



# BIRD-A-THON



Help EMAS meet its goal of \$6,000 for environmental conservation by supporting the 2018 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 15<sup>th</sup> for our Birdathon fundraiser program!**

Ryan Chitwood, of the University of Georgia's Wildlife Ecology department, will make a presentation on warbler research that he has conducted.

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

***Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at the Reuter Center, UNC-Asheville campus.***

# ELISHA MITCHELL AUDUBON SOCIETY

A S H E V I L L E • N O R T H C A R O L I N A



*Golden-winged warbler*  
*Rick and Nora Bowers*

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 the American Bird Conservancy, including the North Carolina Audubon Society, are working to conserve key habitat in Nicaragua.

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society is supporting, for the third year in a row, an effort by the American Bird Conservancy to help reforest and preserve highland habitat in Nicaragua. These highlands are important wintering areas for species like the Golden-winged Warbler and stopover areas for many species like Bay-breasted Warbler and Canada Warbler among other migratory birds. Almost all of the GWWA Focal Areas identified for Nicaragua are in this region. ABC and a host of partners are working in these focal areas to protect existing forest and create increased connectivity in this region through native species reforestation and agroforestry projects.

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. 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. Through reforestation efforts and education about shade-grown coffee techniques, ABC hopes to have more farms convert to bird-friendly coffee growers. Coffee grown as a shade crop provides useful habitat for many species of Neotropical migrants. ABC has helped create three tree nurseries in local communities and, since 2014, over 100,000 seedlings of native trees, nitrogen fixing trees, and fruit trees have been produced and planted on over 140 properties. 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. 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.

EMAS hopes to raise a record amount of money from the 2018 Birdathon as our donation will be maximized through matching funds that are available this year. Matching funds for this project will be from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and private donors, as well as in-kind investment from local partners and landowners.