



BIRD-A-THON



Help EMAS meet its goal of \$7,000 for environmental conservation by supporting the 2019 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 21st for our Birdathon fundraiser program!

Protecting the Wintering Grounds of Migratory Birds

With Holly Robertson of the American Bird Conservancy

Your \$5 admission *donation* will help to fund the Birdathon.

Tuesday, May 21st, 7 p.m. at the Reuter Center, UNC-Asheville campus.

For our 2019 Bird-a-Thon, the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society has chosen to support, as we have done in the past, an American Bird Conservancy program and to give a scholarship to a UNCA Asheville Environmental Studies student. ABC's mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, with goals to halt extinctions, protect habitats, eliminate threats, and build capacity for bird conservation. One of their newest programs is *BirdScape*, dedicated to ensuring that priority species have the habitat they require at all stages of their life-cycles: breeding, wintering, and stopover on migration. Launched in 2017, the *BirdScape* initiative's goal is to define large, priority landscapes throughout the Americas that support populations of migratory birds of highest conservation concern.



One area that the *BirdScape* program is taking shape is in the Central Andes of Colombia. This area of Columbia is extremely important for 74 neotropical migratory bird species, including Golden-winged, Cerulean, Canada, Black-and-White, Tennessee, Blackburnian, Yellow, and Blackpoll Warblers as well as Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Pewee, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Waterthrush, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-eyed Vireo, and Swainson's Thrush.

Located in the Central Andes' *Cauca Valley BirdScape*, the department of Caldas is one of the highest coffee producing areas in the country. ABC is partnering with local stakeholder groups, including the Ecological Coffee Foundation and the National Institute for Coffee Research, to explore the development of a new *BirdScape* in this region. In this project, ABC will be focusing on restoring watersheds, implementing best management practices for coffee growing and processing, and conducting outreach to involve local communities in conservation. CENICAFE and FEC are already working with their local government and other stakeholders on these issues, and together with ABC, would like to see their region become much more bird-friendly.

On the ground, ABC's long-term goal is to work in several micro-watersheds to improve habitat quality and connectivity for migratory bird species. For 2019, they will start in the Río Claro micro-watershed to restore habitat through native tree planting (goal is 100,000 trees). ABC will also conduct workshops on sustainable coffee production practices, the *BirdScape* concept, and the importance of birds in the ecosystem. They plan to facilitate community outreach to improve the awareness and participation of local farmers and other community members.

Please join our Bird-a-Thon teams in supporting this program and the conservation of our local nesting migratory species on their wintering grounds.