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ATLANTA AUDUBON ADDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

(Atlanta, Ga.) February 13, 2020 – Atlanta Audubon recently elected **Joshua Gassman, Gus Kaufman, Emmeline Luck, Paige Martin, and LaTresse Snead** to the Board of Directors. The board also welcomed **Robin Lanier**, who joined the board in August, filling a vacant position. These individuals will serve a three-year term that began on January 1, 2020.

Current board members **Angelou Ezeilo, Jairo Garcia, Melinda Langston, and Amanda Woomer** were also re-elected for a second term. Additional Atlanta Audubon board members include Charles Bowen, Gina Charles, Linda DiSantis, Leslie Edwards, Shannon Fair, Evonne Blythers-Lapsey, Charles Loeb, Ellen Macht, Rusty Pritchard, and Esther Stokes.

“We are excited to welcome Joshua, Gus, Emmeline, Paige, LaTresse, and Robin to the Atlanta Audubon Board of Directors,” says Esther Stokes, board chair. “These individuals bring a wealth of talents and experiences to the Atlanta Audubon Board that will help the organization fulfill its mission of building places where birds and people thrive.”

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

Gus Kaufman, Jr., is a familiar face to many Atlanta Audubon members who have attended one of his bird walks. A licensed psychologist whose practice is with Oakhurst Psychotherapy Associates, Gus’s love for nature and birdwatching began as a child growing up in Macon, with an Eagle Scout father and a Girl Scout leader mother. Living next to the largest tract of forest in Macon provided the Kaufmans with ample opportunities to hone their bird identification skills. After college, Gus made his way to Atlanta in

the fall of 1968, where he was a public school teacher in addition to writing under the pseudonym Smokey Kaufman for the Atlanta-based underground newspaper, the *Great Speckled Bird*. He later received his master's in humanistic psychology at West Georgia College and studied psychotherapy in Boston, receiving his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Fielding Graduate University. Gus is a member of the Greater Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Birders (The Gaggle) and, in addition to birding, he still plays soccer (badly, he says) and engages in social activism.

Robin Lanier works in Georgia Power's Environmental Affairs Organization as the environmental regulatory and strategy manager. In her current role Robin manages the development of Georgia Power's environmental compliance strategy for all facilities, leads the development of strategy and planning related to the company's environmental capital budgets, and provides leadership in environmental regulatory activities pertaining to matters before the Georgia Public Service Commission. Robin graduated from the University of Georgia holding a degree in agricultural engineering with an emphasis in structures and structural systems. She has received her Engineering In-Training (EIT) license in the state of Georgia and is also a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) through the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). In the community she actively participates on the Young Professional Board for the Atlanta Children's Shelter and is a mentor in Georgia Power's Women in Engineering program. Robin joined the Atlanta Audubon board in August 2019 to fill a vacancy.

Emmeline (Emme) Luck has worked as the Policy Associate for the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) since June 2018. In this role, she tracks local, regional, and national policy trends and developments to keep stakeholders informed about the evolving state of energy efficiency in the Southeast. She has also completed several research projects and speaking engagements during her time at SEEA. Emme graduated with a dual degree in environmental sciences and French studies from Emory University. She also earned a sustainability management concentration through the Goizueta Business School. At Emory, Emme also completed The Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps training in March 2019 and serves as the communications director for The Climate Reality Project: Atlanta Chapter, which aims to spread awareness of the climate crisis and its solutions by engaging local communities. Emme grew up in the small coastal town of Sag Harbor, New York, where she first discovered the importance of our natural world and her passion for helping others to connect with their environments. She enjoys exploring Atlanta and learning new things about the Southeast. In addition to her passion for environmental sustainability and conservation, Emme loves hiking, reading, traveling, and practicing yoga.

Paige Martin is a career fundraiser and serves as director of development for global oceans at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), an international leader in marine conservation. Prior to her current role, Paige led the development team for TNC in Georgia and managed a comprehensive \$36 million

campaign. Paige joined TNC in 2014 after six years at Emory University, most recently as chief development officer for the neurosciences. In addition to her experience at Emory and five years in the corporate world (Fidelity Investments in Boston), Paige has led record-breaking development programs at The Asheville School, Duke University, and All Saints' Episcopal Church. She holds a master's degree and bachelor's degree from Auburn University, both in communication. Paige lives in Atlanta with husband and Centers for Disease Control expert Dr. Arjun Srinivasan, two sons, and two rescue dogs.

LaTresse Sneed is Director of The Nature Conservancy's Building Healthy Cities strategy globally, where she helps develop and promote nature-based solutions for the most pressing challenges facing cities around the world. While advancing strategy, fundraising, and communications efforts, LaTresse oversees a passionate staff who work on everything from greening megacities and researching urban tree canopies to harnessing the potential of stormwater and creatively engaging the world's billions of city dwellers with nature. Her role also includes helping the Conservancy think through issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity. Prior to this role, LaTresse directed the Conservancy's Volunteer and Community Outreach programs, where she launched Connect with Nature, a nationwide initiative that has linked thousands of people with natural areas and meaningful volunteer opportunities. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, LaTresse worked for a mix of nonprofits and businesses, including the American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Georgia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Tastefully Simple. She holds a BA in African American studies from San Francisco State University and a MPA with an emphasis in nonprofit management from Georgia State University. When she's not traveling, she lives outside Atlanta with her husband and son, where she's an aspiring yogi and cyclist.

For more information on Atlanta Audubon, visit www.AtlantaAudubon.org.

Media Note: Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://bit.ly/2xT2BmQ>.

Atlanta Audubon Society is building places where birds and people thrive. We create bird-friendly communities through conservation, education, and community engagement.

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