“For the Birds”

Holiday Card Making Workshop
Thursday, December 17, 7 PM to 9 PM

Want to learn how to make some fun holiday cards? Take some time out of the busy holiday season for a relaxing evening of card making. We will create four different holiday cards with bird themes using a variety of scrapbooking techniques including stamping, paper piecing, etc.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 7 PM to 9 PM in AAS’s education center at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Buckhead. The class is open to everyone and is a beginner/intermediate level class. The instructor is AAS Executive Director Catharine Kuchar, who is an avid scrapbooker/card maker and is currently working on illustrating a children’s book using paper piecing techniques.

This is a hands-on workshop and therefore the class size is limited to 10 participants, so sign up before the Dec. 14 deadline (a reservation is required). The cost per student is $15 for Friends of Atlanta Audubon and $20 for non-members. To reserve your place in the class, please call 678.973.2437. You may pay by credit card or send a check to 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.

HOLIDAY EVENT FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Tuesday, December 22, 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Blue Heron Nature Preserve

Would you like to enjoy some fun activities with your children without having to stand in lines and fight with Atlanta traffic? The Blue Heron Nature Preserve and Atlanta Audubon Society are offering a nature-inspired event for the holidays.

As the seasons change, so does the weather. Birds and other wildlife have to find ways to adapt to their surrounding environment. During this two-hour activity, your children will have fun while learning about the basic needs of animals and plants, and how they can help the wildlife in their yards make it through another winter.

Join us for art activities, a nature walk and hot chocolate at the BHNP/AAS educational building at 4055 Roswell Road. You will meet other families in the neighborhood and learn more about the natural history of the land at Buckhead’s hidden natural jewel.

This event is a fundraiser for our new butterfly garden, a joint project of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve and Atlanta Audubon Society.

For: Children ages 2 to 6 years. (An adult must accompany the child/children.)
Cost: $5 per child.
On-site parking available.
Limit 30. You must have a reservation.
Bring your payment on the day of the event.
RSVP to Nancy Jones or Jack White at 404.814.8228 or nancyjljones@mindspring.com.
Get Those Cameras Ready!

Atlanta Audubon Society
2010 Annual Photography Contest

Check Out This Year’s Great Prizes:
- First Prize—Birds in Portrait: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Birds in Motion: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Animals: Eagle Optics Denali 8 x 42 Roof Prism Binoculars
- First Prize—Habitat: Vortex Pro GT Tripod Kit
- First Prize—Georgia’s Grassland Birds (2010 Conservation Category)*: Atlanta Audubon Society “Fun Pack” (includes Pajaro original field bag with AAS patch, AAS license plate, AAS t-shirt, Peterson Field Guide’s ‘Eastern/Central Birding by Ear’ CD set, and a copy of ‘Sibley’s Birding Basics’)
- Judge’s Choice: Eagle Optics Denali Spotting Scope Package (sponsored by Eagle Optics)
- Grand Prize: **Adobe Photoshop CS4. Also includes the opportunity to have your photograph printed on the Atlanta Audubon Society official picture postcard for 2010!

Criteria for judging include:
- Originality
- Overall impact
- Composition
- Technique
- Presentation
- Difficulty

Photographs will be judged in the following categories:
- Birds in Motion (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, must convey the original dynamic motion of the bird or birds).
- Birds in Portrait (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, i.e. perching on a fence; may show nesting, stalking or roosting activity).
- Animals (all living creatures, other than birds; no man-made elements).
- Habitat (flora and fauna in their natural environments, landscapes or panoramas).
- Georgia’s Grassland Birds (see list of eligible birds* below; and Judge’s Choice).

Sponsored by Pajaro

*Birds that are eligible for entry in the “Georgia’s Grassland Birds” (2010 Conservation Category) include: Northern Bobwhite, Bobolink, Yellow-breasted Chat, Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Sandhill Crane, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grasshopper, Field Sparrow, Wilson’s Snipe, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler, Henslow’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Bluethroat Sandpiper and Upland Sandpiper.

**Prizes subject to change if availability issues arise.

**Adobe prize cannot be upgraded to later editions in the future.

KEY DATES

Entries must have been photographed since January 1, 2009 and must be received by midnight on February 22, 2010.

All entries will be displayed at the March 21 Speaker Series event. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded at the meeting. All entries will be judged prior to the March Speaker Series event.

Our judge for the 2010 competition is well-known photographer Richard J. Green of Down To Earth Portraits

Check out the Atlanta Audubon website shortly for more information at www.atlantaaudubon.org

Sandhill Cranes by 2009 Grand Prize Winner, Jo Gun

Find Those Cameras Ready!

Atlanta Audubon Society
2010 Annual Photography Contest

Check Out This Year’s Great Prizes:
- First Prize—Birds in Portrait: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Birds in Motion: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Animals: Eagle Optics Denali 8 x 42 Roof Prism Binoculars
- First Prize—Habitat: Vortex Pro GT Tripod Kit
- First Prize—Georgia’s Grassland Birds (2010 Conservation Category)*: Atlanta Audubon Society “Fun Pack” (includes Pajaro original field bag with AAS patch, AAS license plate, AAS t-shirt, Peterson Field Guide’s ‘Eastern/Central Birding by Ear’ CD set, and a copy of ‘Sibley’s Birding Basics’)
- Judge’s Choice: Eagle Optics Denali Spotting Scope Package (sponsored by Eagle Optics)
- Grand Prize: **Adobe Photoshop CS4. Also includes the opportunity to have your photograph printed on the Atlanta Audubon Society official picture postcard for 2010!

Criteria for judging include:
- Originality
- Overall impact
- Composition
- Technique
- Presentation
- Difficulty

Photographs will be judged in the following categories:
- Birds in Motion (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, must convey the original dynamic motion of the bird or birds).
- Birds in Portrait (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, i.e. perching on a fence; may show nesting, stalking or roosting activity).
- Animals (all living creatures, other than birds; no man-made elements).
- Habitat (flora and fauna in their natural environments, landscapes or panoramas).
- Georgia’s Grassland Birds (see list of eligible birds* below; and Judge’s Choice).

Sponsored by Pajaro

*Birds that are eligible for entry in the “Georgia’s Grassland Birds” (2010 Conservation Category) include: Northern Bobwhite, Bobolink, Yellow-breasted Chat, Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Sandhill Crane, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grasshopper, Field Sparrow, Wilson’s Snipe, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler, Henslow’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Bluethroat Sandpiper and Upland Sandpiper.

**Prizes subject to change if availability issues arise.

**Adobe prize cannot be upgraded to later editions in the future.

KEY DATES

Entries must have been photographed since January 1, 2009 and must be received by midnight on February 22, 2010.

All entries will be displayed at the March 21 Speaker Series event. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded at the meeting. All entries will be judged prior to the March Speaker Series event.

Our judge for the 2010 competition is well-known photographer Richard J. Green of Down To Earth Portraits

Check out the Atlanta Audubon website shortly for more information at www.atlantaaudubon.org

Sandhill Cranes by 2009 Grand Prize Winner, Jo Gun

Find Those Cameras Ready!

Atlanta Audubon Society
2010 Annual Photography Contest

Check Out This Year’s Great Prizes:
- First Prize—Birds in Portrait: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Birds in Motion: 6.5 x 32 Raven Binoculars by Eagle Optics
- First Prize—Animals: Eagle Optics Denali 8 x 42 Roof Prism Binoculars
- First Prize—Habitat: Vortex Pro GT Tripod Kit
- First Prize—Georgia’s Grassland Birds (2010 Conservation Category)*: Atlanta Audubon Society “Fun Pack” (includes Pajaro original field bag with AAS patch, AAS license plate, AAS t-shirt, Peterson Field Guide’s ‘Eastern/Central Birding by Ear’ CD set, and a copy of ‘Sibley’s Birding Basics’)
- Judge’s Choice: Eagle Optics Denali Spotting Scope Package (sponsored by Eagle Optics)
- Grand Prize: **Adobe Photoshop CS4. Also includes the opportunity to have your photograph printed on the Atlanta Audubon Society official picture postcard for 2010!

Criteria for judging include:
- Originality
- Overall impact
- Composition
- Technique
- Presentation
- Difficulty

Photographs will be judged in the following categories:
- Birds in Motion (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, must convey the original dynamic motion of the bird or birds).
- Birds in Portrait (no man-made elements, unless natural behavior, i.e. perching on a fence; may show nesting, stalking or roosting activity).
- Animals (all living creatures, other than birds; no man-made elements).
- Habitat (flora and fauna in their natural environments, landscapes or panoramas).
- Georgia’s Grassland Birds (see list of eligible birds* below; and Judge’s Choice).

Sponsored by Pajaro

*Birds that are eligible for entry in the “Georgia’s Grassland Birds” (2010 Conservation Category) include: Northern Bobwhite, Bobolink, Yellow-breasted Chat, Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Sandhill Crane, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grasshopper, Field Sparrow, Wilson’s Snipe, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler, Henslow’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Bluethroat Sandpiper and Upland Sandpiper.

**Prizes subject to change if availability issues arise.

**Adobe prize cannot be upgraded to later editions in the future.

KEY DATES

Entries must have been photographed since January 1, 2009 and must be received by midnight on February 22, 2010.

All entries will be displayed at the March 21 Speaker Series event. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded at the meeting. All entries will be judged prior to the March Speaker Series event.

Our judge for the 2010 competition is well-known photographer Richard J. Green of Down To Earth Portraits

Check out the Atlanta Audubon website shortly for more information at www.atlantaaudubon.org

Sandhill Cranes by 2009 Grand Prize Winner, Jo Gun
AAS Receives Grant from Foster’s Wine Estates to Support Phase Two of the Atlanta BeltLine Project

Atlanta Audubon, along with partner Trees Atlanta, received a major grant from Foster’s Wine Estates in support of phase two of our Atlanta BeltLine project. The $24,000 grant will be used to restore critical habitat for wildlife and birds along a six-mile urban corridor.

Foster’s Wine Estates is the parent company of Beringer Vineyards, Chateau St. Jean, Penfolds, Rosemount, Stags’ Leap, and several other wineries. The grant awarded to Atlanta Audubon is part of Foster’s community investment program that has donated to more than 700 non-profit organizations over the past year.

Our key project objectives for phase two include 1) developing an assessment plan for each of the remaining seven sites detailing threats to habitat and target species; 2) creating the remaining seven educational pieces for each neighborhood site; and 3) completing two on-the-ground restorations projects.

We hope to have strong citizen participation and increased awareness by local students and residents of the unique natural features surrounding them. Our goal is to increase environmental stewardship and have a substantial impact for birds and wildlife in each neighborhood along the Atlanta BeltLine.

We are extremely grateful to Foster’s for making the continuation of this project possible.

Atlanta Christmas Bird Count Slated for December 20, 2009

By Bob Zaremba

The longest running citizen science survey in the world, Audubon’s annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place between Dec. 14, 2009 and Jan. 5, 2010. From Alaska to Antarctica, tens of thousands of volunteers will add a new layer to over a century of data vital to conservation. Scientists rely on these data to better understand how birds and the environment we share are faring. Just like canaries in the coal mines, birds serve as early indicators of problems that can eventually affect people and wildlife.

Data from Audubon are at the heart of several scientific reports. CBC data informed the first State of the Birds report issued earlier this year by the U.S. Department of the Interior. CBC analysis also fueled Audubon’s report that climate change is already having an impact on birds across the continent.

The CBC began in 1900 when the founder of Bird-Lore (the progenitor of Audubon magazine), Frank Chapman, suggested an alternative to the “side hunt” in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most game, including birds. Chapman proposed that people “hunt” birds only to identify, count and record them. These “binocular brigades” often brave winter’s chill, ice and snow to record changes in resident populations and ranges. “When Frank Chapman started the Christmas Bird Count, it was a visionary act,” said National Audubon Society President John Flicker. “No one could have predicted how important the CBC would become as a resource and tool for conservation.” CBC data also help document success stories. The Christmas Bird Count helped document the comeback of the previously endangered Bald Eagle and significant increases in waterfowl populations, both the result of conservation efforts.

“Each CBC volunteer observer is an important contributor, helping to shape the overall direction of bird conservation,” says Geoff LeBaron, Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count director.

Richard Parks, in an article in the December 2002 GOSHawk, described the early history of the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count. According to Dick, the first Atlanta count took place in 1903, making it one of the oldest counts in the country. The first count, performed by a single observer, was the fourth highest in the country, with 30 species recorded and 556 individuals. Counts were held in 1905, and beginning in 1911 counts were held for most years with the exception of an interruption during World War I. These early counts laid the foundation for the current counts throughout the state.

The Atlanta Christmas Bird Count is sponsored by the Atlanta Audubon Society. In 1974 the current count circle was moved to its present location, which is centered in Marietta, Cobb County, near Due West Elementary School. If you are interested in participating in this year’s count on Sunday, Dec. 20, please contact me at bobzarem@bellsouth.net or call 770.422.5830. See Pg. 10 for other Georgia CBCs. For up-to-date scheduling, go to http://www.gos.org/cbc/cbc.html.

Sources: The National Audubon Society; GOSHawk
Torrential rains during the last half of the month caused much flooding and misery in the state. The only good news was that this much rainfall caused excellent shorebird habitat to be made available, especially at sod farms which are scattered around the state. Read on for some of the highlights of the shorebird migration.

The Atlanta area recorded 156 species (average = 161.5) to bring the year-to-date list to 234 (average = 237.6). The Georgia area reported 221 species (average = 220.2) to bring that year-to-date list to 321 (average = 324.6).

ATLANTA AREA

HERONS THROUGH RAILS – A YELLOW-CROWNEdin the neighborhood of single birds, but there were occasionally multiple reports from the same location (m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS – The American AVOCET previously reported from Bartow Co. was seen again on 4 Sept. (RC) and 5 Sept. (TF). JS, HG and PB found six AMERICAN GOLDEN-POWERS in Bartow Co. on 8 Sept. KB, RC and NF had a total of seven there the same day. The last report was one bird at the same location on 27 Sept. (BDZ, et al.). Some other interesting shorebird sightings were an UPLAND SANDPIPER in Bartow Co. on 8 Sept. (KB, RC, NF), a SANDERLING in Forsyth Co. on 17 Sept. (JF) and two WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at the E. Hui Land Application Facility (ELHLAF) in Clay County on 17 Sept. A number of STILT SANDPIPERS were seen at the ELHLAF with four starting on 14 Sept. (NF) and a peak of six on 17 Sept. (CL). One additional STILT SANDPIPER was seen in Forsyth Co. on 17 Sept. (JF). Two BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were found in Bartow Co. on 9 Sept. (KB, NF). The peak count was four in Bartow Co. on 13 Sept. (NF) with the last report of three birds on 27 Sept. (BDZ, et al.). An immature RED-NECKED PHALAROPE was found in Forsyth Co. on 22 Sept. (JF) and was last seen on 23 Sept. by PMcL and KM.

NIGHTHAWK THROUGH WAXWINGS – Several observers reported groups of COMMON NIGHTHAWKs moving through the area from 12 Sept. through 22 Sept. with totals of generally 160-200 (m.ob.). Reports of OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS came from the Mercer Wetlands on 2 Sept. (PMcL) and the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) on 18 Sept. (MD) and again on 19 Sept. (KB, et al.). Single YELLOW-BELTED FLYCATCHERS were found at the Newman’s Wetlands Center on 10 Sept. (CL), at Henderson Park (HP) on 14 Sept. (HG, et al.) and at the CRNRA on 19 Sept. (KB, et al.). Single LEAST FLYCATCHERS were seen at the Suwanee Creek Greenway on 6 Sept. (BB), at HP from 3 Sept. until at least 14 Sept. (HG, et al.). An additional bird was seen at the CRNRA on 22 Sept. (KB). Other interesting reports were a MARSH WREN at the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve on 29 Sept. (StC) and a CEDAR WAXWING at the Little Mulberry Park on 4 Sept. (BB).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS – There were two reports of the hybrid BREWSTER’S WARBLER with one bird being found on or about 9 Sept. at HP and seen through 14 Sept. (NF). Another bird was seen at the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve on 17 Sept. (LH). Interesting warbler reports included 12 TENNESSEE WARBLERS at HP on 30 Sept. (HG, et al.), a NASHVILLE WARBLER at HP on 13 Sept. (JSe), 15 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS at HP on 14 Sept. (JSe, et al.), 11 MAGNOLIA WARBLERS at HP on 30 Sept. (HG, et al.), 11 AMERICAN REDSTARTS at HP on 14 Sept. (HG, et al.), and a CONNECTICUT WARBLER at HP on 14 Sept. (HG, et al.). WILSON’S WARBLERS were well reported with two at HP on 12 Sept. (PMcL), one at HP on 13 Sept. (JSe), and two at the CRNRA on 14 Sept. (NF). NF had a decent count of 14 SCARLET TANAGERS at Kennesaw Mtn. National Battlefield on 13 Sept.

GEORGIA AREA

DUCKS THROUGH WADERS – BLACK-BELTED WHISTLING-DUCKS continue to expand their numbers with approximately 30 in Dougherty Co. on 7 Sept. (WS, MMa) and 47 at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien also on 7 Sept. (KB, RC). Approximately 15 SNOW GEESE were reported from Oconee Co. on 2 Sept. (fide MF). Five TRICOLORED HERONS were rather rare in Baker Co. on 3 Sept. (WS). Peak wader counts included five REDDISH EGRETS on Little St. Simon’s Island (LSSI) on 14 Sept. (CM, ScC), 100 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS on Raccoon Key on 5 Sept. (BL, et al.) and 104 ROSEATE SPONDBILLS in Glynn Co. on 6 Sept. (KC, RC). Seventy-three WHITE IBIS were rather unusual in the Marshallville area on 21 Sept. (WC).

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS – A late MISSISSIPPI KITE was seen in Polk Co. on 26 Sept. (PB, HG). Single AMERICAN GOLDEN-POWERS were seen in Dougherty Co. on 1 and 13 Sept. (WS). A good count of seven PIPING PLOVERS was reported from LSSI on 14 Sept. (CM, ScC). UPLAND SANDPIPERS were spotted in Dougherty Co. from 1 through 13 Sept. with the peak count of four coming on 13 Sept. (WS). Always a good bird for GA was a LONG-BILLED CURLEW on LSSI on 14 Sept. (CM, ScC). BW, TK and SH had an impressive count of 2500 RED KNOTS on Wolf Island NWR on 1 Sept. A single BAR’S SANDPIPER was seen at Bostwick Sod in Morgan Co. from 18 Sept. (MF) through 20 Sept. (JN). WS had a nice count of eight STILT SANDPIPERS in the Albany area on 21 Sept. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were reported from Emanuel Co., Glynn Co., and the Perry and Albany areas by a number of observers.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS – Five LAUGHING GULLS were quite unusual in the Marshallville area on 21 Sept. (WC). WS had a rare FRANKLIN’S GULL at the West Point Dam on 29 Sept. but the rarest gull by far was the adult SABINE’S GULL in Murray Co. on 22 Sept. (JSp). A number of other observers were able to see the bird, but unfortunately it had left by the next morning. JMcN, et al. had an impressive count of 18 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS at Gould’s Inlet on 6 Sept. Also a very rare occurrence was an ARCTIC TERN at Gould’s Inlet on 6 Sept. (KB, RC, JMcN, MMcS).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH TANEAETEARS – JF recorded as many as 34 WHIP-POOR-WILLS in Greene and Hancock Counties on 7 Sept. JF also had a rare WARBLING VIREO in Habersham Co. on 13 Sept. There were seven separate reports of PHILADELPHIA VIREOS from 8 Sept. through 30 Sept. with the peak count of four coming from Carter’s Lake on 27 Sept. (PMcL, et al.). Four PURPLE MARTINS were late at Carter’s Lake on 22 Sept. (JF). An extremely rare NORTHERN SHEARWATER was reported from Nannygoat Beach on Sapelo Island on 8 Sept. (Jk). Hopefully this sighting will be documented as it would be only the second record for GA.

FLYCATCHERS – There were a number of reports of Empidonax flycatchers during the month. ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS were of course noted in reasonable numbers, but the sightings of YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS and LEAST FLYCATCHERS were quite unusual. There were a total of five reports of YELLOW-BELTED FLYCATCHERS from 5 Sept. through 29 Sept. There were a total of four LEAST FLYCATCHER reports from 3 Sept. to 22 Sept. Most of these sightings were of single birds, but there were occasionally multiple reports from the same location (m.ob.).

WARBLERS – A hybrid BREWSTER’S WARBLER was reported from the Albany area on 29 Sept. (AA, MMa). WC had a number of good reports from the Columbus area with a NASHVILLE WARBLER on 29 Sept., 20+ BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS at Pine Mtn. on 14 Sept., 21 AMERICAN REDSTARTS on 29 Sept., and four SWAINSON’S WARBLERS on 16 Sept. TT also reporting from the Columbus area, had five SWAINSON’S WARBLERS on 10 Sept. Single WILSON’S WARBLERS were seen in Cata oos Co. on 6 and 24 Sept. (DH) and in the Albany area on 29 Sept. (AA, MMa).

CONTRIBUTORS – Katharine Andregg, Alan Ashley, Steve Barlow, Zack Barrow, Brandon Best, Ken Blankenship, Walt Bowman, Patrick Brisse, Rachel Cass, Watt Chambers, Stan Chapman, Scott Coleman, Mark Davis, Nathan Farnau, James Fleullon, Jim Flynn, Terry Forbes, Mark Freeman, Liz and Hugh Garrett, Stacia Hendricks, David Hollie, Lisa Hurt, Jennie Kanes, Tim Kyes, Nathan Klaus, Carol Lambert, Bill Lotz, Mary and Gavin MacDonald, Melissa Martin, Patty McLean, Joel McNeal, Mark McShane, Jenny Michaels, Kathy Miller, Darlene Moore, Peggy and Terry Moore, Charlie Muise, James Neves, Bill and Karla O’Grady, Steve Parrish, Wayne Schaffner, Jeff Sewell, Steve Sloyton, Adam Smith, Joshua Spence, Ted Thus, Eran Tomer, Gene Wilkinson, Brad Winn, Bob and Deb Zaremba, and Stacy Zarpen te.
Field Trips are open to the public and free (unless otherwise noted). We welcome everyone from beginners to advanced birders! Please check the Atlanta Audubon Website (www.atlantaaudubon.org) for December field trips that may be scheduled.

If you are interested in leading a field trip and/or volunteering to help with the Field Trip Committee, have ideas of where you would like to go and/or feedback about leaders or trips, please e-mail Stan Chapman, Field Trips Coordinator, at stancha@aol.com.

We encourage carpooling. If you are coming from the Atlanta area and are willing to take riders or if you wish to ride with someone (and share expenses), please e-mail Stan Chapman at stancha@aol.com and include your name, location and phone number(s) for Murray County trip by 8 PM Wednesday, Dec. 2 and for Rome trip by 8 AM Thursday, Dec. 10, at which times Stan will send a master list of drivers and riders so everyone can make their own arrangements.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 AM
Piedmont Park (City of Atlanta)
Sponsored by the Piedmont Park Conservancy and AAS
Matt Ward
Meet at the Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Room, Piedmont Ave. and 12th St.
Children accompanied by a parent are invited.

Birding focus: This trip is an excellent way for beginners to learn about birds found in the forest and adjacent pond.

Directions: From south of Atlanta: Take I-75/85 N to Exit 249B/Pine St. Go straight on Pine St., crossing Peachtree St. Turn left on Piedmont Ave. Travel about 1.0 mi. to 12th St.
From north of Atlanta: At the first traffic light after crossing the river, and raptors, kinglets, waxwings, sparrows and wrens, among many other species.

Directions: From Roswell Rd./U.S. 290 and follow U.S. 290 W and follow for 4.0 mi. Turn right onto the ramp to U.S. 41 N/U.S. 411/GA 20 W/GA 136 in Ranger where there is a gas station and Ralston’s Corner store. Turn right (east) onto GA 136, go 0.5 mi. to old U.S. 411, turn left (north) and go 0.7 mi., turn right into the recreation area by the dam.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 AM
Chattahoochee Nature Center (Fulton County)
Stacy Zarpentine (cell 404.219.5869)
Meet at the store of the Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell.

Birding Focus: Winter birds including waterfowl, kingfishers and herons along the river, and raptors, kinglets, waxwings, sparrows and wrens, among many other species.

Directions: From Roswell Rd./U.S. 19 heading north from Atlanta or I-285: At the first traffic light after crossing the Chattahoochee River, turn left onto Azalea Dr. At the second traffic light, turn left onto Willeo Rd. CNC is located 0.5 mi. on the right. From GA 400 Northbound, take Exit 6/Northridge Rd. and bear to the right, going back over the freeway. Immediately after crossing over GA 400, turn right onto Dunwoody Pl. Follow for 1.2 mi. to Roswell Rd., turn right and follow the directions above. From GA 400 Southbound, take Exit 6/Northridge Rd. At the end of the ramp, travel straight through the traffic light onto Dunwoody Pl. Follow Dunwoody Pl. for 1.2 mi. to Roswell Rd. Turn right and follow the directions above.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 8 AM
Rome, GA, area
Owen Kinney (cell 706.346.4874) and Marion Dobbs
Meet in the parking area of Hermann Hall, a large brick building at Berry College.

Birding Focus: Bald Eagles, harriers and kestrels, and many types of waterfowl and early winter songbirds. Habitats include open agricultural zones, beaver swamps, mountain longleaf pine stands, several wetland areas and open water at Garden Lakes. We will bird campus sites (Possum Trot and the Old Mill area) and move on to Garden Lakes.

Directions: From I-285, take I-75 N to Exit 293 and follow U.S. 411 N for approximately 27 mi. to the intersection with GA 136 in Ranger where there is a gas station and Ralston’s Corner store. Turn right (east) onto GA 136, go 0.5 mi. to old U.S. 411, turn left (north) and go 0.7 mi., turn right into the recreation area by the dam.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 AM
Carter’s Lake area, Murray County (near Ellijay)
Sanly Pangle (cell 770.656.3298) and Joshua Spence
Meet at the Carter’s Lake Re-regulation Dam parking area.

Birding focus: Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Winter Wren, Bonaparte’s Gull and many sparrows, raptors and waterfowl. We will scope out a couple of places on the lake, walk the songbird trail and nearby sparrow field and, depending on time and preference, bird nearby Pine Chapel Road. There is a $3 parking fee at one of these locations.

Directions: From I-285, take I-75 N to Exit 293 and follow U.S. 411 N for approximately 27 mi. to the intersection with GA 136 in Ranger where there is a gas station and Ralston’s Corner store. Turn right (east) onto GA 136, go 0.5 mi. to old U.S. 411, turn left (north) and go 0.7 mi., turn right into the recreation area by the dam.

Sunday, December 20
Marietta, GA
Christmas Bird Count
Bob & Deb Zarembo (770.422.5830)
See pages 3 & 10
Tis the season ... to take up birding! Yuletide is fast approaching and with it comes the 110th Christmas Bird Count, the longest running wildlife census conducted by thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas. Back in 1970, Jim Flynn, the webmaster for Atlanta Audubon Society, read about an upcoming Christmas Bird Count in the Erie Daily Times. A few months before Jim, who had always been interested in nature, had come across one of Peterson’s field guides at the home of his Aunt Edith. He was drawn to an account of the Double-crested Cormorant—Jim had learned in school that the Chinese had used cormorants to fish. He was surprised to find that cormorants could be found in Erie where he lived; he thought this fact was pretty cool. That session with the field guide sparked the birding bug, so when Jim read about the Christmas Bird Count, he hopped right on it.

Actually, Jim hopped on his bike and rode eight miles through the snow (we are talking Erie, PA, snow) to Presque Isle State Park, a key location for the Erie count. As hoped, Jim was able to meet up with other birders who quickly welcomed him to the flock. They stowed his bike in the trunk of a car, and he spent the rest of the afternoon with the group and doubled his life list. As Jim says, “From that point on, I was really hooked.”

A resident of Cumming, GA, Jim is a network architect designing online communication networks. That expertise, combined with his love of birding, makes him a natural to be the AAS webmaster. As such, he takes information created by board members, project directors and other volunteers and formats it for the web. Jim also leads an occasional field trip for AAS, serves as the webmaster and secretary for the Checklist and Records Committee for the Georgia Ornithological Society and has managed websites to assist Department of Natural Resources biologists with photo selection for state wide atlases, such as Amphibians and Reptiles of Georgia and the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia.

Jim’s favorite places to bird in Georgia change with the seasons. When pressed to pick a single favorite he named the Altamaha River area, a critical habitat located in southern Georgia for Bald Eagles, Swallow-tailed Kites and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. As for Jim’s favorite bird, that’s a hard one. “I’ve had so many great experiences, I don’t know where to even start! I probably don’t have a favorite bird species, but I do have a favorite bird family—Ducks.”

So for those readers who want to help cultivate the next generation of birders, leave those field guides lying around when youngsters come to visit and encourage beginning birders to join the Christmas Bird Count community. Those simple steps have led to 33 years of birding memories for our webmaster Jim Flynn.

### A Million Thanks!

Atlanta Audubon Society is an amazing organization because of its volunteers! As always, we extend our unending gratitude to ALL of our volunteers, but would like to send a special thank you to the following individuals this month.

We can’t thank volunteer and recent Master Birder graduate, Donna Wensink, enough for getting out the 2010 membership mailing. She stuffed over 800 envelopes and got them ready to go to the post office. Donna, you’re the best.

Our Master Birder program is one of the most important educational opportunities provided by AAS. Our program would not be possible if it were not for the amazing instructors who work so hard. Many, many thanks go to Lisa Hurt, Georgann Schmalz, Diane LaCole and Charlie Muise. We think all of you are wonderful.

Many thanks to Victor Williams, an AAS board member. He helped us put up our new bird feeder and bird house, which were graciously donated by Bob May and Lee Baker of Workshop Creations. Victor does a lot of handy work on the grounds of our new home and in the preserve, and we really appreciate his efforts.
As 2009 draws to a close, so does my two year-term as Atlanta Audubon Society’s volunteer coordinator. It has been a challenging experience, but one that I have enjoyed immensely. I’ve had the privilege of recruiting and coordinating, thereby getting to know many AAS members who volunteered for such popular events as the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, the Open House at our new home at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve and our annual holiday and auction parties. I’ve also coordinated volunteers for various events such as Earth Day, International Migratory Bird Day and activities at shade-grown coffee venues, as well as arranging for volunteer speakers to represent AAS at various organizations. It is a full-time job! All I can say is that we have the best and most diversely skilled volunteers of any nature group in Atlanta! Thank you, thank you, thank you to each of you who has volunteered, thus helping our organization attain its mission. AAS is run almost exclusively by our volunteers, a remarkable feat considering all that we do. While there are too many wonderful volunteers to name, some folks deserve special recognition.

Carl Tyler, before me, wanted to track our volunteers and the hours they gave to AAS and to thank them. He invited Pam Higginbotham to format a database to do just that. She has worked tirelessly on this project for well on four years! Building on what Carl created and working with Catharine Kuchar and Barbara Tarpley, we designed the volunteer page in Wingbars to highlight the Time Well Spent by volunteers. Thanks a Million acknowledgments of volunteers, the spotlighting of an individual volunteer, and a listing of special volunteer opportunities for members.

Carol Hassel created the monthly e-mail blast of volunteer opportunities for Master Birders, which has been immensely helpful in communicating with interested volunteers. Having Sally Davis in the AAS office allowed for better communication with members about administrative volunteer activities and requests from outside organizations. We created a downloadable request form for events and festivals and posted it on our website to facilitate our outreach activities, and now Emily Toriani-Moura has expanded the programmatic opportunities for volunteers to promote and support the AAS mission.

The role of volunteers as well as our ability to recruit and communicate with them has grown as AAS has moved forward in our goal of becoming a larger presence in the metropolitan Atlanta community. When I first began managing special events three years ago, we had limited strategies for contacting and recruiting volunteers, and the number of active volunteers was quite small in comparison to all we did. Today, with the leadership of Catharine Kuchar, her staff and the AAS board, volunteers and volunteer opportunities can be more aptly matched, and this creates a bright future for all of us.

I will truly miss my colleagues on the board, a great group of committed volunteers, but I look forward to finding my place as an active volunteer off the board. I would encourage each of you to do the same. On or off the board, we all have the opportunity to share with others the enjoyment of birds by learning their identities and participating in the conservation of their wildlife habitats.

The 13th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
January 27 to February 1, 2010

Presented by the Brevard Nature Alliance and timed to coincide with peak activity for wintering bird populations in Florida, this event has something of interest for everyone—more than 250 activities including classroom presentations, an exhibit center with over 70 exhibitors, an art competition with $1,600 plus in prizes, a silent auction, the Raptor Project, field trips, water adventures, a pelagic boat trip and more.

Blessed with diverse habitats and favorable climate, Florida’s Space Coast is among the best birding locations in North America. More than 330 species of birds have been seen here including many coveted species such as Florida Scrub-Jay, Crested Caracara, Snail Kite, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, Painted Bunting, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman’s Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Glaucous Gull, Iceland (Kumlein’s) Gull, Thayer’s Gull and more.

Outstanding birding and wildlife-watching sites include: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Canaveral National Seashore, Enchanted Forest Nature Sanctuary, Port Canaveral and 30 local Florida birding trail locations—38 within a one-hour drive of Titusville.

Field trips, seminars, workshops and keynote presentations are led by a consortium of local, national and international talent. The 2010 festival will feature: David Allen Sibley, Kim and Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, Jessie Barry, Jeff Bouton, Victor Emanuel, Kevin Karlson, Paul Lehman, Barry Lyon, Reinier Munguia, Michael O’Brien, Clay Taylor, Bill Thompson III, Joanne Williams, Christopher Wood, Louise Zemaitis and over 90 other ornithologists, biologists, scientists, historians, naturalists, photographers, and others.

Visit www.nbbsd.com/fly to review scheduled festival activities, registration information, accommodations, birds and wildlife seen during the 2009 festival, and more. Contact Neta Harris, 800.460.2664 or festival@brevardnaturealliance.org.
Books for Beginning Birders

Here are a few books that will greatly aid beginners (or anyone, for that matter) in their quest to become a better birder.

For the most part, these books won’t help you identify a particular bird. But they will give you a firm foundation to make quicker and more accurate identifications in general. What’s more, they will help you better enjoy and get more out of the pursuit of bird watching.

For an expanded list of recommended books on birding, go to www.birderslibrary.com/features/books_for_beginning_birders.htm.

Pete Dunne on Bird Watching by Pete Dunne

Dunne provides many tips and suggestions, but more than anything else he clearly introduces what this birding thing is all about, from bird feeding to pelagic trips. As a bonus, you get all of this with the author’s trademark wit and humor. This is more than a treasure trove of information from one of our foremost birders, it’s also a fun read.


Even though this is older and out-of-print, it’s worth tracking down. Although there is some overlap with the other books, this one provides an overview of the birding seasons and information on some problematical families like warblers and gulls. Personal anecdotes and lively writing keep it interesting.

National Geographic Birding Essentials by Jonathan Alderfer and Jon L. Dunn

This covers more technical, but still crucial, topics than Dunne and Connor, such as the parts of a bird and molt. Many great color photos illustrate the concepts.

Sibley’s Birder’s Basics by David Allen Sibley

This is a great guide, but contrary to the title I think intermediate and even advanced birders will get more out of this than beginners. If the rest of these books haven’t satiated your desire for birding know-how, then turn here next.

Earthwatch Trip

By Steve Phenicie

Ever thought about how bird populations are affected by the number of small animals in a particular area? Over the summer I got the chance to participate in a study designed to, among other things, determine just how many small mammals were populating an area of about a half a square mile in a remote part of Nova Scotia. The trip was sponsored by Earthwatch, an organization that funds scientific research of various types around the world and makes use of volunteers to conduct its projects. The principal investigators were Dr. Christina Buesching and Dr. Chris Newman of England’s Oxford University.

To determine how many animals were populating the area, we had to set traps—two-part metal boxes consisting of an entry tunnel and a nesting chamber. Inside of each box we placed a wad of grass, some bird seed and a slice of apple. Going through the bush, we set 50 traps in rows of 10 each, with about 10 meters between traps. The traps had to be checked twice a day over a stretch of two weeks.

We hoped to catch chipmunks, voles, lemmings, shrews, mice and squirrels. Each of the 14 volunteers got a chance to grab the animals (with nary an eek!) and place them in a plastic bag so they could be weighed and various data recorded. A bit of fur was trimmed so we would know/recognize the animal if it were caught again. We then returned them to the place in the forest where they were captured and released them.

With one particular chipmunk, we noticed that a botfly larva was starting to worm its way out of her abdomen. When we caught her a second time, she had somehow lost most of her tail. She quickly picked up the name “Stubby.” Our leaders told us that chipmunks can shed their tails to escape a predator, although they will not regrow. Like some career criminals, she was caught again and again. Each time the botfly larva was closer to working its way out of her body. Finally, on the last time we caught her, the larva fell out and was retrieved by the principal investigators. It had not hatched by the time our expedition was over, but they told us they planned to name the botfly “Gordon.”

In the end, we captured all of the target animals except squirrels, and more than one species of several of them. And what did our work determine? The principal investigators told us that populations of small mammals appeared to be down this year—not good news for birds such as owls and goshawks, which depend on an ample supply for their livelihood.

If you think that you, too, might like to tromp through rugged terrain setting mouse traps in just about any kind of weather, it is not too late. The trip will be offered nine times next year from March to December. For more information, check the Earthwatch website,
Atlanta Audubon, working with its partner Trees Atlanta, wrapped up its work on the TogetherGreen grant that we received last year. We focused on giving a voice to the wildlife and birds living along the Atlanta BeltLine, engaging in innovative, on-the-ground conservation projects in the Warehouse Row and West Connection neighborhoods and actively involving citizens in these unique neighborhoods.

With support from TogetherGreen, Atlanta Audubon Society completed phase one of our project, supporting 7 of the 14 neighborhoods (all in the southern half of the Atlanta BeltLine). This phase incorporated both habitat goals of reducing the threat to habitats (and identified wildlife/bird species) and restoring habitat for the wildlife/bird species.

We were successful in achieving the following project objectives:

- developed an in-depth field analysis and plan of the unique wildlife/bird species for each of the seven “natural habitats” (identified habitats/neighborhoods): West Connection, Warehouse Row, Southern Way, The Confluence, New South, Piedmont Park and Entrenchment Creek;
- worked with Trees Atlanta and the Atlanta BeltLine to make recommendations on future planning that would be both bird- and wildlife-friendly;
- conducted four restoration projects in the West Connection and Warehouse Row neighborhoods including:
  - a special planting project with low-income students from Brown Middle School (also did pre- and post-testing with the students);
  - a planting project in the West Connection neighborhood;
  - a planting project in the Warehouse Row neighborhood;
  - an invasive plant removal project in the West Connection neighborhood;
- developed seven beautiful and informative educational pieces—one for each of the seven natural neighborhoods focusing on the unique habitat/wildlife of the area.

Additional printed material will be developed in the coming years; these educational pieces are a vital step in building recognition and community around the natural neighborhoods along the Atlanta Beltline. They will serve as an important part of the conservation agenda to reduce threats and engage audiences in citizen participation and environmental stewardship. These neighborhoods already have “built-in” target audiences with many educational facilities (schools—elementary/high school—and universities such as Morehouse College, Spelman College and Georgia Tech).

In the seven “natural neighborhoods” we focused on highlighting habitat issues for wildlife/birds that will serve as the model for replication in the seven remaining neighborhoods. We believe we have brought a specific conservation voice to this project that is so important to the future of Atlanta.

Many thanks to Charlie Muis for working on our assessment report and to Laura Woods, who did an outstanding job of designing our educational pieces.
CLASSIFIEDS

Rates for 2.5" x 2.5" ads are $20/month or $45/quarter. Ads must be consistent with the conservation and birding mission of Atlanta Audubon Society. Ads may be accepted via e-mail, preferably in .pdf format. Call 678.973.2437 if you have questions.

Send payment to Wingbars Ads, Atlanta Audubon Society, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.

Send ads via e-mail to Catharine Kuchar at Catharine.Kuchar@atlantaaudubon.org.

Costa Rica Sanctuary
own, preserve, enjoy

Jim Kern (founder of the Florida Trail) and Rich Kern (wildlife film producer) are looking for additional conservation-minded partners to buy 466 acres of virgin cloud forest in the Savegre Valley adjacent to the new Los Quetzales National Park.


A house for use by the 22 partners will be built on a small, cleared portion.

Total Cost: $27.5K per partner

For more info contact: JimKern@thekernco.com

When You Come
To The Mountains -
Ask about the new Birder's Guide to Fannin County!

We feature Cole's seed, squirrel-proof feeders that truly are, houses, hummingbirds & a huge selection of educational toys and games for kids!

Blue Ridge Bird Seed Company
Downtown Blue Ridge & Inside Mercier Orchards
611 E. Main St. • Blue Ridge, GA 30513
(706) 258-BIRD (2473) • blueridgebirdseed.com

To Be Scheduled

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Monday, December 14, 2009
Piedmont NWR-Rum Creek WMA
Terry Johnson 478.994.1438 TJWoodDuck@aol.com

Tuesday, December 15, 2009
Lake Oconee
Steve Holzman 706.613.9493 ext 229 steve_holzman@yahoo.com

Friday, December 18, 2009
Harris Neck NWR
Compiler: Steve Calver 912.927.6726 James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil

Saturday, December 19, 2009
Athens
Mary Case 706.548.3848 mcase@uga.edu
Eugenia Thompson 706.227.9328 eroberoth@bellsouth.net

Augusta
Anne Waters 706.793.2788 birdannie66@earthlink.net

Cumberland Island
Shelby Watley: by invitation

Macon
Marie Amerson 478.746.5697 iamerson@cox.net

Peachtree City
Brock Hutchins 707.486.3715 brockhutchins@bellsouth.net

St. Catherines Island
Emil Urban: by invitation

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Sunday, December 20, 2009
Atlanta (Marietta)
Bob & Deb Zaremba 770.422.5830 bobzaremba@bellsouth.net

Chattahoochee N.F.
Songbird Mgmt. Area
Johnny Parks 706.937.7133 ringgold_birdchaser@juno.com

Carters Lake
Josh Spence 706.629.4325 spencejoshua@bellsouth.net

Tuesday, December 22, 2009
Okefenokee NWR
(date is tentative)
Sheila Willis 912.285.0419 swillis@iavxcx.com

Saturday, December 26, 2009
Bambridge/Lake Seminole
Oscar Dewberry 229.246.1890 boscar@mcshu.com

Dublin
Bob Sargent 478.397.7962 bob.sargent@robin.acf.mil

Armalola Falls
Georgann Schmalz 404.245.7273 georgannschmalz@windstream.net

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Monday, December 28, 2009
Atlanta (Marietta)
Bob & Deb Zaremba 770.422.5830 bobzaremba@bellsouth.net

Chattahoochee N.F.
Songbird Mgmt. Area
Johnny Parks 706.937.7133 ringgold_birdchaser@juno.com

Carters Lake
Josh Spence 706.629.4325 spencejoshua@bellsouth.net

Saturday, December 26, 2009
Bambridge/Lake Seminole
Oscar Dewberry 229.246.1890 boscar@mcshu.com

Dublin
Bob Sargent 478.397.7962 bob.sargent@robin.acf.mil

Armalola Falls
Georgann Schmalz 404.245.7273 georgannschmalz@windstream.net

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Monday, December 28, 2009 (continued)
Savannah
Contact: Dot Bambach 912.598.3764 dotbam@bellsouth.net
Compiler: Steve Calver 912.927.6726 James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil

Albany
Alan Ashley 229.439.8232 alanashley42@bellsouth.net

Blue Ridge
Robert Kinsey 706.492.5667 robtkzga@bellsouth.net

Callaway Gardens
Cory Croft 706.663.6745 ccfroth@callawaywater.org

Columbus
Sam Pate 706.327.2574 spate@brookstonehomeschool.org

Dalton
Phil Riner 706.226.0956 priner@brooks.uga.edu

Eufaula NWR, AL/GA
Sam Pate 706.327.2574 spate@brookstoneschool.org

Lake Blackshear
Terry Johnson 478.994.1438 TJWoodDuck@aol.com

Sapelo Island
William Dossen: by invitation

Affordable Housing and Feeders for Birds, Bats and Butterflies

Basic, functional and long-lasting cedar products

Workshop Creations, Inc.

Order on our website:
Website: www.workshopcreations.com
E-Mail: sales@workshopcreations.com
Tel 770-448-5363 Fax 770-448-5363
P.O. Box 921455, Norcross, GA 30010

Birding Adventures
Bird Songs of Georgia CD now available.

Email Georgann Schmalz at georgannschmalz@windstream.net, or visit www.birdingadventuresinc.com

Peachtree City Brock Hutchins 707.486.3715 brockhutchins@bellsouth.net

St. Catherines Island
Emil Urban: by invitation

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Saturday, December 26, 2009
Bambridge/Lake Seminole
Oscar Dewberry 229.246.1890 boscar@mcshu.com

Dublin
Bob Sargent 478.397.7962 bob.sargent@robin.acf.mil

Armalola Falls
Georgann Schmalz 404.245.7273 georgannschmalz@windstream.net

COUNT CIRCLE
COMPILER(S)
Monday, December 28, 2009
Savannah
Contact: Dot Bambach 912.598.3764 dotbam@bellsouth.net
Compiler: Steve Calver 912.927.6726 James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil

Albany
Alan Ashley 229.439.8232 alanashley42@bellsouth.net

Blue Ridge
Robert Kinsey 706.492.5667 robtkzga@bellsouth.net

Callaway Gardens
Cory Croft 706.663.6745 ccfroth@callawaywater.org

Columbus
Sam Pate 706.327.2574 spate@brookstonehomeschool.org

Dalton
Phil Riner 706.226.0956 priner@brooks.uga.edu

Eufaula NWR, AL/GA
Sam Pate 706.327.2574 spate@brookstoneschool.org

Lake Blackshear
Terry Johnson 478.994.1438 TJWoodDuck@aol.com

Sapelo Island
William Dossen: by invitation

www.birdjam.com
Wingbars is mailed only to Friends of Atlanta Audubon. All new National Audubon Society members receive an introductory copy and can continue to receive this newsletter by becoming a Friends of Atlanta Audubon member. Enrollment as a Friend of Atlanta Audubon does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. Thus, you will not receive Audubon magazine.

If you are not a Friend of AAS, please take this opportunity to fill out and return the form below.

Atlanta Audubon Society Membership Director, 4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342.

You can also join online: www.atlantaaudubon.org.

Join Atlanta Audubon Society

13th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival
January 27 - February 1, 2010 - Titusville, Florida

Featuring:

Plus 90 other biologists, ornithologists, scientists, photographers, historians, naturalists, over 200 bird species and an East Coast Pelagic trip!

www.nbdd.com/fly  800-460-2664  neta@natureandspace.com

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP
✓ 11 issues (July/August combined) of Wingbars Newsletter
✓ Friends discounts on classes, trips and special events
✓ Use of the AAS library
✓ A great tax deduction!

Renew Online!
You can renew your membership online by visiting our website at www.atlantaaudubon.org and linking to the membership page.

We are excited to be able to offer this service to you!

It is Atlanta Audubon Society’s policy not to share or sell our mailing list. Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us.

Friends of Atlanta Audubon Society

Make check payable to:
Atlanta Audubon Society
Membership Director
4055 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30342

Please charge my credit card:
Amex  Diners Club  Discover  MasterCard  VISA

Renewal  New Membership

Name _____________________________________
Address ___________________________________
City____________________State ___ Zip ________
E-mail ___________________________________
Phone_____________________________________

Basic Membership
 Individual ...........................................$25
 Family ..............................................$35
 Student ............................................$15

Contributing Membership...............................$50
Supporting Membership...............................$100
Donor Membership ..................................$250
Patron Membership .................................$500
Receive an official Atlanta Audubon T-shirt
Benefactor Membership .............................$1,000
Receive above plus autographed copy
Birds of Atlanta
Interested in volunteering with AAS

Please send me information on planned giving opportunities through Atlanta Audubon Society’s Legacy Club
Do not acknowledge my gift in Wingbars

January 27 - February 1, 2010 - Titusville, Florida

Featuring:

Plus 90 other biologists, ornithologists, scientists, photographers, historians, naturalists, over 200 bird species and an East Coast Pelagic trip!


www.nbdd.com/fly  800-460-2664  neta@natureandspace.com

Benificiary Membership............................$1,000
Receive above plus autographed copy
Birds of Atlanta

Interested in volunteering with AAS

It is Atlanta Audubon Society’s policy not to share or sell our mailing list. Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us.
Southern Birding Trails

By Kenn Kaufman

A complete list of the trails can be found in Audubon Magazine published by National Audubon Society.

Great Plains Trail of Oklahoma

Comprising 13 separate loops in Oklahoma’s western half of the state, the trail calls for weeks of exploration. Prepare to be surprised by the diversity of landscapes and their associated birds. Flocks of blue-gray Pinyon Jays swarm across the slopes of the far west’s rugged Black Mesa country; elusive Black-capped Vireos and Rufous-crowned Sparrows chatter from thickets in the southwestern Wichita Mountains; and Snowy Plovers and stately American Avocets parade across the glistening flats of the Great Salt Plains. During spring and fall, clouds of Franklin’s Gulls circle over the fields en route to or from the northern prairies. Winter flocks of bold Harris’s Sparrows, black-faced and pink-billed, swarm through the riverside thickets. Come anytime in the warmer months, and you’ll be greeted by Oklahoma’s state bird, the gorgeous Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, pale with salmon-pink tinges and streaming tail feathers. Summer is also the time for Mississippi Kites, graceful acrobatic raptors that are perhaps more numerous here than anywhere else, shelling and diving above cottonwood groves on the plains. For more information: www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifetrails.htm or call the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department at 800.652.6552.

Reminders:

It’s not too late to:

Join us for fun December activities including our Sunday, Dec. 6, Holiday Party & Silent Auction at Five Seasons Brewing’s inside location (deadline for registration is Nov. 30 by calling the AAS office).

Volunteer for an AAS Board of Directors position for 2010.

Renew your AAS membership online and check with your employer regarding Matching Contributions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for an education on lichen at our Jan. 21 Speaker Series. Malcolm Hodges and Sean Beeching will be our guest speakers. There’s also a follow-up workshop at Kennesaw Mountain on Jan 23. For more details, see the January issue of Wingbars and/or AAS website.

Atlanta Audubon Society

4055 Roswell Road • Atlanta, GA 30342

Atlanta Audubon Society is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.