

15th Annual
**Youth Birding
Competition**

August 29th - 30th, 2020
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center



Kaichen Guo- 2019 art winner



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

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Calendar of Events

Jan-August	Mentors meet with their teams (<i>optional</i>)
March 6	Deadline (postmarked) for T-shirt Artwork (<i>optional</i>)
July 31	Deadline for registration (<i>required</i>). Register online at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC
August 20	Deadline for photo and liability waivers (<i>required</i>)
August 29	Teams <i>can</i> arrive at Charlie Elliott after 3 PM
August 29	5 PM Competition officially starts
August 30	5 PM Youth Birding Competition ends at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

<p><i>Reserve and pay for Lodging:</i></p> <p>Amanda George Charlie Elliott Conference Center 563 Elliott Trail Mansfield GA 30055 (770) 784-3122 Amanda.George@dnr.ga.gov</p>	<p><i>Send registration and waivers to:</i></p> <p>Tim Keyes One Conservation Way Brunswick GA 31520 (912) 222-0424 Fax (912) 262-3143 Tim.Keyes@dnr.ga.gov</p>
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Event Checklist



Thank you for your interest in the 2020 Youth Birding Competition. To make sure that you are eligible to compete, please use the following checklist to keep track of what needs to be done and when.

	DEADLINE	ITEM
_____	July 31, 2020	Registration deadline (register online – after carefully reviewing event rules). www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Register early- Book lodging separately – Amanda George (contact – page 2)- Make out checks to: <i>Charlie Elliott Conference Center</i>
_____	August 20, 2020	Send/e-mail/fax in liability waiver (page 28) & photo release form (page 29) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Send to Tim Keyes (address page 2)
_____	August 29, 2020	5 PM – Start birding!
_____	August 30, 2020	5 PM – Arrive at Charlie Elliott with checklist. Also bring mentor and fundraising forms to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center by 5 PM (pages 17 & 20)

Youth Birding T-Shirt Art Contest

Hey, kids! Would you like your artwork to appear on the
2020 Youth Birding Competition T-Shirt?
How about winning an Amazon gift card for FREE ART SUPPLIES?

All you need to do is draw or paint your favorite Georgia Bird and mail it
(flat, not folded) with your name, age, grade and contact info by March 6, 2020, to:



**GA DNR-WRD
YBC Art Contest
Attn: Linda May
2600 US Hwy. 155 SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281**

2016 High School winner

- Must be a K-12 Georgia resident (don't need to be a YBC participant).
- Only one entry allowed per person.
- On single sheet of paper, at least 8X10" and not larger than 11X17".
- Deep rich colors work best for reproducing onto shirt.
- Must enter child's original artwork.
- Bird must be a native bird from Georgia that has not been on a prior T-shirt (*Anna's hummingbird, barn owl, blue grosbeak, blue jay, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Carolina chickadee, great blue heron, great horned owl, osprey, red-breasted nuthatch, yellow-breasted chat and yellow-rumped warbler have all been on previous shirts*)
- Include on separate sheet – name, age, grade, and contact info.
- Select entries will be displayed at Awards Banquet (August 30, 2020.)
- Art can be picked up at Awards Banquet or returned in mail ONLY if you include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.
- **First Prize** - \$100 gift card to Amazon & art will be printed on 2020 YBC T-shirts.
- **Best Entry in Age Division** - 3 other \$50 gift card prizes for best entries in each age division.
- **Best Entry by Birding Participant** – special award given to a birding team member's artwork, if a birder isn't already an age division winner.

For more information or if you have questions, please visit
www.georgiawildlife.com/YBCTshirtArtContest or contact Linda May:
(706) 319-0211 or Linda.May@dnr.ga.gov

2020 Youth Birding Competition!



What is it?

It is a 24-hour birding event during the peak of spring migration. Youth teams spend the day finding as many species as they can as they compete against teams their own age. The competition is capped off with a Live Wildlife Show and Awards Banquet.

When is it?

The competition runs from 5:00 PM on Saturday, August 29, to 5:00 PM Sunday, August 30, 2020. Feel free to use as much or as little of this 24-hour period as you like. As long as you cross the finish line and turn in your list by 5:00 PM, you will be in the running for prizes.

Why start at 5 PM Saturday?

This timeframe allows younger or more low-key teams to look for owls in the evening on Saturday rather than get up at midnight. It also allows older, crazier teams to bird the coast on Saturday and then work their way up to Charlie Elliott on Sunday.

Where is it?

Visit as much or as little of the state of Georgia as you want, as long as you make it to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center by 5:00 PM to turn in your list. Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center is in Mansfield, Ga., about one hour east of Atlanta. All events will be at the Conference Center Banquet Hall (directions & map pages 30-31).

Do you need to be an expert?

No! We can pair your team with an experienced birder (Mentor) to help you learn about the birds before the competition. See page 14 for mentor information. ***During the competition, only the youth participants can identify birds.***

Who does it benefit?

Your team can use the Youth Birding Competition to raise money for the Georgia Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund – the main fund for DNR’s Wildlife Conservation Section – or for the conservation organization of your choice.

Are there prizes?

Of course! For each age group (grades K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, or 9-12th) teams will compete for the most birds seen and the most money raised. Grand prizes include new binoculars for the team finding the most birds. There will be door prizes for almost all participants.

How much does it cost?

Participation is absolutely FREE, unless you plan to spend Saturday night (August 29, 2020) at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, in which case lodging is \$25/person, based on four people per room.

How can you register? Register online at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC

Birding Competition Rules

1. All teams must have an adult chaperone/driver.
2. **Participants must identify birds on their own** – Adults must not help locating or identifying birds.
 - a. *If team comes to a consensus on the identification of a bird, and the adult knows it is wrong, they can strike the species from the list. Teams cannot count that individual bird again, although if they encounter the species again and correctly identify it, it can go on the list. This helps avoid the identification becoming a “guessing game” until they hit upon the correct identification.*
 - b. *Team participants can use field guides in book form and in phone app form to assist them with identifying birds, but they cannot use automated bird identification tools such as Merlin’s Bird ID Wizard or devices that identify species based on photos or on recordings of songs and calls. The goals of this contest include the development of skills needed to solve a mystery: the identification of a bird species the participants might not have seen before. Those skills involve learning how to read range maps, how to recognize general habitat types, how to categorize a bird as a member of a species group such as sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, or sandpipers, and how to recognize and use field marks to single out a specific species from one of the groups. Using automated identification devices defeats the learning objective.*
3. Teams must have at least 2 participants and not more than 5.
4. Teams must compete within the age division of their oldest participant.
5. Team members must stay within voice contact of each other at all times.
6. All birds counted must be identified by at least 2 team members.
7. Count only full species (as listed on official GOS State Checklist).
8. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. A bird only identified to a group (i.e. scoup, either greater or lesser) may be counted as a species if no other bird from that group appears on the list.
9. Birds counted must be alive, wild, unrestrained and within the state of Georgia.
10. Participants must follow the American Birding Association (ABA) code of Birding Ethics (pages 7-8).
 - a. *Obey all access rules to public lands, and acquire permission to access private land.*
11. Electronic or recorded birdcalls may be used (within ABA code of birding ethics) - i.e. not used with rare or endangered species, or in areas where their use is prohibited (such as on some national wildlife refuges).
12. Flushing birds from nests or cavities is not allowed.
13. Teams can travel as much of the state as they want.
14. Birds can only be counted during the 24-hour count starting at 5:00 PM Saturday, August 29, and ending at 5:00 PM Sunday, August 30.
15. The team must submit the checklist no later than 5:00 PM Sunday, August 30.
16. Totals are considered final once lists are submitted.
17. The decision of the judges in all rulings is final.



ABA CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

**PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE
AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS**

(code written by American Birding Association - <http://americanbirding.org>)



Youth Birding Competition Strategies

The main point of this competition is to have fun outside while learning about the wonderful birds of Georgia. You can count birds in your yard or traverse the state. A team that successfully identifies 20 species in their yard and has a great time is just as important as a team that drives hundreds of miles and finds 160 species or more. Because different teams will want to take different approaches, I have provided some general advice and several possible routes. None of this information should be seen as the right way to do it, as most of the fun of birding is exploring on your own and finding good places and birds.

General Strategy:

1) Birds are creatures of habitat:

The more habitats you visit, the more bird species you will find. Many species are only found in specific habitats, and if you don't visit these sites, you won't find the birds. Therefore, as you plan where to go, try to include as many different types of habitats as possible such as ponds, lakes, streams, pine forests, hardwood forests, fields, wetlands, etc. By understanding the basic habitat preferences of our birds, you will know what to expect in each habitat you visit. Edges between habitat types can be particularly good places to look for birds.

2) Birds are also creatures of habit:

It is helpful to know what to expect in spring in Georgia. Many wintering species, including many sparrows and ducks, will have already left the state. Most of the breeding birds will be back, and of course there will be many birds migrating through Georgia that breed further north. A good reference is the bar chart section of Giff Beaton's [Birding Georgia](#) that shows when each species can be found in Georgia (see below).

3) The more you know, the more you will find:

It goes without saying that the more you know about the birds, the more you will find. You will learn to make identifications with just a quick look, or even by the song alone. This type of skill takes time to develop however, so don't get frustrated. Instead, take advantage of your team mentor and training days designed to help you develop these skills. Just as important, get outside on your own with binoculars and a field guide,

and practice. Don't stop once you have identified a bird. Studying behavior can be a great way to learn more about a bird and will help you identify it more quickly the next time you see it.

4) Take advantage of easily available birding resources:

If you plan to travel throughout the state, Giff Beaton's book [Birding Georgia](#) is invaluable. It shows more than 100 top birding sites in the state with birding strategies and species to expect. Most of the sites mentioned in this discussion are in this book, with detailed maps and directions. There are many local Audubon chapters in Georgia with expert birders and monthly meetings where you can meet and learn from other birders. See the Birding Resources section of this booklet (*page 20*).

Specific Strategies:

Since different teams may approach this event with a wide range of intensity, below are three possible routes based on a mellow, intermediate or hard-core approach.

Mellow:

If you want a good night's sleep and a relaxing day, consider staying at the Wildlife Resources Division's [Charlie Elliott Conference Center](#) on Friday afternoon and enjoy birding the 6,400-acre [Clybel Wildlife Management Area](#) (WMA). You can look for owls in the evening and explore the rest of the area on Saturday. A day birding within the borders of [Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center](#) can be exciting. (In one day in late April, 100 species were seen on the property alone, although 75 species in spring is more typical). Pick up an area map at the Visitors' Center kiosk on Elliott Trail, off the main entrance road (Marben Farms Road) from Ga. Hwy. 11.

One of the highlights at Charlie Elliott is that you can find all of Georgia's nesting owls on the property, usually without too much difficulty (if you get up early enough). Typically, the mixed pinewoods along the road by the Visitors' Center will house an Eastern Screech Owl, while the creek bottom behind the Visitors' Center will often yield up a Barred Owl. Great-horned Owls take a bit more work, but they are often heard at the south end of the property near the farm complex. Barn owls used to nest at the south end in the tile silo, but haven't nested there in a few years. They may still be seen with luck around the barn structures and hunting over open fields. You will want a recording of the other owl calls to get them to call back to you, because by late April, our owls are calling less than they do in the winter. (*Keep in mind this site around the barns is closed to the public except for this event – so only visit the barns during the competition – and do not enter the barn.*) While looking (or listening) for owls, keep your ears open for other nocturnal species. You can often hear Whip-poor-will, Chuck-wills-widow and even diurnal species such as Yellow-breasted Chat and Grasshopper Sparrow.

When the sun rises, you want to be in places where the sun is hitting the treetops, warming up the insects and getting the birds excited. The woods around the Visitors' and Conference Center can be good, but the most productive place tends to be the woods and trails around the Brooke Ager Discovery Room and Campsites. These

areas often hold most of your migrants. Find flocks of Chickadees and Tufted Titmice, because warblers and vireos often travel with them. Look for Orchard Orioles fighting over territories and the brilliant Baltimore Orioles showing off in the tops of the Tulip Poplars. The little cove of trees around the Gopher Tortoise enclosure near the Brooke Ager Discovery Room tends to be good for migrants such as Cape May Warbler, American Redstart, and many others. As the day warms up, many migrants will move into creek bottoms, which remain cooler later in the day. There you can also find the loud-but-cryptic Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatcher.

At some point you will want to visit open fields for grassland birds. A reliable spot is the area between Hwy. 11 and the information kiosk on Marben Farms Road. A highpoint of land here is good for scoping birds of prey, as well as finding Meadowlark, Grasshopper, Savannah and Field Sparrow, as well as Killdeer and some of the scrub-loving birds like Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and Common Yellowthroat. If there are any lingering Northern Harriers or American Kestrels, this is the place to find them. Then you will certainly want to visit many of the ponds to find herons and any lingering or breeding ducks. Always keep your ears open for the dry rattle of a passing Belted Kingfisher. Look over the water for swallows, which often feed on insects over the lakes.

While driving through the area, look for bushes approximately head height in size and you may find Prairie Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat. Also keep your eyes on the wires and you won't miss Eastern Bluebird and Northern Mockingbird. Look carefully at the Mockingbird because there are usually a few Loggerhead Shrikes hanging around as well, especially around open fields.

Intermediate:

If you are interested in doing some serious exploring, but driving to the coast sounds a bit crazy, there are many great birding locations within a relatively easy drive of [Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center](#). A great place to start is [Pine Log Wildlife Management Area](#) north of Atlanta, where you can get Whip-poor-will and Chuck-wills-widows as well as several owls if you start early enough (several hours before dawn). As dawn breaks, you will be overwhelmed with the dawn chorus, so any preparation on bird songs will pay big dividends. Listen for Black-throated Green Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Ovenbird, Blue-winged warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler and others. If lucky, you may even find a Red-crossbill, a rare species in Georgia.

From here consider making your way to [Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park](#) (a good alternate start point if you want to sleep in a bit). On weekends, you cannot drive to the top, so prepare for a rapid walk, again keeping eyes and ears peeled for the sometimes-daunting flocks of warblers, vireos, tanagers and thrushes moving through the treetops. Virtually anything is possible here, as up to 30 warbler species have been seen in a day in late April.

A good spot to visit south of Atlanta is the [Melvin Newman Wetlands Center of the Clayton County Water Authority](#) and E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County. The boardwalk at the nature center can be excellent for migrants and offers the possibility of all but one of Georgia's woodpeckers (Red-cockaded Woodpecker). The treatment ponds at E. L. Huie, though often a bit smelly, are a great spot for herons, a

few lingering ducks, Purple Martins and usually an assortment of shorebirds if the water levels are low. Keep your eyes on the treetops and distant power poles because birds of prey are often seen around the treatment ponds.

If you are feeling ambitious (and have time) you should head straight for Bondsview Road at [Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge \(NWR\)](#) just east of Macon. This single dirt road will often yield the elusive Swainson's Warbler, as well as the brilliant Prothonotary Warbler, American Redstarts, the drab Acadian Flycatcher, and with luck a Mississippi Kite that has nested in the area.

By now you probably will need to return to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, about an hour north of Macon. If you have time, you may be able to stop at [Piedmont NWR](#) (see below) or head straight to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center before turning in your list at 5:00 PM.

Hard Core:

In order to see the most birds possible in one day (the record is just under 200 species), you need to bird the coast of Georgia. Given the finish line at 5:00 PM Saturday, the best way to do this would be to position your team on the coast on Friday and find as many coastal specialties between 5:00 PM and dark. You will need to select at least one beach site (either Jekyll Island south beach or Gould's Inlet on St. Simons Island) and one inland/freshwater wetland site ([Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area](#) or [Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge](#)) to maximize your species count.

On the beach sites, look for gulls, terns, migratory shorebirds and Reddish Egret. Anywhere you have scrubby vegetation, look for the brilliant Painted Bunting. Freshwater wetland sites should turn up almost every heron species in Georgia, as well as possible Wood Storks, rails and lingering ducks. Keep your eyes on the sky for a Bald Eagle, Mississippi or Swallow-tailed Kite.

If you made good time on the coast, you may want to visit the [Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Museum & Nature Center](#), which offers bottomland forest species such as Swainson's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher and others.

If you are driving on I-16, a productive stop is a loop around East Georgia Turf Farm near Statesboro (Exit 116), which is often a key site for picking up grassland shorebirds, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrike and maybe even an American Kestrel. If you skipped the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal a quick trip down Bondsview Road to [Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge](#) (just east of Macon) may pick up your bottomland hardwood forest species.

Doing this route you will be pressed for time, but if you have time to stop at [Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge](#), you may even be able to find an endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (check with refuge staff about the best places to find them), along with other open pine species like Bachman's Sparrow, Bobwhite Quail, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. At this point you will probably need to head straight to [Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center](#). If you arrive with time to spare, see above for specific places to visit before turning in your list.



What to Bring on the Big Day

- Bird book
- Binoculars (Some may be available for loan – ask early)
- Spotting scope (optional)
- Map of Georgia
- Raincoat (check local forecasts)
- Hat
- Sun block
- Mosquito repellent
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Bird checklist
- Pen
- Any medication required
- Smartphone, iPod, tape player or CD player to play owl calls (optional)
- Camera/phone – we are always looking for good pictures of kids birding
- Sense of humor

By **5:00 PM August 29**, you should have turned in at the Charlie Elliott Banquet Hall:

- Checklist of birds seen
- Fundraising amount (if your team raised money)
- Mentor Score Sheet (if Mentor is competing for prize)



Being a Youth Birding Competition Mentor

What is the Youth Birding Competition (YBC)?

The YBC is a 24-hour competitive bird count where students compete against other teams to find as many birds as they can in a day in Georgia. The 2020 event is August 29-30th, starting at 5:00 PM and ending at 5:00 PM. Teams can start wherever they like and bird wherever they want, but they must arrive at the finish line (Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center) and turn in their lists by 5:00 PM on August 30. While the lists are being tallied, there will be a live wildlife program followed by a banquet and awards ceremony.

What is a Birding Mentor?

A birding mentor could be a teacher, a parent or an interested birder who knows the birds well enough to help a team of students learn to identify birds. When mentors meet with their teams, a teacher or parent must be present.

What does a Mentor have to do?

Mentors must commit to meeting with their teams at least 3 times before the event. Mentors will also have access to the following (contact Tim Keyes as early as possible):

- Checklists and other information about the birding competition
- Strategy and fundraising tips, and birder resource guides
- Bird slides (on CD) of 65 common species
- PowerPoint program on bird identification
- Other select bird education materials

It is not necessary for the mentors to join the team on the day of the event, though they are welcome to. On the day of the competition, the students cannot get any help finding or identifying birds from their chaperone/mentor.

What do Mentors get?

Mentors will receive a free Youth Birding Competition T-shirt (bound to become a collector's item) and free admission to the awards banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center on August 30. The mentor who commits the most time and energy to their team will win a fantastic prize!

If these material things don't interest you, rest in the satisfaction that you are helping pass on your love of birds to the next generation.



Youth Birding Competition Mentor Score Sheet

If you are a team mentor and would like to enter the competition for a top-quality prize, please fill out the following chart and return it to Tim Keyes **on or before 5:00 PM on August 30, 2020**. Final decisions will also take into account the number of birds seen and amount of funds raised by each team.

Mentor Name _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Mentor Address _____

 YBC Team Name(s) _____

Please use the chart below to record all contact you have with your team or teams that you are mentoring.

DATE	TEAM NAME	INSIDE (✓)	OUTSIDE (✓)	HRS. PREP	HRS. WITH TEAM
TOTAL					

If you want to send, fax or email it before the event, send to:
 Tim Keyes, GA – DNR, Wildlife Section, One Conservation Way, Brunswick GA 31520, fax (912) 262-3143
 or tim.keyes@dnr.ga.gov by August 14.



Youth Birding Competition Fundraising Tips

The thought of asking people for money may make you feel sick, weak in the knees and dizzy. Don't worry! Here are some tips to make the job a bit easier.

- ◆ Keep in mind that most people are happy to donate to a good cause, especially when it is connected with someone they know (you).
- ◆ People will be particularly interested in the event itself, so tell them about your plans to see as many birds as you can, where you plan to go, etc.
- ◆ The first pledge is the easiest! Donate a pledge yourself for your team.
- ◆ The most effective way to raise pledges is to ask people face-to-face. Ask parents, friends, family, teachers, neighbors, doctors, etc.
- ◆ Write a letter describing the Youth Birding Competition and the conservation organization you plan to support, and send it to friends and family asking them to pledge their support.
- ◆ Make sure you thank your sponsors. Write them a letter after the competition and tell them how it went, as well as a reminder of the amount of money they pledged, and the number of birds you saw. The sooner you contact your sponsors after the event, the better chance you will collect the pledges.
- ◆ Make sure that your sponsors send you checks made out to the conservation organization that you chose to support.
- ◆ When your pledges are all in, send them to the organization you chose to support.
- ◆ Contact Tim Keyes (tim.keyes@dnr.ga.gov) to let him know how much you collected.

Youth Birding Competition Fundraising



Atkins Anselm

Fundraising is a voluntary component of the Youth Birding Competition (YBC), but it is a great way to support valuable conservation efforts in Georgia, and is also another way to win prizes for your team.

How Does YBC Fundraising Work?

1. Register your team with the Youth Birding Competition (register online at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC).
2. Select the conservation organization you would like to support with your fundraising efforts.
 - ♦ The Georgia Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund (Supports work done by the Wildlife Conservation Section of Georgia DNR)
 - ♦ Other _____
3. Collect sponsors who will support your team with a fixed amount, or if they are courageous, with a pledge per bird species you identify during the competition (see Fundraising Tips sheet for ideas on raising money).
4. Spend August 29-30 finding as many birds as you can in Georgia.
5. When you turn in your total bird checklist at 5:00 PM August 30 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, also turn in the amount of money pledged to your team.

$$\text{(Amount pledged per bird) X (Total birds seen) + (Fixed donations) = Total money pledged}$$

6. After the competition, contact your sponsors and collect all of their pledges. Have them send you checks made out to the conservation organization your team chose to support.
7. Once all your checks are in, send them to the conservation organization.
8. Contact Tim Keyes to let him know how much you collected.



Ooooooh, you said prizes?

Prize categories for each age class:

- Most money collected for conservation
- Most species seen

YBC 2020 Sponsor Sign-up Sheet

Team Name: _____ Team Captain: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Conservation Organization you are supporting: _____

SPONSOR NAME	CONTACT INFO	PLEDGE PER SPECIES	FIXED PLEDGE	TOTAL DUE	TOTAL COLLECTED
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
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36.					
37.					
38.					
39.					
40.					
Total		\$	\$	\$	\$

Birding Resources

LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETIES

Local Audubon chapters and other bird clubs often lead bird walks open to the public of all ages. Some also have monthly meetings with interesting speakers. Several have regular newsletters. Atlanta Audubon Society teaches a Master Birder Class for those interested in delving more deeply into the study of birds.

- Georgia Chapters:
 - Albany Audubon Society - www.facebook.com/albanyaudubonsociety
 - Atlanta Audubon Society - www.atlantaaudubon.org
 - Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society – www.augustaaikenaudubon.org
 - Coastal Georgia Audubon Society (Brunswick) www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org
 - Columbus Audubon Society - www.columbus-georgia-audubon.org/
 - Ocmulgee Audubon Society (Macon) - www.ocmulgeeaudubonsociety.blogspot.com
- Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (Athens) - www.oconeeriversaudubon.org
- Ogeechee Audubon Society (Savannah) - www.ogeecheeaudubon.org
- Southern Wings Bird Club (Lawrenceville) - www.southernwingsbc.com

For information on other birding clubs and birding in Georgia resources, visit the Georgia Ornithological Society website - www.gos.org

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

These projects generally require some basic bird identification ability, internet access, and a place to watch birds. These are all great projects to help collect data and learn the birds in your area.

- Project FeederWatch - www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw
 - Bird Sleuth - <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth>
 - Citizen Science in the Schoolyard - www.birds.cornell.edu/schoolyard
 - Birds in Forested Landscapes - www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/projects/clo/bfl/
 - eBird - www.ebird.org
 - The Birdhouse Network - www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse
 - Great Backyard Bird Count - www.birdsource.org/gbbc
 - Celebrate Urban Birds - <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/>
- *Visit <http://birds.cornell.edu> or www.birdsource.com for more details.

Breeding Bird Survey - www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs

Requires good bird identification skills by sight and sound. Contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division's Wildlife Conservation Section office in Forsyth for more information: (478) 994-1438.

Christmas Bird Count - <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

The longest running citizen science project in the U.S. Dates can be found at www.gos.org (website for Georgia Ornithological Society)

BIRD CURRICULA

- **Project Flying WILD/Project WILD** - www.projectwild.org

Bird curriculum designed to help middle school students implement school bird festivals and bird conservation projects. Includes many hands-on activities and events.

- **Project WILD Activities** - www.projectwild.org

Use the Project WILD activities listed below (found in the Project WILD K-12 Activity Guide) for fun and educational bird programs. Each activity contains all the information needed to conduct the activity including objectives, method, background information, a list of materials needed, procedures, evaluation suggestions, recommended grade levels, subject areas, duration, group size, setting, and key terms.

- Changing the Land
- Rare Bird Eggs for Sale
- Shrinking Habitat
- Migration Barriers (deer not birds)
- No Water Off a Duck's Back
- Hazardous Links, Possible Solutions
- Birds of Prey
- Bird Song Survey

Audubon Adventures - www.atlantaudubon.org "Education Programs" link

This grades 4-6 classroom kit includes materials for 32 students: student newspaper, lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, hands on activities and guide to a healthy schoolyard.

Create Bird Habitat at Home or School

Several organizations help schools develop wildlife habitat in schoolyards for education and conservation. These organizations offer guidelines to create water, food, shelter and space for wildlife. For funding ideas, visit Citizen Science in the Schoolyard -

www.birds.cornell.edu/schoolyard

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Planning Guide -

The Georgia Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Planning Guide provides information and resources to transform barren schoolyards into vital habitat for wildlife, and vibrant places of learning for students. By creating and studying wildlife habitats on their school grounds, students get a first-hand glimpse at the natural world, and the chance to make a difference for conservation in Georgia.

BIRD CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

American Bird Conservancy - www.abcbirds.org

Provides information on a wide range of conservation topics, such as the Cats Indoors Campaign. Cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year in the U.S. alone, as well as other wildlife species.

National Audubon Society - www.audubon.org

Partners in Flight - www.partnersinflight.org

International cooperative group of federal, state, and private organizations working to protect migratory landbirds.

Birding Software - www.thayerbirding.com

Pictures and calls for all North American species, natural history information on all species and games to help learn birds.

Hummingbirds - <http://www.hummingbirds.net>

Provides information on attracting, watching, feeding and studying North American hummingbirds, migration maps, and tracking northward and southward movements.

International Migratory Bird Day - www.birdday.org

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America. The event, which officially takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other education programs.

Journey North: A Global Study of Wildlife Migration - www.learner.org/jnorth

Students in grades 4-12 witness the wonders of migration as they travel “live” with some of the world's most accomplished adventurers (The Annenberg/CPB Math and Science Project)

Birding Georgia - A Falcon Guide (Giff Beaton, 2000)

More than 100 places in Georgia to look for birds.

Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds

Available from the Georgia Ornithological Society, www.gos.org

Handbook of Bird Biology, 3rd Edition – (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016) Excellent ornithology text.

The 2019 Competition

NEW RECORD, INSIGHTS MARK 14TH DNR BIRDING COMPETITION

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. (April 30, 2019) – The Georgia Youth Birding Competition connected scores of children and teens with birds last weekend, with one team setting a record count and all 27 teams gaining a greater appreciation of wildlife.

About 80 youth from kindergarteners to high school seniors took part in the 14th annual Department of Natural Resources birdathon, held from 5 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday. Teams used as much of the 24-hour period as members wanted to count native bird species across the state.

For the second straight year, the Wood Thrushes finished as the overall winner. Yet this year, the crew – with members hailing from Decatur to Lamar County – totaled 171 species, a new high for the event.

Competition coordinator Tim Keyes also pointed out that the Wood Thrushes raised \$1,885 to help restore red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and nest sites lost in south Georgia to Hurricane Michael. Fundraising for conservation is a voluntary part of the event. Almost \$4,000 was raised this year.

“The interest we have helped foster through the Youth Birding Competition has grown in these kids into a real concern for the conservation needs of birds, and the willingness to do something about it,” Keyes said. “This is exactly what I hope the (event) accomplishes! I could not be more proud of these kids.”

Keyes, a wildlife biologist with DNR’s Wildlife Conservation Section, noted that the competition had six new teams – involving youth new to birding is another goal – and during the banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, each team was asked to describe one event highlight. Which, in itself, was a highlight.

“It was great hearing kids talk about their favorite birds and the bird behaviors they observed.”

Several teams saw raptors hunting chipmunks or squirrels, sights that, as Keyes explained, help reveal that birds are “are so much more than a check on a list, and the location and identification of birds is just the entry point into this endlessly fascinating world.”

The event also featured a T-shirt art contest that drew a record 272 entries. Birders turning in their checklists Saturday were handed shirts featuring a barn owl painted by Kaichen Guo, an 11th-grader at Lambert High School in Suwanee. As grand-prize winner, Guo received a \$100 Michaels gift card.

The competition ended with a wildlife program and awards banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, near Mansfield. T-shirt art contest winners were chosen beforehand and contest artwork

was displayed at the banquet. Winning entries are posted in the 2019 album at <https://bit.ly/2FTrF1V>.

The birding and art contests are sponsored by DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section, The Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN)—friends group of the agency—and others, including the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies.

The Wildlife Conservation Section conserves Georgia wildlife not legally fished for or hunted, as well as rare plants and natural habitats. The agency depends primarily on fundraisers, grants and contributions. Learn more at georgiawildlife.com/licenseplates and georgiawildlife.com/donations.

BIRDING COMPETITION RESULTS

High School Division

- Wood Thrushes (171 species), and overall competition winner
- The Pi-ed-billed Grebes (138 species)
- Froggo and the Crew (101 species)

Middle School Division

- Amazing Anhingas (120 species)
- Mylo (105 species)
- Counting Crows (74 species)

Elementary School Division

- Bufford Bluebirds (71 species)
- Feagles (65 species)
- Thompson (56 species)

Primary School Division

- The Cardinals (64 species)
- (tie) Nutty Nuthatches and Team Raptor (38 species)
- Helida's Herons (36 species)

Fundraising (division leaders)

- Wood Thrushes (High School Division) and overall top fundraiser, raising \$1,885
- Bold Eagles, \$355: Middle
- The Cardinals, \$304: Primary
- Bufford Bluebirds, \$70: Elementary

Fundraising for conservation is voluntary.

Top Rookie teams (first-year teams)

- Primary: Team Raptor (38 species)
- Elementary: Thompson (56 species)

Mentor Award

- Tom Painting, mentoring Pi-ed-billed Grebes (High School Division)

CEWC Photo, Video, and Audio

Consent and Release Form

The Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and Department of Natural Resources request the right to use all photos, videos, and/or audio clips taken of program participants, programs, and activities. These may be used for promotional brochures, promotions or showcase of programs on our web sites, showcase of activities in local newspapers, and other not-for-profit purposes.

By signing this form, I consent to allow Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and the Department of Natural Resources to use photos, videos and/or audio clips they have of me participating in Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center's programs.

By signing this form, I confirm that I understand and agree to the above request and conditions. I agree to give up my rights with regards to photos, videos, and/or audio clips of me. I sign this form freely and without inducement.

My Contact Information:

Name (print):

County:

Address:

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Signatures:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(if under 18)

Official Youth Birding Competition Checklist

Ducks, Geese and Swans	Status	<i>orgia Dep or fax to (</i>		
_____ Snow Goose			_____ Wood Stork	C/CP
_____ Canada Goose			Vultures	
_____ Wood Duck			_____ Black Vulture	
_____ American Wigeon			_____ Turkey Vulture	
_____ American Black Duck			Raptors	
_____ Mallard			_____ Osprey	
_____ Mottled Duck	C		_____ Swallow-tailed Kite	C/CP
_____ Blue-winged Teal			_____ Mississippi Kite	C/CP
_____ Northern Shoveler			_____ Bald Eagle	
_____ Ring-necked Duck			_____ Northern Harrier	
_____ Greater Scaup			_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	
_____ Lesser Scaup			_____ Coopers Hawk	
_____ Surf Scoter	C		_____ Red-shouldered Hawk	
_____ Black Scoter	C		_____ Broad-winged Hawk	
_____ White-winged Scoter	C		_____ Red-tailed Hawk	
_____ Bufflehead			_____ American Kestrel	
_____ Hooded Merganser			_____ Merlin	
_____ Red-breasted Merganser			_____ Peregrine Falcon	
_____ Ruddy Duck			Rails, Gallinules, and Coot	
Grouse and Turkeys			_____ Clapper Rail	C
_____ Ruffed Grouse	Mts		_____ King Rail	
_____ Wild Turkey			_____ Virginia Rail	
_____ Northern Bobwhite			_____ Sora	
Loons and Grebes			_____ Purple Gallinule	C/CP
_____ Common Loon			_____ Common Moorhen	
_____ Pied-billed Grebe			_____ American Coot	
_____ Horned Grebe			Cranes	
Gannets and Pelicans			_____ Sandhill Crane	C/CP
_____ Northern Gannet	C		Shorebirds	
_____ Brown Pelican	C		_____ Black-bellied Plover	C
_____ American White Pelican	C		_____ American Golden Plover	Rare
Cormorants and Anhinga			_____ Wilsons Plover	C
_____ Double-crested Cormorant			_____ Semipalmated plover	C
_____ Anhinga			_____ Piping Plover	C
Bitterns and Herons			_____ Killdeer	
_____ American Bittern	Rare		_____ American Oystercatcher	C
_____ Least Bittern	Rare		_____ Black-necked Stilt	C
_____ Great Blue Heron			_____ American Avocet	C
_____ Great Egret			_____ Greater Yellowlegs	
_____ Snowy Egret			_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	
_____ Little Blue Heron			_____ Solitary Sandpiper	
_____ Tricolored Heron	C/CP		_____ Willet	C
_____ Reddish Egret	C		_____ Spotted Sandpiper	
_____ Cattle Egret			_____ Upland Sandpiper	
_____ Green Heron			_____ Whimbrel	C
_____ Black-crowned Night Heron			_____ Marbled Godwit	C
_____ Yellow-crowned Night Heron			_____ Ruddy Turnstone	C
Ibis, Spoonbill and Stork			_____ Red Knot	C
_____ White Ibis	C/CP		_____ Sanderling	C
_____ Glossy Ibis	C		_____ Semipalmated sandpiper	
_____ Roseate Spoonbill	C		_____ Western Sandpiper	C
		27	_____ Least Sandpiper	

_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	Rare	_____ Hairy Woodpecker	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper		_____ Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Rare
_____ Purple Sandpiper	C	_____ Northern Flicker	
_____ Dunlin	C	_____ Pileated Woodpecker	
_____ Stilt Sandpiper		_____ Ivory-billed Woodpecker	You Win!
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher		Flycatchers	
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	C	_____ Eastern Wood-pewee	
_____ Wilson's Snipe		_____ Acadian Flycatcher	
_____ American Woodcock		_____ Least Flycatcher	
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	C	_____ Eastern Phoebe	
Gulls and Terns		_____ Great-crested Flycatcher	
_____ Laughing Gull	C	_____ Eastern Kingbird	
_____ Bonapart's Gull		_____ Gray Kingbird	C
_____ Ring-billed Gull		_____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Rare
_____ Herring Gull	C	Shrike and Vireos	
_____ Lesser Black-backed Gull	C	_____ Loggerhead Shrike	
_____ Great Black-backed Gull	C	_____ White-eyed Vireo	
_____ Gull-billed Tern	C	_____ Yellow-throated Vireo	
_____ Caspian Tern	C	_____ Blue-headed Vireo	
_____ Royal Tern	C	_____ Warbling Vireo	Rare
_____ Sandwich Tern	C	_____ Philadelphia Vireo	Rare
_____ Common Tern	C	_____ Red-eyed Vireo	
_____ Forster's Tern	C	Crows and Jays	
_____ Least Tern	C	_____ Blue Jay	
_____ Black Skimmer	C	_____ American Crow	
Pigeons and Doves		_____ Fish Crow	
_____ Rock Pigeon		_____ Common Raven	Mts
_____ Eurasian Collared-dove		Larks	
_____ Mourning Dove		_____ Horned Lark	
_____ Common Ground-dove	C/CP	Swallows	
Cuckoos		_____ Purple Martin	
_____ Black-billed Cuckoo	Rare	_____ Tree Swallow	
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		_____ N. Rough-winged Swallow	
Owls		_____ Bank Swallow	
_____ Barn Owl		_____ Cliff Swallow	
_____ Great-horned Owl		_____ Barn Swallow	
_____ Eastern Screech-Owl		Chickadees and Titmice	
_____ Barred Owl		_____ Carolina Chickadee	
Goatsuckers		_____ Tufted Titmouse	
_____ Common Nighthawk		Nuthatches	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow		_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rare
_____ Whip-poor-will		_____ White-breasted Nuthatch	
Swifts and Hummingbirds		_____ Brown-headed Nuthatch	
_____ Chimney Swift		Creepers	
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird		_____ Brown Creeper	Mts
Kingfisher		Wrens	
_____ Belted Kingfisher		_____ Carolina Wren	
Woodpeckers		_____ House Wren	
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker		_____ Winter Wren	
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker		_____ Sedge Wren	
_____ Downy Woodpecker		_____ Marsh Wren	

Kinglets and Gnatcatchers

- _____ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- _____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- _____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Thrushes

- _____ Eastern Bluebird
- _____ Veery
- _____ Gray-cheeked Thrush
- _____ Swainson's Thrush
- _____ Hermit Thrush
- _____ Wood Thrush
- _____ American Robin

Mimics

- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Northern Mockingbird
- _____ Brown Thrasher

Starling, Pipit and Waxwings

- _____ European Starling
- _____ American Pipit
- _____ Cedar Waxwing

Wood-warblers

- _____ Blue-winged Warbler
- _____ Golden-winged Warbler
- _____ Tennessee Warbler
- _____ Orange-crowned Warbler
- _____ Nashville Warbler
- _____ Northern Parula
- _____ Yellow Warbler
- _____ Chestnut-sided Warbler
- _____ Magnolia Warbler
- _____ Cape May Warbler
- _____ Black-throated Blue Warbler
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Black-throated Green Warbler
- _____ Blackburnian Warbler
- _____ Yellow-throated Warbler
- _____ Pine Warbler
- _____ Prairie Warbler
- _____ Palm Warbler
- _____ Bay-breasted Warbler
- _____ Blackpoll Warbler
- _____ Cerulean Warbler
- _____ Black and White Warbler
- _____ American Redstart
- _____ Prothonotary Warbler
- _____ Worm-eating Warbler
- _____ Swainson's Warbler
- _____ Ovenbird
- _____ Northern Waterthrush
- _____ Louisiana Waterthrush

- _____ Kentucky Warbler
- _____ Common Yellowthroat
- _____ Hooded Warbler
- _____ Wilson's Warbler Rare
- _____ Canada Warbler
- _____ Yellow-breasted Chat

Tanagers

- _____ Summer Tanager
- _____ Scarlet Tanager

Sparrows

- _____ Eastern Towhee
- _____ Bachman's Sparrow
- _____ Chipping Sparrow
- _____ Field Sparrow
- _____ Savannah Sparrow
- _____ Grasshopper Sparrow
- _____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow C
- _____ Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow C
- _____ Seaside Sparrow C
- _____ Song Sparrow
- _____ Swamp Sparrow
- _____ White-throated Sparrow
- _____ White-crowned Sparrow
- _____ Dark-eyed Junco

Cardinals and allies

- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- _____ Blue Grosbeak
- _____ Indigo Bunting
- _____ Painted Bunting C/CP
- _____ Dickcissel

Blackbirds and Orioles

- _____ Bobolink
- _____ Red-winged Blackbird
- _____ Eastern Meadowlark
- _____ Common Grackle
- _____ Boat-tailed Grackle C
- _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
- _____ Orchard Oriole
- _____ Baltimore Oriole

Finches

- _____ House Finch
- _____ Purple Finch
- _____ Pine Siskin
- _____ American Goldfinch

Old World Sparrows

- _____ House Sparrow

Others:

PLEASE CIRCLE WHERE YOU BIRDED:
Mountains, Piedmont, Coast

Directions to Charlie Elliott Conference Center

563 ELLIOTT TRAIL
MANSFIELD, GA 30055
www.charlieelliott.org

From Atlanta, take I-20 East to Exit 98 (Ga. Hwy. 11, Monroe-Monticello). Turn right (follow the brown governmental “Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center” signs) and travel south on Hwy. 11, crossing Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 142. Go through Mansfield, cross RR track and continue south for 3 miles.

You will see a large stone-based sign marking the entrance to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center; turn left onto Marben Farm Road.

About 1 mile down Marben Farm Road you will see a sign pointing right for Visitors’ Center; turn right here. This is Elliott Trail, and you follow it until it ends at the Conference Center. There are four separate buildings. The banquet hall is the farthest building.

From Monticello, follow Hwy. 11 north approximately 17 miles and look for signs on your right. Go to the second entrance sign (a large stone-based sign), and turn right onto Marben Farm Road to the Center.

Access to Hwy. 11 can be obtained from highways 129, 42, 83 and 212.

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center Conference Center and Banquet Hall



Contact Information:
Lacy Mitchell
Conference Coordinator
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
563 Elliott Trail
Mansfield, Georgia 30055
Phone: 770-784-3152
Fax: 770-784-3061
Email: lacy_mitchell@dnr.state.ga.us