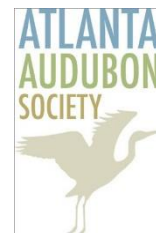


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ATLANTA AUDUBON RECEIVES DISNEY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT FOR PROJECT SAFE FLIGHT ATLANTA

(Atlanta, Ga.) April 20, 2017 – 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 Safe Flight Atlanta 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 1 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 to 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.

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/lightoutatlanta.

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 granted more than \$65 million to projects that help protect the planet and animals in 115 countries around the world. 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.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight.

The mission of Atlanta Audubon Society is to protect Georgia's birds and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy.

Media Note: Photos to accompany these article and a MS Word version of the press releases are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.

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