

# TROPICAL **AUDUBON** SOCIETY



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## **In the Field**

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Songbird diversity in backyards and area parks should increase significantly this month as more and more southbound warblers, including Northern Parulas and American Redstarts, make their first Fall appearance in our parts. August birding is also consistently productive in the agricultural areas of southern Miami-Dade and western Palm Beach counties. Flooded fields usually attract large numbers of wading birds, such as the Roseate Spoonbill, and migrant shorebirds, including American Avocet, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope.

**Local Birding Field Trips will resume next month, with the first outing to the [Everglades Agricultural Area](#) slated for Saturday, September 2.**

To view our complete Fall/Winter 2024 trip schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that [REGISTRATION](#) is required for all trips.

Share your bird sightings on our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

***Banner Photo, above:*** Roseate Spoonbill by Peter Brannon



## RSVP for an International Field Trip

[Peru, Spectacles of Nature: Birding Amazonia & the Andes](#) **CANCELLED** | Sept. 13-23, 2023

[Spain - Extremadura, Doñana and Sierra de Gredos](#) | April 28 - May 12, 2025

[Birds and Marsupials of Northern Australia - Darwin, Cairns and Brisbane](#)  
August 3 - 16, 2025

*Photo: Regent Bowerbird in O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Australia*

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## Featured Events

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## Dine-in or Take-out @Whisk Gourmet Tuesday, August 8, 5-9pm



Make a dinner date at [Whisk Gourmet](#) Tuesday, August 8, and *Whisk* will feather the proverbial Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) nest with 10 percent of its dinner revenues. The beloved bastion of Southern-accented American Comfort Food offers a refreshing summer menu, and Indoor Dining or Outdoor Covered Seating options, Take-out or Curbside-pick-up. (Deliveries are not eligible for this promotion.)

No matter how you choose to dine, Executive Chef Michelle Minotti infuses generous helpings of New Orleans and Caribbean influences to her captivating signature cuisine. Check out the daily fresh fish special, experience the melt-off-the-bone BBQ glazed pork loin ribs, savor the *Whisk* tacos, local mango salad (*pictured above*), salmon cake with green apple slaw, shrimp remoulade, fried conch appetizers, and don't miss the Tropical Audubon mango cheesecake (*pictured below*).



Despite hurricanes, restaurant ownership changes, and even the global pandemic, *Whisk* has been a generous TAS ally every summer since 2011. The annual “Dine Out” series helps TAS protect the places South Floridians cherish — Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay and The Everglades.

[RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED](#) for all on-site dining. Call 786.268.8350

This event takes place at [Whisk Gourmet 7382 SW 56 Avenue Miami FL 33143](#)  
Limited onsite free parking available.

## **Advocate for the Birds!**

Become a Tropical Audubon Ambassador

Register Now for the 2023 Program:

*“Solutions for South Florida’s Future”*

**Registration Deadline, Friday, August 18**



Become a lifelong champion for birds, other wildlife and South Florida's natural places.

Registration is now open for our 2023 Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program! Sign up today to learn how to be a more engaged, educated and effective environmental advocate.

***New this August — Virtual Sessions en Español!***

All virtual sessions will now feature a Spanish-language interpreter to engage and empower our Spanish-speaking community. [Click here to read the English-language version of our media advisory.](#) [Lea la versión en español de este aviso de prensa.](#)

Our 2023 program features online sessions, field trips, deep dives with local experts and advocacy campaigns.

Thanks to the financial support of our Funding Partners — **The Miami Foundation, Everglades Foundation, Ocean Reef Conservation Association, and the Audubon Collaborative Grant**, as well as our Field Trip Sponsors — **National Parks Conservation Association, Everglades National Park and Deering Estate** — the Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program is free!

**Bonus:** Legendary Florida folk artist Grant Livingston will perform his signature acoustic guitar pieces that explore our diverse South Florida ecosystems through song and storytelling! Grant will be joining the live zoom sessions to help us kick off each track focusing on a specific ecosystem — The Everglades, Pine Rocklands and Tropical Hardwood Hammocks, and Biscayne Bay.

Join a network of like-minded environmental advocates and participate in deep-dive Q&As with regional experts in their respective fields. [Learn More.](#)

**Photo:** 2022 TAAP Pine Rockland field trippers

Register

**Adopt-A-Net and Help Birds Thrive!**  
Fall Migration Fundraiser to benefit  
Cape Florida Banding Station field work



Support crucial migratory bird research and help educate the next generation of local conservationists by participating in the “Adopt-A-Net” Fall Migration fundraising campaign to benefit the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS), a 21-year-old community science program partnering with Tropical Audubon Society since 2020!

The field research conducted by CFBS and its team of skilled volunteers illuminates the importance of protecting native habitat for migrating songbirds, especially within Miami-Dade County’s urban core. The “Adopt-A-Net” effort provides MDC residents with the opportunity to help replace worn “mist nets” and fund other needs that are integral to CFBS operations.

Fall 2023 also marks the promotion of volunteers Nasim Mahomar and Nicole Rita to the positions of co-coordinators overseeing the daily CFBS field operations! [Learn More.](#)



**Photo:** A Painted Bunting is among the neotropical migrants banded at the Cape Florida Banding Station. By Rachel DiPietro

Adopt-A-Net Today!

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## Conservation News

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"Proposed Miami Wilds theme park would devastate wildlife and gouge zoo visitors"

Read the *Miami Herald* Op-Ed by TAS Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis [HERE](#).



The Endangered Florida Bonneted Bat is among the native species who rely on the open space around Zoo Miami for their survival. *Photo by Melquisedec Gamba-Rios*

## City of Miami moves to Protect Pelican Nesting Habitat



The City of Miami Commission unanimously passed a directive on July 13 to collaborate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to protect what is believed to be a newly forming rookery on “Picnic Island” (located in Biscayne Bay off of Morningside Park). TAS and other local conservation groups played a role in helping secure the city’s favorable decision. ([Read our letter to Commissioner Sabina Covo here.](#))

At least seven Brown Pelicans have been documented nesting on Picnic Island by Christopher Boykin, executive director of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. The Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) is currently under protection by the U.S. [Migratory Bird](#)

## Treaty Act.

The Conservation Community is deeply grateful to Commissioner Covo for introducing this item to her colleagues, and convincing them that protecting this nesting site is imperative.

*Photo: Brown Pelicans on Picnic Island by Christopher Boykin*

## TAS Conservation Director to advise two prestigious environmental organizations



TAS Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis was recently tapped to participate on the [Biscayne Bay Marine Health Coalition](#) (BBMHC) steering committee. The BBMHC is a coalition of volunteers working collaboratively with government agencies, academic institutions, businesses, nonprofits and individuals dedicated to advocating solutions for a healthy and resilient Biscayne Bay watershed.

Lauren was also appointed Vice President of Policy for [the Society of Conservation Biology North America](#) (SCBNA), a non-profit organization affiliated with the Global [Society for Conservation Biology](#). SCBNA strives to serve as a 'boundary organization' for the North American community of conservation practitioners that can

assist members in bridging the gap between research and practice, making their work more effective and potentially facilitating more conservation successes.

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## In Memoriam

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### Remembering Visionary Environmentalist & Miami Herald Garden Columnist Georgia Tasker 1945-2023



Our Tropical Audubon family is remembering Georgia Tasker with gratitude and admiration. The longtime Miami Herald garden columnist and native plant advocate died on July 22 at age 78, but leaves a lasting legacy among the thousands of South Floridians whom she inspired to create wildlife habitat. [Read her obituary here.](#)

**Photo:** Georgia Tasker by Chris Cutro, Miami Herald

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## Chirping About

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### 500+ bird species encountered on Kenya Birding Tour



Birders who took the May 13-28 Kenya trip led by TAS field trip leader Luis Gonzalez were richly rewarded: 504 bird species were encountered (495 spotted, 9 heard) — with many providing amazing views. Highlights include the Somali Ostrich, Long-crested Eagle, Ross's and Great Blue Turaco, Jameson's Wattle-Eye, Jackson's Widowbird and Yellow-crowned Bishop. The group also spotted 47 mammal species, including Kirk's Dik-dik, Reticulated Giraffe, African Bush Elephant, Leopard and Cheetah.

Habitats canvassed included the highlands of Aberdare National Park, the dry country of Samburu National Reserve and the rainforests of Kakamega Forest Reserve, as well as

the Maasai Mara, where participants visited the northern edge of the largest protected savanna ecosystem in East Africa. [Click HERE](#) to read the entire trip report.

To register for an upcoming international TAS birding tour, [click HERE](#) .

**Photo:** *Lilac-breasted Roller* by Luis Gonzalez

## Young campers discover the wonder of birds with TAS team



Led by Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, Ph.D., TAS staff introduced 45+ middle schoolers to the wonders of birds on July 10 at the BLUE Missions CauseCamp, a summer camp program focused on environmental education.

Stephanie was assisted by Cape Florida Banding Station Director Michelle Davis and Digital Communications Coordinator Federico Acevedo as a part of the camp's "Rewilding Expedition" week, which featured ways to protect and conserve South Florida wildlife. The TAS team presented a Birding 101 curriculum, which teaches students about the wonders of birds, birding in their own backyards, and tips and tricks for introductory bird identification.

“Birds are an amazing gateway to teach students about the nature that is all around them,” Stephanie says. “By observing different birds, students learn about adaptation and animal behavior, while also gaining a greater appreciation for the ecosystems needed to sustain birds and other wildlife. Plus, just about anyone of any age can appreciate and learn about birds from their kitchen window, or just by walking around their block.”

***Photos:** TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements and BLUE Missions campers (left), BLUE Missions campers, by Federico Acevedo*

## 95-years-young Ruth Jacobs parties with a purpose at DTH!



To mark her 95th birthday, longtime preservationist and bird lover Ruth Jacobs chose the historic Doc Thomas House as the site for her milestone “Drink Pink” celebration. And because our 1932 Arts & Crafts Period cottage is among her favorite Miami-Dade County landmarks, many of her guests made a gift to help preserve it, or they became a Tropical Audubon Society member.

Ruth’s July 27 FUN-raiser drew more than 60 admirers, many of whom were her Dade Heritage Trust, Villagers and Woman’s Cancer Association colleagues. Guests savored a bevy of fabulous rosés provided by [RNDC](#) Wine Fairy Roxana Garciga, enjoyed mouthwatering [Sports Grill](#) sliders and indulged in scrumptious [Misha’s cupcakes](#).





The gracious Birthday Girl extends her heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make her 95th so meaningful and memorable!

*Photos from top: Queen Bee Ruth Jacobs, seated center bottom; a trio of Ruth's fave "Drink Pink" rosés; the former model strikes a pose with #1 fan Tom Smith*

*To inquire about hosting your next event, celebration or memorial in the Doc Thomas House, under our 20x30-foot chickee or in our shady picnic grove, write to [events@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:events@tropicalaudubon.org).*

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## Plants for Birds

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Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!  
Dig in Saturday, August 19, 9am-Noon



Help steward our Bird-Friendly Demonstration Garden and Steinberg Nature Center grounds! Get hands-on experience creating wildlife habitat under the expert guidance of our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a Bird-Friendly garden in your own yard, patio or balcony, and get familiar with the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

Volunteers are needed to help remove invasives and tidy the grounds (rake leaves, wrangle fallen branches and clear our network of trails).

**Photo:** *Atala Butterfly on native Spanish Needle by Leo Ramsay-Watson*

## RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

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### The Birds Thank ...

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The Birds Thank ... The Batchelor Foundation for helping fund the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS), which operates under the TAS Programs umbrella. CFBS is located in Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park at the southern tip of Key Biscayne, where millions of songbirds stop to refuel every Spring and Fall as they fly north or south along the Atlantic Flyway. CFBS volunteer community scientists have been banding these neotropical migrants since 2002.

The Station's scientific work and community outreach was significantly enhanced by The Batchelor Foundation's support.

The [Batchelor Foundation](#) is a private Florida foundation focused on grant making to support children, animals and the natural environment in South Florida.

Support Birds

Become a Member

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[www.tropicalaudubon.org](http://www.tropicalaudubon.org)



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