



## **November 2023**

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## **In the Field**

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November provides South Floridians with a Fall Migration curtain call, as the last transient songbirds journey south and our winter visitors arrive. By month-end,

waterfowl diversity will reach its peak, with more than a dozen duck species joining our resident ducks; gull diversity at local beaches also increases notably.

Join one of our November field trips led by expert guides and see for yourself! Unique this month is our second [Accessible-Inclusive Birding outing](#)! TAS board member and Nature Photojournalist Kirsten Hines will lead this half-day trip at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne. This event is designed for beginning birders, particularly families with small children or strollers, people in wheelchairs, or others with mobility concerns. You can also check out our regularly scheduled November field trips to [Southern Palm Beach](#), [Everglades National Park](#), and [Tropical Park](#).

On Wednesday, November 8, join TAS Field Trip Coordinator [Brian Rapoza](#) for a [Lights Out Miami presentation](#) at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. Brian will describe ways that local residents can get involved in the crucial initiative, including volunteering to collect bird collision data in their neighborhood or implementing window collision reduction strategies at home.

Sign up for a November Field Trip below. To view our complete Fall/Winter 2023/2024 schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that [REGISTRATION](#) is required for all field trips.

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

**Banner Photo, above:** *Great Blue Heron in Everglades National Park. By Ana Lima*

## RSVP for a Field Trip

[Southern Palm Beach Birding](#) | Saturday, November 4, 7:30am-3pm

[Everglades National Park Birding](#) | Saturday, November 11, 7:30am-4pm

[Tropical Park Birding](#) | Saturday, November 18, 7:30-11am

[Accessible Inclusive Birding Crandon Park](#) | Saturday, November 25, 8-10am

## RSVP for an International Field Trip



[Ultimate Ecuador: Birding the Amazon and Galapagos Islands](#) | June 12-23, 2024

[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: Galápagos Flamingos by Laurie McLaughlin*

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## Featured Events

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Tour the Historic Doc Thomas House  
Saturday, November 4, 1 & 3pm



You're invited to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. Enjoy a captivating, 1-hour guided tour of the charming 1932 home led by a Tropical Audubon docent. Hear about ongoing restoration efforts and learn about TAS patron and area pioneer Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas and Robert Fitch Smith, the architect who designed the Florida vernacular cottage, which is distinguished by native woods and limestone features.

In addition to the indoor talk and tour, your visit will include an outdoor walk to view the home's unique exterior features.

**Bonus:** Explore our Bird-Friendly pollinator gardens and near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

Tours are FREE and open to the public. Donations are welcome [HERE](#).

**Location:** 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143; limited onsite parking via the SW 55 Avenue auto gate.

RSVP HERE

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Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk @TAS  
Wednesday, November 8, 7pm — *Waitlist Only*



Experience our signature "Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk" event! Toast "conservation, preservation and restoration" with a bevy of Old World wines courtesy of

Republic National Distributing Company paired with delightful seasonal offerings by *Whisk Gourmet's* Executive Chef Michelle Minotti. A Joy Wallace Catering will again set the convivial table with glittering table- and stem-ware.

This enchanting, biannual alfresco dinner party is a delicious, intimate evening with limited seating under the chickee for 36 peeps. \$150 per person.

Net proceeds benefit capital improvements to our historic Doc Thomas House and 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

To be added to the Waitlist, email [events@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:events@tropicalaudubon.org)

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*Let's Flock Together!*





Support us on

11.16.23

Be part of the most exciting annual giving event of the year. Let's flock together and surpass our previous Give Miami Day (GMD) fundraising record!

Your GMD gift to TAS of \$25 or more will be enhanced via The Miami Foundation with the generous support of Knight Foundation. Your generosity will help us fulfill our Mission to “Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.” Early Bird Giving: The donation portal will be open for three days, so your gift has wings November 13-16! [Save this link to Tropical Audubon Society's Give Miami Day page!](#)

OR be an Early Bird and [PLEDGE today by filling out our secure online giving form](#). Your gift will be processed November 13-16, 2022, through The Miami Foundation portal. On the 16th, you will receive an itemized receipt from [info@miamifoundation.org](mailto:info@miamifoundation.org) to submit with your taxes. Your donation will be fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Pledge your Give Miami Day Gift

“Members Gratitude Concert”

*Featuring Folk Artist DeBlois Milledge*

Saturday, November 25

## Gates Open 6pm, Music begins 7pm



We deeply appreciate the support of our loyal members and invite each of you to gather with us Thanksgiving Weekend for a complimentary “Members Gratitude Concert” featuring homegrown singer-songwriter DeBlois Milledge. The intimate solo concert marks the event’s third annual staging on our 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

Milledge is a Coral Gables native and Tropical Audubon Society board member who is critically acclaimed for her rich repertoire of Folk-inspired originals infused with her authentic “soul meets song” storytelling that also reflects her conservation ethos.

Attendees can order Nacho Bizness Mexican fare freshly prepared on site, and wash it down with the bodacious brews and wonderful wines on offer at the RNDC Donation Bird Bar.

The singular “Members Gratitude Concert” is open exclusively to TAS members in good standing, and anyone who joins our conservation society on or before November 25. Not a member or has your membership lapsed? [JOIN NOW](#) or [RENEW!](#) Not sure about your Membership status? Email [membership@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:membership@tropicalaudubon.org) and we'll check our records for you.

Proceeds support our Mission:



“Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.”

Don't miss out on this wonderful evening of song and renewal under the stars and Audubon oaks!

## Tickets

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### **Conservation News**

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**Protect Endangered Species & imperiled Pine Rocklands habitat from Theme Park development!**

**Attend the November 4 RALLY**

**Call or Write MDC BCC Now**



JOIN the [#Let Them Thrive Rally](#) on November 4 from 10am-2pm at Zoo Miami opposing the Miami Wilds water park! [RSVP HERE](#).

WHY?

On December 12, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (MDC BCC) will vote to deny or extend the lease agreement for the 67-acre theme park, hotel and retail development misleadingly dubbed “Miami Wilds.” The proposed development site is located adjacent to and on Zoo Miami property — land that is considered vital to endangered species and integral to preserving the largest and most biodiverse fragment of Globally Critically Imperiled Pine Rocklands outside of Everglades National Park.

**Take Action!**

**ATTEND** the MDC BCC meeting on December 12 and voice your opposition to Miami Wilds development! The meeting begins at 9:30am at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center (address: 111 NW 1st St, Miami, FL 33132, 2nd floor Commission Chambers). We recommend that you arrive early and bring your ID for check-in.

CALL or WRITE the MDC BCC by December 11 and urge them to explore other locations for the Miami Wilds development that are NOT environmentally sensitive! [Click the button below or HERE to send our letter or personalize your own.](#)

## Take Action!

**ACT NOW!**

### Protect Pelican Nesting Rookery on Biscayne Bay



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently confirmed a nesting rookery of Brown Pelicans on Mangrove Island in Biscayne Bay off of Morningside Park. Despite FWC posting educational signage to inform the public of the rookery's presence, boats and other recreational watercraft continue to speed very close to the rookery and anchor next to it to fish. Such actions are highly disruptive to the nesting birds, and can cause nest abandonment. Most alarming, 5 Brown Pelicans and 1

Magnificent Frigatebird were recently found there dead hanging from mangrove trees, entangled in monofilament fishing line with hooks still attached!

## **TAKE ACTION!**

**ATTEND the City of Miami Commission meeting on November 16** and urge Commissioners to protect the Mangrove Island Rookery by designating a “**Non-Motorized Vessel Zone**” and “**Idle Speed No Wake**” zones, and increase Marine Patrols/Enforcement! The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at Miami City Hall located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL. We recommend that you arrive early and bring your ID for check-in.

**CALL or WRITE the City of Miami Commissioners by November 15** and urge them to protect Mangrove Island Rookery! Use our letter or personalize your own by clicking the button below.

*Photo: Brown Pelican by Mark Eden*

# Take Action!

## Lights Out Miami

## Bird Collision Data Collectors urgently needed!

TROPICAL  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY



# LIGHTS OUT MIAMI

**Save Migrating Birds**  
**Turn OFF lights 11pm to 6am, Aug 15 - Nov 15**

During Fall Migration, millions of birds heading south for the winter pass through South Florida. Because migrating birds generally rest and forage during the day and travel at night using the stars as navigational aids, brightly lit cities impede their night vision, steer them off course, and can confuse and disorient them, often causing deadly collisions. Sadly, millions of birds are lost to building collisions in the U.S. every year.

To lower the mortality rate and protect migratory birds traveling through our region, TAS's [Light's Out Miami](#) initiative urges homeowners and building managers to turn off or block non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. through November 15 to protect migratory birds traveling through our region.

On Wednesday, November 8, join TAS Field Trip Coordinator [Brian Rapoza](#) for a [Lights Out Miami presentation](#) at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, 1279 NE 79th Street Causeway in Miami.

**Bird Collision Data Collection volunteers are urgently needed to search for birds who have been injured or killed by colliding with buildings.** Data collected anywhere in Miami-Dade County is of value, but most needed are volunteers to monitor the Brickell, Downtown and Biscayne Boulevard corridor, as well as areas such

as Aventura, Coconut Grove and Coral Gables business districts, Downtown Dadeland, Miami Beach and any other communities with a concentration of tall buildings where collisions are highly likely.

## Volunteer to be a "Bird Collision Data Collector"

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### **Plants for Birds**

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Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS  
Dig in Saturday, November 21, 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, or on your patio or balcony, and get familiar with the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

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

*Photo: Native American Beautyberry attracts butterflies, bees and birds!*

## RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

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### Chirping About

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## TAS Director Appointed to Everglades Coalition Board!



Senior Conservation Director, Lauren Jonaitis, has been appointed as a Board member for the [Everglades Coalition](#). The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of nearly 60 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to the full

restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem — from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee and to the estuaries, through the River of Grass, out to Florida Bay and the Keys. The Board of Directors manages the coalition and shares leadership responsibilities to carry out the coalition's mission.

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## The Birds Thank

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**Photos from left:** "Ferdinand the Bull" cocktail made with Sagamore Rye, Sweet Vermouth and housemade Grilled Blood Orange Cordial; Whisk Harvest Salad; Pumpkin Pie Panna Cotta.

**The Birds Thank ...** our kind neighbor and perennial community partner [Whisk Gourmet](#). The endless generosity shown by the *Whisk* owners and managers year in and year out to our conservation organization — and, by extension, to birds and other wildlife — is nothing short of extraordinary. From stepping up this summer to again host our long-standing "Dine Out at Whisk Summer Series," to cooking up our signature Spring and Fall "Walk in the Woods with Wine and Whisk" alfresco dinners, our 56th Avenue "Whisker" friends are *always* there for us.

The exciting seasonal menus authored by *Whisk Gourmet* Executive Chef Michelle Minotti are generously imbued with fresh, bold flavors and locally sourced ingredients.



Notable this month is *Whisk's* complete Thanksgiving takeout menu, ideal for anyone too busy to cook and clean up! Whether you're dining in, taking out, or in the mood for a memorable Sunday Brunch, we hope you'll patronize *Whisk Gourmet* year-round. You'll definitely see us there!

Supporting those vendors who support TAS is an easy way to contribute to our Mission. The Birds will thank you!

**Address:** 7382 SW 56th Avenue

South Miami, FL 33143

**Hours:** 11am-9pm Monday through Thursday, 11am-10pm Fridays and Saturdays, and 11am-4pm on Sundays.

**Phone:** 786.268.8350

## Support Birds

## Become a Member

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



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