



VOLUME XLV, ISSUE 10, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

# Candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to present **Joshua Gassman**, **Gus Kaufman**, and **Emmeline Luck** for election to the Board of Directors. In addition, we welcome **Robin Lanier**, who joined the board in August, filling a vacant position. These individuals bring a wealth of experience and talents to the board. New board members will serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2020. Elections will be held during the Annual Meeting portion of the Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 8, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern. In addition to electing new board members, members will vote on renewing the terms of existing board members **Angelou Ezeilo**, **Jairo Garcia**, **Melinda Langston**, and **Amanda Woomer**.

For nearly 20 years, **Joshua Gassman** has led interdisciplinary teams focused on sustainable design, including net positive water and net positive energy projects. He has successfully managed a broad spectrum of projects, ranging from large research labs for major universities to interpretive and education centers, many of which are nationally-recognized and LEED certified. In his current role as the sustainable design director at the architectural firm Lord Aeck Sargent, he leads the designteam for The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design at Georgia Tech, which aims to be the most sustainable building ever built in the southeastern U.S. Other projects on which he has worked include the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, Chattahoochee Nature & Discovery Center, the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, The Bascom Visual Arts Center, and the High Museum of Art: Child and Family Education Center.

**Gus Kaufman, Jr.**, is a familiar face to many Atlanta Audubon members who have attended one of his bird walks. A licensed psychologist whose practice is with Oakhurst Psychotherapy Associates, Gus's love for nature and birdwatching began as a child growing up in Macon, with an Eagle Scout father and a Girl Scout leader mother. Living next to the largest tract of forest in Macon provided the Kaufmans with ample opportunities to hone their bird identification skills. After college, Gus made his way to Atlanta in the fall of 1968, where he was a public school teacher in addition to writing under the pseudonym Smokey Kaufman for the Atlanta-based underground newspaper, the *Great Speckled Bird*. He later received his master's in humanistic psychology at West Georgia College and studied psychotherapy in Boston, receiving his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Fielding Graduate University. Gus is a member of the Greater Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Birders (The Gaggle) and, in addition to birding, he still plays soccer (badly, he says) and engages in social activism.

**Robin Lanier** works in Georgia Power's Environmental Affairs Organization as the environmental regulatory and strategy manager. In her current role, Robin manages the development of Georgia Power's environmental compliance strategy for all facilities, leads the development of strategy and planning related to the company's environmental capital budgets, and provides leadership in environmental regulatory activities pertaining to matters before the Georgia Public Service Commission. Robin graduated from the University of Georgia holding a degree in agricultural engineering with an emphasis in structures and structural systems. She has received her Engineering In-Training (EIT) license in the state of Georgia and is also a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) through

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Golden-crowned Kinglet, by Dan Vickers.

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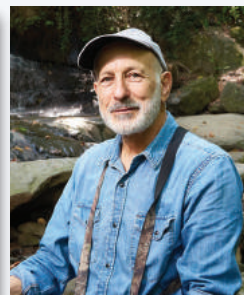
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Joshua Gassman



Gus Kaufman,  
by Stephanie Eley



Robin Lanier



Emmeline Luck

## Board of Directors 2019

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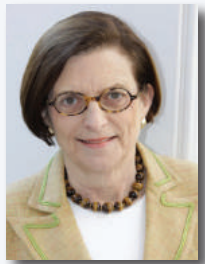
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*Wingbars* is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of Atlanta Audubon Society.



Esther Stokes

# Chirps from the Chair

By Esther Stokes, Board Chair

As I write this, I am celebrating a big week: on Monday Jared Teutsch joined the fabulous staff at Atlanta Audubon as its new executive director, and on Saturday I added a life bird in Piedmont Park.

First, about Jared. We thought our search process might take a long time, but we were wrong. We were blessed with a number of genuinely outstanding candidates, but one candidate stood out from the rest. Jared brings to Atlanta Audubon a terrific background, with broad experience across different types and sizes of conservation nonprofits, most recently with The Nature Conservancy in Georgia. When we called his references, each one talked about his distinct qualities, and we realized we were interviewing someone with many very positive attributes, in addition to a substantial personal network. Even better, he was obviously genuinely excited about the job. Atlanta Audubon has lots of work to do building places where birds and people thrive, and we have big plans for our future. Jared has the skill set to take us there.

I hope you will come to our annual Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 PM, at Manuel's Tavern to meet Jared. You can see and hear for yourself what he has to say, and welcome him to the Atlanta Audubon flock. It will take all of us working together to continue making the Atlanta metro area a more bird-friendly place. And it will take all of us working together to educate folks and conserve places so that we

can each experience the wonders of nature that seem so threatened from every direction.

Second, my new life bird. It's not that getting a life bird makes your month, and yet it does! I went on Jason Ward's always-interesting monthly bird walk in Piedmont Park on Saturday. It was a gloriously beautiful, crisp morning, with mist over the lake and birds active all over the park. When we came to the sparrow area near the northern end of the park, it was alive with sparrows, and suddenly there in front of us was a Lark Sparrow. The Lark Sparrow is primarily a bird of the western U.S., and the species had never been seen before in Piedmont Park. It was a lifer for many of us on the walk, and everyone was ecstatic to see this gorgeous bird (I promise you, THIS sparrow is gorgeous). As we all basked in our good luck to spot it, marveled that it showed itself for long enough to get photos and great looks, I reflected on how wondrous birding can be and how you just never know what you are going to see.

Jason skillfully pointed out field markings and explained how the Lark Sparrow could be differentiated from the other sparrow species we were seeing. It was a great learning opportunity. The really amazing thing is that these Atlanta Audubon walks are FREE. What an outstanding gift our free walks are to the community, and how grateful I am that we have Jason and all the other talented trip leaders who give their time to lead them.

I am planning to go on more walks... and more trips. There is always more to learn and experience. Join me!

## Atlanta Audubon Awarded Grant to Support Taking Wing Educator Training

Atlanta Audubon was recently selected by the Alice Huffard Richards Charitable Fund (AHR Fund) as the recipient of a \$10,000 grant in support of the Taking Wing teacher training program. This is the fourth year that Atlanta Audubon has been selected as a recipient of an AHR Fund grant, and grant funds will be used to recruit educators from Heard, Carroll, and Haralson Counties to participate in Atlanta Audubon's Taking Wing program.

Taking Wing is a 50-hour continuing education opportunity for teachers and other environmental educators working with students primarily in grades K-8. Each annual cohort of educators trained through Taking Wing allows Atlanta Audubon to spread its wings and reach up to 500 students each year with STEM learning through the lens of birds.

The program includes field investigations, led by professional ecologists and ornithologists, instruction on Georgia's birds and native plants, an introduction to community science projects aimed at birds, and hands-on outdoor learning experiences to take back to the



classroom. Through the course of a full academic year, participants will implement the training by completing the development of a bird-related unit or community science project with their students and sharing their lesson with the group during the final one-day spring workshop.

Launched in 2012, the program has trained 120 educators, and participants consistently report that Taking Wing is not only the best professional development they have attended, but that it is life changing as well.

To learn more about Taking Wing and other professional development opportunities for educators through Atlanta Audubon, please visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/professional-development](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/professional-development).



# Introducing Jared Teutsch: Atlanta Audubon's New Executive Director

Atlanta Audubon has a new executive director! Jared Teutsch took the helm of Atlanta Audubon on October 28 and is off to a running start. With more than 18 years of nonprofit and public service experience, including 15 in senior management, Jared has spent his career working in conservation and is well-suited to the role of Atlanta Audubon's new ED.

"With the recent devastating news in the Audubon Climate Report and the news that we have lost nearly three billion birds in North America over the last 50 years, we need outstanding leadership in conservation," says Board of Directors Chair Esther Stokes. "We feel confident we have found that person in Jared. We believe he has both the skill set and the vision to propel Atlanta Audubon to the next level and to help us expand our work building places where birds and people thrive."

As executive director, Teutsch will be responsible for enhancing Atlanta Audubon's programs through organizational development, impactful advocacy, and continued growth. In addition to these strategic initiatives, he will oversee a roughly \$1 million budget and ensure the long-term viability of the organization through successful fundraising, in cooperation with the board and staff, to meet the financial and strategic needs of the organization.

Jared comes to us from The Nature Conservancy in Georgia, where he served as director of conservation, managing a diverse team of 21 scientists and practitioners while overseeing budgets, work plans, strategy reporting, and key communications. He has extensive experience developing fundraising and policy support for critical conservation efforts, including ecosystem restoration, habitat management, and land protection. He also has expertise communicating with elected officials, government staff, business leaders, and communities.

A native of Michigan, Jared holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental science and policy from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctor degree focusing on land use and water law from Vermont Law School. He is a graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL) and a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society and the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative.



Jared Teutsch

"I truly believe Atlanta Audubon is the organization that can help people connect to nature and find their inspiration," Jared says. "We are also well positioned to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. We owe it to our membership and the birds that keep us connected to the places we love."

Jared, his wife, and three children call Canton, Georgia, home. In his free time, Jared enjoys building things, including bird houses, barns, programs, and organizations. "There's something cathartic in creating something that has value either in your personal life or in the lives of others," he says. In addition to coaching youth basketball and tending to the family farm in Ball Ground, Jared enjoys hiking and bird watching and is a firm believer in connecting to nature on a daily basis.

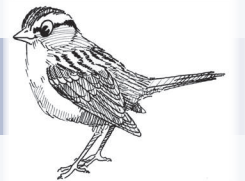
Please plan to join us at the December 8 Holiday Party and Silent Auction at Manuel's Tavern, 3:00 to 5:30 PM, to welcome Jared to the flock.

## ASK CHIPPY



**Q:** I saw this bird at my feeder this spring and wondered what it was. I thought it might be a Brown Thrasher—our state bird—but I'm just not sure. Can you help?

**A:** The bird in this photo is an immature Eastern Bluebird. This bird is a hatch-year bird and hasn't developed its beautiful blue coloring yet. The young birds are born brown with white mottling to help with camouflage. Over the coming months, this young bird will eventually molt its brown feathers and replace them with the beautiful blue, rose, and white feathers that we are accustomed to seeing on Eastern Bluebirds.



—Chippy

## Candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors

*Continued from Page 1)*

the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). In the community, she actively participates on the Young Professional Board for the Atlanta Children's Shelter and is a mentor in Georgia Power's Women in Engineering program. Robin joined the Atlanta Audubon board in August 2019 to fill a vacancy.

**Emmeline (Emme) Luck** has worked as the Policy Associate for the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) since June 2018. In this role, she tracks local, regional, and national policy trends and developments to keep stakeholders informed about the evolving state of energy efficiency in the Southeast. She has also completed several research projects and speaking engagements during her time at SEEA. Emme graduated with a dual degree in environmental sciences and French studies from Emory University, where she worked as the communications intern with the Office of Sustainability Initiatives. She also earned a sustainability management

concentration through the Goizueta Business School. At Emory, Emme enjoyed studying subjects such as ecology, geology, sustainable water resources, oceanography, and more.

Emme also completed The Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps training in March 2019 and serves as the communications director for The Climate Reality Project: Atlanta Chapter, which aims to spread awareness of the climate crisis and its solutions by engaging local communities. Emme grew up in the small coastal town of Sag Harbor, New York, where she first discovered the importance of our natural world and her passion for helping others to connect with their environments. She enjoys exploring Atlanta and learning new things about the Southeast. In addition to her passion for environmental sustainability and conservation, Emme loves hiking, reading, traveling, and practicing yoga. She is also interested in studying foreign languages and cultures, and is fluent in French.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## On Mim Eisenberg

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 41st in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers, board members and staff.)

Mim Eisenberg checks everything that goes into *Wingbars* to make sure they're ain't no mistakes in spelling and grammar. (Oops! Better make that "there aren't any mistakes in spelling and grammar.")

She's well-qualified to do so. Since 1995 she has run her own business, WordCraft, Inc., which specializes in editing and proofreading books, articles, newsletters, websites, etc. Nowadays she no longer seeks clients and describes herself as "almost semi-retired," but she built a



Molly, a Papillon, and Jazz, a Pomeranian, keep Mim busy. Photo used with permission.

considerable business through initial advertising and memberships in professional organizations. As for volunteer work, she does a look-see at every issue of *Wingbars* as well as Atlanta Audubon's online bulletin, *Bird Buzz*, and the newsletters of the Chattahoochee Nature Center, the Georgia Ornithological Society, the Chopin Society of Atlanta (she's a big fan of the Polish composer), and other groups.

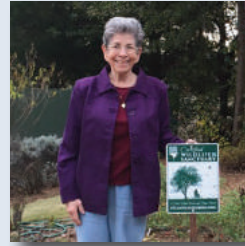
Mim was born in Brooklyn, lived in Connecticut, and then went back to New York. She attended the University of Rochester for a couple of years, eventually earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Queens College and then entered the corporate work world. After many years of living in a New York apartment, she decided she wanted a toastier climate and a house. She was attracted to Atlanta because it has four seasons and a reputation as a good place to

get a job, and indeed she found one as an office administrator. Three weeks after she bought her first house she lost her job and decided that it was time to turn WordCraft into a full-time business from one that had been providing only supplemental income.

Mim is proud of her bird-friendly yard in Roswell, which covers one-third of an acre on a corner lot and was certified in November 2018 as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. "Gardening is good for the soul," she says. So how does an apartment-dwelling New Yorker become an avid gardener? Mim says the best answer is that she tried to emulate her mother, who had a lush garden in Connecticut. Because Mim has mobility limitations, she now has her lawn guy do the plantings except for plants that come in small pots. She laments the fact that a new subdivision is going in very nearby, which clear-cut 58 acres

of woods three years ago and whose construction continues to cause considerable commotion. The garden comes in handy when Mim wants to pursue another of her passions—photography. Most of her colorful shots are taken in her garden, and she likes to post them on Facebook and Flickr. If you'd like to look at Mim's work, call up Flickr.com/photos/mimbrava on your computer.

Mim shares her home with a couple of lively canines, Molly, a Papillon, and Jazz, a Pomeranian.



Mim's yard is certified as an Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, a designation of which she is very proud. Photo by Dottie Head.

# THANK YOU!

## A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for November: **Jason Ward, Lillie Kline, Anne McCallum, Gus Kaufman, Charlie Muise, Mary Kimberly, Rob McDonough, and Jamie Vidich** ... to **Joy Carter** for helping with a sanctuary consultation ... to Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers **Jamie Vidich, Phoebe Janflone, Mary Kimberly, Gavin MacDonald, Kelly Bryan, Maureen Carroll, Elaine DeSimone, Ken Boff, Shawn Taylor, Cheryl Hensley, Larry Stevens, Leigh Layton, Eric Haley, Angie Kaliban, Alex Gross, and Barbara Mahon** ... to **Mark Jernigan** and **Walter Bland** for their work on habitat restoration ... to **Ellen Miller** and **Steve Phenicie** for serving on the Habitat Restoration Fund Committee ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, and Laura Waddick** for assisting with the year-end appeal letters and membership renewal reminder letters ... to **Roseanne Guerra** for her artistic contributions to the design of our new educational banner displays ... to **Toni Bowen, Judy Kileen, Megan Wyatt, Angie Lewis, and Michele Buchanan** for their help with outreach ... to **Mary Nevil** and **Laura Waddick** for keeping the book club going ... to **Elaine Reed** with Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate for presenting at our October Monthly Meeting and bringing delicious samples ... to **Larry Stephens, Jack Fasse, Martha Fasse, Stella Wissner, Nanette Dooley, and Susan Loeb** for their help with November Peel & Stick.

## December 3 Is GAgives on GivingTuesday: Help Protect Chimney Swifts in Georgia

This year on December 3 Atlanta Audubon will participate in GAgives on GivingTuesday. This year's campaign will focus on raising funds to support Chimney Swift conservation projects in 2020. The Chimney Swift is an aerial insectivore that lives most of its life on the wing, stopping only at night to rest and sleep. Named by Atlanta Audubon as our conservation priority species for 2019-2020, the Chimney Swift is facing steep population declines due to pesticide use, habitat loss, building collisions, and climate change. To combat the loss of this important bird species, Atlanta Audubon is implementing a number of conservation and education tools. Funds raised through our GAgives on GivingTuesday campaign will support Chimney Swift conservation projects in Atlanta, such as the construction of Chimney Swift towers, installation of native plants, and awareness initiatives to educate the public on making their own homes more bird-friendly. You can support the Chimney Swift with your GAgives on GivingTuesday contribution at [www.atlantaudubon.org/gagivesday](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/gagivesday).



Chimney Swift, by Shawn Taylor

# Redrawing Our Range Maps

By Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation

One of the first things new bird lovers pick up is a field guide for their region. Photos and/or drawings of each species are paired with morsels of life history and other characteristics. Just as important are the maps cloaked in a rainbow of blue, red, purple, and yellow to help birders understand where each species may be found throughout the year and what habitats and climatic conditions the birds require. Long-time birders may also have noticed updates, such as improved artwork and changes to species names, taxonomy, and even species order. However, for the first time since the invention of the field guide, we may start to see significant changes to the maps too.

In 2014 National Audubon released the groundbreaking *Birds and Climate Change* Report. This report was one of the first real attempts to outline how a changing climate may affect birds, focusing specifically on how a species' climatic range is likely to shift based on climate modeling. While this report presented only a piece of an extremely complex issue, the results were terrifying: more than 60 percent of birds were at least moderately vulnerable to climate change. Fast forward five years to October 2019, and National Audubon has released a much more complete and robust view of how shifting climate may affect birds. This report, *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*, uses substantially more data to show that two-thirds of our North American species are at risk of extinction due to climate change.

Because many bird species migrate, climate reports must be detailed and complex and cover entire hemispheres, just like birds. Predicting how the climate may change is complicated and is heavily influenced by our collective actions. Taking these uncertainties into account, the report examines the effects of climate change under three different warming scenarios. A +1.5°C change is thought to be a global goal and an imminent outcome if nothing is done. It is also likely our best-case scenario. At the other end of the spectrum is a +3.0°C warming scenario. If we do nothing to address climate change and continue on our current trajectory, a +3.0°C change in global temperatures could happen as soon as 2100. Scary. Let's take a close look at how the birds may be affected right here in our state of Georgia.

The *Survival by Degrees* report found that out of the 254 Georgia birds considered, 58 of them (23 percent) are vulnerable to climate change. These vulnerabilities range across both summer and winter as well as in +1.5°C, +2.0°C, and +3.0°C scenarios. In general, the summer months are going to be hardest for our birds. Six species, including two still common Atlanta residents (Fish Crow and Brown-headed Nuthatch), are considered highly vulnerable under the best-case prediction. Increased heat, especially in the spring when young birds are in the nest, false springs, changes in precipitation patterns, and the effects of urbanization are all likely to affect these imperiled breeders. Under the more severe warming models, our total number of impacted species increases to 21 and includes the Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and even the Pine Warbler. A +3.0°C change would see the Pine Warbler extirpated from more than half of the state, with worsening conditions covering all of the remaining range apart from some of the extreme northeastern portions of Georgia.

While Georgia's winter climate effects are not as severe, a few species could sustain crippling winter blows. Of particular concern are the sparrows of our coastal

marshlands—Saltmarsh, Nelson's, and Seaside Sparrows in particular. Saltmarsh and Nelson's sparrows rely on Georgia's marshes for wintering habitat, and the Seaside Sparrow also breeds in these nutrient-rich wetlands. Ongoing development and sea level rise threaten the narrow strip of marshland habitat on which these birds rely, and even minor changes in temperature could be problematic at best and catastrophic under worst-case warming scenarios.

Perhaps the most distressing news of all is for our state bird—the Brown Thrasher. While the winter months will generally stay climatically suitable for this mimic across the state, the summer is a completely different story. Under the more hopeful +1.5°C outlook, half of our state is likely to be uninhabitable for it, and that number jumps to 90 percent under a +3.0°C scenario. It is possible that in my lifetime it will be very difficult or impossible to find a thrasher inside the Perimeter. Red-headed Woodpecker, Field Sparrow, and even the Eastern Towhee all are expected to lose the same amount of habitat in Georgia under these climatic models.

While I have highlighted only habitat loss due to climate change, the Audubon report also shows how habitat shifts or expansion are also possible. We should not take this as a silver lining. While some new areas may become climatically suitable for species, it doesn't mean the habitat is suitable, or that there is even habitat present. This is especially true in the large-scale agricultural areas of our state. It is difficult to tell how species may interact or compete if colonization by a new species occurs. Finally, migration is hard and costly for birds. How an additional 200 migratory miles may affect a bird must be considered as well as if a non-migratory species, like our Brown-headed Nuthatch, could ever develop a strategy to cope.

The National Audubon climate report paired with the "3 Billion Birds" study by Cornell and others has painted a bleak picture for our birds. The findings somehow were both shocking and completely expected to me. I assume many of you felt the same way. Atlanta Audubon believes that where birds thrive, people thrive. Thus, these findings must serve as a call to action for us to do more to protect these species.

This is the part of the article where I would normally tell you that it is not too late and that there are steps we can take to stop the negative trends (which is all true). However, you all are the choir. If you are reading this, you care about birds and know of their importance. In my opinion, the best thing we can do is to expand the range map of bird lovers. We need to share the world of birds and tell others why they matter. And yes, maybe at the same time you can tell them to keep their cat indoors, plant native plants, and advocate for national and global climate action. Now, go out and be a voice for birds!



Under current warming scenarios, Brown Thrashers could be extirpated from most of Georgia. Photo by Una Davenport.



Black Rosy Finch, by David Cree.

## Photo of the Month Winner

The Photo of the Month winner for November is David Cree, an Atlanta Audubon member from Peachtree City. His photo of a Black Rosy Finch was taken at Sandia Crest House in the Sandia Mountains in New Mexico, 10,678 feet above sea level. David reports that it was only 18°F on the day he took the photo with his Nikon D300 camera set at ISO 400, 1/6400, f5.6. As you can imagine, he had some trouble photographing the bird since the extreme cold kept depleting his batteries.

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 photos if they do not win in a particular month. For more information or to enter the monthly competition, visit [www.atlantaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month).



# Give AND Get the Gift of Membership This Holiday Season

**Special Offer: Current Atlanta Audubon members who purchase a gift membership at the Individual level or higher during the months of November and December will receive a three-month extension to their own membership.**

Give the gift of an Atlanta Audubon Society membership to friends and family this holiday season. Gift recipients will experience an inspiring world of bird appreciation, conservation, and habitat protection. It's also another great way to extend your own support of Atlanta Audubon's work to build places where birds and people thrive.

Gift membership recipients will receive a holiday card from Atlanta Audubon notifying them of your generosity or you may choose to have the holiday card sent to yourself to give in person. All regular membership benefits are bestowed upon gift recipients, including:

- 10 yearly issues of our print newsletter, *Wingbars*, and 12 monthly *BirdBuzz* e-newsletters,

- Discounts and priority registration on workshops and trips, including Atlanta Bird Fes,
- Invitation to our monthly meetings and speaker series,
- Option to certify a property through the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program (additional fee for certification), and
- Lending Library privileges.

Gift memberships begin at \$35 for an individual membership.

To purchase a gift membership, please visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/joinrenew](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/joinrenew) or call us Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at 678.973.2437. Inquiries may also be directed via e-mail to Beverly Fooks at [beverly@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:beverly@atlantaaudubon.org).

## LIVE and LEARN

### 21st-Century Birding

February 13, 2020 • 6:30 to 8:00 PM  
Atlanta Audubon Office at  
Blue Heron Nature Preserve

Make the most of your birding in the New Year. Locating birds, trip planning, record keeping, and participating in community science have all become easier thanks to new, easy-to-use technologies. Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, to learn how smart phones, apps, social media, and online community science programs can enhance your birding experience. This workshop will cover some of these tools, with special focus on eBird and all of its functions. You will learn how to submit a checklist, track all of your sightings, explore the vast database of eBird, and receive a brief introduction to other programs, such as NestWatch and Merlin. We will also cover other digital aids and discuss ways to improve your birding skills, ranging from sound recording to understanding migration forecasts.

**What to bring:** A smartphone or tablet may be useful, but are not necessary, and participants are encouraged to sign up for a free account with eBird through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Alternatively, a notebook or other way to take notes may be useful.

Spaces are limited. Reserve your spot by registering online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/workshops](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/workshops).

Member fee: \$25

Non-member fee: \$30

### Save the Date:

Public Opening of Audubon Photography Awards  
Exhibit on February 9

In February 2020 Atlanta Audubon will host the Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition, featuring a public opening reception on Sunday, February 9, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The public opening and subsequent drop-in viewing of the exhibition through February 24 will be held at Brickworks Gallery, located at 686-A Greenwood Avenue NE in Atlanta.

In this tenth year of the contest, winning photos and honorable mentions were selected from 2,253 entrants from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 Canadian provinces and territories that showed appreciation of the wonder of birds and the places they inhabit. This year, judges introduced the Plants for Birds Prize and the Fisher Prize. The Plants for Birds Prize was awarded to the highest-scoring photograph submitted in the Plants for Birds Division, featuring birds and plants native to the area where the photo was taken. The Fisher Prize was awarded to the photograph depicting the most creative approach to bird photography across all divisions: Professional, Amateur, Youth and Plants for Birds.

More information about the upcoming exhibit opening will be shared in early 2020. Thank you to Atlanta Audubon member and Brickworks Gallery owner Laura Adams for sponsoring the exhibit.



*Great Blue Herons, by Melissa Rowell,  
2019 Amateur Honorable Mention.*

## Just in Time for the Holidays: Atlanta Audubon Launches Coffee/Chocolate Lovers Bag

What could be better than coffee, chocolate, and birds? Just in time for the holiday season, we are offering a gift bundle that is perfect for gift giving. Featuring a 4-ounce sample bag of our shade-grown, organic coffee, an Atlanta Audubon insulated coffee mug, and a 2.6-ounce Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate bar, this gift bag is priced at \$20 and makes the perfect teacher, hostess, or white elephant gift. The gift bags are now available for pickup at the Atlanta Audubon office, and we will have them for sale at the Holiday Party on December 8. You may also purchase them in our online store, and we can ship them for an additional fee. Quantities are limited, so purchase early!



# 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, December 7, 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

## **Sunday, December 8, 2019** **Panola Mountain Banding Station** **(Rockdale County)** **6:15 AM to 2:00 PM**

(Note: participants may not leave early)  
Leader: Charlie Muise  
E-mail to let him know you are coming:  
cmmbirds@yahoo.com  
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

## **Monday, December 9, 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.

## **Wednesday, December 11, 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, December 14, 2019** **Panola Mountain Banding Station** **(Rockdale County)** **6:15 AM to 2:00 PM**

(Note: participants may not leave early)  
Leader: Charlie Muise  
E-mail to let him know you are coming:  
cmmbirds@yahoo.com  
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

## **Saturday, November 16, 2019** **Lullwater Preserve (DeKalb County)** **8:00 AM**

Leader: Gus Kaufman and Jamie Viditch.  
Cell contact morning of walk: 404.483.7457  
(Gus); 843.605.2959 (Jamie)  
GPS: 33.795105, -84.311515.

## **Sunday, December 29, 2019** **Panola Mountain Banding Station** **(Rockdale County)** **6:15 AM to 2:00 PM**

(Note: participants may not leave early)  
Leader: Charlie Muise  
E-mail to let him know you are coming:  
cmmbirds@yahoo.com  
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

## **Saturday, January 4, 2020** **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, January 8, 2020** **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

## **Friday, January 17, 2020** **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.

*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 Jason Ward, field trips director, at [jward@audubon.org](mailto:jward@audubon.org).*

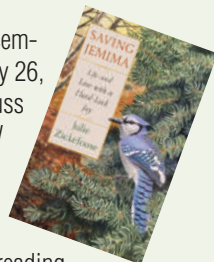
*Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: [www.atlantaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.atlantaudubon.org/field-trips). As always, we encourage field trip participants to check the Atlanta Audubon Field Trips web page before any of these trips to check for updates, changes, typo corrections, etc., and for the most up-to-date information. Also, frequently trips are added after the newsletter deadline has passed.*

## Early Birds Book Club

The Early Birds will not meet in November or December. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, before the monthly meeting. We will gather to discuss *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab and an Epic Journey*, by Deborah Cramer. The book for our February meeting is *Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-Luck Jay*, by Julie Zickefoose.

The Early Birds welcomes everyone who enjoys reading about birds, birding, and birders. We have covered a variety of subjects, from species accounts to big years, and we've also read poetry, fiction, and children's picture books. The Early Birds is a "no commitment" book club—some folks come every time and others less frequently. You don't even have to read the book! Just show up at 2:00 PM before the Atlanta Audubon monthly meeting at Manuel's.

You can find us on the Atlanta Audubon website at [www.atlanta-audubon.org/early-birds-book-club](http://www.atlanta-audubon.org/early-birds-book-club).



## Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction Sunday, December 8, 3:00 to 5:30 PM Main Dining Room at Manuel's Tavern

Don't miss the annual Atlanta Audubon Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Sunday, December 8. At this casual gathering of our conservation-minded friends and partners, we'll celebrate our successes in 2019 and look ahead to 2020. We'll have a variety of unique auction items for the bird-lover on your gift list. Our Atlanta Audubon store will be open and well stocked with a selection of T-shirts, caps, bird earrings, notecards, shade-grown coffee, Xocolatl chocolate bars, books, ornaments, and other items. All proceeds benefit the conservation and education efforts of Atlanta Audubon. This gathering will also serve as our annual meeting. We'll hold a brief business meeting to introduce and elect board members for 2020. Atlanta Audubon will provide a variety of appetizers, and, of course, additional food and beverages will be available for purchase. Please join us as we celebrate another successful year for Georgia birds.





## ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4055 Roswell Road ♦ Atlanta, GA 30342  
678.973.2437

*Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit  
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[www.AtlantaAudubon.org](http://www.AtlantaAudubon.org)

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## January Monthly Meeting

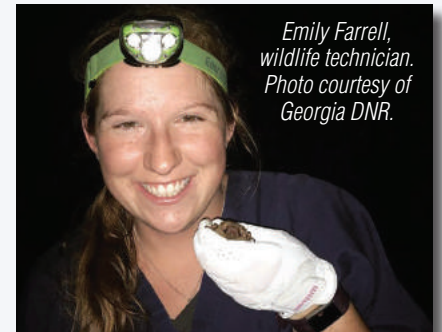
Georgia Bats: Benefits, Threats, and How We Can Help

Speaker: Emily Ferrall, Wildlife Conservation Section, Georgia DNR

Sunday, January 26, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

**B**ats are one of the most misunderstood creatures in the animal kingdom. These fascinating mammals are often portrayed in popular culture and stories as threatening and scary, but that is really not the case at all. Bats provide natural pest control and are much more common than many believe. Unfortunately, many bats are in trouble, and they need our help. Emily Ferrall of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will provide an overview on Georgia bats, the benefits they provide to us, the threats they face, and how we can help.

Emily Ferrall is a wildlife technician with the Wildlife Conservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division. Her job duties focus on bat conservation, gopher tortoise surveys, and data management. Emily is also the secretary of the Georgia Bat Working Group, a professional organization focusing on bat conservation through research, management, and public education.



*Emily Ferrall,  
wildlife technician.  
Photo courtesy of  
Georgia DNR.*

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.

## Protect Georgia's Birds with Your Year-End Gift to Atlanta Audubon

**G**eorgia's birds are counting on you this holiday season. Your support is critical to our work protecting the hundreds of species of birds that nest in, migrate through, or call metro Atlanta home. Thanks to your support, Atlanta Audubon is working hard to document and understand the threats to habitats and species, as well as implement and advance solutions, but we cannot thrive without the collective contributions of our members and friends. Every gift of every size matters to every one of us. Your gift to Atlanta Audubon by December 31 will help us encourage even more Georgians to take action in support of our birds and the habitats we all depend upon. You can make your gift online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/donate), by phone at 678.973.2437, or by mail to Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30342. We thank you for your year-end support!