



VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE 8, ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vote Yes on Amendment 1: The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act Is an Historic Opportunity to Protect Our Waters and Lands

By Dottie Head



Eastern Screech Owl, by Mary Kimberly.

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On November 6, Georgians will head to the polls to cast their votes for a new governor, congressional representatives, and other state and local officials. Much is at stake in this election, as we have witnessed countless attacks on long-held, successful conservation programs, such as the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, clean air and water programs, national parks, and much more. But there is one amendment on the Georgia ballot this year that can have tremendous positive impacts for birds, wildlife, and public lands here in Georgia. Amendment 1, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment, or GOSA, would dedicate 80% of the existing sales and use tax on outdoor sporting goods to the protection of the state's, lands, water, and wildlife without raising any taxes or creating new fees. This is not a new tax, just a reallocation of existing tax revenue to land and water conservation.

If passed, this funding would:

- Protect lands critical to clean drinking water and the quality of Georgia's lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Acquire and improve parks and trails for children, families, birders, and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy in communities throughout the state.
- Maintain and improve access to wildlife management areas and create new opportunities for hunting, fishing, birdwatching, hiking, and other outdoor activities.
- Support Georgia's \$27 billion outdoor recreation industry and the jobs it and the other economic sectors that rely upon access to land and water create.

Funds would also be made available as grants to cities, counties, or nongovernmental organizations, to help secure and expand access to properties, both rural and urban, that are critical to Georgia's wildlife



The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment would create a dedicated stream of conservation funding for acquisition and management of lands for birders and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Photo by Dottie Head.

and would support more opportunities for people to recreate.

More than \$20 million would be dedicated every year for the next ten years. This funding could not be used for any other purpose and would be subject to strict accountability provisions and public disclosure. Only projects consistent with the state's established goals for conservation would be approved.

The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment is supported by a coalition of leading conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, the Georgia Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Park Pride, and many others.

GOSA will be the subject of our October 28 monthly meeting at Manuel's Tavern (see the announcement on the back of this newsletter), where Thomas Farmer, director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy, will share information on this amendment and answer questions. Atlanta Audubon encourages members to learn more about GOSA at www.GeorgiaOutdoorStewardship.org and to vote Yes on Amendment 1.



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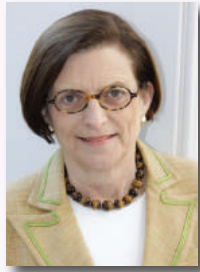
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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Atlanta Audubon Society and is published 10 times a year. We feature news, upcoming events, meetings, field trips, and projects. We hope you will join us. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not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



Esther Stokes

Challenge from the Chair

By Esther Stokes

Recently Melinda Langston and Joy Carter invited me to visit McDaniel Branch Wetlands, a City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (DWM) site just off the I-75/I-85 corridor in southwest Atlanta. We spent maybe an hour there within earshot of all the traffic on the Downtown Connector, and yet we saw, among others, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Green Herons, Common Yellowthroats, and Red-shouldered Hawks. And—my personal favorite—we heard Wood Thrushes singing on the hillside no more than 50 yards off the interstate. Joy reported that they had seen Orchard Orioles there a week or so earlier.

All of these birds were there because the HABITAT was right. There was lots of available food for the birds (insects, seeds, etc.), there was the stream moving magically through the site providing water and food, there were woodlands with large, old overstory trees as well as understory trees providing shelter, and there were meadow, marsh, and grassy areas, each area providing

its own essentials. Within this small acreage there are many existing habitats.

Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management has worked increasingly in recent years to build places that allow the land to clean and slow down water flowing off impervious sites, and this is one of these special locations. Each of these sites creates habitat for birds. The lesson: if you build it, they will come. Even 50 yards off the interstate!

You will be seeing more about these DWM properties because the City of Atlanta has applied for Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification for four of the sites. Assuming it becomes certified, we will be able to celebrate McDaniel Branch at a dedication sometime this fall.

But back to the importance of HABITAT. At long last, there seems to be a growing awareness among the general public about the importance of native plants in providing our bird populations with the food they need, since native plants support the insect populations on which birds feed. This awareness cannot happen fast enough! Each year our songbird populations decline, and yet each of us can make a difference in this effort.

I hope you participated in the Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month events in September and that you will continue to seek out native shrubs and trees as you plant in your gardens this fall. Every yard needs an oak tree, and a flowering dogwood and a serviceberry—perhaps a cross vine or some purple coneflowers as well.

Happy birding this fall to all of you, and happy native plant gardening to you, too!

Look for Atlanta Audubon Shade-grown Certified Organic Coffee at The Fresh Market

By Dottie Head

Beginning this fall, The Fresh Market locations in Georgia will begin selling Atlanta Audubon's shade-grown, organic coffee blend in all of their stores. Produced by Americas-based roaster Café Campesino, the Atlanta Audubon blend was one of two varieties selected by The Fresh Market to feature as part of the Georgia-grown series. The other blend is by Atlanta Audubon's friend and partner, Georgia Organics.

Over the next month or two, we'll be partnering with Café Campesino and Georgia Organics to host coffee tasting events at The Fresh Market locations around the metro area. We'll be sharing the times, dates, and locations in our *Bird Buzz* e-newsletter and on our social media pages. We hope you'll stop by to sample our coffee and learn more about why drinking shade-grown coffee is for the birds.



Fall Native Plant Sale

By Lillie Kline

Atlanta Audubon will once again partner with Beech Hollow Farms for our fall Open House sale at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Beech Hollow specializes in saving and propagating native plants from the metro Atlanta area that are threatened by development and invasive species. This fall's sale will focus on berry producing shrubs and small trees that provide crucial energy resources to birds like the Wood Thrush to prepare for fall migration. Many of these migrants will cross the Gulf of Mexico, so packing on the weight in advance of their amazing journey is critical. The plant sale will feature serviceberry, spicebush, hearts-a-burstin', chokeberry, sweetspire, and beautyberry. Plants will be available for presale on the Atlanta Audubon website beginning September 17 at www.atlantaaudubon.org/plant-sales.



Native plants and birds go hand in hand. This Gray Catbird is feasting on American beautyberry plant, which is one of the species that will be offered at the fall plant sale. Photo by Will Stuart, National Audubon Photography Award winner.

Atlanta Audubon Awarded Education Grant by Local Atlanta Family Foundation

By Michelle Hamner and Dottie Head

Atlanta Audubon has been awarded a \$99,980 grant from a private Atlanta family foundation to build and grow our educational programs to educate the next generation of leaders about conservation and the environment. With a focus on community science, project-based learning, and conservation problem-solving, our STEM-based youth programs are unique among other environmental education programs.

Grant funds will be utilized to:

- Undertake a comprehensive redesign of our Learning About Birds bilingual curriculum to align with updates to the K-12 Georgia Standards of Excellence and to include new online resources and lesson plans that will emphasize local birds, habitats, and conservation.
- Welcome a new partner school to our Connecting Students with STEM through Birds program. The selected school will be a federally designated Title I school. Funding will complete a match to existing funding provided by grants from the Morgens West Foundation and the Wells Fargo Foundation.
- Provide full scholarship support for ten student participants in Atlanta Urban Ecologists. Scholarship selection will be based on financial need to support students who would be unable to afford the program's tuition fee.
- Develop a second Atlanta Urban Ecologists course to allow current program graduates the opportunity to broaden their foundation of knowledge and experiential learning.
- Create five additional slots for K-8 educators to participate in the Taking Wing continuing education program to expand the number of teachers using our Learning About Birds curriculum and teaching methods in their classrooms.
- Hire an education program coordinator and contract naturalists to increase and broaden our community engagement through regular educational programming.

"We are delighted to receive this grant to help us grow and expand Atlanta Audubon's education curriculum and programs," says Executive Director, Nikki Belmonte. "Today's youth are tomorrow's policy makers, planners and developers, and community leaders. When we instill a conservation ethic in students through the lens of birds, we provide insurance that habitats that sustain birds, wildlife, and people alike will receive protection. Opening the eyes of students to the vast diversity of bird life around them helps impart important skills needed to innovate the conservation solutions of tomorrow."



The grant will allow Atlanta Audubon to welcome a new partner school to our Connecting Students with STEM through Birds program. Photo by Melanie Furr.

Coastal Connections

The summer of 2018 was a good year for nesting shorebirds; however, shorebird chicks weren't the only new additions to our coastal scenery.

In May, the Georgia Barrier Islands received new recognition from the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) as a landscape of hemispheric importance, and the 100th WHSRN site. This designation was granted because the Georgia coast supports more than 30% of the East Coast Red Knots, as well as at least 10% of the population of American Oystercatchers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Black-bellied Plovers, and is an important wintering site for the federally endangered Great Lakes breeding Piping Plovers. The process for a site to join this network starts with consolidating all of the monitoring data that has been collected over the years and submitting an application to the WHSRN scientists. The application was prepared on behalf of the Georgia Shorebird Alliance by One Hundred Miles. Additionally, because this site spans the entirety of the Georgia coast, partners like the National Park Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, and private island owners and managers, such as St. Catherines Island, Little St. Simons Island, and Little Cumberland Island were all involved. A dedication ceremony was held at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, and in addition to local attendees, guests spanning the

hemisphere from northern Canada to Mexico came to celebrate the beautiful Georgia coast. To learn more about the designation, visit www.whsrn.org/georgia-barrier-islands.

Another new development for shorebird conservation was the launch of Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative. This project, under the direction of Director of Shorebird Habitat Management Brad Winn, is being led by local shorebird biologist, Abby Sterling. By working with partners such as Tim Keyes at GA-DNR, and Felicia Sanders at SC-DNR, as well as engaging with local partners, private landowners, federal and state agencies and other non-



A group of nearly fledged American Oystercatcher chicks with new leg bands. Photo by Tim Keyes.

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Atlanta Audubon Photo of the Month Competition

By Ashkan Ajaghi

By submitting an entry to the Photo of the Month competition, entrants will have a chance to have their favorite bird photo appear in *Wingbars*, Atlanta Audubon's monthly newsletter, and it may be used in other Atlanta Audubon online and print publications. In addition, each winning photo will be published under the photographer's name along with details about the bird species and where the photo was taken.

All competition images must adhere to the guidelines below and e-mailed to photography@atlantaaudubon.org no later than November 1, 2018.

Image Guidelines:

1. Each entrant can submit up to two images per month.
2. Images must have a maximum dimension of 2,000 pixels on the horizontal or 2,000 pixels on the vertical side.
3. File size is not to exceed 1 MB and should be in one of the following formats: JPEG, TIF, TIFF, or PNG.
4. Submissions should name image files as follows: firstname-lastname-date-1/2.jpg .Example: John Smith, date photo was taken: July 13, 2018 would have a filename of John-Smith-13July2018-1/2.jpg

Please also include the following details in your submission:

- Location
- Species
- Was your subject captive?
- Camera type and model
- Time of day, weather conditions etc
- ISO
- Shutter speed, aperture
- Lens focal length and model
- Flash, flash settings
- Was your image significantly altered in post processing by adding or removing elements of the composition?

The entries will be judged based on creativity, technique, and artistic features.

By entering the competition, the entrant grants to the Audubon Atlanta license to publish their submission in Atlanta Audubon publications and newsletters, on the website, and/or on social media platforms. Photo credit will be provided.

ETHICS: We put great emphasis on ethical photography and expect that the welfare of both subjects and their environment takes precedence over photography. Please visit www.audubon.org/get-outside/audubons-guide-ethical-bird-photography for guidelines on responsible bird photography.

ASK CHIPPY

Q: Between 10 and 11 PM, there have been birds flying above a building on Peachtree. These birds are large and fast. Would you know what type of bird they could be or what is causing this phenomenon to occur? I don't have the right equipment to see at night or that far to tell.

A: Thanks for contacting Atlanta Audubon Society. I can't be certain by your description, but my guess is that the birds you are seeing are likely Common Nighthawks. These birds are often seen at dawn and dusk as they feed on the wing, snatching insects out of the air in their beaks. They may be attracted to clouds of insects that swarm around bright lights at night, such as buildings, billboards, and even the Braves Stadium. As they prepare for migration to South America in the fall, they may form large flocks as they feed.



Common Nighthawk, by Dan Vickers.

Common Nighthawks are medium-sized, slender birds with long wings with white bars. You describe the birds you saw as "large," but size is often difficult to determine in the field; perhaps their long wings contributed to your description? Common Nighthawks fly in looping patterns as they feed, and their wings flutter quickly, which is what made me think of them when you described them as fast.

Did you know that Common Nighthawks have one of the longest migration routes of all North American birds? According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds, they sometimes end up off course and have been recorded in Iceland, Greenland, the Azores, the Faroe Islands, and multiple times on the British Isles!

—Chippy

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to our bird walk leaders for September: **Jason Ward, Anne McCallum, Gus Kaufman, Vinod Babu, Mary Kimberly, Stan Chapman, Ralph Smith, Adam Betuel, Robert McDonough, and Tom Painting** ... to **Vinod Babu** for his work with the Auburn University West Nile Virus study we are partnering with them on ... to **Mark Pope, Kelly Bryan, Sean McGregor, Larry Stevens, Elaine DeSimone, Angie Kaliban, Maureen Carroll, Cheryl Hensley, and Barbara Kipreos** for volunteering for Project Safe Flight Atlanta ... to **Larry Stephens, Stella Wissner, Phyllis Hawkins, Gina Charles, and Marcia Jenkins** for their help with Peel & Stick ... to **CRH and Hillary Johnson, The Wylde Center and Tamara Jones, Andrea Greco, Theresa Mays, Polly and Larry Nodine, and Lorna Campbell** for agreeing to be on the 2018 Sanctuary Tour ... to Sanctuary Tour Volunteers **Susanne King, Georgia LaMar, Sandy Murray, Michael Clifford, Rusty, Beatrice, Angus, and Ewan Pritchard, Stella Wissner, Nan Dooley, Lisa Slotznick, Steve Phenicie, Esther Stokes, Rebecca Owens, Ellen Miller, Mike Weaver, and Max and Carolyn Brown** ... to **Sandy Murray, Paul Campbell, Judy Killeen, Linda Frederick, and Larry Stevens** for their help with festivals and educational outreach, ... to our 2018 Wildlife Sanctuary Tour Sponsors **Rock Spring Restorations, Mount Vernon Printing, Convivial Gardens, Tucker Butterfly Garden/Trees of Tucker** and to our Patrons **Michele Buchanan and Melinda Langston** for their support ... to **Ashkan Ajaghi** for coordinating the Photo of the Month Competition.

EYES on EDUCATION

The Trip of a Lifetime: Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens

by Selu Adams

Selu Adams was the 2017 recipient of the Edward Barnsley Scholarship for Youth offered each year by Atlanta Audubon. The scholarship covers the cost of registration and airfare for one teen, between the ages of 14 and 17, to attend Audubon's Coastal Bird Studies for Teens Camp on Hog Island, Maine.

Last June, thanks to Atlanta Audubon Society, I had an amazing opportunity to attend Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens in Bremen, Maine. Using the 330-acre Hog Island as our base, 19 other teens and I spent about a week birding and learning about conservation.

Our first birding outing was a boat ride around Hog Island in the Muscongus Bay, where we spotted Common Eiders, Surf Scoters, Black Scoters, and the first of many Black Guillemots and Double-crested Cormorants. The highlight of the trip was seeing three Long-tailed Ducks—a male and two females—gracefully gliding through the water as everyone scrambled to one side of the boat to get a good look at them. Later, we watched a banding demonstration and learned the hows and whys of bird banding as well as what equipment is needed. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was caught right before our eyes. We watched, fascinated, as Sandy Lockerman, a master hummingbird bander, carefully banded the hummingbird and explained modifications to the banding process for hummingbirds, such as using much smaller than normal bands. After the banding demonstration, we returned to the mainland for a short visit to Mad



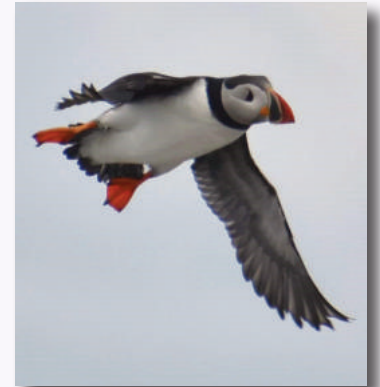
*Hummingbird banding demonstration.
Photo by Selu Adams.*

River Decoy, a bird decoy shop that made the puffin decoys used on Eastern Egg Rock, the site of Audubon's puffin restoration efforts. It was interesting to learn how decoys are made, and how effective they can be in attracting birds in conservation efforts around the world.

The next morning we woke up early to look for thrushes that had been banded by one of the instructors at last year's camp. Although we weren't able to get close enough to any thrushes to tell if they were banded, we did find some other birds along the way, including Blackburnian Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Northern Parulas, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. After breakfast, we gathered in the Queen Mary Lab, a small building near the dock, and the artist-in-residence on the island, Jennifer Anderson, gave us some tips on drawing birds. One of the instructors, Courtney Brennan, talked to us about study skins. Courtney, who prepares birds specimens for a museum by turning them into study skins, explained to us that study skins are a form of taxidermy where instead of preparing the birds for display, they are prepared for scientific research. Measurements and details such as how much fat is on the bird or what is in the stomach are recorded on a slip of paper, and after it is completely prepared, researchers can use the collected data and examine the birds for additional information.

Although most of our time was spent on Hog Island, we did spend a day birding on the mainland. We stopped on a small gravel road, finding

Black-throated Green, Canada, and Nashville Warblers, as well as Northern Waterthrushes. I was especially struck by a Veery we heard, whose song brought to my mind a falling maple samara (seed) spinning round and round until it gently lands on the ground. At another one of our locations, we spotted an Alder Flycatcher, a lifer for many of the other campers, including me. We joked about how funny it seemed that we all were trying to catch a glimpse of the flycatcher, a drably colored bird compared to a nearby bright orange Baltimore Oriole that seemed to be showing off its meticulously woven nest.



Atlantic Puffin, by Selu Adams.

My favorite experience of the week was visiting Eastern Egg Rock, an island where Project Puffin had successfully restored the Atlantic Puffin population. Earlier in the week, Stephen Kress, who began Project Puffin, told us how Atlantic Puffins had disappeared from Eastern Egg Rock and how he and his team have been able to get them back. Following the colonial days, hunting on Eastern Egg Rock decimated the puffin population, as well as other seabird populations on the island. But, in the early 1900's, several bird protection laws that were passed, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1916). This, coupled with the addition of Audubon wardens, helped increase seabird populations. However, these protections alone weren't enough for the puffins because they usually return to the island where they hatched for nesting, and since no puffins were on the island, none would come back. Starting in 1973, Kress and his team transplanted puffin fledglings from

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Group photo of camp participants, by Selu Adams.

Coastal Connections

(Continued from Page 3)

profits, we are building collaborations to prioritize shorebird conservation in the Southeast. The Georgia Bight, including coastal South Carolina, Georgia, and Northeast Florida, provides important habitat throughout the year to many shorebirds. But, despite the ample resources provided by these coastlines, there are numerous threats, such as disturbance and loss of habitat, that can be addressed by this collaborative approach.

Finally, a summer update wouldn't be complete without some chick news. Reports from Tim Keyes suggest a record-breaking year for the number of fledged American Oystercatcher chicks. Tim had a busy summer banding them, and we are eager to hear the final tally, which was approaching 50 new chicks at last report. Great job, Tim and partners.

This Coastal Connections segment is intended to provide updates from Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative for interested birders throughout the state. To learn more, please visit www.manomet.org/project/shorebird-recovery, or e-mail Abby at asterling@manomet.org.



Site partners celebrate the Georgia Barrier Island WHSRN site designation at Harris Neck NWR. Photo by Laura Chamberlin, Manomet.

The Trip of a Lifetime

(Continued from Page 5)

Newfoundland to Eastern Egg Rock and placed them in artificial sod burrows where they were fed every day. The puffins were banded before they left for three to five years on the ocean before returning to nest. Kress and his team also had to deal with the threat of the gull population on the island, since gulls are predators of puffin eggs and chicks. They set up tern decoys, hoping to attract terns to the island because terns could keep the gulls away and make the island a more attractive place for puffins to nest. The tern decoys worked, and puffin decoys and mirrors were also set up to encourage puffins to explore the island's nesting habitat. Finally, in 1981, puffins were observed nesting on the island for the first time in nearly 100 years. Last year, 172 nesting pairs were observed on the island.

Eastern Egg Rock was a 45-minute boat ride away from Hog Island. After meeting the interns who were conducting research and living on the island for the summer, we carefully made our way to where the interns were based, keeping our eyes peeled for the well camouflaged tern eggs on the rocks. The interns had warned us about how terns would dive bomb our heads (or the

highest point they saw), so I held a stick up into the air to avoid getting hit by them. We gathered in front of a small shelter that the interns used before splitting off into three groups. An intern led me to a three-foot by three-foot blind, from which I saw a spectacular sight. I was surrounded by hundreds of nesting terns, mainly Common Terns. Every few minutes, a large flock of them flew up into the air, each loudly sounding off kip or kee-ar calls, before landing back onto the ground. Closer to the water, Black Guillemots hopped from rock to rock, and beyond them, I spotted a couple of puffins in the water! They stayed pretty far out on the water for the most time I was in the blind, but the puffins flew closer toward the island a few times, letting me get a better look at them.

One of the best things about the camp for me was being able to meet and talk to other people working in the field of ornithology. It was interesting to hear about what got them into birding, and the instructors and guests also gave insightful programs about current problems and efforts concerning birds. Meeting the other young birders at the camp was very inspiring, and it was great to get to know more young people as enthusiastic about birds as I am. I can't thank Atlanta Audubon Society enough for making it possible for me to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Atlanta Urban Ecologists for Teens

The Atlanta Urban Ecologists program for youth in grades 8 through 12 will guide students in the discovery of the fascinating, rich ecology of metro Atlanta, providing opportunities for hands-on field experiences, conservation, and citizen science.

Perfect for students interested in pursuing careers in science or conservation or those who just enjoy being outside in nature, the program will provide students with opportunities to learn alongside experts in the field, as well as meaningful experiences in the outdoor places that make Atlanta the "City in a Forest." Students will establish a network of environmental professionals who can assist with their academic and career development while having fun outdoors with their peers. The program will culminate with a canoe trip on the Chattahoochee River and a graduation lunch.

Sessions are hosted by a different environmental nonprofit on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM from October to May. Partners for the 2018-19 program include Trees Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta Audubon, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance, The Amphibian Foundation, and the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Please see our website for more details.

Prorated fee for students starting in October: \$350



The Atlanta Urban Ecologists watch a bird being banded by Adam Betuel. Photo by Melanie Furr.

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, October 6, 2018 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, October 6, 2018 Morgan Falls Overlook Park (Fulton County) 8:30 AM

Leader: Roseanne Guerra
Cell contact morning of walk:
678.358.4916
GPS: 33.9713 N, 84.3794 W

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 Cochran Shoals (Cobb County) 8:00 AM

Leader: Chris Lambrecht
Cell contact morning of the walk:
770.891.0955
GPS: N 33 54.105, W 84 26.634

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 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, October 20 Lost Corner Preserve (Fulton County) 8:30 AM

Leader: Roseanne Guerra
Cell contact morning of the walk:
678.358.4916
GPS: 33.9548 N, 84.3848 W

Saturday, October 27, 2018 Cascade Springs Nature Preserve (Fulton County) 8:00 AM

Leader: Adam Beutel
Cell contact morning of the walk:
407.492.1139
GPS: 33.719350, -84.480733

Saturday, October 27, 2018 Fernbank Forest (DeKalb County) 9:00 AM

Leader: Tom Painting
Cell contact morning of the walk:
585.465.0034
GPS: 33.77540, -84.32936

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.

LIVE and LEARN

Upcoming Workshops

eBird Workshop Thursday, October 18, 2018 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Do you keep track of the birds you see? Did you know this information can be used by scientists to inform conservation decisions that benefit birds and people?

Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, for a hands-on workshop to guide you through the various uses of eBird, the free online checklist program that is revolutionizing the way information about birds is collected and shared. No prior experience is needed.

In this workshop you will learn to:

- keep track of the birds you see (and see more birds)
- use eBird to figure out where to look for certain species or plan birding trips
- share checklists with friends
- explore interactive range maps, migration patterns, occurrence data, and more
- understand how eBird data is being used by scientists and the conservation community

To get the most out of the workshop, participants are asked to go to www.ebird.org and create a free eBird account before attending this class. You can also download the eBird app in the Apple and Google Play stores. Please bring your laptop computer or smart device to the workshop.

Member Fee: \$20 Nonmember Fee: \$25

Sparrow Identification Workshop Classroom Session at Atlanta Audubon Thursday, November 1, 2018 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM Field Trip: Saturday, November 3 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ready to sharpen your skills identifying those "little brown jobs?" Often skulking, elusive, and confusingly similar, sparrows can make fall warblers seem easy. Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon's director of conservation, will help participants learn more about the many sparrow species that winter in the Atlanta area. A class session held at Atlanta Audubon will teach participants about distinguishing field marks, foraging behaviors, flight characteristics, and vocalizations that are useful for identification and appreciation of Georgia's sparrows. Participants will then have the chance to practice their identification skills in the field with a guided trip to find and observe sparrows in their preferred habitat at a local hot spot. (Location to be determined based on eBird sightings.) Potential species include Field, Swamp, Fox, Savannah, White-crowned, and Vesper Sparrows, in addition to more common resident and wintering species.

To register, visit our website at www.atlantaudubon.org/adult-workshops.

Member fee: \$50 Nonmember fee: \$60

Master Birder in Good Volunteer Standing: \$45



*White-crowned Sparrow,
by Adam Betuel.*



ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4055 Roswell Road ♦ Atlanta, GA 30342
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*Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit
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October Monthly Meeting

Amendment 1: The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act

Information and Q&A Session with Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy

Sunday, October 28, 2018, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at Manuel's Tavern

This fall, we have an historic opportunity to pass the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment and protect our waters and lands by constitutionally dedicating a portion of the existing sales tax on outdoor sporting goods without raising any taxes or creating new fees. If passed, this funding would:

- Protect lands critical to clean drinking water
- Acquire and improve parks and trails for children, families, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy
- Maintain and improve access to wildlife management areas and create new opportunities for hunting and fishing
- Support Georgia's economy and job creation

Thomas Farmer, director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy in Georgia, will share information and answer questions about this important legislation that could provide critical conservation funding in Georgia. Come learn more about this proposal, and bring your questions.



Prior to the August member meeting, the Early Birds Book Club discussed *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman. We all agreed that the book was well worth reading and summed up most of the recent research on birds' brains and cognition. We will be doing something different for our October meeting—reading a variety of fiction on birders and birding. We'll do a round robin review of the different books the Early Birds have read. 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. Our next meeting is October 28 at 2:00 PM prior to the member meeting at Manuel's. If you wish to join the Early Birds' e-mail list for announcements and a list of fiction for the October meeting, send a message to Mary Nevil (mbnevil@gmail.com).

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.