



CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the Chair:

Growing Together for the Birds

Friends,

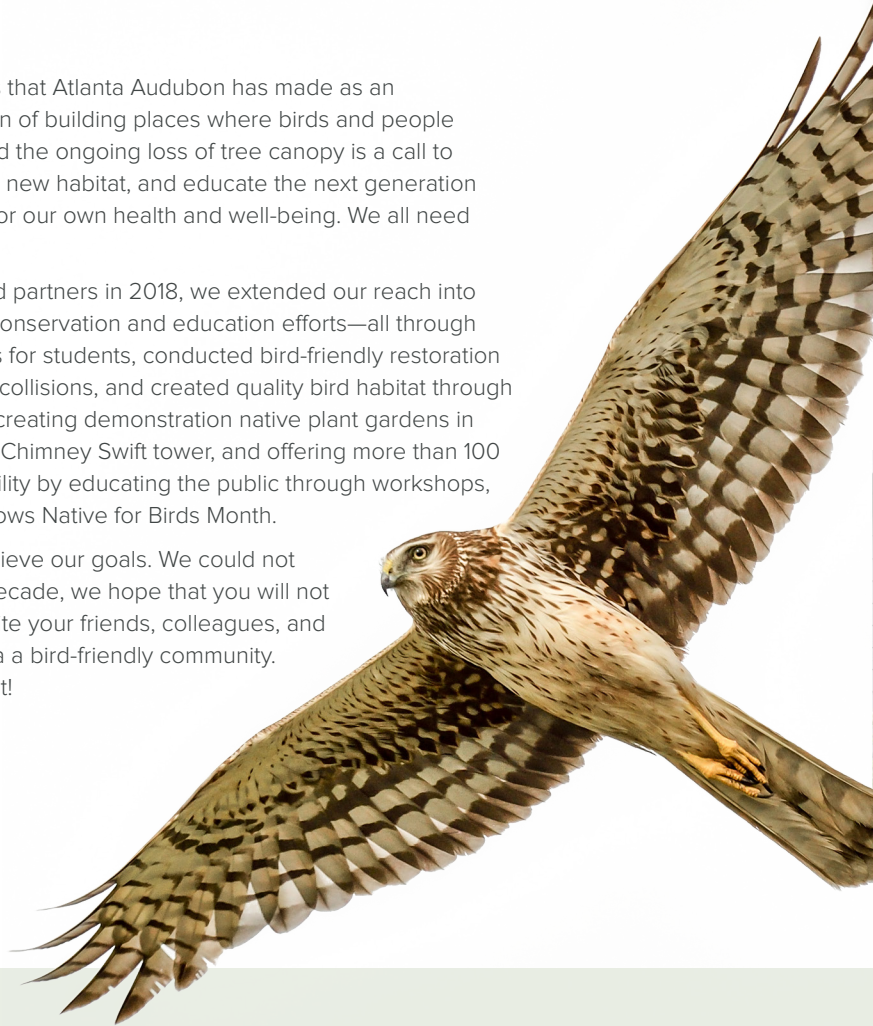
Looking back on the past year, I am amazed at the progress that Atlanta Audubon has made as an organization and the work we have done to fulfill our mission of building places where birds and people thrive. Sprawling growth across the metro Atlanta region and the ongoing loss of tree canopy is a call to action for us to conserve existing quality bird habitat, create new habitat, and educate the next generation of environmental stewards, not only for the birds, but also for our own health and well-being. We all need outdoor spaces!

Thanks to generous support from our members, friends, and partners in 2018, we extended our reach into communities throughout the metro area, delivering quality conservation and education efforts—all through the lens of birds. We advanced STEM learning opportunities for students, conducted bird-friendly restoration of local greenspaces, monitored and reduced bird/building collisions, and created quality bird habitat through our Wildlife Sanctuary Program. We engaged the public by creating demonstration native plant gardens in places like Atlanta's Piedmont Park, installing Georgia's first Chimney Swift tower, and offering more than 100 free field trips around metro Atlanta. We increased our visibility by educating the public through workshops, programs, and events like Atlanta Bird Fest and Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month.

Atlanta Audubon also expanded our network to help us achieve our goals. We could not have come this far without you! As we move into the next decade, we hope that you will not only continue your support of Atlanta Audubon, but also invite your friends, colleagues, and partners to join us in this challenging work of making Atlanta a bird-friendly community. Our future—and that of our feathered friends—depends on it!



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Chair, Board of Directors, 2018-2019



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Conservation

HIGHLIGHTING GEORGIA'S THREATENED BIRDS

Beginning in 2015, Atlanta Audubon began highlighting bird species of concern to provide real conservation solutions for habitat- and climate-threatened species, and to engage and educate the public about the threats to birds. At the end of 2018, we selected our newest conservation priority species to guide our species-specific work in 2019 and 2020. Chimney Swifts in North America have experienced dramatic population declines due to loss of nesting and roosting habitat as people remove dead, hollow trees and cap their chimneys. Over the next two years, our work will provide new nesting and roosting habitat in the form of Chimney Swift towers around metro Atlanta, improve native habitat that insects, the swifts' main food source, rely on, and engage the public with easy actions they can take to protect these birds.



PROTECTING BIRDS IN OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Bird-building collisions kill an estimated 365 million to 1 billion birds in the U.S. each year. Atlanta Audubon leads the region in promoting bird-friendly practices in our built environment—from high-rise buildings in downtown Atlanta to residential homes.

- Thanks to funding from the **Georgia Ornithological Society**, we retrofitted 696 feet of glass door and window surfaces of the Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center with CollidEscape film. The custom-designed film depicts native species of flora and fauna found around the Center and educates and engages visitors.
- Volunteers with **Project Safe Flight Atlanta** patrol predetermined routes during peak migration periods searching for birds that have collided with buildings. Since 2015, 100 species and more than 1,300 individual birds have been collected.
- Support of safe migratory paths for birds increases through **Atlanta Audubon's Lights Out Atlanta** pledge to turn off unnecessary nocturnal lighting during peak migration periods. By 2018 year-end, 230 individuals and 14 commercial buildings had signed on as Lights Out Atlanta partners, including: Southface Institute, Cox Enterprises, the City of Atlanta, Midtown International School, Parmenter Realty, Highwoods Properties, and the Center for Human and Civil Rights.

HABITAT RESTORATION FUND LAUNCHED BY ATLANTA AUDUBON

The Habitat Restoration Fund, established in 2018 by a generous gift honoring Doug Downing, aims to increase quality habitat for birds while expanding community partnerships and educational outreach. The Fund invites community groups, friends groups, municipalities, and other property managers to apply for consulting and services to restore critical habitat. Two metro area park recipients of the 2018 Habitat Restoration Fund awards were:

- **Henderson Park in Tucker** will use its grant to implement bird-friendly habitat improvements to its Native Plant and Wildlife Walk. The project goal is to restore a natural Georgia Piedmont habitat to provide sanctuary for birds and other wildlife and offer educational opportunities for the community, including bird walks and seminars for adults and youth.
- **Candler Park in Atlanta** will use services from the grant to support its work to restore a bird-friendly wetland habitat along the riparian corridor in the park with a focus on the removal of invasive plants.



Education

TODAY'S YOUTH ARE TOMORROW'S POLICY EXPERTS, DECISION MAKERS, AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

We use our bird-focused education programs to bring STEM concepts to life and to prepare students to become stewards of our shared environment.

Our comprehensive elementary school program, **Connecting Students with STEM through Birds**, added two new partner schools in 2018 — Main Street Academy and Usher-Collier Elementary School. Both are federally designated Title I schools and receive resources including a classroom set of binoculars, bird and nature-themed books for the school library, programming by Atlanta Audubon, and the installation of a bird-friendly outdoor learning area featuring native plants to extend the learning outside of the traditional classroom.

The **Atlanta Urban Ecologists** program for youth in grades 8 through 12 guides students in discovering the fascinating, rich ecology of metro Atlanta, providing opportunities for hands-on field experiences, conservation, and community science.

"The Atlanta Audubon Urban Ecologists Program inspired me to do even more to get involved and put myself out there. I applied for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps and have been selected to participate this summer! I am so excited to spend a month working and learning in Yellowstone this summer. I am grateful to have had many opportunities already and as I get closer to college I am looking into career paths that would allow me to have a positive impact on the environment.

In addition to the Urban Ecologists Program, I have been part of the Georgia Aquarium Beginner Environmental Leadership Program, the Zoo Atlanta Volunteer Program, and 21st Century Leaders Envirocare.

The Atlanta Audubon Urban Ecologists Program puts a lot of effort in to helping to get youth involved and I appreciate their work!"

— Sage S., 12th grade



Community Engagement

GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH

September 2018 marked the inaugural Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month in Georgia with an official proclamation signed by Governor Nathan Deal. Several events were held to highlight the inexorable connection between birds and native plants.

- The annual **Wildlife Sanctuary Tour** highlighted properties in Decatur/DeKalb. Nearly 250 people attended this event to visit Atlanta Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuaries and learn how to landscape their properties for birds.
- Atlanta Audubon and the Piedmont Park Conservancy officially dedicated the **Exhibitat at Piedmont Park**, a bird-friendly habitat complete with Georgia's first Chimney Swift tower. A **Chalk Art Festival** featuring local artists was held on the sidewalks in front of the Exhibitat as part of the opening celebration.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Atlanta Audubon strives to mimic the diversity of nature and of our community in our work. Atlanta Audubon is instituting practices that integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into our mission and work and to strategically grow partnerships to expand our audiences.

- **Audubon in Action Grant**
In 2018 Atlanta Audubon received an Audubon in Action Grant from National Audubon to install a Plants for Birds demonstration garden in Historic Washington Park, the first recreational green space for African-Americans in Atlanta that was dedicated in 1919. Through this and other efforts, Atlanta Audubon is introducing an appreciation of birds and educating new audiences about the importance of native plants for birds and other wildlife.
- **Greening Youth Intern**
Atlanta Audubon established an annual internship for a young adult recruited in partnership with the Greening Youth Foundation, whose mission is to work with underserved and underrepresented youth to develop enthusiastic and responsible environmental stewards. The intern is currently working with the Wildlife Sanctuary Program and is helping expand our reach into underserved communities.

10,000 NATIVE PLANTS BY THE END OF 2020

Through our own habitat restoration work and with our partners:

Chattahoochee Nature Center

Georgia Native Plant Society

Beech Hollow Wildflower Farms



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The board and staff of Atlanta Audubon extend their appreciation to the following members and friends who made significant financial gifts in 2018.

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*Atlanta Audubon Master Birder

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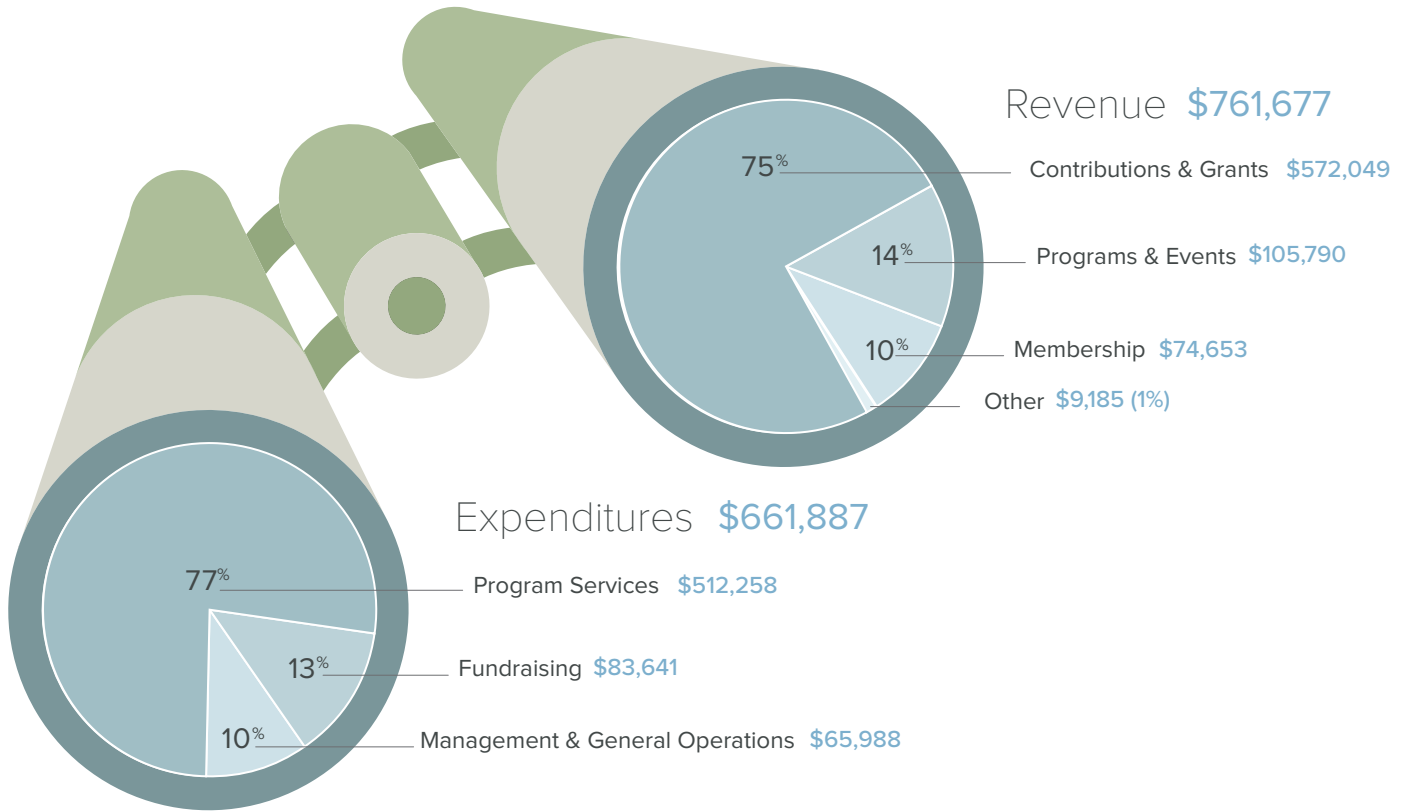
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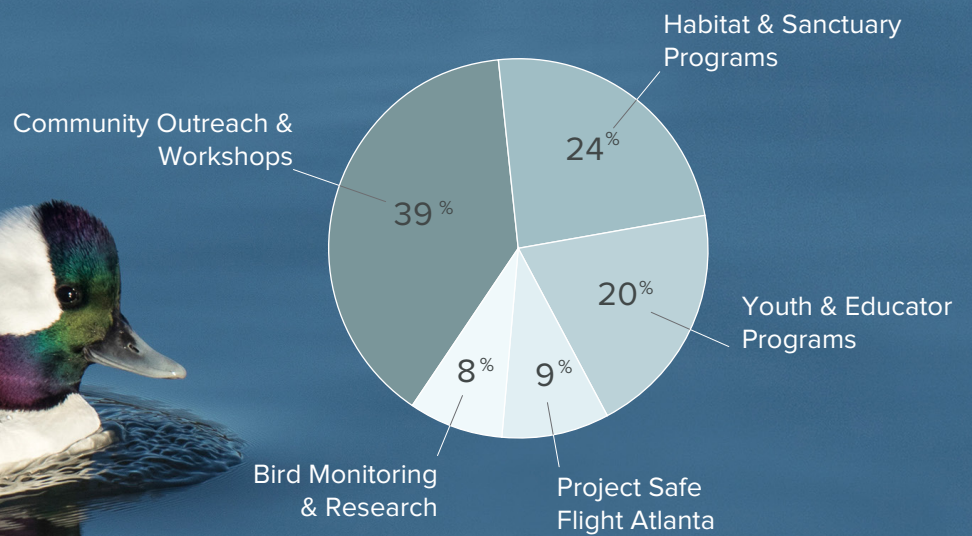
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Focus on Financials (2018)



How Program Dollars Benefit Bird-Friendly Communities





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