

# January 2019 Program

## 'Create a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary'



Michele Buchanan, a Wildlife Sanctuary Certifier from the Atlanta Audubon Society, gave an interesting and informative presentation.

First of all, Michele stated that unlike the NGC certification which is honorary, the Audubon Society actually makes a visit to the yard to be certified to be sure it meets all the requirements and makes recommendations if it doesn't. Giving some information about the Society, she mentioned that its emphasis is on education, providing field trips and birding classes. Noting its mission of building places where both birds and people thrive, Michele discussed how to minimize window reflection to avoid injury to birds.

### ***Why Birds Matter***

Michele talked about why birds matter, about their needs and how we should create habitat connectivity. Birds like corridors filled with their requirements (open areas are dangerous). Neighborhood sanctuaries provide bird survival.

### **Birds matter because:**

- They aid in plant pollination
- They are active gardeners, planting seeds and berries
- They do cleanup, particularly the vultures
- They control pests and insects - poisoning rodents poisons the birds
- They add to the economy, as bird lovers buy seed, feeders, etc.
- They are inspiring and beautiful



### ***Bird Needs***

- Water – Dishes and water features about 1” deep, which provide movement that attracts birds
- Food – More important than feeders, provide a diverse landscape of shrubs and trees on different levels (layering) that produce seed, berries and nectar
- Nesting – Dense shrubbery, along with bird boxes
- Cover – Brush piles, standing snags (parts of dead trees should be left standing)

