

**ANNOUNCING**  
**The Georgia Ornithological Society Spring Meeting**  
**15-17 May 2015**  
**The Ridges Resort and Marina**  
**US Highway 76**  
**Hiawasee, Georgia 30582**

**SATURDAY NIGHT'S KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**"Beyond Listing: Making Your Obsessive  
Birding Habit Count for Science"**

Dr. Joel McNeal

Kennesaw State University  
Department of Biology and Physics  
Kennesaw, GA

Dr. Joel McNeal is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Kennesaw State University (KSU) where he conducts research on molecular evolution of parasitic plants and teaches courses in General Biology, Plant Systematics, Natural History of Georgia, and lectures on DNA sequencing and analysis when he isn't reviewing bird records or entering eBird checklists from Bartow County. He grew up about 30 miles west of Cleveland, Ohio, which translates to just over 1 hour from Magee Marsh in birder distance. After getting his B.S. in Biology from Vanderbilt University, he somehow managed to get his Ph.D. in Biology from Penn State in between hawk watching trips to the local ridgetops. He did postdoctoral research at Harvard University (in between birding trips to Plum Island) and at The University of Georgia (in between birding trips to the State Botanical Garden) before starting at KSU. Although occasionally distracted by plants, rocks, insects, frogs, salamanders, snakes, education, and employment, he has been a serious birdwatcher for almost 30 years. He has been the volunteer eBird moderator for Georgia since 2009 and currently serves as Secretary of the GOS Checklist & Records Committee.

KSU website: <http://science.kennesaw.edu/~jmcneal7/>

Photo website: <http://www.pbase.com/joelmcneal>



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**Meeting Hotel Details**

The Ridges Resort and Marina  
3379 US Highway 76 West  
Hiawasee, GA 30546  
Call (888) 834-4409 or (706) 896-2262 for reservations.

[The Ridges Resort and Marina Home Page](#)

Use the group code "GOS" to receive the \$99/night group rate.

**Cut-off date for GOS rate is 15 April 2015.**

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## FRIDAY NIGHT'S EVENT

### **“Bird Quiz: You Don’t Know Jack Snipe!”**

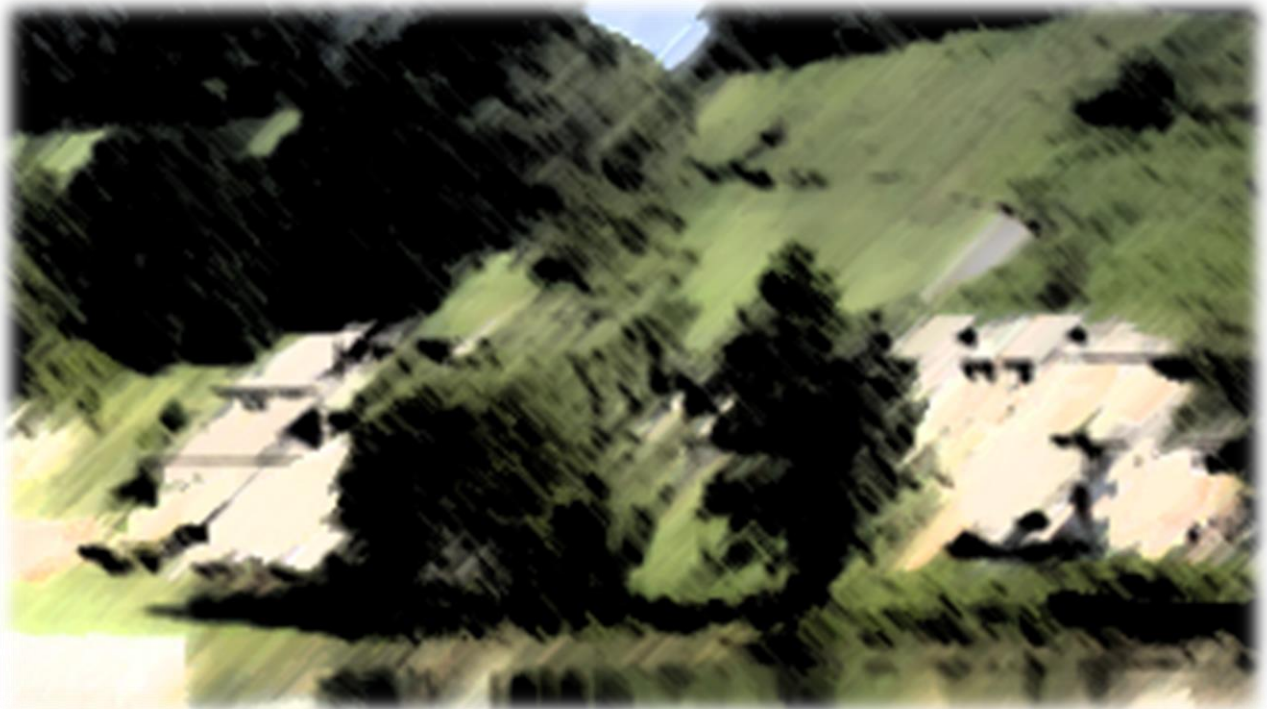
Nikki Belmonte  
Executive Director  
Atlanta Audubon Society  
Atlanta, GA



Test your bird brains against Nikki's “You Don't Know Jack Snipe” trivia game. This is more than just bird ID...way more. Be sure you are up to date on bird and birding news, conservation, anatomy and physiology, eBird bar charts, art, TV/movies, music, sports, and pop culture. Only well-rounded birders win this trivia! Folks can play as individuals or in teams of up to 4 people. And in true birder fashion, the honor system will determine the winner. The winner(s) will receive a small prize and a large ego for the remainder of the weekend.

Nikki Belmonte is the Executive Director of Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS) where she is working to grow interest and funding of bird conservation and education programs in the 20+ counties of Metro Atlanta. She began working for AAS as the Education

Coordinator in 2010 and prior to AAS, was a science teacher and naturalist in Georgia. Nikki is a Massachusetts native where she worked for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Her deep affection for nature and birding began as a child at Mass Audubon sanctuaries. Nikki holds a BS in wildlife conservation from University of Massachusetts Amherst and a MS in environmental education from Antioch University New England. She lives in Roswell with her husband, two children, two indoor cats, and a tarantula.



## **SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

### **Friday, 15 May 2015**

Dinner on Your Own

6:30 to 7:30 PM – Registration and Flocking (cash bar)

7:30 to 8:30 PM – Nikki Belmonte

#### ***“You Don’t Know Jack Snipe!”***

8:30 to 8:45 AM – Discussion of Saturday Field Trips

### **Saturday, 17 January 2015**

Breakfast on Your Own

6:15 AM – First Field Trip Departs

2:30 PM – Field Trips Return

5:30 to 6:45 AM – Flocking (cash bar)

6:45 to 8:00 PM – President’s Address, Announcements, and Banquet Dinner

8:00 to 9:00 PM – Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joel McNeal

#### ***“Beyond Listing: Making Your Obsessive Birding Habit Count for Science”***

9:00 to 9:30 PM – Discussion of Sunday Field Trips and Species Countdown

### **Sunday, 18 January 2015**

Breakfast on Your Own

6:15 AM – First Field Trip Departs

2:30 PM – Field Trips Return

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Name(s) (for name tags, so print legibly please):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Children under 16 must be registered but are charged no registration fee.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ Registration for GOS Member(s) @ \$25.00 per person (Note: Spouse /immediate family may register at the member rate)	\$ _____
_____ Non-GOS Member(s) @ \$35.00 per person	\$ _____
_____ Reservation(s) for banquet @ \$42.00 per person	\$ _____
_____ Reservation(s) for Keynote Speaker only (no banquet) @ \$10 per person	\$ _____
_____ Postmarked after 9 May 2015 or at the door add \$10 late fee	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Cut-off date for banquet reservations is 9 May 2015**

**Make checks payable to GOS and mail with this form to:**  
Ed Maioriello, 340 Milledge Heights, Athens, GA 30606

***Note: No portion of registration, field trips, or banquet fees is tax deductible.***

Registration, field trip, or banquet cancellations received after 9 May 2015 will NOT be refunded. Should you need to cancel, notify Ed at 706-296-5275 or [edm@maioriello.com](mailto:edm@maioriello.com)

**RELEASE**

*GOS requires registration for participation in the meeting and field trips, and also requires all registrants to sign the following release. If the participant is a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign this release.*

**Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the GOS and its officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrant's participation in this meeting.**

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM**

**SATURDAY, 16 May**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY, 17 May**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAIL THE ORIGINAL FORM  
ALONG WITH YOUR MEETING REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:**

**Ed Maioriello  
340 Milledge Heights  
Athens, GA 30606**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field trips are subject to change and could be cancelled if there are not enough participants. You may combine your payment for field trips, registration and the banquet into one check. Make your check payable to GOS. You may assume that you are on your first choice of field trips if you do not hear from us before the meeting.**

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**SATURDAY, 15 MAY 2015 FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

**Note: All times listed are departure/return times to The Ridges Resort and Marina.**

**For your personal comfort, safety, and enjoyment...always bring your binoculars, sturdy walking shoes, a walking stick for steep terrain, layers of clothing, rain gear, insect repellent, sun screen, water, and a sack lunch or snacks on all field trips.**

**BRASSTOWN BALD**

Leader: Rachael Holzman. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$5.00 entry/parking fee, to be paid on-site.

Brasstown Bald is the tallest mountain in Georgia with an elevation of 4,784 feet. The high elevation lends a more northerly flavor to flora and the fauna alike. For example, the vegetation is characterized by rosebay rhododendron, mountain laurel, yellow birch, mountain maple, and white pine; additionally, the botanically inclined may spy lingering sprouts of blight-stricken American chestnut trees. Target bird species, many at the southern limit of their breeding range, include Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Veery, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. **TRIP RIGOR: MODERATE.**

**BURRELL'S FORD ROAD**

Leader: Shannon Fair. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00.

Burrell's Ford Road gives easy access to the Chattooga River in Sumter National Forest. This 7-mile road traverses through an exciting riverside forest with white pines and eastern hemlocks. A number of mountain species are found here; Ruffed Grouse, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Worm-eating, Swainson's, and Kentucky Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco, and maybe even a Red Crossbill. **TRIP RIGOR: EASY** (This trip will not involve much hiking. Rather, we'll pull over several times the way down to the river and back).

**HALE RIDGE AND SURROUNDING AREA**

Leader: Patty McLean. Depart: 6:15 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00.

Beginning at the intersection of Hale Ridge and Bald Mountain Roads, we'll stop to listen for nesting Least Flycatchers around the Christmas tree farm. We'll travel down Hale Ridge Road to Overflow Creek Road passing through a number of different habitats. Mountain species found here include Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Swainson's, Kentucky, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager. **TRIP RIGOR: EASY.**

**IVY LOG GAP AND GUMLOG ROADS**

Leader: Bill Lotz. Depart: 6:45 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00.

This trip will start at the eastern entrance to Ivy Log Gap with stops along Byers Creek Road, Ivy Log Gap, Ravencliff Road, and Gumlog Road. Target species include Kentucky, Blackburnian, Cerulean, and Bay-breasted Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, thrushes, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, Broad-winged Hawk, and Ruffed Grouse. We'll make several stops along Forest Service roads to enjoy the species that depend on this section of national forest. Carpooling will be necessary to reduce the number of cars on the narrow and winding roads. **TRIP RIGOR: EASY.**

## **SATURDAY, 15 MAY 2015 FIELD TRIP INFORMATION (continued)**

### **RIDGES RESORT**

Leader: You're on your own! Depart: Whenever you wish! Return: N/A. Limit: No limit.

Can't commit to one of field trips? Consider strolling around the Audubon-certified wildlife sanctuary at the Ridges Resort, then drive to the Blairsville Ingle's supermarket to look for Willow Flycatchers along Butternut Creek. ***TRIP RIGOR: EASY.***

### **TRAY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS**

Leader: Charlie Muise. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00.

Tray Mountain, with an elevation of 4,430 ft. (1,350 m) is the 7th-highest peak in Georgia. The boundary line between White and Towns Counties bisects the mountain, but leaves the summit in Towns County. Tray Mountain is within the borders of the Chattahoochee National Forest and is part of the Tray Mountain Wilderness. Views from Tray Mountain include the Nantahala Mountains in North Carolina and the Blue Ridge Mountains in Georgia. This trip will feature migrant and nesting warblers, vireos, thrushes, and grosbeaks, in addition to great vistas, wildflowers, and other mountain flora and fauna. Access to the parking area is rather rough (passenger cars should be able to do it at slow speed). There will be a short but steep hike up and down on the same trail. The parking area is a good birding location, so participants may choose to hike only part way up. Carpooling is a must to reduce the number of vehicles. ***TRIP RIGOR: MODERATE.***

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**SUNDAY, 16 MAY 2015 FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

**BRASSTOWN BALD**

Leader: Bill Lotz. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 10. Cost: \$5.00 entry/parking fee.

Brasstown Bald is the tallest mountain in Georgia with an elevation of 4,784 feet. The high elevation lends a more northerly flavor to flora and the fauna alike. The vegetation, for example, is characterized by rosebay rhododendron, mountain laurel, yellow birch, mountain maple, and white pine; additionally, the botanically inclined may spy lingering sprouts of blight-stricken American chestnut trees. Target bird species, many at the southern limit of their breeding range, include Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Veery, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. *TRIP RIGOR: MODERATE.*

**BRAWLEY MOUNTAIN**

Leaders: Charlie Muise. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost \$0.00.

This is a 4-mile hike (round-trip) that meanders up and down Brawley Mountain and follows a U.S. Forest Service Road through the Cohutta National Forest. Migrants and breeding birds are abundant, including numerous warbler species, thrushes, tanagers, and hawks. Target birds include Golden-winged Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet and Summer Tanager, and Broad-winged Hawk. A Ruffed Grouse or 2 along the trail is also possible. *TRIP RIGOR: STRENUOUS.*

**BURRELL'S FORD ROAD**

Leader: Larry Carlile. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00.

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## **SUNDAY, 16 MAY 2015 FIELD TRIP INFORMATION (continued)**

### **RIDGES RESORT**

Leader: Mike Weaver. Depart: 7:30 Return: 10:30. Limit: 15.

If you must leave a little early, please consider strolling around the Audubon-certified wildlife sanctuary at the Ridges Resort, then drive to the Blairsville Ingle's supermarket to look for Willow Flycatchers along Butternut Creek. *TRIP RIGOR: EASY.*

### **SOSEBEE COVE AND POPCORN OVERLOOK**

Leader: Shannon Fair. Depart: 6:30 AM. Return: 2:30 PM. Limit: 15. Cost: \$0.00

Sosebee Cove is a picturesque high-elevation north facing cove forest covering 175 acres. Due to its north facing orientation, Sosebee Cove has a rich diversity of shade tolerant trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. The forest is a maturing second growth forest, although to many a visitor the area has a feeling of being old-growth. The cove is a breeding ground for many of the mountain species we will look for, such as Wood Thrush, Veery, Chestnut-sided, Canada, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. *TRIP RIGOR: MODERATELY DIFFICULT TRAIL, BUT SHORT IN DURATION.*