



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 4, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Atlanta Audubon Receives Disney Conservation Fund Grant for Project Safe Flight Atlanta

Atlanta Audubon Society has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) as part of the Fund's focus on reversing the decline of threatened wildlife around the world. The conservation grant recognizes Atlanta Audubon's efforts to reduce bird-building collisions through Project Safe Flight Atlanta. Grant monies will be used to enhance monitoring and reduce bird-building collisions with the goal of making Atlanta a more bird-friendly community.

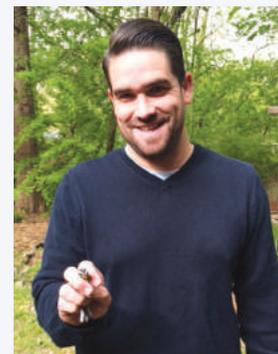
"Atlanta Audubon Society is thrilled to receive support from the Disney Conservation Fund for Project Safe Flight Atlanta," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Society Executive Director. "This grant will enable us to expand Project Safe Flight Atlanta and to work with local stakeholders to implement solutions to reduce the number of resident and migratory birds that die from colliding with buildings."

Project Safe Flight Atlanta is a conservation and engagement effort to understand the issue of bird-building collisions in metro Atlanta. Project volunteers patrol selected routes during peak bird migration periods, collecting birds that have died or have been injured after colliding with buildings. Since Project Safe Flight Atlanta launched in 2015, more than 500 birds of 71 different species have been collected.

Current research estimates that between 350 million and one billion birds perish each year from colliding with buildings in the United States. Bright nighttime lights can disorient migrating birds or trap them in upward-facing beams of light, where they die of exhaustion or land in dangerous areas.

During daylight hours, birds struggle with reflective surfaces when they stop to feed or rest, as they are unable to distinguish between a reflection and an open flyway.

The Disney Conservation Fund grant will be used to purchase monitoring equipment for Project Safe Flight Atlanta volunteers, improve data collection, and fund outreach to local stakeholders, architects, and others on effective window treatments, remediation of problematic buildings, and other solutions that can minimize bird-building collisions.



Adam Betuel with a Yellow-throated Warbler that survived a building collision and was released at Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Photo by Dottie Head.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, by Robert Johnson

INSIDE

- Chirps from the Chair 2
- Travel to Paraguay..... 2
- Ask Chippy 3
- Volunteer Spotlight 4
- A Million Thanks 4
- Eyes on Education..... 5
- Workshops..... 6-7
- Field Trips..... 7
- Monthly Meeting Info..... 8



Project Safe Flight Volunteers Always Needed

Atlanta Audubon is always in need of Project Safe Flight volunteers. The more volunteers, the more information we can collect on what bird species are colliding with buildings. Patrols will run through May 2017 and then kick off again in the fall. Volunteers and Atlanta Audubon Staff patrol three routes (Buckhead, Downtown, and Georgia Tech) plus two other buildings in the early morning several days a week. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Adam at Adam@atlantaaudubon.org or call him at 678.973.2437.

(continued on page 4)

AtlantaAudubonSociety



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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.



Chirps from the Chair

By Linda DiSantis



American Goldfinch, by Dan Vickers

My bedside table is stacked with books. There are books about birds, birding, and birding trips; current, must-read best sellers; and books in my favorite genre—murder mysteries, especially English ones. I have to be careful not to wander into bookstores too often, because I almost always come out with two or three more. I tend not to focus too much on the *New York Times* book review section, because I know I will find more books that I want. Recently, however, a *NYT* book review caught my eye. The book is entitled *The Nature Fix*, written by Florence Williams. The review by Jason Mark, the editor-in-chief of *Sierra* magazine, begins with this idea: “Imagine a miracle drug that could ease many of the stresses of modern life—a combination mood enhancer and smart pill that might even encourage the remission of cancer.” He goes on to explain that this “miracle drug” does not require a prescription. All you have to do is “just take a hike in the woods or a walk in a park.” Florence Williams’ proposition is that dislocation from the outdoors, which she describes as “epidemic,” is destructive to our mental and physical health. The

limits of my space in this column keep me from telling you more, and I know that we birders already understand the value of being outside. But this book sounds really intriguing and could help us appreciate even more the value of a good walk in the woods. To know more, I guess you will just have to buy the book. I will, too.

You may have noticed that the name of this column, previously the “President’s Perch,” has changed. At a recent meeting, the Atlanta Audubon board voted to change the name of the head of the board from “president” to “chair.” This important change reflects the changing nature of Atlanta Audubon. As we have grown and matured over the last several years, our staff has become the day-to-day driving force of our activities. In an organization with professional staff, the title “chair” better reflects the governance role of the board in setting the direction and policies of the organization and supporting the staff in its role of executing those policies and strategy. Atlanta Audubon continues to grow in many ways that enhance our ability to protect birds and build a bird-friendly community.

Travel with Atlanta Audubon to Paraguay August 5-18, 2017

Despite being frequently passed over by travelers in favor of its larger neighbors, Paraguay is an amazing place full of unique wildlife and locations. With an avian species list just above 700, more and more people are becoming aware of the birding opportunities that Paraguay provides. It is home to only a single endemic species, the Chaco Nothura, but many regionally difficult birds can be spotted, such as the endangered White-winged Nightjar, Bare-throated Bellbird (the national bird), Blackbodied Woodpecker, and Quebracho-crested Tinamou, to name just a few.

Join AAS Conservation Director Adam Betuel as he co-leads a 14-day adventure to this under-visited nation. Adam will be hosting the trip with Paul Smith, an authority on Paraguayan birds who is active in scientific research, conservation, and tour leading (Fauna Paraguay, BirdQuest, WINGS).

Participants can expect to see more than 300 species of birds and potentially more than 20 species of mammals. Multiple habitats will be visited, including the wet and dry Chaco, Cerrado, and Atlantic Forest, as well as a trip to the famous Iguazu Falls in Argentina. The price will be \$4,295 for Atlanta Audubon members and members of other regional Audubon chapters and \$4,495 for non-members. The cost of the trip includes all lodging, all transportation, all meals, entrance fees to parks, and some but not all snacks, alcoholic beverages, and tips (excluding drivers and guide.) The cost does NOT include flight, passport and visa costs, souvenirs, or any costs accrued before or after the trip, including but not limited to travel insurance, personal items, medicine, etc. For detailed itinerary please visit <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/Paraguay>. For more information, please contact Adam at adam@atlantaudubon.org.



Strange-tailed Tyrant,
by Jonathan Newman

Protect Georgia's Birds With a Gift to the 2017 Annual Fund



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird,
by Iris Schumacher

Atlanta Audubon's largest source of funding is **YOU!** Our spring Annual Fund complements your yearly membership dues and both are integral to our success. When you receive your Annual Fund letter, please consider a donation to support our many local education and conservation programs. Birds need our help more than ever right now, and every gift makes a difference.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Your gift to the 2017 Annual Fund will help support Atlanta Audubon's efforts to help the Wood Thrush.
Photo by Dan Vickers.

Limited Space Remains in Select Atlanta Bird Fest Events

April showers bring... May field trips, workshops, and more for Atlanta Bird Fest! Atlanta Bird Fest wraps up on Sunday, May 14, but there's still time to participate. Limited space remains in several events.

Check out the complete schedule of events at www.atlantaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest and secure your spot today.



ASK CHIPPY

Dear Chippy,

My wife and I will be visiting Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park for the spring migration. We will be there at the end of the last week in April. Can you recommend any areas, trails, etc., in the park where we can see warblers and flycatchers?

Dear David,

During spring migration, **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park** is an excellent spot for birding. Kennesaw was the first location in Georgia to be designated an Audubon Important Bird Area. Although many people walk up the paved road to get to the summit, you do not really need to step far away from the parking lot to see many different species of birds. It is easy to see warblers as you walk up and look into treetops at eye level, a rare advantage for sightings. Or you may choose to walk up the 1.2-mile paved road, where you can expect to spot vireos, thrushes, tanagers, and other songbirds in the trees.

In April 2016, the National Audubon Society published a nice article about birding Georgia, stating that late April offers a good chance of spotting a Cerulean Warbler, which has been in decline across its range for decades. It is not unusual to find 20 warblers on a good morning during peak migration.



Cerulean Warbler, by Dan Vickers



Thanks,
—David

Atlanta Audubon offers more than 150 bird walks annually. During migration, Kennesaw is one of the favorite birding parks that everyone like to visit, and Atlanta Audubon offers several trips during migration. Perhaps one will work for your travel schedule? Please visit our field trips page at atlantaudubon.org/go/birding/field-trips for the latest information on field trips. All Atlanta Audubon field trips are free and open to the public, and it's a great way to meet others who share your passion for birds.

You might want to join GABO (the Georgia Birders Online Listserv®). You can subscribe to a daily report to see what birds are being sighted in the state:
<http://www.gos.org/georgia-birders-online>.

Happy Birding!

—Chippy

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on Gina Charles

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 20th in a series on Atlanta Audubon volunteers.)

If you received this issue of *Wingbars* in the mail, Gina Charles might have been the one who put the address label on it. After Gina took the Master Birder class in the fall of 2011, she decided to become a regular member of the Peel & Stick crew that gets the newsletter ready for mailing. The work is repetitive, but the camaraderie provides participants—“both older and younger,” as Gina puts it—with a chance to swap tales about the birds they have seen lately.

Gina has also volunteered her attractive home in West Cobb for a couple of events. From the front, her house looks similar to others in the subdivision, but in the back she has zillions of feeders and lots of bird-friendly plantings around an inviting pool. Last fall it was one of the stops on the Backyard Sanctuary Tour, and Gina says she was “on cloud nine for two days” after Audubon veteran Sally Davis encouraged her to mingle with visitors. Later in the season, she hosted an Audubon reception at which an Orange-crowned Warbler spotted by Adam Betuel became a star attraction.



Gina Charles is a long-time Atlanta Audubon volunteer and supporter.

Gina has belonged to the National Audubon Society for many years but didn't start to get more serious about birding until about 10 years ago, with taking the Master Birder class being the real impetus. “I learned I didn't know anything,” she says. Her birding adventures include trips to Costa Rica, Hawaii, Australia, Germany, South Africa, and numerous sites across the U.S. This year she will be going on a cruise to Alaska and Canada.

Gina and her husband, John, were high school sweethearts in Richmond, Indiana, a city about 70 miles east of Indianapolis, near the Ohio line. They lived in Atlanta in the 1990s before spending a few years in London, then came back. Not long ago, John sold his commercial real estate business, retired, and can often be found these days on a golf course. Gina is a stay-at-home mom to their two sons: William, 19, who is taking a gap year between high school and college as he pursues his passion of lacrosse, and Jack, who is 17 and attends Whitefield Academy near their home.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

...to our bird walk leaders for April: **Iris Schumacher, Jason Ward, Jay Davis, David Kuechenmeister, Joel McNeal, Anne McCallum, Ralph Smith, Bob and Deb Zaremba, Chris Showalter, Roseanne Guerra, Angie Jenkins and Stan Chapman** ... to **Joel Owen, Steve Dupont, Mary Kimberly, Steve Rushing, Terri Lindsay, Elaine Desimone, Cathy Cornelius, Chrishanna Desrosiers, Maureen Carroll, Michelle Styring, and Waverley Eubanks** for their help with Project Safe Flight Atlanta ... to **Moey Rojas** for bird monitoring at the Marcus Autism Center ... to **Sarah Webster** for her talk at the March membership meeting on the effect the Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion had on wildlife ... to **Steve Cook, Sandy Miller, Stella Wissner, Larry Stephens, and Anita Chilcutt** for helping with March Peel & Stick ... to **Sandy Miller** for her help with the membership letters ... to **Craig Allen, Melinda Langston, and Margaret Stephen** for representing Atlanta Audubon at Georgia Power's Earth Day Celebration ... to **Melinda Langston, Stella Wissner, and Megan Wyatt** for representing Atlanta Audubon at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve Native Plant Sale and Earth Day Celebration.

Disney Conservation Fund Grant for Project Safe Flight Atlanta

(continued from page 1)

This spring, the fund's support is also helping Atlanta Audubon launch a sub-program of Project Safe Flight Atlanta, called Lights Out Atlanta, to help reduce bird deaths caused by building collisions. Lights Out Atlanta is a voluntary program encouraging building owners and residential homeowners to turn off or reduce lighting from midnight to dawn during the peak bird migration periods. Participants pledge to reduce non-essential nocturnal lighting during peak migration periods of March 15 to May 31 (spring) and August 15 to November 15 (fall). The pledge is available on the Atlanta Audubon website at www.AtlantaAudubon.org/lightsoutatlanta.

The Disney Conservation Fund focuses on reversing the decline of wildlife and increasing the time kids spend in nature. Since its inception in 1995, DCF has provided approximately \$65 million to support conservation programs in 115 countries.

Projects were selected to receive awards based on their efforts to study wildlife, protect habitats, and develop community conservation and education programs in critical ecosystems around the world.

For information on Disney's commitment to conserve nature and a complete list of grant recipients, visit www.disney.com/conservation. For more information on Project Safe Flight Atlanta, visit www.atlantaudubon.org/project-safe-flight.



*A small sampling of the birds collected during Project Safe Flight Atlanta patrols.
Photo by Adam Betuel.*

EYES on EDUCATION

A Bird a Day

by Melanie Furr

I'm not much of a lister or a chaser. I keep a list of birds seen in my yard, and I like recording the birds I see in eBird and feeling that I am contributing to science and the well-being of birds while in the field. And, if GABO (Georgia Birders Online) posts that a vagrant Varied Thrush is hanging out behind the bathrooms at the Stone Mountain campground 15 minutes away, you'll find me in the car. The farthest afield I've gone in pursuit of a bird was to Lake Russell last summer to see a Brown Booby that stayed around a few weeks. But each January 1 for the past five years, I've become just a little more focused on the listing and the chasing.

I'm not sure where I first read about the Bird-a-Day Challenge, a challenge to record a different avian species every day for as many consecutive days as possible. It's actually a thing—with a website and list of birders who have made it 365 days. It sounded like fun and I decided to give it a try. Over the course of five years, my lists have become increasingly longer, and in the process I've seen a lot of new places and learned a lot about the birds around me. When I started, as a new birder, I only made it 40 days, mostly finding birds around my neighborhood. This year, my fellow Atlanta Audubon staff also decided to join me, and four of us are still going strong. More than 100 days into the challenge as of this writing, I am crushing my previous record of 70 days. Spring migration should help us coast into May, and while I am falling a little behind, my coworkers may continue right into summer. The best strategy is to record the most unusual bird seen each day, focusing first on winter residents and saving the backyard birds like towhees and titmice for days when time is short or the weather is bad.

I kicked off this year's Bird-a-Day challenge with a bang. On New Year's Day, while scouting for the Christmas Bird Count, I unexpectedly spotted a Blue-headed Vireo at John's Homestead. The next day, during the CBC, my team found a rare White-fronted Goose at a cemetery in Decatur—another great bird. (I might have been better off choosing the Vesper Sparrows seen in at the DeKalb Farmers Market parking lot since the goose stayed around but the sparrows were not relocated; hindsight can be punishing). On January 3, I went to Cofer Park, a local haunt, to find a Red-breasted Nuthatch that had been located there. Then it was back to work and a string of wintering birds at home and the office.



Wilson's Snipe at Roswell Riverwalk, by Melanie Furr



Common Loon at West Bank Park on Lake Lanier, by Melanie Furr

Traveling helps. A trip to the Georgia Ornithological Society's winter meeting in Tybee Island added a string of great birds, a Northern Gannett, a Black Skimmer, and a lifer Seaside Sparrow. On an overnight trip to North Alabama in February, I added White Pelicans to the list, and on the way home, I had my husband do a quick U-turn when I noticed an unusual looking dove on a wire (we've all made U-turns for birds, haven't we?!)—a Eurasian Collared-Dove. More recently, a spring break trip to North Carolina yielded Wild Turkey, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Ruffed Grouse.

Almost as fun as finding the birds, however, is exploring new places in search of them. I'd never visited West Bank Park at Lake Lanier, but when I heard that a group of Horned Grebes and a rare Eared Grebe were spotted there, I made a plan to visit one afternoon after teaching at a conference nearby. I returned again on a quiet Sunday afternoon and was treated to dozens of Common Loons and Bonaparte's Gulls on the lake (which to choose?!), as well as the unexpected pleasure of meeting up with two birding friends. Morgan Falls Overlook in Sandy Springs is another gorgeous park I'd never visited, but once I discovered the beauty and variety of bird life there (while searching for a Spotted Sandpiper), I made a couple of more trips, adding a Northern Pintail and a Bald Eagle to my list. I got my best look ever at Wilson's Snipe while checking out the newly opened Roswell Riverwalk. I've visited a few less scenic places, too, including a landfill in DeKalb (picked up a kestrel) and the parking lot of Lakewood Amphitheater (Killdeer), but I can honestly say that I have made an effort to get out and see something new each day.

And that's the real spirit of the challenge—finding a daily reason to get outside to enjoy birds and discover something new, rain or shine, whether chasing down an unusual bird at an out-of-the-way location or just watching the feeders at home. Sometimes during the winter, I may need a little extra motivation to get outside. Meeting up with coworkers Nikki and Michelle one morning to find an American Black Duck at Cochran Shoals was a great way to turn a cold, soggy morning before work into a fun adventure, and I've made lots of new discoveries ambling through my own backyard. So that's why I become a bit of a lister and a twitcher at the start of each New Year. The Bird-a-Day Challenge helps keep the winter doldrums at bay until warmer weather returns and birds begin singing again. Maybe a summer challenge is next. Who's in?

LIVE and LEARN

With These Atlanta Bird Fest Events

Atlanta Audubon at Three Taverns Brewery

Thursday, May 4 • 5:30-9:00 PM

**Location: Three Taverns Brewery
121 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030**

Cost: \$14/person (\$2 per tour will be donated to Atlanta Audubon Society)

Atlanta Audubon Society is the nonprofit beneficiary for Three Taverns Brewery's Give Back Thursdays on Thursday, May 4. Each tour includes up to 36 ounces of beer samples and a souvenir glass. Grab a pal or two and come see us for a fun, casual evening of brews and birds. **Note:** Please purchase your brewery tour on site when you arrive at Three Taverns Brewery.



Wine & Warblers in North Georgia

Saturday, May 6 • 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Cost: \$60/person
Difficulty: Moderate

Spend a day in the idyllic North Georgia mountains with a morning of birding in the restricted conservation area of Smithgall Woods, followed by lunch and wine tasting at Cottage Vineyards, and then a final stop at Yonah Mountain Vineyards for a final wine tasting. Birds seen in recent years in the area include migrating spring warblers, such as Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, and Canada; Wild Turkey; and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Event Note: Guests must provide their own transportation. The group will meet at Smithgall Woods and caravan to Cottage Vineyards and Yonah Mountain Vineyards for the wine tastings.

Register at <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/ABF-Events>.



Yonah Mountain Vineyards

Atlanta History Center & Swan House

Saturday, May 6 • 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Cost: \$30/person
Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Located on 33 acres in downtown Buckhead, the Atlanta History Center offers the opportunity to see many spring migrants and residents, such as warblers (including Cerulean, Prairie, and Northern Parula), woodpeckers, raptors, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows, and other passerines. Following a guided bird walk through the trails of Atlanta History Center, the group will get a private tour of the Swan House. Built in 1928, the Swan House was designed by noted Atlanta architect Philip Trammel Schutze. Schutze's clients were the Inmans, but it's called the "Swan House" rather than the "Inman" house due to the swan motif in the interior decoration. In fact, there is at least one swan in every room at the house. Can you find them? Also of interest to birdwatchers is the wallpaper in the formal dining room, which depicts a variety of species of fowl. Register at <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/ABF-Events>.



Mother's Day Birding and Historic Tour at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

Sunday, May 14 • 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Cost: \$30/person
Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Join us at the historic Callanwolde Fine Arts Center for a Mother's Day exploration of this magnificent Tudor Revival style home of the Charles Howard Candler family. Outside, we'll walk a portion of the 12 acres of sculptured lawns, formal gardens, nature trails, and a rock garden to look for resident birds, such as woodpeckers, raptors, and songbirds, as well as some late spring migrants. We'll be joined by a Callanwolde staff member who will provide an historic interpretive tour of the property, including the 27,000-square-foot mansion featuring walnut paneling, stained glass, bronze balustrades, delicate ceiling and fireplace reliefs, and Aeolian organ chambers. We'll conclude our morning with a stop at the historic Bath House, where participants will enjoy light finger foods and beverages.

Register at <http://www.atlantaudubon.org/ABF-Events>.

At Home Outdoors: Eco-Adventures for Homeschoolers

May Eco-Adventure: Terrific Turtles

Friday, May 1 • 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Cost: \$12 in advance/\$15 on day of program

Join Atlanta Audubon and Blue Heron Nature Preserve for the monthly homeschool program. We're going on a turtle finding expedition. It is turtle nesting season, and many of our turtles are on the move. We'll look for turtles crossing the road and sunning out in our pond. Learn the native turtles of Georgia and what to do if you find a turtle. We'll make signs to help alert drivers entering the Preserve to all our turtle crossings. More information and registration at www.atlantaaudubon.org/homeschool-programs.



*Terrific Turtles is the theme of our May Homeschool Program.
Photo by Maura Dudley.*

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.

Thursday, May 4 **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (Cobb Co.)**

7:30 AM
Co-sponsored by National Park Service
Leader: Joel McNeal
Cell contact, morning of walk: 617.259.0944
GPS: N 33 59.127 W 84 34.852

Saturday, May 6 **Piedmont Park (Fulton Co.)**

8:00 AM
Leader: Jason Ward
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.759.7770
GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

Saturday, May 6 **Stone Mountain Songbird Habitat and Trail (DeKalb Co.)**

8:00 AM
Co-sponsored by Fernbank Science Center and the Stone Mountain Memorial Association
Leader: Chris Showalter
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.625.7004
GPS: 33.79548, -84.14609

Wednesday, May 10 **Reynolds Nature Preserve (Clayton Co.)**

8:00 AM
Leader: Anne McCallum
Cell contact, morning of walk: 678.642.7148
GPS: 33.601464, -84.346874

Friday, May 12 **Panola Mountain State Park (Rockdale Co.)**

8:30 AM
Leader: Anne McCallum
Co-sponsored by Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.625.7004
GPS: 33.6320, -84.1466

Saturday, May 13 **Piedmont Park (Fulton Co.)**

8:00 AM
Leader: Jason Ward
Cell contact, morning of walk: 404.759.7770
GPS: N 33 47.025 W 84 22.746

Sunday, May 14 **Morningside Nature Preserve (Fulton Co.) and Zonolite Park (DeKalb Co.)**

8:00 AM
Leaders: Vinod Babu and Gus Kaufman
Cell contacts, morning of walk: 413.230.6276 (Vinod); 404.483.7457 (Gus)
GPS: 33.809783, -84.352133

Editor's note: In the interest of saving space (and trees), Atlanta Audubon has reduced the field trip listings in our newly redesigned *Wingbars* to date, location, time, contact information, and GPS coordinates. Details about trips, including driving directions, can be found on our website: www.atlantaaudubon.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 Field Trip Director Mary Kimberly at mmkimberly1954@gmail.com.



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



Wingbars is printed on recycled paper.



American Goldfinch, by Dan Vickers

www.AtlantaAudubon.org

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May Monthly Meeting

Atlanta Bird Fest Closing Celebration Featuring Dr. Drew Lanham
Sunday, May 21, 2017, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

Join us on Sunday, May 21, at Manuel's Tavern, as we celebrate our month-long array of Atlanta's best birding destinations, educational workshops, and other events of Atlanta Bird Fest 2017. Birder, author, naturalist, and professor Dr. J. Drew Lanham will present his inspiring book, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*. Dating back to slavery, Edgefield County, South Carolina—a place “easy to pass by on the way to somewhere else”—has been home to generations of Lanhams. In *The Home Place*, readers meet these extraordinary people, including Drew himself, who over the course of the 1970s falls in love with the natural world around him. As his passion takes flight, however, he begins to ask what it means to be “the rare bird, the oddity”—to find joy and freedom in the same land his ancestors were tied to by forced labor, and then to be a black man in a profoundly white field. *The Home Place* is a remarkable meditation on nature and belonging, at once a deeply moving memoir and riveting exploration of the contradictions of black identity in the rural South, and in America today. Copies of *The Home Place* will be available for purchase and signing by Dr. Lanham.

In addition to Dr. Lanham's presentation, top fundraisers and birders from Atlanta Bird Fest's Big Day Challenge will be awarded prizes during this fun celebration. The Closing Celebration is free to attend, but we ask that you pre-register to help with our planning. Please visit www.atlantaaudubon.org/abf-events for more information and to pre-register.



Dr. J. Drew Lanham

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.