reservations are required at 404.929.6400.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Noonday Creek Trail West Head (Cobb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Angelia Jenkins

Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.570.4891

GPS: 34.00125, -84.59163

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Mary Kimberly

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.308.6279

GPS: 33.909397, -84.322476

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Vickery Bird Walk (Forsyth County)

7:30 AM

Leader: Rick Taylor

Cell contact morning of the walk: 719-964-4764

GPS: 34° 10.919'N, 84° 13.189'W

If you would like to lead a field trip, contribute ideas for places to go, or give feedback about leaders, trips, or the field trip directions, please e-mail Teresa Lyle, field trip director at teresalyle0@gmail.com.

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

Ambassador Bird Endowment Fund Created in Memory of Harriet F. Cane

By Dottie Head and Melanie Furr

Shep, Atlanta Audubon's first-ever Ambassador Hummingbird, touched the lives of many people during his too-short life. One of them was Harriet F. Cane, beloved wife of Les Cane. Harriet and Les are long-time Atlanta Audubon members, and Les has been an extraordinarily active volunteer for Atlanta Audubon, working with Melanie on educational programs and certifying yards through the Wildlife Sanctuary Program.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird injured in a window collision that rendered him flightless, Shep stole many people's hearts and educated thousands of people about the dangers of window collisions, light pollution, pesticides, free-roaming cats, and more during his fifteen months in care, first at Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE) and then with our own Director of Education, Melanie Furr.

Last year, Shep made a surprise visit to an Atlanta Audubon event at Manuel's Tavern. Les and Harriet were in attendance and had the opportunity to meet Shep in feather (as opposed to in person). "I remember that meeting well," Les recalls. "Melanie came over to where we were sitting with Shep in tow and asked if Harriet wanted to have a closer look and interact with him. The event and the encounter are seared into my mind." Harriet always lit up when animals were present or the subject of conversation.

A few months later, on September 18, 2018, Harriet passed away at the age of 72. Although he was devastated, Les wanted to find a way to honor Harriet's memory at Atlanta Audubon, and the encounter between Harriet and Shep stood out in his mind. Les proposed creating the Harriet F. Cane Ambassador Bird Endowment Fund to honor his wife's life and help foster future ambassador bird encounters like the one between Harriet and Shep in August. The Fund will be used to help pay for enclosures, care, food, and other supplies the Atlanta Audubon Ambassador Birds need to live healthy lives. Melanie provides excellent care for these birds and is always seeking ways to improve their environment and quality of life since they are unable to migrate as others of their species do.

Sadly, Shep also passed away in December. Sibley, another Ruby-throated Hummingbird who had suffered the same fate as Shep, has been in Melanie's care since last April. He is stepping onto Shep's perch, visiting schools and helping educate youth and adults alike about the problem of bird-building collisions and how to take steps to reduce them.

The Harriet F. Cane Ambassador Bird Endowment Fund is a lasting legacy for Harriet, and Les says he knows she would be proud to be remembered in this manner.



*Shep was Atlanta Audubon's first Ambassador Bird.
Photo by Melanie Furr.*



Les and Harriet Cane



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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April Monthly Meeting

Native Plants and Natural Communities from a Bird's-eye View

Sunday, April 28, 2019 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Manuel's Tavern

Piney woods, deciduous forests, prairies and marshes—during Atlanta Bird Fest, we will be in a variety of natural communities to find different birds. Each natural community has its own array of native plants that provide the seeds, insect prey, berries, and nesting sites the birds need to survive. Observing the constantly changing, intricate web of relationship among native plants, habitats, and birds greatly enriches our appreciation of birds and is necessary for effective bird conservation. Today, we will learn about the importance of native plants to birds, and journey through some of the natural communities of north Georgia from a birds-eye view, brought to life by photographs from Atlanta Audubon Master Birders and other Audubon photographers.

About the presenter: Leslie Edwards has a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Georgia and is retired from the faculty of the Department of Geosciences at Georgia State University. She is the lead author of *The Natural Communities of Georgia* and author of "The Land, Climate, and Vegetation" chapter of *The Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas*. Dr. Edwards has spoken extensively about native plants and natural communities in Georgia and has served on the boards of several conservation-related organizations. She is currently on the board of Atlanta Audubon.



*Cedar Waxwing in black cherry (Prunus serotina).
Photo by Will Stuart.*

Manuel's Tavern is located at 602 N. Highland Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307. Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Free parking is readily available to the south of the building. Food and drink are available for purchase.