

TROPICAL **AUDUBON** SOCIETY



October 2023 | In the Field | Featured Events
Conservation News | Plants for Birds | Chirping About
Save the Date | The Birds Thank

In the Field

October heralds our region's last big flush of fall migrants. First-of-season songbirds, such as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, appear now, and several of our wintering species

typically begin arriving too, including Eastern Phoebe and Black-throated Green Warbler. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Painted Bunting (*pictured*) also brighten our landscape now. There is an excellent chance of spotting vagrants, such as the Thick-billed Vireo, at this time of year as well. Check out [Rare Bird Update](#) to keep up with the latest sightings.

If you would like to learn more about backyard birds, join TAS Field Trip Coordinator Brian Rapoza for a talk at [Flamingo Gardens](#), Sunday, October 8, 10am. He will introduce you to the incredible diversity of birds who rely on South Florida's backyard habitats. You will also learn how to turn your own backyard into a haven for birds. [RSVP here](#).

Sign up for an October field trip below. To view our complete Fall/Winter 2023/2024 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: Painted Bunting by Harry Collins

RSVP for a Field Trip

[Islamorada Area Birding](#) | Saturday, October 7, 7am-4pm

[Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Birding](#) | Saturday, October 14, 8:15-11am

[Highland Oaks Park Birding](#) | Sunday, October 15, 7:30-11am

[Kendall Indian Hammocks Park Birding](#) | Saturday, October 21, 7:30-11am

[A.D. Barnes Park Birding](#) | Sunday, October 22, 7:30-11am

[Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Birding](#) | Saturday, October 28, 7am-3pm

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

Featured Events

Doc Thomas House Tours are back!
Saturday, October 7, 1 & 3pm



You're invited to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. The charming 1932 home underwent extensive structural restoration and repair from 2020-2021 with more to come. Enjoy a captivating, 1-hour guided tour led by a Tropical Audubon docent. Learn about TAS patron and area pioneer Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas and Robert Fitch Smith, the architect who designed the charming Florida vernacular cottage, distinguished by its native woods and limestone features.

In addition to an indoor talk and tour of interior rooms, 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

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

Conservation News

Protect Endangered Species & imperiled Pine Rocklands habitat from Theme Park development!
"Miami Wilds" vote delayed AGAIN



Photo: Tropical Audubon Society Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis and Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements (front row, second and third from left) join Ron Magill (center) and other conservation advocates at the September 19 Miami-Dade County Commission meeting to oppose the "Miami Wilds" theme park development and urge the county to protect imperiled Pine Rockland habitat and endangered species, including the Florida bonneted bat, (pictured below).

Florida Bonneted Bat
Joel Sartore



Following the public outpouring of opposition to the proposed "Miami Wilds" theme park that would threaten endangered species and imperiled Pine Rocklands, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners decided on September 19 to again defer their vote on the ill-considered project, rescheduling it for December 12.

After months of pressure on the county from TAS, our conservation partners and the public, to seek a more suitable location for the project, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said, "We are considering other sites." Her remarks came just before the commission opted to defer their vote on extending the lease with Miami Wilds. [Read the Miami Herald story HERE.](#)

Take Action!

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 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.

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!

Play it Again!



If you missed our September 21 Virtual Event: "**Exploring the Wonders of Fall Migration: Insights from the Cape May Songbird Stopover Project & Cape**

Florida Banding Station," or wish to view it again, [click here](#).

About the program:

Michelle Davis, Bander-in-Charge of the Cape May Songbird Stopover Project (CMSSP) in southern New Jersey, and Steffanie Munguía, Bander-in-Charge of Key Biscayne's Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, delve into the wonders of Fall Migration along the Atlantic Flyway. Discover the fascinating transformations birds undergo between breeding and migration, explore how the banding station locations relate to encountering birds of different species and learn about each station's seasonal highlights.

Michelle and Steffanie discuss how both sites are connected along the Atlantic Flyway and how bird banding enables scientists and conservationists to gain deeper insights into these connections.

Adopt-A-Net and Help Birds Thrive!

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!

Adopt-A-Net Today!

Lights Out Miami

Bird Collision Data Collectors urgently needed!



Fall Migration is at its peak this month and continues into early November as 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.

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"

Celebrate Peak Peregrine Migration
at the *Day of the Peregrine Falcons Event*
October 10, 9am-3pm
Florida Keys Hawkwatch



Witness and celebrate peak Peregrine Falcon Migration Day in the Keys at the “Day of the Peregrine Falcons” event at Curry Hammock State Park (see directions below). Learn about raptor migration from [Florida Keys Hawkwatch](#) (FKH) experts. Enjoy games, crafts and ranger programs (in English and Spanish), and visit the bird observation deck. All activities are free with park entry pass. The event is , Florida State Parks and Curry Hammock State Park.

FKH is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and conservation of birds by committing to the long-term study of their migration through the Florida Keys. Visitors are welcome, weather permitting, 9am-4pm through October 31. Location: Bathhouse in the

campground of Curry Hammock State Park just north of Marathon (56200 Overseas Hwy).

For the first time in the count's history, the project is being operated this year by an all-women team comprised of Mariah Hryniewich, who, in her fourth season at FKH, has been joined by Gianna Acuri as primary counters.

In another first, FKH also announced that with the help of generous donations from the birding community, digital hardware was purchased that will make it possible to record data on Trektellen.org, the world's largest migration repository.

Plants for Birds

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!
Dig in Saturday, October 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 invasives and tidy the grounds (rake leaves, wrangle fallen branches and clear our network of trails).

***Photo:** A Florida-endangered Atala drinks nectar from a native Butterfly Bush at our Steinberg Nature Center. By Federico Acevedo*

RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

Chirping About

It's a Wrap!

International Coastal Cleanup volunteers clear 151 pounds of public litter along our property perimeter



A determined group of volunteers participated in our on-campus iteration of this year's International Coastal Cleanup on September 16. Braving muggy weather and mosquitoes, they collected 151 pounds of public litter along the 55th and 56th avenue fencelines that border our Steinberg Nature Center. They also pulled countless invasive potato vines from our trees and nature trails.

The event was part of the world's largest, 1-day volunteer cleanup of our oceans and waterways, spearheaded globally by the Ocean Conservancy and organized locally by VolunteerCleanup.org, which coordinated 50+ cleanups in Miami-Dade County.

Save the Date

Let's Flock Together!



Support us on

11.16.23

The Birds Thank ...

The Birds Thank ... the generous and gracious sponsors that funded the 2023 season of our award-winning Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program.

Program Underwriters: Everglades Foundation, The Miami Foundation, National Audubon Society & Ocean Reef Conservation Association

Field Trip Underwriters: Deering Estate, Everglades National Park & National Parks Conservation Association

Closing Ceremony Community Partner: Deli Lane Cafe & Sunset Tavern

Our Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program is a free environmental education course designed for South Floridians 18 and older who are interested in becoming more engaged, educated and effective environmental advocates.

[Click here](#) to learn more or sign up to be on the waitlist for the 2024 Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program.





Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



{{Disclaimer}}

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).