

VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 2, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Atlanta Bird Fest Registration Opens on March 1 for Atlanta Audubon Members

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest opens on March 1 at 10:00 AM for Atlanta Audubon members and on March 8 to the public. Running from April 14 to May 20, our third annual Atlanta Bird Fest will offer more than 30 different events, such as guided field trips, workshops, and guest speakers. This annual event raises critical funds to support Atlanta Audubon's mission to build places where birds and people thrive. Events will offer something for everyone—from the beginner to more experienced birder and to nature enthusiasts in general—all during Georgia's exciting spring migration period.

Event offerings will include many special outings, such as exploring the private trails of Serenbe, learning more about the 57 active family groups of Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, paddle trips on the Chattahoochee River, workshops to hone your nature photography skills and on how to create a wildlife sanctuary in your yard, plus special guest speakers Julie Zickefoose and Janisse Ray. See the full schedule of events and register at <https://www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events.html>.



Tufted Titmouse, by Dan Vickers

INSIDE

- Challenge from the Chair 2
- Introducing Victor Fiorese..... 2
- Celebrate Year of the Bird..... 3
- Ask Chippy 3
- Volunteer Spotlight 4
- A Million Thanks 4
- Eyes on Education..... 5
- Wood Thrush Story Map..... 5
- Live and Learn 6
- Atlanta Bird Fest Events 6
- Field Trips..... 7
- Monthly Meeting Info..... 8

This year's Atlanta Bird Fest logo featuring the Pileated Woodpecker was designed by Atlanta-based artist Kyle Brooks (aka BlackCatTips). A limited number of Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirts will be on sale beginning at our February 25 monthly meeting at Manuel's Tavern for \$20 each. Shirts will be available for purchase in our online store beginning Monday, February 26.

Be sure your membership is current for 2018 so you can take advantage of early registration for members on March 1.

Please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest for more information and to preview the full schedule of events.



Participants explore the hardwood forests at Serenbe during Atlanta Bird Fest 2016. Photo by Jim McCallum.

Atlanta Audubon Launches New Website

By Dottie Head

Atlanta Audubon has launched an updated website at www.AtlantaAudubon.org. Please take a few minutes to explore the new site and admire all of the great photos, most of which were taken by members. The new site has a cleaner, more modern look and feel, and it's a great platform to showcase all of our field trips, workshops, Atlanta Bird Fest events, conservation, and education programs. We hope you find it visually appealing and easy to use.

In fall 2017, Atlanta Audubon was selected by the Georgia Tech Bits of Good program to receive

a website redesign at no charge! Bits of Good is a College of Computing organization at Georgia Tech dedicated to connecting computer science students with nonprofits to advance their social missions. A team of talented, young computer science majors from Georgia Tech, led by sophomore Karan Ahtani, spent the semester designing a new website for Atlanta Audubon.

The new website was turned over to Atlanta Audubon at the end of the fall semester, and Dottie

(Continued on Page 2)



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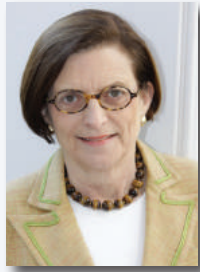
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Challenge from the Chair

By Esther Stokes

Since becoming Atlanta Audubon Board chair in December, I have been marveling at the many ways the voice of Atlanta Audubon is needed in the Atlanta metro area and in the state of Georgia. The need to conserve lands that protect birds has never been greater; the need to educate people about birds and nature in general has never been greater; and the need for a clear, strong voice advocating for birds and the habitats that protect them seems more critical now than at any time I can recall.

As an Atlanta Audubon member, you can help. Sometimes we feel powerless in the face of societal forces, but there are things we can do to address these concerns. What can each of us do on a regular basis to help out? I would like to challenge you to help with THREE THINGS:

First, I'll bet each of us has friends who appreciate birds and the natural world who are not yet members of Atlanta Audubon. Please encourage these folks to join

their local Atlanta Audubon Society. It is through our pooled resources that we can have an impact on local issues affecting birds and the environment.

Secondly, if you have a garden, you can make choices that enhance that garden to provide habitat for our resident and migrating birds. Plant native plants, or, if all else fails, plant an oak tree! As we learned in September when Doug Tallamy addressed our group, one native oak tree can support 534 species of insects, which are food for our birds. Conversely, a non-native Ginkgo supports only a few species of insects.

Third, we need to think of ourselves as ambassadors for birds—every day! We can speak with our representatives about the dangers of offshore oil drilling off the coast of Georgia and advocate for state monies to be set aside to conserve more Georgia land as our state population increases. In the years to come, we will be presented with many opportunities to act. We simply need to step into that role.

I look forward to working with all of our members, Board of Directors, and staff over the next two years. We have a job to do; let's have a lot of fun doing it!

Finally, I am so grateful for the very outstanding leadership of Linda DiSantis over the last two years, for Nikki and all the talented Atlanta Audubon staff who never seem to want for a skill set, and for our Board which brings a diversity of talents and perspectives to the issues and challenges of the organization. Onward!

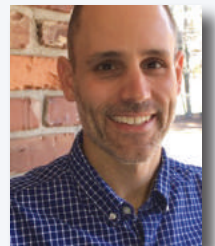
Introducing Victor Fiorese: Administrative and Finance Manager

Atlanta Audubon Society is excited to welcome Victor Fiorese as our new Administrative and Finance Manager. Along with Atlanta Audubon's growth has come a need for a more dedicated person to manage finance, budget, and general office operations. Victor brings a wealth of experience to our organization, and we're excited to add his expertise to our staff lineup.

Victor has spent most of his career in various finance roles at software and technology consulting companies that ranged in size from local to global. He is looking forward to applying this experience in the nonprofit environment and is excited to support the Atlanta Audubon mission to build places where birds and people thrive.

A New Jersey native, Victor has lived in Atlanta since 1994. He has a B.S. in Finance from Penn State University and an M.B.A. from Georgia State University. As an undergrad, he was part of a student group that gave campus tours to prospective students. Victor currently resides in northeast Atlanta with his wife Christa, sons Leo and Gabriel, and their dog Molly. He enjoys spending as much time with his family as possible, and he also enjoys playing tennis, listening to music, and being outside. He is involved with his sons' Boy Scout troop, schools, and sports teams. Their favorite family vacation was a trip to Yellowstone a few years back, and they are looking forward to seeing more national parks together in the future.

Please join us in welcoming Victor to the Atlanta Audubon flock.



Victor Fiorese joins Atlanta Audubon as Administrative and Finance Manager.

Atlanta Audubon Launches New Website

(Continued from Page 1)

spent the next month building pages, checking links, and preparing for launch. On February 5, Jay Davis, Atlanta Audubon volunteer webmaster, and Jim Flynn, another long-time Atlanta Audubon website volunteer, helped us launch the new site. It was a true team effort.

One of our favorite features of the new site is an RSS feed where we can share information about all of the great conservation and education programs, events, and

other happenings. Book reviews, a short write-up on your latest birding adventure, bird-humor pieces—these and other articles are welcome. If you have any interest in submitting occasional content for our RSS feed, please reach out to Dottie Head, director of membership and communications, at dottie@atlantaudubon.org.

Please take some time to check out the website, especially if you are planning to register for Atlanta Bird Fest Events on March 1 so that you will be familiar with the new site.

Celebrate Year of the Bird by Taking Action: Plant Native for Birds and Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

By Dottie Head



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects more than 1,000 species of birds, including American Kestrels. Photo by Dan Vickers.

2018 is officially the Year of the Bird, and Atlanta Audubon is partnering with the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International, and many other organizations to declare 2018 “Year of the Bird.” Through 12 months of storytelling, science, and conservation, we’ll celebrate the wonder of our feathered friends, examine how our changing environment is driving dramatic losses among bird

species, and highlight what actions people can take to reverse this trend.

Each month, a themed call to action will inspire people to “bird their world.” The aim is to educate about the threats birds face today and encourage people to take concrete steps to make a difference.

In March, the call to action will be *native plants*. We’re also calling on all bird lovers to take action to defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Plant Native for Birds

Growing bird-friendly native plants at home is an easy way to invite birds into your yard. In March, Atlanta Audubon will be kicking off spring planting season by partnering with the Chattahoochee Nature Center and the Blue Heron Nature Preserve on two native plant sales. Pre-sales of plants will begin on the Atlanta Audubon website at www.atlantaudubon.org/plant-sale.html beginning on March 5.

If the Atlanta Audubon plant sales aren’t convenient, try visiting National Audubon Society’s Plants for Birds public online database at www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds. Anyone nationwide can access a list of native plants that benefit their favorite local bird species, just by typing in their ZIP code.

“Did you know that 96 percent of land birds feed insects and spiders to their chicks? A single nest of chickadee babies may scarf down as many as 9,000 caterpillars before they fledge. Native tree species are better for birds because they host many more caterpillars; native oaks support more than 550 kinds of butterflies and moths. Non-native Ginkgo trees? Only five,” said Dr. John Rowden, director of community conservation for the National Audubon Society.

Gardens are outdoor sanctuaries for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Every spring, migrating birds visit our yards looking for nourishment from our gardens and places to raise their chicks. By adding native plants to one’s yard, balcony, container garden, rooftop, or public space, anyone, anywhere can not only attract more birds but give them the best chance of survival in the face of climate change and urban development.

And if your garden meets certain requirements, you can have it certified as an Atlanta Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary and help us add to a growing network of certified habitats across the metro area as we strive to build places where birds and people thrive. Learn more about certification at www.atlantaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification.html.

Take Action to Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Another way you can help make 2018 the Year of the Bird is by speaking up in defense of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

One of the nation’s strongest bird conservation laws, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, is under attack. It is our nation’s cornerstone bird conservation law. Passed in 1918, it is on the eve of its 100th anniversary and has seen

(Continued on Page 4)

ASK CHIPPY

Q:

I have not seen any nuthatches this winter in my backyard. Is it the cold spells we have had?

A:

Thanks for contacting Atlanta Audubon Society.

There are many factors that may contribute to the disappearance of your nuthatches, cold weather among them. An outdoor neighborhood cat might also be enough to keep birds away. A quick check of eBird for the last three months shows that there have been plenty of sightings in the Atlanta area. Do you usually have Brown-headed Nuthatches, White-breasted Nuthatches, or both?

As you may know, Brown-headed Nuthatches are in decline in Georgia, largely due to loss of habitat through urbanization and deforestation. In addition, climate change may continue to contribute to the decline of the preferred habitat of these birds.

However, there is something you can do. Atlanta Audubon, together with other Audubon chapters in the state, began a program funded by the National Audubon Society in 2015 to place Brown-headed Nuthatch nest boxes around Georgia. This program was expanded in 2016, and the public was encouraged to install nest boxes on their property. To date, nearly 400 nest boxes have been placed in Georgia yards and landscapes.

If you would like to encourage these cute little birds to come back to your yard, putting up a nest box may do the trick. You can order a nest box from Atlanta Audubon through our online store or shop for one at your local Wild Birds Unlimited or Bird Watchers Supply Company. You might even decide to build your own. More information about Brown-headed Nuthatches and plans for building nest boxes can be found on the Atlanta Audubon website at www.atlantaudubon.org/nest-boxes-for-nuthatches.

Thanks for your concern for the birds.

—Chippy



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Angie Jenkins

(This is the 28th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

By Steve Phenicie

Angie Jenkins seems to be one of those people whose energy level makes many of us envious, and this manifests itself in what she has done and is doing for Atlanta Audubon, birds, and nature in general. You might be familiar with Angie, a member of the Master Birder fall class of 2011, in any one of a good number of ways.

She has headed the Christmas Bird Count in the Marietta area for the past three years, led monthly bird walks on the Noonday Creek Trail in Cobb County since 2012, helped with the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, assisted at the bird banding station at Panola Mountain, and given presentations at the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. She's a former member of the Atlanta Audubon board and served as the director of conservation.

In her "free time" (whenever that is) she's an avid eBirder, an occasional rare bird chaser, and a pollinator gardener, including Monarch Butterfly rearing/tagging. She coordinated the first few years of the Bird 'n Butterfly-a-thon at Leone Hall Price Park in Marietta and volunteers at the Georgia School of Ballet.

This is in addition to riding herd on her two children, Ava, 12, and Orrin, 9, AND starting her own business, Kennesaw Mountain Nature Preschool,

which opened last July. This licensed facility lets her combine her passions for both nature and early childhood education. It's part of the forest school movement, which is designed to give children a heavy immersion in nature and, as Angie says, "fight screen time." She has just six students and is hoping to grow a bit but remain small.



Angie Jenkins

"KMNP fulfills my dreams of advocating for high-quality education for young children as well as the natural world. I am passionate about bringing children outdoors and learning authentically every day as this is a critical step for the future of habitats in Cobb County and the natural world over all. While Kennesaw Mountain is the perfect backdrop for woodland species, the grasslands, marsh and meadows of Cobb County also provide us with a plethora of experiences," she says.

Angie has been an early environmental educator for 30 years, starting in East Tennessee, where she graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in English and political science as well as a B.S. in early childhood development. She and her husband, Bryan, who reside at the base of Kennesaw Mountain, have lived in the Atlanta area for almost 15 years. Bryan is employed as lead design engineer at Vortex Control Technologies.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for February: **Jason Ward, Tom Painting, Angie Jenkins, Mary Kimberly, Anne McCallum, Joy Carter, Lillie Kline,** and **Peter Gordon** ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil,** and **Laura Waddick** for their help with the Atlanta Bird Fest postcard mailing ... to Climate Watch volunteers **Cathy Cornelius, Michelle Hamner, Wayne Powell, Melanie Furr, Nikki Belmonte, Jay Davis, Laura Hardy, Steve Dupont, Megan Wyatt, Beth Giddens, Sandy Murray, Cheryl Beshke, Toni Bowen, Vicki Williams, Victor Williams, Abby Back, Mary Nevil, Brian Campbell, Jim Eggensperger, Robyn Newman, Steve Newman, Amanda Woomer, Jim McMullian, Valerie McMullian, Max Brown, Susan Loeb, Lisbet Phillips, Mark Seaman, and Phyllis Hawkins** ... to bird banding volunteers **Barbara Kipreos, Brooke Vacovsky,** and **Susan Loeb** ... to **Lisa Matheson** for her help with the logos for the new Atlanta Audubon website ... to the **Georgia Tech Bits of Good team** for their wonderful redesign of the Atlanta Audubon website ... to **Jay Davis** and **Jim Flynn** for their help launching the new website and for maintaining the old website for many, many years.

Celebrate Year of the Bird

(Continued from Page 3)

decades of success conserving birds and bringing numerous species back from the brink of extinction. The law makes it illegal to kill most native bird species without a valid permit.

Congress and the U.S. Department of the Interior are proposing to severely undermine this important bill. The House Committee on Natural Resources has included an amendment in the Energy Bill, H.R. 4239, and the Department of the Interior has issued a new policy directive that would absolve oil and gas companies from responsibility for bird deaths in oil pits, on power lines, and from other energy-related infrastructure. If passed, this would be a disaster for birds as energy companies would no longer be penalized for 'incidental take,' or the unintended bird deaths that result from industrial activity.

Please take action today and tell Congress and the Administration to fight for migratory birds and oppose changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. You can learn more about this issue and/or contact your elected representative at www.abcbirds.org/action/petition-mbta.

Help us make 2018 the Year of the Bird by lending support on these important issues.



A variety of Plants for Birds will be available for sale at the upcoming Chattahoochee Nature Center plant sale. Pictured here: columbine, coral honeysuckle (top), annual salvia (bottom), and yellow giant hyssop.

EYES on EDUCATION

Digging in for Birds

by Melanie Furr

Students, parents, and teachers at two City of Atlanta elementary schools got their hands in the dirt this winter to plant their very own bird-friendly outdoor classrooms as part of Atlanta Audubon's Connecting Students to STEM through Birds program. In its second year and supported by the Morgens West Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation, this program works with two schools in underserved communities each year to create outdoor



Creating a garden for Birds at Boyd Elementary School. Photo by Melanie Furr.

classrooms and to provide training and resources for teachers to connect students with meaningful, hand-on learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as well as other subjects, through the study of birds. The garden designs, provided by our partner Daniel Ballard of Convivial

Gardens, include native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that will provide not only the seeds and fruits that attract birds, but that host the caterpillars and other insects that will support birds and their hungry broods in the spring. Before the students start digging, Daniel and I talk to them about how we are creating a food web in their schoolyard—a wildlife buffet! Daniel pretends to eat a caterpillar or two, which always gets a laugh. The students love being outdoors and are always curious to learn and eager to dig. The hands-on experience gives them a sense of ownership and pride that connects them with the natural world right outside their school doors.



Two students assist Daniel Ballard, Convivial Gardens, with tree planting at Boyd Elementary School. Photo by Melanie Furr.

As part of the project, the schools also receive binoculars, field guides, classroom resources, and educational programming, including a banding demonstration this spring with Adam, our director of conservation.

Thanks to the school communities at Boyd and Continental Colony elementary schools for their partnership in this year's project and to Convivial Gardens for leading our student crews.



First graders dig into the new garden at Continental Colony Elementary School. Photo by Melanie Furr.



Planting native plants for birds and other wildlife at Boyd Elementary School. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Wood Thrush Story Map Released



Wood Thrush, by Mary Kimberly

The flute-like call of the Wood Thrush has been disappearing from Georgia's forests over the past several decades because of multiple threats, including building collisions, habitat degradation, and climate change.

Atlanta Audubon has developed a new conservation tool to raise public awareness about the plight of the iconic bird. The Wood Thrush Story Map was developed through the generous support of our members, partners, and donors. This unique conservation tool is designed to raise public awareness about the plight of the Wood Thrush and to provide citizens with tangible steps they can take to help these birds.

In 2018 Atlanta Audubon is promoting and implementing tangible actions to preserve the Wood Thrush's habitat, both locally and internationally. Buying shade-grown coffee and planting native plants are two easy ways for Georgians to help.

View the Wood Thrush Story Map at <http://gis.audubon.org/AtlantaAudubon/woodthrush/>

LIVE and LEARN

With These Atlanta Audubon Society Workshops

At Home Outdoors: Monthly Adventures for Homeschoolers

The Amphibian Foundation, Atlanta Audubon Society, and Blue Heron Nature Preserve are excited to team up to offer monthly homeschool days on the second Friday of each month from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Each month we'll explore a new topic with hands-on outdoor learning activities.

Open to children ages 5 to 12. This is a drop-off program, but parents may stay if they wish.

Register for our 2018 Eco-Adventures:

March 9: Reptiles Are Not So Slimy

April 13: The Secret Life Aquatic

May 11: The Best Nest

\$12/session

\$15 at the door (space permitting)

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/homeschool.html>.



Southeast Arizona Landscape, by Ken Blankenship

Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast

Class Session: Monday, April 16, 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

(Continued on Page 7)

Atlanta Bird Fest 2018 Events

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

Description: 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.

Registration opens on March 1 to members and on March 8 to the public.



Paddling the Chattahoochee River: Powers Island to Paces Mill

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Trip Leader: Jerry Hightower, Ranger, Chattahoochee River NRA

Limited to 25 participants, Difficulty Level: Moderate
Cost: \$30/person

Description: Atlanta Audubon is pleased to partner with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to offer a guided paddle trip between Powers Island and Paces Mill. This area is rich in both natural and human history, and National Park Ranger Jerry Hightower will lead the group in an engaging interpretive tour as we float down this three-mile section of the river. There are three mild, Class 1.5 rapids suitable for beginners along this part of the river. The Palisades have narrow floodplains and steep ridges rising to more than 1,000 feet. We'll stop along the way, including at Sandy Point and Devil's Stair Step Beach (Diving Rock), to explore and look for regular river visitors such as Great Blue Heron, Osprey, hawks, Belted Kingfisher, owls, swallows, and perhaps some migrating warblers and vireos.

Participants should pack a lunch/snacks/beverages to enjoy on a sandbar along the river during the midpoint of the trip. All equipment, including raft and life jackets, will be 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 a raft without assistance. Life jackets must be worn during the entire trip.

Registration opens on March 1 to members and on March 8 to the public.



Photo by Tammy Bates

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.

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.

Saturday, March 3, 2018 Piedmont Park (Fulton County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Jason Ward

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.759.7770

GPS: N 33 47.025, W 84 22.746

Sunday, March 4, 2018 Noonday Creek Trail West Section (Cobb County)

8:00 AM

Leader: Angelia Jenkins

Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.570.4891

GPS: 34.00125, -84.59163

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 W.H. 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, March 17, 2018 Constitution Lakes (DeKalb County)

8:30 AM

Leaders: Joy Carter and Mary Kimberly

Cell contacts morning of the walk:

404.822.0030 (Joy); 404.308.6279 (Mary)

GPS: 33.68306, -84.34740

Saturday, March 17, 2018 Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County) Presented in conjunction with the Atlanta Science Festival

9:00 AM

Leader: Gus Kaufman

Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.483.7457

GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

Cost: Included with Museum admission, and free for Fernbank members and Atlanta Audubon Society members. Space is limited to 25 people and advance reservations are required at 404.929.6400.

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 Murphey Candler Park (DeKalb County)

8:30 AM

Co-sponsored by Friends of Murphey Candler Park

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 Teresa Lyle, field trip director at teresalyle0@gmail.com.



Photo by Lydia Thompson.

Volunteers Needed to Patrol Gould's Inlet Shorebird Patrol

If your plans call for travel to the coast this spring or summer and you're looking for a way to give back, the Gould's Inlet Shorebird Patrol on St. Simon's Island is looking for volunteers.

"We are ambassadors for the birds. We are NOT the bird police," says Lydia Thompson, program coordinator.

"It is all about being friendly and approachable, and telling beachgoers about this special opportunity to share the beach with these birds."

Training is provided, and Lydia will team volunteers up with other stewards until they feel comfortable being out on the beach by themselves. The only two bird species volunteers need to be able to recognize are Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers. These are the nesting birds, and they will be easy to find. "They will capture your heart because they are cute," says Lydia.

The birds move into the area in late April or early May, and Tim Keyes, with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, ropes off the nesting area. The patrols run from May through mid-August. Volunteers can choose when they work, and help is especially critical on holiday weekends. There are two standard time slots: Morning shifts run 7:30 to 9:30 AM, and evening patrols are from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. On holiday weekends, volunteers are needed to help staff a table on the beach to educate the public about birds nesting on the beach.

If you'd like to help, please contact Lydia Thompson at birdjekyll@gmail.com or by cell at 912.270.2995.

Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast

(Continued from Page 6)

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 DNR Wildlife Biologist, Tim Keyes. 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.

Registration Opens on March 1 to members and on March 8 to the public.



Pelicans and other shorebirds nest on the beach at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island. Photo by Adam Betuel.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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March Monthly Meeting

Wet Sand/Dry Sand: Georgia's Significant Role in Shorebird Survival

Brad Winn | Tim Keyes | Abby Sterling

Sunday, March 25, 2018, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Along the sweep of its 100-mile distance, curving from Savannah to St. Marys 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. Brad, Abby, and Tim have been studying and working for the conservation of shorebirds over the years and will share their findings.

Brad Winn has spent the majority of his career on the coast of Georgia as a biologist, working for the state of Georgia on a wide range of efforts to protect and restore some of the Southeast's rare wildlife and threatened habitats. Brad moved back to Massachusetts in 2011 to work with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences specifically to help stabilize and restore North American shorebird populations.

Tim Keyes is a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Conservation Section. After getting hooked on birds during a trip to Newfoundland during college, he has worked with birds in one capacity for nearly 25 years. Tim's current responsibilities include management, monitoring, and education primarily relating to shorebirds, seabirds, swallow-tailed kites, and wood storks.

Abby Sterling is a recent graduate of the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, where she earned her doctorate studying nesting Wilson's plovers and American Oystercatchers on the Georgia coast. She has spent the last ten years exploring coastal Georgia and has worked with many partners to gain experience dealing with issues involving shorebird conservation.



Wilson's Plover by Dan Vickers

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.