

Following please find a press release and list of upcoming events from Atlanta Audubon Society. These releases may be found online at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/press-releases](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/press-releases).

You can also find Atlanta Audubon online at:

·       Facebook ([www.facebook.com/atlanta.audubon.society](http://www.facebook.com/atlanta.audubon.society))

·       Twitter ([twitter.com/AtlantaGAudubon](https://twitter.com/AtlantaGAudubon))

·       Instagram ([www.instagram.com/atlantaaudubonsociety](http://www.instagram.com/atlantaaudubonsociety))

·       Read or subscribe to Bird Buzz, our free, monthly e-newsletter or view back issues of our print newsletter *Wingbars*at ([www.atlantaaudubon.org/wingbars](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/wingbars))

**For more information, contact:**

**Dottie Head, Director of Membership & Communications,**[**dottie@atlantaaudubon.org**](mailto:dottie@atlantaaudubon.org)**or**[**678-973-2437**](tel:678-973-2437)**(office) or**[**404-388-8538**](tel:404-388-8538)**(cell)**

**SUMMARY OF RELEASES**

**1) INAUGURAL ATLANTA BIRD FEST IS COMING TO ATLANTA**

**2) ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH SERENBE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH  
  
2) ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For information contact:

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**Inaugural Atlanta Bird Fest is Coming to Atlanta**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) February 16, 2016** – Mark your calendars for the **Inaugural Atlanta Bird Fest** coming to Atlanta April 15 to May 15. The event will feature exclusive, bird-centered field trips, workshops, speakers, and will culminate in a closing reception on May 15, the Centennial Celebration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s International Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Presented by Atlanta Audubon Society, Atlanta Bird Fest will offer something for both the casual and hard-core bird enthusiast. Highlights will include:

1. **Beginning Birder** and **eBird Workshops** on April 17 to help new birders prepare for the Bird Fest;
2. **Birding, Bobwhites, and Art** on April 23 at the Atlanta History Center featuring a release of Northern Bobwhite Quail as part of a restoration program;
3. **Brunch with the (Peregrine) Falcons** on April 24 that includes a presentation by Jim Ozier, wildlife biologist, and up close and personal look at the nesting downtown Atlanta Peregrine Falcons from the conference room of Dentons US LLP;
4. **Bird Walk and Farm-to-Table Lunch at Serenbe** on April 30;
5. **Wild and Scenic Film Festival** at Oglethorpe University on April 30;
6. **Birds & Wine Trip** on May 1 in White County featuring a bird walk at Smithgall Woods followed by lunch and wine tastings at Cottage Vineyards and Yonah Mountain Vineyards;
7. A variety of bird walks at locations around the metro-area, including **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Pole Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rolling Meadows Family Farm, Vaughters’ Farm, and other birding hot spots;**
8. A **Photography Workshop** on May 14 with Atlanta-based nature photographer Eric Bowles;
9. A **closing celebration** on May 15 celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act and featuring keynote speaker Deborah Cramer, author of “The Narrow Edge,” a book exploring the 19,000-mile, 2 continent journey of the Red Knot, a tiny sandpiper that follows the egg spawning of horseshoe crabs.

Early bird registration will open on March 1 for Atlanta Audubon Society members and on March 7 for the general public. For a complete listing of Atlanta Bird Fest events or to register, visit http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest.

Participants who sign up for workshops totaling $125 or more will receive an exclusive 2016 Atlanta Bird Fest organic cotton, fair trade t-shirt. These shirts were designed exclusively for Atlanta Audubon by favorite bird-wear designer PRBY Apparel and feature the Brown-headed Nuthatch, the 2015-16 conservation priority bird for Atlanta Audubon. A limited supply of shirts will also be available for sale for $25 per shirt.

Proceeds from Atlanta Bird Fest will support Atlanta Audubon’s education and conservation programs.

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

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*Caption: 2016 Atlanta Bird Fest Logo designed by PRBY Apparel and featuring the Brown-headed Nuthatch*

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**Atlanta Audubon Society Partners with Serenbe Institute for Environmental Outreach**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) February 16, 2016** – On Saturday, February 6, Atlanta Audubon Society and the Serenbe Institute launched a partnership to deliver environmental programming with a workshop and birdwalk focusing on the climate-threatened Brown-headed Nuthatch. Through educational programming, including six field trips during 2016, Atlanta Audubon will assist the Serenbe Institute in delivering upon the environmental components of its mission.

Approximately 40 residents and guests attended the event at the Bosch Experience Center at Serenbe. Steve Nygren, co-founder of Serenbe, opened the program with a discussion about the new partnership between Atlanta Audubon and the Serenbe Institute, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to cultivate the community's creative, intellectual, and ecological qualities through programs promoting social, spiritual, and aesthetic curiosity. Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon Society’s Conservation Director, followed with a presentation on the Brown-headed Nuthatch and how Atlanta Audubon Society is working to improve habitat for this small, brown bird that inhabits the pine forests of Georgia. Betuel then led participants on a guided bird walk on Serenbe’s exclusive trails to look for Brown-headed Nuthatch and the numerous other birds that inhabit the forests and meadows of Serenbe.

Set among acres of preserved forests and meadows with miles of nature trails that connect homes and restaurants with arts and businesses, Serenbe is pioneering a new community model connected to nature on the edge of Atlanta.

Atlanta Audubon and Serenbe will offer the next bird walk on Saturday, April 30 as part of the Atlanta Bird Fest 2016, a month-long celebration of birds sponsored by Atlanta Audubon Society. After a bird walk, led by birding experts Adam Betuel and Nathan Farnau, the group will be treated to a picnic lunch featuring food raised on the 25-acre organic farm located at Serenbe. For more information or to register, visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest).

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**Atlanta Audubon Society Upcoming Events**

**Contact: Dottie Head**

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**dottie@atlantaaudubon.org**

*Atlanta Audubon Society offers a variety of adult education programs, youth programs and school programs throughout the year. In addition, Atlanta Audubon sponsors more than 150 bird walks each year throughout metro-Atlanta. These events are free and open to the public. School programs and adult programs are also available by appointment for a small fee. For a complete listing of bird walks and other educational offerings, please visit our website at* [*www.atlantaaudubon.org*](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org)*.*

**At Home Eco-Adventures for Homeschoolers – Busy Beavers**

**(ages 5-12)**

**Thursday, February 18**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** **Atlanta Audubon Society/Blue Heron Nature Preserve, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Beavers do a lot of important work! In this eco-adventure, we’ll visit Blue Heron’s Emma Wetland property and see the dams and lodge our two resident beavers have constructed. Through our exploration, we’ll learn how beavers are helping us improve the environmental health of the wetlands and of our city as a whole. We’ll also discover the interesting adaptations beavers use to support their unique lifestyles, and have a chance to build our own dam or lodge! **$12 per child.** For more information or to register: [atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=111&](https://atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=111&)

**Project Safe Flight Atlanta Volunteer Training  
Saturday, February 27  
1:00 – 2:00 PM  
Atlanta Audubon Society Office, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342  
Free but registration is requested**

Last year Atlanta Audubon commenced Project Safe Flight Atlanta, a program focused on understanding the problem of bird—window collisions in the metro area. Current research estimates that upwards of 1 billion birds die annually in the United States from these unfortunate interactions. To help make Atlanta a safer place for migrating and resident birds, we need volunteers to help us monitor for these collisions. Volunteers will walk predetermined routes or visit specific structures to document collisions. To prepare volunteers for spring migration we will be having a training session on February 27at 1:00 pm. The training is free but registration is requested. To register, visit: <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/project-safe-flight>.

**Birdwatching Exhibit and Curator Talk at the Gallery Walk at Terminus**

**Sunday, February 28**

**1:00 to 2:30 PM**

**The Gallery Walk at Terminus, 3280 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta**

Atlanta Audubon members and friends are invited to join curator Anne Lambert Tracht for a special viewing and talk about Birdwatching, an exhibition at the Gallery Walk at Terminus through March 17. Several of the artists will also be present to talk about their work. **The event is free and open to Atlanta Audubon members and friends, but registration is requested.** For more information or to register: [atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=110&](https://atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=110&)

**Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Member Meeting: Factors Affecting Red and Green Macaw Nest Site Selection**

**Sunday, February 28**

**3:30 to 5:30 PM**

**5 Season’s Brewery, 5600 Roswell Road, NE, #21, Sandy Springs, GA**

Joel Owen, a graduate student at the University of Georgia, will share his Master of Science thesis work studying Red and Green Macaws in Brazil. These native parrots and other resident species are threatened by habitat loss due to deforestation etc., and their population is controlled by availability of suitable nesting sites. Joel will discuss the factors affecting nest site selection in Fazenda Boa Vista where the macaws nest in sandstone ridges. Atlanta Audubon Society membership meetings **are free and open to the public.** For more information, visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org).

**Becoming a Better Birder**

**Saturday, March 13**

**1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Join Georgann Schmalz for workshop to improve your skills and increase your enjoyment of birding. This class is a must for any new birder who feels somewhat overwhelmed by the skills of more advanced birders. Time will be spent learning good techniques of birding in the field and choosing good optics, books, and sound devices. Participants will develop key identification skills and experience the satisfaction that better birding can yield. $40 for Atlanta Audubon members and $50 for non-members. For more information or to register: [atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=108&](https://atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=108&)

**Raptor ID**

**Saturday, March 13**

**1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

From their hunting prowess to their majestic soaring, raptors captivate our attention with their gracefulness and power—be it from the trail or from the highway. More than a dozen species of raptors rule the skies over Georgia, but they can be difficult to distinguish at a distance.  Learn the basics and the secrets to making raptor identification easy with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz. She will focus on behaviors, habitats, and enough general information that will make recognizing these birds in the field a “no-brainer.” $40 for Atlanta Audubon members and $50 for non-members. For more information or to register: [atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=109&](https://atlaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/atlaudubon/event.jsp?event=109&)

**The Messenger Screening (sponsored by Atlanta Audubon Society and Chattahoochee Nature Center)**

**Saturday, March 19**

**5:30 PM**

**Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, Ga.**

Atlanta Audubon is pleased to partner with Chattahoochee Nature Center to bring you this opportunity to view the songbird documentary, "The Messenger." Director Su Rynard's film explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Winner of the Jackson Hole Conservation Film Festival's Best Conservation Film award this past September, The Messenger is an engaging, visually stunning, emotional journey that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul.  View the official trailer of The Messenger at [http://songbirdsos.com](http://songbirdsos.com/). Limited spaces available and purchasing advance tickets is recommended. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://ecommerce.chattnaturecenter.org/itemList.aspx?node_id=15505>

**Atlanta Bird Fest**

**April 15 – May 15**

**Dates and Location vary by event**

Atlanta Bird Fest is a new event designed to engage Atlanta Audubon members and non-members through exclusive field trips, workshops, speakers, and more. Activities will showcase metro-Atlanta's natural treasures during the exciting spring migration period for many North American birds. Atlanta Bird Fest 2016 will run from mid-April through mid-May, culminating with a Closing Celebration on May 15, the Centennial Anniversary of US Fish & Wildlife Services’ International Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Atlanta Bird Fest events will not only cater to seasoned bird watchers, but we also hope to introduce the importance of birds and conservation through our events. For more information, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Open House with Blue Heron Nature Preserve & Atlanta Audubon**

**Saturday, April 16**

**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Join us for an Open House at Blue Heron Nature Preserve, the last remaining wild green space in Buckhead. Staff and volunteers for both Blue Heron Nature Preserve and Atlanta Audubon Society will be on site with activities for the whole family. Enjoy guided bird walks and samples of Atlanta Audubon’s shade-grown coffee. The event is free and registration is not required. For more information, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Birding 101—Beginning Birder Workshop**

**Sunday, April 17**

**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Birds are fascinating, familiar, and accessible—their colors and songs add beauty to our everyday lives. If you’d like to get started with birding or improve your birding skills, join Melanie Furr, Director of Education for the Atlanta Audubon Society, for a how-to class that will help you develop your skills and enhance your enjoyment of our feathered friends. Participants will learn about the common birds of our area and techniques for identifying new birds.  We'll also share information on attracting birds to your backyard and choosing the best optics, field guides, and smartphone apps to enhance your birding experience. Your newfound skills are sure to enrich your enjoyment of the outdoors and keep your mind active! If time allows, we'll head outdoors to put our birding skills to the test. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own. The cost is $30/person, and registration is required. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest:  Improve Your Birding with eBird**

**Sunday, April 17**

**3:00 PM to 4:30 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Do you keep track of the birds you see? Did you know this information can be used by scientists to inform conservation decisions that benefit birds and people? Join Adam Betuel, Atlanta Audubon’s Director of Conservation, for a hands-on workshop to guide you through the various uses of eBird.org, the free online checklist program that is revolutionizing the way information about birds is collected and shared. No prior experience needed.

In this workshop you will learn to:

\*  Keep track of the birds you see (and see more birds!)

\*  Use eBird to figure out where to look for certain species or plan birding trips

\*  Share checklists with friends

\*  Explore interactive range maps, migration patterns, occurrence data, and more

\*  Understand how eBird data is being used by scientists and the conservation community

To get the most out of the workshop, participants are asked to go to www.ebird.org and create a free eBird account before attending this class. Participants with iPhones can also download the free eBird app. The cost is $20/person, and registration is required. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Birding, Bobwhites, and the Art of Early Georgia Naturalists at Atlanta History Center**

**Saturday, April 23**

**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Atlanta History Center – Location and trip instructions will be emailed to participants one week in advance**

Located on 33 acres in downtown Buckhead, the Atlanta History Center offers the opportunity to see many spring migrants and residents such as warblers (including Cerulean, Prairie, and Northern Parula), woodpeckers, raptors, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows, and other passerines. Following a guided bird walk through the trails of Atlanta History Center, the group will get the first public look at Atlanta History Center’s new avian residents – approximately two dozen Northern Bobwhite, which will be released at the Smith Family Farm property onsite. Hear from Brett Bannor, Atlanta History Center’s Manager of Animal Collections, on the Northern Bobwhite’s historic range, conservation issues affecting their current populations, and what the Atlanta History Center hopes to accomplish with their release on the property. Participants will then be welcomed to a private viewing of an exclusive art exhibit featuring the work of early Georgia naturalists, Mark Catesby and John Abbot. Light snacks and shade grown coffee will be provided following the bird walk. The cost is $30/person and registration is required.  For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Spring Migration & Civil War History at Kennesaw Mountain**

**Saturday, April 23**

**8:00AM to 12:00 PM**

**Meeting location and logistics will be emailed to participants the week before the event**

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is known as a top migrant stopover in the metro-Atlanta area. Explore this birding hotspot and its rich Civil War-era history with a guided walk led by Giff Beaton, one of Atlanta’s top birders. This is one of the best spots east of the Mississippi River to see migrating Cerulean Warblers. The cost is $30/person and registration is required.  For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Brunch with the (Peregrine) Falcons**

**Sunday, April 24**

**9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location and address will be emailed to registered participants the week before the event**

Join Jim Ozier, former wildlife biologist for Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Conservation Section, for a front row seat to view downtown Atlanta’s nesting Peregrine Falcons. Jim will present an overview of the recovery of this magnificent bird of prey and its adaptation to the urban landscape of downtown Atlanta. Brunch will be provided courtesy of Dentons US LLP, which occupies the building space where the Falcons have nested. The cost is $30/person and registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Audubon Society Monthly Member Meeting**

**Sunday, April 24**

**3:30 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Five Seasons Brewery at The Prado in Sandy Springs, 5600 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30342**

Join us for our free, monthly member (or non-member!) meeting at Five Seasons Brewery in The Prado in Sandy Springs. Exclusive for our April meeting, Five Seasons Brewery will be offering a special brew for purchase that celebrates our 2016 Atlanta Bird Fest Focus Bird, the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Enjoy a selection of free appetizers at the April meeting as well. The event is free and registration is not required. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Birds of Serenbe**

**Saturday, April 30**

**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

Enjoy a spring morning on the private trails of Serenbe, a planned community focused on sustainable agriculture, arts, and wellbeing located in south Fulton County. Trails meander through a mix of habitat, including pine and hardwood forests, open meadows, and shrub/scrub. Birds that have been recorded on the property include Lark Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Indigo Bunting, among others. Following the morning of birding, participants will enjoy a private picnic lunch on Serenbe's croquet lawn. The cost is $50/person and registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Wild and Scenic Film Festival at Oglethorpe University**

**Co-hosted with Blue Heron Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, April 30**

**TIME TBA**

**Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30319**

Join Atlanta Audubon Society and Blue Heron Nature Preserve for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival at Oglethorpe University. Viewers will enjoy a selection of short films that showcase the beauty of our natural world, the dangers many habitats and wildlife species face, and how we can work together to protect these spaces and our wild neighbors. The cost is $10/person and registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Birds & Wine in North Georgia**

**Sunday, May 1**

**7:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Participants will depart via luxury coach from Roswell at 7:00am and will return around 5:00pm. Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

On this trip, we'll let VIP Southern Tours do all the driving as we relax on one of their deluxe coaches with leather seats. Spend a day in the idyllic North Georgia mountains with a morning of birding in the restricted conservation area of Smithgall Woods, followed by lunch and wine tasting at Cottage Vineyards, and then a final stop at Yonah Mountain Vineyards for a wine tasting. Birds seen in recent years in the area include migrating spring warblers such as Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, and Canada; Wild Turkey; and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The cost is $225/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Rolling Meadows Family Farm**

**Sunday, May 1**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

Rolling Meadows Farm is a private, family-owned farm of over 900 acres located in Coweta County. It boasts a diversity of habitats, including grasslands, mature hardwood forest, open pineywoods, and several creeks and ponds. Farm owner Richard Candler will lead the group around his farm in search of singing Grasshopper Sparrows; summer breeding warblers such as Kentucky, Prothonotary, Hooded; American Kestrels; resident waterfowl; and several other species. Richard will also show us an active Bald Eagle nest on the property and discuss his family’s use of sustainable land management practices. The cost is $30/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Shorebird Weekend Trip in Coastal Georgia**

**Classroom Session: Saturday, March 12 at Atlanta Audubon Society Office (1:00 – 3:00 PM)**

**Trip: Friday, May 6 - Sunday, May 8**

**Note: This trip will take place on the Georgia Coast. Cost does not include food or lodging**

**Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

Join AAS for this unique workshop highlighting the shorebird migration that coincides with the spawning of horseshoe crabs. This spectacular phenomenon brings hundreds of migrating shorebirds to our very own Georgia Coast, including Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, and more…all in breeding plumage! This two-part workshop consists of a classroom session on March 12 on shorebird identification with ornithologist Georgann Schmalz in the Atlanta Audubon classroom at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve followed in May by a coastal trip led by Atlanta Audubon Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. The coastal trip kicks off with a Friday evening session (7-9 PM) on Shorebird Conservation taught by Tim Keyes, DNR Wildlife Biologist. The tentative schedule includes birding coastal hot spots such as Jekyll Island and Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge on Saturday. Weather and seas permitting, on Sunday morning we’ll take a boat trip exploring the Altamaha River Delta at places such as the north end of Little St. Simons Island, Little Egg Island, and Wolf Island Bar.

Cost (excludes food & lodging): $250/Atlanta Audubon members; $225/Master Birders in good standing; $275/Non-Members. Spaces are limited. **Registration is now open for this event**. For more information or to register, visit: <https://atlaudubon.z2systems.com/event.jsp?event=126&>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Warbler Weekend in the North Georgia Mountains**

**Saturday, May 7 - Sunday, May 8**

**Note: This trip will take place in the North Georgia Mountains. Cost does not include food or lodging. Additional details on lodging and meeting locations will be emailed to participants at registration.**

Stretch your neck and warm up those ears. It’s time to prepare for spring migration. Georgia hosts more than 20 breeding warblers, and this workshop will cover them all. This two-part workshop will begin with a Warbler ID class with Giff Beaton held in April at the Atlanta Audubon Society. The class will concentrate on the key identification characteristics of warbler species, as well as tips to song recognition. Participants will put their ID skills to the test during the weekend field trip with Master Birder instructor Theresa Hartz on Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8, in the North Georgia mountains, where it’s possible to find more than 20 species of warblers, many of which will be singing on their breeding grounds. Participants in recent years have seen 20 warbler species, including the unusual Brewster’s Warbler, a hybrid formed by a Golden-winged Warbler and a Blue-winged Warbler. The group will visit some of the mountain hot spots as well as some new warbler-rich locations.

Registration will open March 1 for Atlanta Audubon members and March 7 for non-members. Cost (excludes food & lodging): $150Atlanta Audubon members; $175/non-members. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest - A Mother Nature Mother's Day at Vaughters' Farm**

**Saturday, May 8**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

Join Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve’s Park Ranger, Robby Astrove, and Atlanta Audubon board member, Bob Johnson, on a Mother’s Day exploration of the Vaughters’ Farm Meadow Loop trail. We’ll take our time meandering the 1.25 mile unpaved trail that offers scenic views of the Vaughters’ Barn, rolling hills, and open meadows. This is one of a few spots in DeKalb County to find Eastern Meadowlark. The cost is $30/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Pole Bridge Wastewater Treatment Facility**

**Saturday, May 14**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Address and trip instructions will be emailed to registered participants one week in advance**

Only recently opened for limited access to metro-Atlanta birders, over 135 species of birds were identified at this single location in 2015. The month of May will be ideal to see a large roost of Black Vultures and a good number of hawks and other raptors, including a nesting pair of American Kestrel. Grassland birds include Wild Turkey and Eastern Meadowlark. We will also look for migrating shorebirds, warblers, thrushes, and sparrows. The cost is $30/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Taking Better Photos: Bird Photography Workshop**

**Saturday, May 14**

**8:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342**

Join Atlanta based nature photographer Eric Bowles for a clinic to help you to make better bird photographs.  Bird photography provides a way to combine a passion for birds with the artistry of photography, but it can be one of the most challenging areas of nature photography. Whether you are a novice or an advanced photographer, we’ll talk about technique and equipment for different types of bird photography and locations. In this half day session, we’ll combine classroom discussion with photography in the field.  You’ll have a chance to learn about tips and techniques, then put it to work at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. Cameras are optional but they are very welcome. The cost is $50/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

*Eric Bowles is a professional nature photographer leading workshops and providing private instruction throughout the southeast.  His bird photography has been featured in Audubon Magazine, The Chat, The Migrant, and other birding and nature photography publications.  Eric is a Board member of the North American Nature Photography Association and a past Board member of Georgia Nature Photography Association.*

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Closing Celebration**

**Sunday, May 15**

**2:00 – 4:30 PM**

**Miller Ward Alumni House at Emory University**

Join us to celebrate our month-long exploration of Atlanta’s best birding destinations. Author Deborah Cramer will join us to talk about her inspiration for her book *The Narrow Edge*, which explores the 19,000-mile, two-continent journey of the Red Knot, a tiny sandpiper, as they follow the egg spawning of the horseshoe crab. Top fundraisers and birders during Atlanta Bird Fest will be awarded prizes during this fun celebration. The cost is $30/person and registration is required. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

**Ongoing Events:**

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Big Day Challenge**

**Any 6-hour or 24-hour period April 15-May 14**

Ready to compete with your fellow birders to see who can find the most species? Join our Big Day Challenge in either the 6-hour or 24-hour categories for a chance to win some great prizes while having fun and raising funds for Atlanta Audubon Society. Travel during your Big Day Challenge is limited to the state of Georgia. Go out on your own or get a group of friends together!

**Atlanta Bird Fest: Raffle for a Peregrine Falcon Banding & Dinner**

**$5 per ticket or $25 for 6 tickets**

Dentons US LLP, whose office is located atop the SunTrust Plaza building in downtown Atlanta, has played host to a nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons for the past several spring nesting seasons. The Peregrine Falcons consistently rear a successful brood of chicks each year, which are banded by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to track conservation efforts to protect the Falcons. Dentons has generously donated admission for two to the Peregrine Falcon chick banding and dinner that will occur around mid-May (depending on when the chicks are old enough for banding). Purchase a raffle ticket for $5 each or $25 for 6 tickets for a chance to win this unique experience!

Raffle ticket sales will begin on March 1. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/atlanta-bird-fest>.

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