



BIRD-A-THON



Help EMAS meet its goal of \$6,000 for environmental conservation by supporting the 2017 Birdathon. You can donate to a team of your choice and choose either a “per species seen” pledge or simply send a check in now with your donation.

Check a box to sponsor a team:

- ☐ Beaver Lake Bluebirds (*led by Tom Tribble*)
- ☐ The Peregrines (*led by Simon Thompson*) ☐ The Not-So-common Loons (*led by Jay Wherley*)
- ☐ I pledge _____ for each species seen. (25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$2, etc.)
- ☐ Instead of a pledge, I have enclosed a donation of: \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$75 ____ Other ____

We are counting on your help to reach our goal!

All contributions are tax deductible.

Please make check payable to EMAS and send by May 31.

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
ELISHA MITCHELL AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 18711 • ASHEVILLE, NC 28814

Name _____

Donation Amount _____

Address _____

Email _____

City, State, Zip _____

Join us on May 16th for our Birdathon fundraiser program!

John Gerwin, research curator of ornithology with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and Nicaragua Eco-tour leader, will be our guest speaker. Your \$5 admission *donation* will help to fund the Birdathon.

7 p.m. at the Reuter Center, UNC-Asheville campus.

ELISHA MITCHELL AUDUBON SOCIETY

ASHEVILLE • NORTH CAROLINA



Golden-winged warbler
Rick and Nora Bowers

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society is supporting, for the second year in a row, an effort by the American Bird Conservancy to help reforest and preserve highland habitat in Nicaragua. The primary objective of ABC's project is to increase habitat connectivity in the highlands of the Jinotega Province for Golden-winged Warblers and other neo-tropical migrants. Focusing on the Wood Thrush and the Golden-winged Warbler has allowed ABC and its partners to have a positive impact on habitat conditions for a broader suite of neo-tropical migratory birds, which will ultimately prevent further population declines among these species.

Nicaragua has the largest forested area in Central America and an amazing total of 706 bird species occur there, including 190 of the 210 migratory bird species found in Central America. A total of 33 Important Bird Areas have been designated in Nicaragua by BirdLife International. Conservation focal areas in the country have been identified by the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group in their GWWA Wintering Grounds Conservation Plan. Several groups along with ABC, including the North Carolina Audubon Society, are working to conserve key habitat in Nicaragua.

Habitat deforestation in the country poses the most significant threat to resident and migratory birds. The forested highlands of Jinotega in northern Nicaragua are becoming increasingly fragmented as agriculture, including sun-coffee production, creeps up the mountain sides. Coffee grown as a shade crop provides useful habitat for many species of Neotropical migrants. Over the past few years, the American Bird Conservancy has been supporting the **Reserva El Jaguar** project which focuses on improving habitat connectivity in the Volcán de Yalí corridor through reforestation and planting of trees on coffee farms. El Jaguar is a private family-run farm that produces high quality, shade-grown sustainable coffee while maintaining the integrity of over 240 acres of protected cloud forest that surround the farm. Owners George Duriaux and his wife Liliana Chavarria have actively monitored birds there for several years and report over 300 bird species on their land. El Jaguar was declared an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2006 by BirdLife International.



Liliana Chavarria by Doug Gross

ABC has helped create three tree nurseries in local communities and maintain a fourth at El Jaguar. Over 50,000 seedlings have been grown at these nurseries and planted on 423 acres across 14 properties, helping to convert 55 acres of sun coffee to shade coffee. ABC plans to expand the model created in the El Jaguar – Yalí Corridor to other parts of Nicaragua that have been identified as focal areas for migratory bird species of conservation concern like the Golden-winged Warbler.