

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



For information contact:

Dottie Head, Atlanta Audubon Society, Director of Membership & Communications,
dottie@atlantaaudubon.org, or 678-973-2437 (office) or 404-388-8538 (cell)

GOVERNOR KEMP PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER AS GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH

(Atlanta, Ga.) July 17, 2019 – Governor Brian Kemp recently signed a proclamation designating the month of September as **Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month**. A collaborative effort between Atlanta Audubon Society and the Georgia Native Plant Society, Georgia Grows Native for Birds month celebrates Georgia’s native plants and raises awareness about the key role they play for birds and other wildlife.

“The biggest threat to birds in Georgia is habitat loss,” says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Executive Director. “As urbanization increases and natural habitats disappear, native plants can go a long way to restoring the habitat birds need. Fortunately, we can provide birds with high quality resources simply through thoughtful landscaping utilizing native plants. It’s something that everyone can contribute to conservation.”

Atlanta Audubon Society will be offering events throughout the month of September to highlight the inextricable connection between native plants and birds, including:

Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, Saturday, September 14, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Headquarters site on tour day: Zonolite Park, Zonolite Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

The annual Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Tour will take place from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at seven locations along an 8-mile route through intown Atlanta (DeKalb and Fulton counties). Each property provides four essential elements for attracting wildlife and birds: food sources (including at least 50% native plants), nesting sites, shelter, and water sources. The tour is self-guided, and visitors will see a wide variety of native plants in a diversity of settings that attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Concrete Jungle Ramble, Saturday, September 21, time TBD

Join Jason Ward, bird walk leader and National Audubon community relations and outreach coordinator, and representatives from Concrete Jungle for a bird walk and tour of some of the urban trees from which Concrete Jungle harvests.

Wrecking Barn Farm Brunch with Atlanta Audubon and Georgia Organics
Sunday, September 22, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
4000 Bushy Fork Road, NW, Loganville, GA 30052

Join us for a farm-to-table brunch and bird walk at Wrecking Barn Farm in Loganville as we explore the relationship between sustainable agriculture, insects, and birds.

Swift Night Out at Brickworks Gallery

Thursday, September 26, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

686-A Greenwood Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

Atlanta Audubon will once again partner with Brickworks Gallery for a Swift Night Out to see the resident population of Chimney Swifts descend into the Brickworks Gallery chimney around dusk.

Chattahoochee Nature Center Native Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days

9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, GA 30075

Atlanta Audubon will partner with Chattahoochee Nature Center on their fall native plant sale to help people find bird-friendly native plants for their landscapes. More information is available at www.atlantaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.

Chalk Art Festival at the Exhibit at Piedmont Park

Sunday, September 29, 1:00 to 6:00 PM

The Exhibit at Piedmont Park located in Piedmont Commons section near Monroe Drive.

Join Atlanta Audubon and Piedmont Park Conservancy for a Chalk Art Festival featuring artwork that celebrates Georgia's native plants and animals. This year, we'll have categories for businesses and non-profit organizations, as well as for families. Participants will decorate chalk art squares during the day, and the public will view and vote on the winners in the late afternoon. Prizes will be awarded to the chalk art winners in both categories.

To read the full Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month Proclamation or to learn more about Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month events and purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org/georgia-grows-native-for-birds-month.

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

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

###