



Wingbars

A Quarterly Publication of Georgia Audubon

MAY 2023



**GEORGIA
AUDUBON**

Community Science Alert: Help Georgia Audubon Survey for Chuck-will's-widows This Summer

By Lauren Bowman Clontz, Coastal Conservation Coordinator

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Wingbars is the official newsletter of Georgia Audubon and is published four 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 Georgia Audubon.

Eastern Bluebirds by Danny Brown, Audubon Photography Awards

Georgia's birds face a number of challenges, ranging from habitat loss and degradation, collisions with structures, pesticide use, climate change, and more. Some of the most unique, secretive, and compelling of Georgia's birds facing these threats are the nightjars. There are three species of nightjars in Georgia: The Chuck-will's-widow, or "Chucks," Eastern Whip-poor-will, and the Common Nighthawk. While all three of these



The Chuck-will's-widow is Georgia Audubon's 2022 to 2205 species of concern. Photo by Nathan Farnua.

species are worthy of conservation action and increased engagement, Georgia Audubon has chosen the Chuck-will's-widow as our focal species for 2023 to 2025.

A bird that is heard far more often than seen, the Chuck-will's-widow sings out its namesake song across the Georgia landscape on late spring and summer nights. Very little is known about this elusive, nocturnal species, in part because they are notoriously difficult to locate. Their mottled brown plumage provides perfect camouflage as they roost during daylight hours among dried leaves and tree branches. Despite their being widespread across the state, little is known about what attracts them to various habitats. Learning the habitat preferences of Chucks will be key to figuring out how to make Georgia more hospitable for them, in addition to reducing well-known threats.

Over the next few years, Georgia Audubon, in collaboration with multiple partners, including the University of Georgia, hopes to help fill in some of the gaps about this species and create more suitable habitat to help these birds thrive. We will accomplish this by investing resources and expertise into restoring native habitat, assisting with Chuck-will's-widow focused research projects, and engaging the public in order to gain a better understanding of statewide population numbers and migratory behavior. To encourage Audubon members and the public to become involved with community science and Chuck conservation, we are promoting the Nightjar Survey Network program run by the Center for Conservation Biology. While a robust nationwide program, there is currently little data being reported across Georgia. It is time we change this and do our part to help our secretive summer singer.

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From the Executive Director

Celebrating Spring Migration with Georgia Bird Fest

Spring has arrived and along with it is the much-anticipated 8th annual Georgia Bird Fest. As always, this month-long celebration of birds and nature is scheduled to coincide with peak spring migration, and we have a fantastic lineup of events and opportunities to share the wonder and joy of birding with people across Georgia. Each event offers an opportunity to move forward towards building more places where birds and people thrive. By the time you read this, we'll be halfway through the event, but there is still plenty of time to join in the fun. We hope to see many of you at our closing celebration at Round Trip Brewing Company, on Sunday, May 21, as we celebrate another successful event and hear from David Lindo, the "Urban Birder." David inspires people to re-look at their urban environments, where over 20% of the globe's bird species have been recorded, sometimes without us even noticing. David's keynote address will challenge us to appreciate and conserve the birds that share our urban spaces.

As you read through this issue of *Wingbars*, you can see a small sampling of all the great work that is taking place across Georgia thanks to the generous support of our members and donors. Our habitat restoration team is busy creating bird-friendly ecosystems across the state. We're particularly excited about our partnership with the Chattahoochee RiverLands, where we'll be working in the coming years at five different sites to remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants that provide critical nesting and resting areas for our native and migratory birds. We've also expanded Project Safe Flight to coastal Georgia (in Savannah and Brunswick) to gain a better understanding of where coastal bird-building collisions are taking place. If you haven't already, we encourage you to sign up to receive lights out alerts on nights of peak migration so that you can help birds have safe passage by reducing or eliminating outdoor lighting between 12:00 and 6:00 AM. Our spring native plant sale that we host each year with Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, in Athens, was a huge success, and our avian advocate volunteers are working feverishly to catch up on a backlog of Wildlife Sanctuary Certifications.

Later this summer, we'll be rolling out the new Morgens Environmental Education Gateway for members and education program participants. This platform will

revolutionize the way we deliver educational content, thanks to a generous grant from Jim and Sally Morgens. And, as always, we're continuing to offer more than 150 free field trips each year, including trips just for teens, accessible outings, and Bird Beyond trips in underserved areas.

We hope to see you at a Georgia Bird Fest event, field trip, or other program this spring as we celebrate the wonder of spring migration.

Cheers, Jared



Jared Teutsch



Protect Georgia's Birds with a Gift to the 2023 Annual Fund

Georgia Audubon's largest source of funding is YOU! Our spring Annual Fund complements your yearly membership dues, and both are integral to our success. This year, please consider a donation to support our many local education, conservation, and community engagement programs. Birds need our help more than ever right now, and every gift makes a difference. You may also make a gift online at www.georgiaaudubon.org/donate. All donors to the 2023 Annual Fund will be recognized by name in the next issue of *Wingbars*. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Georgia Audubon Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Georgia Audubon is pleased to welcome two new staff members to our flock this spring. Lory Conte Hill joins Georgia Audubon as the new director of development, and Sebastian Hagan joins the conservation team as the new habitat program coordinator.

Lory takes great pride in being a relationship builder. Before joining Georgia Audubon, she helped a number of nonprofits fundraise for causes like youth development, equity, and local community initiatives. Lory earned a B.A. in English Literature from Florida State University, where she deepened her love of reading and writing. An avid dog lover, she volunteers with Homeward Bound Pet Rescue and considers her free time best spent outside



Lory Conte Hill

exploring with her two rescue pups, Aska and Ivy. She is looking forward to meeting new Georgia Audubon friends, and is excited to join a team dedicated to conservation, education, and community engagement.

Sebastian joins the team as the new habitat restoration coordinator, working with Gabe Andrie and Ryan Myers on the organization's many habitat restoration projects, from Jekyll Island, to the Chattahoochee Riverlands, and more. Sebastian studied environmental science at Kennesaw University and conducted vascular plant research to aid in montane longleaf pine conservation. He enjoys hiking with his dog, gardening, and photographing wildlife.



Sebastian Hagan

Coming Soon: Morgens Environmental Education Gateway

By Dottie Head, Director of Communications

Keep your eyes peeled for the official rollout of Georgia Audubon's Morgens Environmental Education Gateway this summer. We are excited to launch this new virtual education platform to revolutionize and streamline the way the organization delivers content to members and program participants. Named the Morgens Environmental Education Gateway in honor of the founding grant from Jim and Sally Morgens with the Morgens West Foundation, the Gateway is currently undergoing beta testing, with plans to roll out the platform to Georgia Audubon members and program participants later this summer.

The Gateway will also feature programming that is available to Georgia Audubon members as a membership benefit. Webinars like Birding 101, Basics of eBird, and Migration 101 will be available on demand for members to view free of charge to help them learn more about identifying and reporting birds they see at home or afield. We anticipate adding additional programming as the platform grows and we learn from constituents about the content they would like to see.

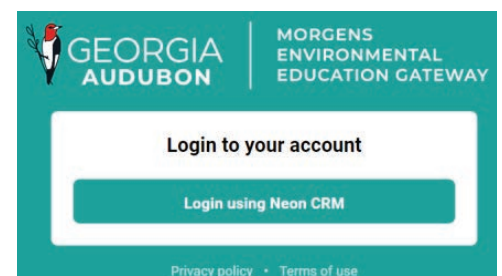
In addition, the education team will be using the Morgens Gateway for homeschool programming and other youth and adult courses that will allow us to reach students all across Georgia.

One of the first live programs that will be offered via the Morgens Environmental Education Gateway will be our popular Georgia Audubon Master Birder Program. The six-week program will feature course content that

is taught virtually via the Gateway and will be reinforced with in-person weekend field trips in different geographic areas of the state to allow program participants to get hands-on experience with the bird ID and ecology lessons being presented via the virtual sessions. In addition, the coursework will be offered on demand so that participants can watch each week's session on their own schedule. Weekly "office hours" with instructors will give participants an opportunity to ask questions about the weekly presentation, and the weekend field trips will provide field and social fellowship experiences for participants.

As an added bonus, the Morgens Environmental Education Gateway will integrate the Georgia Audubon existing membership and registration portal. Upon registering for a course, like Master Birder, via our NEON portal, program participants will be automatically uploaded to the Gateway and will receive email confirmations of course participation, links to join the course, and reminders about upcoming coursework and deadlines for completion.

Stay tuned for further updates on the Morgens Environmental Education Gateway rollout this summer.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT On Malcolm Hodges

By Steve Phenicie

(This is the 57th in a series on Georgia Audubon volunteers, board members, and staff.)

Few birders expect to see an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. After all, if the “Lord God bird” is not extinct, it’s about the closest thing to it, with the last scientifically accepted sighting in this country being in 1944. But one day in 1987, Malcolm Hodges and a companion saw — what they thought at the time anyway — was an Ivory-billed.

Malcolm and Jerry Jackson, his professor while in grad school at Mississippi State University, were walking in mature bottomland hardwoods not far from Vicksburg, stopping to play an Ivory-billed recording for 45 seconds, listening for three minutes, and then moving on. Jackson had a contract with the Fish and Wildlife Service to do a survey. A bird called in response to the tape, approached to within about 150 yards, then disappeared. They never saw it again. Some say that Blue Jays have been known to mimic Ivory-bills, but Malcolm points out that if they do, they have to have an Ivory-bill to mimic. Today Malcolm says, “I don’t know what to say about it.” He doesn’t put the bird on his life list, but at least it’s something to talk about.

Malcolm has been teaching classes and leading expeditions for Georgia Audubon as well as the Georgia Botanical Society for many years. This year he signed up to lead two events during Bird Fest, “Exploring Nature at Chattahoochee Bend State Park” and “Birds and Lichens of Palm Creek” in Gwinnett County. Now retired, he worked in various capacities as an ecologist for The Nature Conservancy for 28 years.

In retirement he has turned a hobby — studying lichens — into

something a bit more than that. These often-neglected organisms are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and an alga. They grow practically anywhere — on rocks, tombstones, mailboxes, tree bark, wooden fences, and other places. Malcolm fell in love with the field after attending a teacher training workshop in 2005. (No, he wasn’t a teacher.)



Malcolm Hodges

Unlike birds, lichens have not been studied a great deal. There are around 6,000 species known in North America, with nearly 1,000 in Georgia, and more are being discovered all the time. Malcolm is among the discoverers. He’s part of a loose association sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden that meets once or twice a year. In Georgia, Malcolm and his fellow lichen enthusiasts have conducted surveys in 140 of 159 counties so far. The ones that have little or no public land can be a particular challenge, Malcolm says. Rabun County, in the state’s northeast corner, is the state’s most diverse, he says.

Malcolm is originally from Ocean Springs, Miss., which is on the Gulf Coast, and earned an undergraduate degree from Rice University. He served in the Peace Corps in West Africa as a fish farm expert and has spent time around the U.S. in academic and professional pursuits. He birded along the coast in Africa and in the rain forest of Ghana, and has also birded extensively in the U.S. and Canada. He and his partner, Keith, live on five acres near Riverdale that is technically classified as a “farm” because Keith keeps chickens and sells the eggs.

THANK YOU!

A Million Thanks...

... to those who have participated in workdays at our Jekyll Island restoration site, the Island Ford Unit of CRNRA, and Deepdene Park: **Bob Cooper, Craig Sullivan, David Robson, Susan Tarnower, Margaret Donnan, Marlee Price, Kathleen Kettel, Harry Kettel, Leslie Phillips, Kyle Chard, Mark Bacchus, Martin McCann, Steven Miller, Sonya Isaac, Corbin Barnes, Derek Thompson, Sy Thompson, Davis Markham, Wendy Cook, Carole Baker, Jekyll Island Garden Club, Winkler Weinberg, Barbara Powell-Schager, Larry Klink, Clay Rolader, Amelia Hoffs, Tracy Xu, Teresa Mayes, and John E. Mayes** ... to Project Safe Flight Georgia volunteers **Paul Miller, Adrienne Miller, Kelly Bryan, Maureen Carroll, Ashley Boone, Shannon Yarbrough, Lisa Rose, Randy Tate, Sue Swanson, and Katie Higgins** ... to Climate Watch volunteers **Sandy Murray, Abby Back, Mary Nevil, Jim McMullian, Valerie McMullian, Lisbet Phillips, Peter Followill, Jacqueline Miller, Brian Campbell, Anne Sturtevant, Dottie Head, Angie Lewis, Laura Breyfogle, Anne Dries, Karen Osborne, Bryan Shelby, Carol Hassell, Cathy Knight, Alish Rao, Steven Seligsohn, Evelyn Taylor, Jeff Potocsnak, and Sam Breyfogle** ... to **Avian Advocates** for their help in the Wildlife Sanctuary Program ... to this year’s **Spring Native Plant Sale** volunteers ... to **Stephen Ramsden, Kim Kenley, Adam George, Robert McDonough, Jay Davis, Kevin O’Toole, Gus Kaufman, Josiah Patrick, Sherry Rosen, John Mayes, Teresa Mayes, Becca Dill, Terry Miller, Anne McCallum, Josh Jackson, Abby Cox, Roseanne Guerra, and Alicia Thompson** for leading field trips and helping with tabling events this spring.

Bird Profile: The Eastern Whip-poor-will

By Steve Phenicie

Whip-poor-wills aren't always terribly popular with the sleeping bag crowd at campgrounds. Sure, their bucolic calls are a pleasure to hear while sitting around the campfire, but when they are still "whip-poor-willing" long after it's time for some shuteye, well ...

A patient observer once counted 1,088 "whip-poor-wills" in rapid succession. After a night of delivering its trademark call, the bird sleeps on the forest floor or on a horizontal log or branch during the day. You're unlikely to detect one, however, because they prefer to sit motionless.

Whip-poor-wills are a mottled brown-gray overall, with black flecking, a reddish tinge on rounded wings, a black throat, and a long, rounded tail. They measure nine or 10 inches long and prefer open deciduous and pine woodlands, often along forest edges. They don't build nests but often lay their eggs, typically a clutch of two, in leaf or pine litter along the edge of a clearing under herbaceous plant growth. For food, they catch large, night-flying insects in flight — mostly moths, beetles, and mosquitoes.

The bird is a common summer breeding resident in the northern part of Georgia, although it can also be found farther south. Overall, they breed throughout the eastern half of the U.S. north of the Peach State as well as in southern Canada. Many spend the winter in the Southeast, in areas where Chuck-will's-widows are resident in summer. Others migrate to Central America and Mexico; a few show up in the Caribbean.

Their numbers appear to have decreased over much of their range in recent decades. The reasons are not well understood, but one possibility is a general reduction in the numbers of large moths and beetles. Open-understory forests, which they like, are also being lost as forest is converted to crops, pasture, or urbanization, and fire suppression leads to dense understories. Also, because whip-poor-wills often fly over roads or sit on

roadways while foraging, they are vulnerable to collisions with cars.

Some cool facts about whip-poor-wills:

- They lay their eggs to line up with the lunar cycle, so that they hatch on average 10 days before a full moon. When the moon is near full, the adults can forage the entire night and capture large quantities of insects to feed to the nestlings.
- Nestlings move around, making it difficult for predators to rob the nest. The parent may help by shoving a nestling aside with its foot, sometimes sending the young bird tumbling head over heels.
- The male adult will often investigate intruders near the nest by hovering in place with his body nearly vertical and his tail spread wide, showing off the broad white tips of the tail feathers.
- Eastern and Mexican Whip-poor-wills used to be considered one species, simply called the Whip-poor-will. But in 2011 they were split into two species, based on differences in mitochondrial and nuclear DNA. Eastern Whip-poor-wills give faster, higher-pitched whip-poor-will calls and have more colorful eggs than their western counterparts.
- The whip-poor-will may locate insects by seeing the bugs' silhouettes against the sky. Its eyes have a reflective structure behind the retina that is probably an adaptation to low-light conditions.
- In the wild, Eastern Whip-poor-wills have been known to live 13 to 15 years.



Eastern Whip-poor-will.
Photo by Dan Vickers.

Travel with Georgia Audubon in 2024

Join Georgia Audubon staff and members in 2024 on one of our small-group birding tours to deepen your appreciation of nature and bird conservation locally and farther afield.

We have limited space available on our upcoming trips to Big Bend and the Texas Hill Country, Madagascar, and Southern California. Additional trips will be announced this summer.

Learn more and register at
www.georgiaaudubon.org/travel.

• Big Bend and Texas Hill Country (one spot remains)
• Madagascar (one spot remains)
• Southern California
• More trips will be announced soon!

Georgia Audubon Expands Habitat Conservation Work

By Gabe Andrle, Habitat Program Manager

In March, Georgia Audubon's habitat team loaded up tools, supplies, and food onto a local fishing guide's boat for a trip up the Chattahoochee River to Buzzard Roost Island in Fulton County. The team set out to begin work on one of five sites the team will be working on as part of the greater Chattahoochee RiverLands, an initiative of the Trust for Public Land connecting greenspaces from Lake Lanier to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. The trip up the river included sightings of Wood Ducks, cormorants, and early migrants like Northern Parula and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, along with the elusive American mink. The five sites the team will be working on will be part of a camp and paddle trail that will allow folks to paddle from Standing Peachtree Park in Atlanta to McIntosh Reserve in Carroll County and camp along the way. With the Chattahoochee being an incredibly valuable resource for migratory birds, Georgia Audubon is excited to be able to provide habitat restoration and improvement services to this initiative.

In addition to the work at Buzzard Roost, the team has begun woody-invasive plant management at Campbellton Park, in Chattahoochee Hills. The park is a great place for migratory warblers and a favorite Bird Fest event locale. The Campbellton Park project, combined with an additional project at RiverLands Park, will allow more public access to the river. To help with this new and exciting work, the team has welcomed a new Habitat Program Coordinator, Sebastian Hagan, who has hit the ground running, helping out with field work and a volunteer workday at another restoration site during his first week.

That workday was at the Island Ford Unit of CRNRA, where the team is looking forward to seeing some of the more than 500 installed native plants come to life over the coming weeks. The team will be transitioning from planting into management of the space with the help of many volunteers over the coming months. (Come join



View of Buzzard Roost from the Chattahoochee River. Photo by Gabe Andrle.

us!) It is a wonderful, small Georgia Audubon certified pollinator garden outside of the visitor center, a perfect place to connect with pollinators and native plants. We hope that folks will be able to emulate some of what they see in this garden in their own yards, gardens, or greenspaces and get certified through our Wildlife Sanctuary Program.

Flying south, the team is gearing up for more site preparation and invasive plant management on Jekyll Island to build on the maritime grassland work the team has already started in partnership with the Jekyll Island Authority, Coastal Georgia Audubon, and others. After the January volunteer workday the team hosted, more than 30,000 native muhly grass plugs had been planted on Jekyll to jumpstart some valuable grassland and pollinator habitat that is going to grow. With the support of the Georgia Ornithological Society, Georgia Audubon is going to begin working on a few more acres of connected habitat to continue to strengthen the connectivity and quality of the unique coastal grassland that hosts Loggerhead Shrikes, American Kestrels, Painted Buntings, and a variety of other migratory species. This winter, we will be hosting more volunteer planting opportunities and hope you will join us.

The team continues to work on sites such as Panola Mountain State Park's native meadows and riparian forests, the Little Creek Horse Farm's pollinator meadow, and others. Be on the lookout for more volunteer opportunities in the coming months to get connected with our new sites and revisit and learn about our current sites. Happy birding!



Gabe Andrle (Georgia Audubon), Matthew Robinson (M.R. River Fishing), and Christine Hassell (Trust for Public Land) prepare for a day on the Chattahoochee River. Photo by Gabe Andrle.

Georgia Audubon Receives GOS Grant for Expanded Habitat Restoration Work on Jekyll Island

By Dottie Head, Director of Communications

Georgia Audubon has been awarded a Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant from the Georgia Ornithological Society in the amount of \$42,049.25 for a bird-friendly maritime grassland restoration project on Jekyll Island. This grant will enable Georgia Audubon to restore a minimum of three acres of maritime grassland habitat with native grasses and perennials to support migratory and resident birds.

Georgia Audubon is partnering with the Jekyll Island Authority (JIA), UGA Marine Extension and Sea Grant Program, and Coastal Georgia Audubon Society on this project. The JIA is providing guidance on restoration site selection, ground reconnaissance, restoration/long-term site maintenance services, and assistance with work permitting. Coastal Georgia Audubon will assist in recruiting volunteers for the habitat restoration work and lead community bird walks at the project site. Georgia Audubon is also partnering with the UGA Marine Extension and Sea Grant Program via a coastal fellow who will oversee all community engagement and outreach activities at this site.

These three acres are in addition to nine acres of restoration currently underway or already complete thanks to funding from other sources, bringing the total

project area to more than 10 acres. The project goals are to improve habitat currently overrun by non-native plants and protect dune areas of Jekyll Island to make them more resilient and ecologically rich.

As part of the project, Georgia Audubon's habitat restoration crew and volunteers will remove non-native invasive plant species from the project site, primarily Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). This will be followed by an installation of new native plant vegetation, including approximately 15,000 native coastal grasses, primarily *Muhlenbergia sericea*. This species is not only an ecological anchor for this rare habitat, but it is also a culturally significant plant used by the Gullah and Geechee people for basket weaving.

Maritime grassland restoration is a globally rare endeavor, and most published dune restoration projects to date have occurred outside of the United States. This project will serve multiple functions: (1) conservation of a rare and declining habitat; (2) stabilization from wind and storm events just beyond the embryo dunes; (3) promotion of vegetated grassland habitat with enhanced ecological function such as refugia, forage, pollination, etc.; (4) sustainability of the habitat; and, (5) public

(Continued on Page 8).

Community Science Alert: Help Georgia Audubon Survey

(Continued from Page 1)

Nightjar Surveys

This spring, Georgia Audubon will begin coordinating nightjar surveys across Georgia. We are recruiting volunteers to conduct survey routes with the Nightjar Survey Network. These routes are conducted roadside by a personal vehicle and involve point counts. Point-count surveys are when an observer counts all birds detected by sight and sound while stationary at a location during a specified amount of time. Nightjar Survey routes are standardized population counts consisting of 10 roadside stops/point counts. Each of the 10 roadside stops along a route is spaced approximately one mile apart..

When: Routes should be conducted on a clear, full-moon nights during either of the following windows:

- April 27 to May 12, 2023
- May 27 to June 10, 2023

For additional information or to sign up, please contact Lauren Clontz: Lauren.clontz@georgiaaudubon.org.

Learn more about our nightjar project on our website.

Reporting Incidental Sightings Is Valuable, Too

Can't quite find the time to commit to a formal survey but want to help? Do you occasionally encounter Chuck-will's-widow or one of the other nightjar species? You can still contribute valuable data on their abundance and distribution by adding your sightings of chucks and other birds to eBird.

eBird Volunteers

If you are an eBird user, we would appreciate any effort you can put towards detecting Chuck-will's-widows and their nightjar brethren. All you are asked to do as a volunteer is to go outside approximately 20 minutes after sunset and listen for the species distinctive calls. Birds generally begin calling about 30 minutes after sunset and continue until it gets too dark to see their prey but can call throughout the entire night. At the beginning of your search, either start a new mobile eBird checklist or take notes on date, time, and location so that your sightings can be submitted at a later time. Traveling, stationary, and incidental checklists all are valuable as is noting any and all species seen or heard. If you hear any nightjars and feel comfortable doing so, adding an audio recording to your list would provide extra value. During the breeding season, Chuck-wills-widows tend to favor open areas with sandy soils, open pine forest, oak woodlands, and the edges of swamps. However, we lack robust data on this and they could be just about anywhere. You never know what you may find until you get out to look and listen.

If you are new to eBird or need a refresher, visit their introduction webpage or email Lauren Clontz at Lauren.clontz@georgiaaudubon.org.

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Contributed to an Amazing 8th Annual Georgia Bird Fest

Georgia Bird Fest Event Leaders

Rick Taylor, Nathan Farnau, Roseanne Guerra, Jay Davis, Jim Flynn, Melanie Furr, Danielle Bunch, Ann Mccallum, Carrie Harper, Malcolm Hodges, Nathan Griswell, Ellen Honeycutt, Lauren Wilson, Stephen Ramsden, Giff Beaton, Andrew Dreelin, Patrick Maurice, Shannon Fair, Christy Baker Knight, Adam Betuel, Wesley Hatch, Zach Bopp, Jim Ferrari, Daniel Parson, Mike Blakeney, Robert McDonough, Eric Bowles, Vinod Babu, Gus Kaufman, Sheridan Alford, Jonah McDonald, Jamie Vidich, Kiana Leveritte, Alice Vogler, Peter Stangel, Theresa Hartz, Gabe Andrle, Georgann Schmalz, Chris Joe, Dottie Head, Robby Astrove, Ray Chandler, Chad Posick, Sandy Murray, Ken Boff, Clark Rushing, Adam Betue, Kathryn Dudeck, and Thomas Swanston.

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Finally, thank you to our Georgia Bird Fest Sponsors for their generosity:



GEORGIA FORESTRY
FOUNDATION



Georgia Audubon Receives GOS Grant

education, to promote awareness of threats facing dune habitats and the wildlife and flora that inhabit grassland dunes. Finally, Georgia Audubon's efforts to monitor bird populations along the coast will help us gain a better understanding of where future conservation efforts are most critically needed and how we can create stronger partnerships to ensure long-term conservation success.

"Georgia Audubon is excited to expand our habitat restoration work on Jekyll Island thanks to this grant from the Georgia Ornithological Society," says Adam Betuel, director of conservation for Georgia Audubon. "This project builds on successful past and ongoing restoration work with the Jekyll Island Authority and deepens our ongoing partnership, enabling us to build more

ecologically productive space in a threatened habitat that experiences high levels of public visitation."

One of Georgia's barrier islands, Jekyll Island is notable for its pristine beaches, tidal salt marshes, and dense coastal forests. The natural features include quiet beaches where endangered sea turtles nest, critical "stopover" habitat for migrating shorebirds, and an abundance of maritime forest for millions of migrating birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Tidal creeks and salt marshes border the island on its western side, while a rim of dynamic dunes, beaches, and the Atlantic Ocean border the eastern side. Jekyll Island, along with Georgia's twelve other barrier islands, protect valuable salt marshes, which represent 28 percent of all salt marsh habitat along the U.S. eastern seaboard.

(Continued from Page 7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

Georgia Bird Fest Webinar: Gardening for Birds and Building Your Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary, with Ellen Honeycutt
Tuesday, May 2, at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$12/per device

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest Webinar: Raptor ID, with Georgann Shmalz
Wednesday, May 3, at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$12/per device

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: Piedmont Park | Leader: Rob McDonough
Saturday, May 6, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden
Saturday, May 6, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Georgia Bird Fest: Birding the Black Belt with Connecting Birds and Nature Tours
Saturday, May 6, at 10:00 AM (9:00 AM CST)

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Tour of StudioSwan Art Gallery
Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 PM

Cost: FREE

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Nightjars After Dark at Altama Plantation
Saturday, May 6, at 7:30 PM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Longview Cattle Farm
Sunday, May 7, at 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Phinzy Swamp
Sunday, May 7, at 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum
Wednesday, May 10, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Georgia Bird Fest Webinar: Beginning Birding 101, with Melanie Furr
Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$12/per device

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: Murphey Candler Park | Leader: Mary Kimberly
Friday, May 12, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Georgia Audubon Homeschool Program
Friday, May 12, at 10:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/homeschool



Photo by Camilla Cera.



Longview Cattle Farm. Photo by Jim Qualls.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MAY (Continued from Page 10)

Georgia Bird Fest: Kayak Trip to Nickjack Bat Cave with Chattanooga Guided Adventures

Friday, May 12, at 6:30 PM

Cost: \$85/person (all equipment provided)

Join Georgia Audubon and Chattanooga Guided Adventures to see endangered gray bats begin their nightly hunt for insects. The Nickajack Bat Cave and Wildlife Refuge on the Tennessee River is the summer roost for up to 100,000 of these animals. Enjoy a three-mile paddle around Nickajack Lake to the cave entrance, during which you may be lucky enough to observe such local treats as Osprey and Bald eagles. Take in the thrill as thousands of bats leave the cave at dusk. To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents



Photo by Gabe Andrie

Georgia Bird Fest: Killdeer and Killer Views at Arabia Mountain

Saturday, May 13, at 6:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Birding by Canoe along the Chattahoochee River

Saturday, May 13, at 7:30 AM

Cost: \$50/person (all equipment provided)

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Pollinator Conservation at Oxford Organic Farm

Saturday, May 13, at 9:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park | Leaders: Jay Davis and Roseanne Guerra

Sunday, May 14, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips

Georgia Bird Fest: BeltLine Biking Tour of Atlanta's Birds and Trees

Saturday, May 20, at 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Georgia Bird Fest: Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, May 20, at 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden

Saturday, May 20, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Georgia Bird Fest: Live Raptor Show at Chattahoochee Nature Center Aviary

Saturday, May 20, at 1:00 PM

Cost: \$35/person

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

Field Trip: George Pierce Park | Leader: Terry Miller

Sunday, May 21, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Georgia Bird Fest: Closing Celebration and Keynote Address with David Lindo, "The Urban Birder"

Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 PM

Cost: \$35/person

See back cover for full description; To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents

UPCOMING EVENTS



JUNE

Field Trip: Piedmont Park | Leader: Rob McDonough

Saturday, June 3, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden

Saturday, June 3, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum

Wednesday, June 14, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden

Saturday, June 17, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.



Photo by Evan Barrientos.

JULY

Field Trip: Piedmont Park | Leader: Rob McDonough

Saturday, July 1, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden

Saturday, July 1, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Reynolds Nature Preserve | Leader: Anne McCallum

Wednesday, July 12, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve | Leader: Stephen Ramsden

Saturday, July 15, at 9:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.

Field Trip: Morgan Falls Overlook Park | Leader: Roseanne Guerra

Wednesday, July 15, at 8:00 AM

To learn more or sign up, visit www.georgiaaudubon.org/field-trips.



Birding at Longview Cattle Farm. Photo by Dottie Head.



Birding at Alabama's Black Belt. Photo by Timothy Joe.

Wingbars

GEORGIA AUDUBON

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Georgia Bird Fest Closing Celebration Featuring David Lindo, “The Urban Birder”

Sunday, May 21 | 3:00 to 6:00 PM

Round Trip Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA

\$35 per person

Join us for our culminating Georgia Bird Fest event at Round Trip Brewing Company in Atlanta. Enjoy light appetizers and a selection of Round Trip’s seasonal brews (for adults 21+). We’ll celebrate our Georgia Bird Fest event leaders, volunteers, and sponsors for a great month’s worth of activities.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Celebrated Urban Birder, David Lindo, inspires people to re-look at their urban environments, where more than 20% of the globe’s bird species have been recorded, sometimes without our noticing. David’s keynote address will challenge us to appreciate and conserve the birds that share our city lives.

He is the author of *The Urban Birder*, *Tales from Concrete Jungles*, *#Urban Birding*, *How to Be an Urban Birder*, and *The Extraordinary World of Birds*.

In 2020, David was shortlisted for the Professional Publishers Association (PPA) Columnist of the Year Award. He was also on the 2021 judging panel of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year and is a judge on both the Bird Photographer of the Year and the British Wildlife Photography Awards. He has regular columns in *Nature’s Home* (RSPB), *Bird Watching Magazine* (UK), and recently *BWD* [formerly *Bird Watchers Digest*] (US).

Our partners at Eagle Eye Book Shop will be on hand at the closing celebration selling a selection of David Lindo’s books, as well as a variety of other outdoor- and bird-related publications. To pre-purchase books via Eagle Eye Bookshop, please visit <https://eagleeyebooks.com/event/2023-05-21>.



David Lindo, “The Urban Birder.”
Photo by Robin Sinah.