



VOLUME XLV, ISSUE 2, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 Is Now Open

Registration for Atlanta Bird Fest 2019 opens on March 1 at 10:00 AM to Atlanta Audubon members and on March 8 to the public. This year, between April 13 and May 19, Atlanta Bird Fest will offer more than 30 different events such as guided field trips, workshops, and guest speakers. Joining us for Opening Weekend on April 13 and 14 is Big Year birder and

author Noah Strycker. We'll wrap up with the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration on May 19 at SweetWater Brewing with a keynote address from climate and weather expert Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd. Your participation in Atlanta Bird Fest helps us raise critical funds to support Atlanta Audubon's mission to build places where birds and people thrive. Events 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.

See the full schedule of events and register at www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest.



Big Year birder and author Noah Strycker will be featured during 2019 Atlanta Bird Fest Opening Weekend, April 13-14. Photo by Noah Strycker.



Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd, climate and weather expert and UGA professor, will give the keynote address at the Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration on May 19.



Eastern Screech Owl, by Mary Kimberly.

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The Swifts Are Coming: Atlanta Audubon Awarded Grant to Install Chimney Swift Tower

Atlanta Audubon Society is one of seven organizations which was recently awarded a grant from the American Birding Expo Conservation Fund. Grant funds will be used to construct a 12-foot-tall Chimney Swift tower with a wrap-around educational kiosk at Sam's Lake Bird Sanctuary in Fayetteville, Georgia. The American Birding Expo was founded by *Bird Watcher's Digest* editor and publisher, Bill Thompson, III. The Expo provides bird watchers and nature lovers an opportunity to connect with birding-related companies and organizations, including optics manufacturers, tour companies, bird feeding stores, gift items, birding festivals and clubs, destinations, travel agencies, and more. To promote the conservation of wild birds and their habitats, The Expo Conservation Fund, supported by Expo raffles and silent auctions, annually grants funds to bird conservation organizations and projects. Atlanta Audubon is excited to partner on this project with the Southern Conservation Trust, a local land trust organization that manages seven public nature areas throughout south metro Atlanta, including Sam's Lake Bird Sanctuary. To date, Southern Conservation Trust has conserved more than 32,000 acres across the Southeast and is working to certify their public nature areas as Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Chimney Swift tower installation at Sam's Lake is part of Atlanta Audubon's effort to conserve and raise public awareness of the habitat- and climate-threatened Chimney Swift, our focal species for 2019-2020.



A Chimney Swift tower will be installed at the Sam's Lake Bird Sanctuary in Fayetteville. Photo by Nick Kilburg, Southern Conservation Trust.



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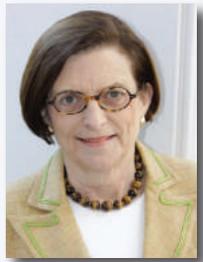
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Atlanta Audubon Names Advisers

By Esther Stokes, Board Chair

Atlanta Audubon has been “on the move” for a number of years, particularly in the last six years. The organization has grown remarkably, both in membership and size of staff, and we are poised to grow even more in the future. We have also grown in effectiveness, through our many programs and outreach efforts. We have adopted strategic plans that have led us effectively through a maze of challenges.

At such a time in the life of the organization, it seemed to make strategic sense to add a group of Advisers to Atlanta Audubon. We have never had “Advisers”, but the group we assembled is remarkable in its breadth and in the sheer leadership these folks bring to our organization. We are thrilled to present the list to our membership and our colleagues, and we look forward to seeking advice from each of them.

Our advisers include the following:

- Marcia Bansley, founder, Trees Atlanta
- Giff Beaton, author of *Birding Georgia* and other books, and a Delta pilot
- Mark Berry, Vice-President of Environmental and Natural Resources at Georgia Power
- Raphael Bostic, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
- Dr. Robert Cooper, Professor of Wildlife Biology at the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
- Stacia Hendricks, Naturalist Manager at Little St. Simons Island
- John Pruitt, Retired Anchor, WSB TV.

These outstanding folks have agreed to be available to Nikki Belmonte, our remarkable executive director, to provide their advice. Each of them has indicated a genuine interest in our work and their willingness to have their names associated with Atlanta Audubon.

Giff Beaton, Bob Cooper, and Stacia Hendricks are all exceptional birdwatchers. That makes sense. Just think how they might be of assistance to us. But why Raphael Bostic, you might ask? Well, guess what: he is a birdwatcher! And he has a lot of broad experience in the world. Marcia Bansley has decades of experience getting an environmental nonprofit positioned to make a difference in the world, and Mark Berry thinks about the environment of Georgia every day in his work. John Pruitt genuinely cares about the environment. He is committed to the protection of birds and habitat, and he knows a lot about communications.

We could not be happier to have assembled this group of outstanding individuals. Nikki and I appreciate their willingness to serve.

As for the way they will fit into Atlanta Audubon, our Advisers do not have a fiduciary role or formal voting power within the governance structure. They have been given complimentary memberships to Atlanta Audubon during their tenure. Nikki and I will provide them Atlanta Audubon updates every quarter. But most importantly, we look forward to being able to call on them for advice and counsel.

If you see these folks, please welcome them to the group of Advisers. And thank them for helping Atlanta Audubon on its exciting path into the future.

Spring Plant Sales Are Coming Soon!

By Lillie Kline



Scarlet beebalm, by Mim Eisenberg.

Please join Atlanta Audubon for our Spring 2019 plant sales at Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) on March 29 through 31, and April 5 and 6, Freedom Farmer’s Market on March 30, and Blue Heron Nature Preserve (BHNP) on April 27. Don’t want to fight the crowds? Order your plants ahead of time on the Atlanta Audubon website. Presale for the CNC sale will begin Monday, March 4. Presale for the BHNP sale will begin Monday, April 1. The Freedom Farmer’s Market sale will be first-come, first-serve.

This spring we will once again be partnering with the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Beech Hollow Farms, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, and, for the first time, with Freedom Park Conservancy to sell a selection of native plants. Many of the plants on sale will benefit hummingbirds in honor of our ambassador bird Sibley, such as Scarlet beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), and Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*). We will also be introducing at the CNC sale our ecosystem starter packs, a mini native plant community suited for your back yard’s conditions. Stay tuned for more information. Full plant information will be available on our website during presale.

Native plants not only provide the highest-quality resources to wildlife, but have many benefits to people as well. Homeowners can save water by reducing lawn size, and the added plants can even help control flooding. Native plants are hardy and well-adapted, so thrive without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, which hurt our pollinators, reduce prey availability, and can run off into streams. Finally, native plants and the wildlife they sustain provide color and beauty, right in your own back yard. We hope to see you at a plant sale this spring.

Charlie's Angels

By Melanie Furr

When I texted David Bean on the way home from a recent family trip to Florida to let him know that we planned to drive by to look for "Charlie," the Burrowing Owl who has spent the past three winters on his farm in Miller County, Georgia, he promptly texted me back, "Stop by the house and we'll fix you a cup of coffee." I first met David and his wife Judy, the definition of southern charm and hospitality, when a good friend and I decided to chase a few rarities in southwest Georgia last winter. We'd been virtually introduced by a mutual friend and had been invited to stop in for breakfast when we arrived at their 1,500-acre farm in the rural town of Donalsonville. Having never seen a Burrowing Owl before, I was eager to find it, but David assured us we'd get a glimpse. Over coffee we learned that David and Judy both grew up on farms in Donalsonville but spent many years in the northwest part of the state, where David had a career in law enforcement and Judy was a school superintendent. When they retired several years ago, they returned to Judy's family farm in Donalsonville, moving into her childhood home that her parents purchased in the late 1940s. Their breeding stock of Angus cattle is also retired, grazing in wide-open pastures, and the Beans are now focused on improving the land for wildlife, including Charlie.

When David e-mailed the director of the Global Owl Project, David Johnson, to let him know about Charlie, he received a prompt reply that began, "A very exciting observation there. . . You have something very special!!!!" As Georgia's only confirmed Burrowing Owl since the mid-1990s, Charlie is pretty extraordinary. According to Johnson, the rich brown coloration on the chest and flanks and the lack of a prominent white eyebrow and chin indicate that Charlie is most likely female. Based on her arrival in early October and departure in early May, he thinks she is probably a migratory western subspecies overwintering at the Bean farm, possibly journeying from as far north



Charlie the Burrowing Owl has spent the past three winters on a farm in Miller County. Photo by Melanie Furr.

as the Dakotas or Manitoba, or maybe the Midwest. With a breeding range extending from central Mexico through most of the western United States into Canada (though absent in mountainous areas), the western subspecies of Burrowing Owl consists of migratory, partially migratory, and resident populations. (The Florida subspecies, found in southern Florida with disjunct populations in the panhandle and a few Caribbean islands, is non-migratory.) Limited data from geolocators suggests that owls from the northernmost breeding areas spread out across a remarkably wide area in winter, many leapfrogging resident populations in southwestern states to winter in Mexico. Johnson also noted that winter site fidelity is high, with owls returning to the "same burrow year after year, even if they do not use the same nest site."

The only owls in the world that nest exclusively underground, Burrowing Owls are birds of dry, open places, including deserts, prairies, pastures, and

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ASK CHIPPY



Q: *I'm wondering if you can answer a bird question? I have a bluebird this winter that is missing feathers on its head. Bald spots go slightly down its neck. It does not seem hurt, so I don't think it was pecked. It comes often to my feeder. Several years ago I had a male cardinal with the same pattern of missing feathers on his head. Is it mites or disease?*

A: Thanks for contacting the Atlanta Audubon Society.

There are a variety of reasons that you might see a bird with missing feathers on its head. The bald patch may be due to molt, mites, injury, illness, or even poor nutrition. Based on your description and the time of year, one likely explanation is that your Eastern Bluebird was injured by or narrowly escaped a predator. It may have lost a few feathers in the encounter, but they will more than likely grow back. Mites are another possibility. Birds can usually preen out mites or use sunning or dusting to discourage them. However, it is sometimes difficult for birds to preen the head area, and severe infestation can lead to temporary feather loss. Since your description of the Eastern Bluebird did not include any other abnormalities, I don't think your bird is suffering from any illness. However, if the bird does show other symptoms, like swollen skin patches or blisters along with the bald patches, it may have a contagious disease that could be spread at the feeder. If this is the case, you should clean the area around the feeder thoroughly and take down your feeders for a week or so to encourage the other birds to disperse. Cleaning the feeder thoroughly by scrubbing off any debris and soaking it in a diluted bleach solution is also recommended. Use one part bleach to nine or ten parts of water, rinse well, and let the feeder(s) dry well before adding seeds..

I suspect that the bald Northern Cardinal that you saw had a different problem. That bird was likely molting, or shedding old, worn feathers to replace with new ones. There are a few species of birds that are known to molt rather quickly in late summer or fall and become completely bald in the process. This is not uncommon with Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Common Grackles.

If Eastern Bluebirds regularly visit your yard, you may want to consider putting up a nest box for them. March is the perfect month to put up a nest box for Eastern Bluebirds here in the South. For more information about nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds and where to place them, check out the NestWatch website at <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/nest-box-placement/>.

Enjoy! **-Chippy**

Volunteer for Audubon, But Also for Yourself

By Steve Phenicie

When you volunteer for Atlanta Audubon, there can be blood, toil, tears, sweat, sunburn, poison ivy, mud, and mosquito bites, but you also rub elbows with serious birders who really know their wigeons from their pigeons.

I've done the blood, toil, tears, and sweat part via work days at invasives-choked locations that many people have never heard of. You get to pull stuff with far-off places in their names—English ivy, Chinese privet, Japanese stiltgrass, and the like. One day I nearly got hit by a deer that galloped out of the woods. Another time, at Friendship Forest in Clarkston, Mark Jernigan—one of the finest privet digger-outers in DeKalb County, found—of all things—a chandelier! How it got there is anybody's guess, but ever since then I have imagined Clarkston residents Elmo and Marlene installing a new chandelier in their home and then discussing what to do with the old one:

Elmo: Sweetheart, the new chandelier is all in place. Shall I put the old one in the trash?

Marlene: Honey, that would be far too simple, sensible, and responsible. Let's go throw it into Friendship Forest!

Elmo: Fantastic idea! Why didn't I think of that?

We'll show those smarty-pants environmentalists a thing or two!

(OK, probably this isn't what happened, but can you come up with something more likely?)

As a volunteer for other Atlanta Audubon activities, I've piled up many memories and friends. I've gotten kicked out of a parking lot by a security guard during a Christmas Bird Count—along with Sandy Murray, Lissie Stahlman, and Sharon Brekke. Witnessed a traffic accident during the Backyard Sanctuary Tour and worked a table with Nannette Dooley (but not the same year). Stumbled around a dark woods with Dave Kuechenmeister and Chrishanna Desrosiers. Harvested grass seed with Anne McCallum. Enjoyed Ellen Miller's bubbly personality in committee work. Helped Mary Kimberly, Angie Jenkins, Linda DeSantis, Joy Carter, and other birding luminaries make monumental Atlanta Audubon board decisions. Gotten to know innumerable birders via the dozens of stories I have done for Volunteer Spotlight.

When you volunteer for Atlanta Audubon, you not only do something for the organization but for yourself. If you think you'd like to get involved but haven't, send an e-mail with your name, phone number, and area of interest to Nikki Belmonte (Nikki@atlantaaudubon.org) or to the contact person listed with some of our activities, and someone will get back to you.



Atlanta Audubon volunteers Les Cane, Jay Davis, and Laura Hardy staff an Atlanta Audubon table at an event at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for February: **Jason Ward, Gus Kaufman, Jamie Vidich, Angie Jenkins, Chris Lambrecht, Anne McCallum, Mary Kimberly, Tom Painting, Erica Bettross, and Robert McDonough** ... to **Sandy Miller, Mary Nevil, and Laura Waddick** for their help with the Atlanta Bird Fest postcard mailing ... to **Larry Stephens, Jack and Martha Fasse, Max Brown, Phyllis Hawkins, Nannette Dooley, Sally Davis, and Anita Chilcutt** for their help with January Peel & Stick ... to **Michele Buchanan** for her help with educational outreach ... to Climate Watch volunteers **Therese Murphey, Laura Hunt, Julia Weil, Lillie Kline, Peter Followill, Lisbet Phillips, Max Brown, James McMullian, Valerie McMullian, Robyn Newman, Steve Newman, Brian Campbell, Mary Nevil, Abby Back, Sandy Murray, Cheryl Beshke, Toni Bowen, Joel Owen, Michelle Hamner, Wayne Powell, Melanie Furr, Nikki Belmonte, Jay Davis, Laura Hardy, Steve Dupont and Megan Wyatt** ... to **Mary Nevil** for the great job of leading the Atlanta Audubon Early Birds Book Club.

Photo-of-the-Month Winner

The winner of this month's Photo of the Month Competition is Dan Vickers. You've probably seen his photos featured in both *Wingbars* and in our online content over the years, as he kindly allows Atlanta Audubon to access and utilize his amazing array of high-quality bird photos. This photo of a Yellow-throated Warbler was taken on St. Catherine's Island, off the Georgia coast.

Here are the details of the shot:

- Time of day, weather conditions, etc. – 4:30pm, sunny and cool
- Camera type and model – Canon 7D Mark II
- ISO – 1600
- Shutter speed, aperture – 1/800 @ 5.6
- Lens focal length and model – Canon 400mm
- Flash, flash settings – none

Was your image significantly altered in post processing by adding or removing elements of the composition? No.

If you would like to enter Atlanta Audubon's photo of the month competition, please visit our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org/photo-of-the-month to read the submission guidelines.

Thanks for another great picture, Dan!



Yellow-throated Warbler, by Dan Vickers.

Charlie's Angels

(Continued from Page 3)

coastlines, but they have readily adapted to living in proximity to humans and can be found at golf courses, airports, and vacant lots. Both subspecies have faced significant population declines in recent decades, and the western subspecies is listed as endangered in several states in which it occurs. Habitat loss is a major threat, and in the West, the persecution of mammals like prairie dogs, badgers, and ground squirrels that provide the burrows the owls need compounds the problem. (The Florida subspecies will dig their own burrows.)

This year, when Charlie returned for the third consecutive winter, she found not one, but two luxurious new burrows awaiting her. (In previous years, she has roosted in a sewer pipe and an armadillo burrow.) Last spring, Wayne Schaffner helped David install the artificial burrows in a pasture near her previous roosts. Using plans suggested by the Global Owl Project, they dug five-foot deep holes and filled them with sand before installing the burrows, which David constructed with a 55-gallon drum cut in half for the main chambers and flexible corrugated drain pipe for the 10-foot long tunnels. On most days, Charlie can be seen sitting just outside one of her two burrows, which David has cordoned off with rails that keep her safe from the cows (and mark the spot for birders, who are asked to stay in their cars so they don't disturb her). David says Charlie perches on a nearby fencepost at dusk, probably getting ready for her nighttime hunt.

Charlie is not the only notable snowbird on the Bean's farm. A Vermillion Flycatcher and a Say's Phoebe have also wintered there in recent years. David regularly sees Loggerhead Shrikes, American Kestrels, Great Horned Owls, and Cooper's Hawks (which he calls "blue darters"), and he gave up his small flock of chickens a few years ago when a pair of Bald Eagles took up residence nearby. When I called recently to ask a few questions about Charlie, he'd just installed a nest box for a pair of Barn Owls he discovered roosting in his silo. (Charlie must be extremely savvy to make a living with so many



David Bean points out a nest box he made for a colony of bees. Photo by Melanie Furr.

aerial predators nearby!) In keeping with a practice started by his father, David has built and installed more than 40 bluebird boxes on his land, as well as giving them away to neighbors and friends. Birds aren't the only beneficiaries of his handiwork though. During my recent visit, he showed me the nest box he made for a colony of wild bees after Hurricane Michael slammed the area last fall and destroyed their tree hollow. "Well, they're so beneficial," he replied, when asked what motivated him to help them.

I hope Charlie will return to Georgia for many years to come. She was lucky to land at David and Judy Bean's farm, and the birding community has been lucky for the welcome we have received as well. If only everyone would be so gracious to strangers and the wildlife with whom we share the planet! I was excited to get a life bird when I first saw Charlie last winter, but I consider myself even more fortunate to have met the remarkable people looking out for her.



Get Your 2019 Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirt Today

The 2019 Atlanta Bird Fest T-shirts are on sale now. Featuring a design created by local artist Abigail (A.J.) DeWitt, the shirts show a flock of Chimney Swifts, Atlanta Audubon's conservation priority species for 2019 and 2020.

Style Info: • Unisex: Charcoal with orange ink • Ladies: Plum with lavender ink

Unisex sizes are available in sizes small through 2XL, and ladies' cut shirts are available in size small through XL. Please note that the ladies' style runs very trim. We recommend ordering up one to two sizes, depending on how you prefer your shirts to fit.

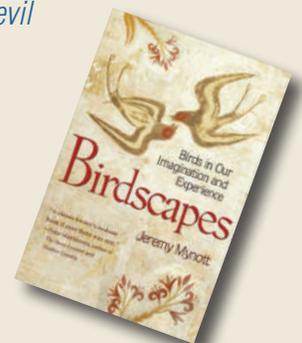
Shirts are \$20 plus tax (and optional shipping) and may be ordered on our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org/shop-in-our-online-store. Quantities are limited, so order soon

Early Birds March Meeting

By Mary Nevil

The Early Birds will be reading and discussing *Birdscapes: Birds in Our Imagination and Experience* for our March 24 meeting. Instead of tackling the whole book, each Early Bird member is invited to read one or two chapters and present a short summary/commentary at the meeting. If you plan to attend, just pick one or two (or more) and join us for the discussion. *Birdscapes* author, Jeremy Mynott, will be speaking about his most recent book, *Birds in the Ancient World*, as part of Bird Fest, in collaboration with the Carlos Museum.

The Early Birds is a drop-in book club. There is no commitment other than to enjoy reading and sharing books about birds and birding. The March meeting will begin at 2:00 PM prior to the Monthly Meeting at Manuel's Tavern. The April book is *Of a Feather*, by Scott Weidensaul. We will not meet in May. If you wish to join the Early Birds' e-mail list for announcements and reminder notices, send a message to Mary Nevil (mbnevil@gmail.com).



LIVE and LEARN

Step Up Your Home Coffee Game With This Class from Café Campesino

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

At the home of Joy Carter, 363 Woodland Ave., S.E., Atlanta, GA 30316

Have you ever considered changing your morning coffee routine? Or maybe you're curious about how to brew coffee in a French Press or a Chemex, but you don't know where to start. Step Up Your Home Coffee Game is designed to demystify pour-over coffee brewing, while offering an overview of the science and supply chain that affect your morning cup. Participants will try different brewing methods like French Press, Chemex, Aeropress and Clever Dripper and will choose the right one for their lifestyle and coffee preferences. Learn how to go beyond a k-cup for making coffee quickly and easily, and take your morning cup from "Okay" to "Mmm...Amazing."

Café Campesino is a wholesale roaster-distributor located in Americus, Georgia, specializing in artisan-roasted, specialty-grade coffee, and they are the producers of Atlanta Audubon's shade-grown, organic coffee blend. Café Campesino is a founding member of Cooperative Coffees, a green coffee importing organization committed to fair or alternative trading relationships between farmers and roasters. They are also a member of the Fair Trade Federation and Georgia Organics.

Cost: \$35 for Atlanta Audubon Members, \$45 for non-members. Price includes a bag of Atlanta Audubon Society Blend to take home.



Step up your home coffee game with this class from Café Campesino. Photo by Dottie Head.

Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast

Class Session: TBD

Coastal Trip: May 3 to May 5, 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

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 (date TBD) in the Atlanta Audubon classroom at Blue Heron Nature Preserve, followed by a coastal trip led by Atlanta Audubon's Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. The coastal trip kicks off with a Friday evening session on May 3, 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 to explore 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. The registration fee does NOT include travel, lodging, or food expenses.



Don't miss the Shorebird Weekend on the Georgia Coast, May 3 through 5. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Warbler Weekend in the North Georgia Mountains

Class Session: Thursday, April 25, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve

Weekend Trip: Saturday, May 4, to Sunday, May 5

Leaders: Theresa Hartz and Georgann Schmalz

Limited to 14 participants

Cost: \$125 for Atlanta Audubon Master Birders / \$150 for Atlanta Audubon members / \$175 for non-members

Stretch your neck and warm up those ears. It's time to prepare for spring migration. Theresa Hartz and Georgann Schmalz will lead participants to various hotspots in the North Georgia mountains, where it's possible to find more than 20 species of warblers, many of which will be singing on their breeding grounds. Participants in recent years have even seen the unusual Brewster's Warbler, a hybrid formed by a Golden-winged Warbler and a Blue-winged Warbler. The group will visit some mountain hotspots as well as some new warbler-rich locations. This guided trip will be preceded by a classroom session on April 25. The registration fee does not include food or lodging.



Yellow Warbler, by Jesse Gordon.

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, March 2, 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

Saturday, March 2, 2019
Atlanta West Side: Proctor Creek Greenway and Gun Club Landfill (Fulton 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: 33.785015, -84.449917

Sunday, March 3, 2019
Noonday Creek Trail, east trail head on Bells Ferry Rd. (Cobb County)
8:00 AM

Leader: Angelia Jenkins
Cell contact morning of walk: 678.570.4891
GPS: 34.023854, -84.548456

Wednesday, March 13, 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

Sunday, March 17, 2018
Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County)
9:00 AM

Leader: Warren Walter
Cell contact morning of the walk: 404.314.6014
GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

Friday, March 22, 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

Sunday, March 24
J.J. Biello Riverside Athletic Complex (Cherokee County)
7:45 AM

Leader: Roseanne Guerra
Cell contact morning of the walk: 678.358.4916
GPS: 34.124849, -84.475906

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.

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.

Our Flock Is Growing: Introducing Beverly Fooks and Jason Ward



Beverly Fooks is the new membership and development associate at Atlanta Audubon. Photo by Stephen Ramsden.

management, and operations duties. She has extensive nonprofit experience with InwardBound Center for Nonprofit Leadership, Emory University Development and Alumni Relations, and Emory Medical Care Foundation. She lives in Stone Mountain and enjoys gardening, reading, attending Atlanta Falcons games, and spending time with her family.

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to welcome two new members to the Audubon team. Beverly Fooks joins Atlanta Audubon as the new membership and development associate. She will be assisting Dottie Head, director of membership and communications, and Michelle Hamner, director of development, with managing the ever-growing membership of the organization, events, including monthly meetings; and managing the Atlanta Audubon store. Beverly comes to us from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, where she assisted with administrative, property

In addition, Atlanta Audubon is excited to welcome long-time bird walk leader Jason Ward as a Fund II Apprentice of National Audubon Society. For the next year, Jason will split his time between Atlanta Audubon and Birmingham Audubon as part of the National Audubon Apprentice Program. Jason is a birder, science nerd, and social activist from the Bronx. As a Fund II Apprentice, Jason will assist with a variety of conservation and education programs, including bird monitoring and banding, habitat restoration, field trips, and school and community outreach.

Jason will have a specific focus on developing relationships with local historically black colleges and universities. In addition to working with staff on day-to-day operations, Ward will also engage with a variety of stakeholders in the Alabama Black Belt, a culturally rich and ecologically important rural area in the south-central part of the state.

Welcome to the team, Beverly and Jason!



Jason Ward will be spending the next year splitting his time between Atlanta Audubon and Birmingham Audubon as a Fund II Apprentice of National Audubon Society. Photo by Jessie Parks.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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March Monthly Meeting

The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study

Sunday, March 24, 2019 • 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Manuel's Tavern

The Chattahoochee River is a shared historic, economic, cultural, and ecological resource of extraordinary value for metropolitan Atlanta. The river traverses the entire Atlanta metropolitan region and forms the boundary of many counties and cities. The river provides both recreation and ecological services for communities for nearly 100 miles. The Chattahoochee River Greenway Study is an opportunity to reconsider the region's relationship to the river and create a new vision for the river's future that will raise public awareness, improve connections and access, identify potential areas for protection or investment, and build on a legacy of ecological conservation and protection.

About the Speakers:

Byron Rushing is a planner at the Atlanta Regional Commission, focusing on walking, bicycling, trails, and livable communities. He has degrees from Vanderbilt University and Georgia Tech and is on the board of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. Most of his walking and bicycling are with his wife and two children.

Walt Ray is a landscape architect and planner working for Trust for the Public Land, a national nonprofit organization whose motto is "Creating Parks and Protecting Land for People." Pivotal priorities of the organization include activating greenspace and providing the types of spaces and amenities that people want to enjoy. Specifically, Walt is tasked with activating and preserving the Chattahoochee River and its corridor from Helen to Columbus through capital projects, programming, and marketing. Walt has committed to working tirelessly to facilitate the types of discussions and initiatives needed to positively influence how humans consider, encounter, and interact with this under-appreciated regional resource.



View of the Chattahoochee River from the overlook at the Whitewater Creek Trail, CRNRA. Photo by Mary Kimberly.

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.