

March 2022



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March in the Field

March is a month of transition for South Florida's bird community. Many of our winter visitors are departing for their breeding grounds, while a few spring migrants and summer breeders, including Chimney Swift, Eastern and Gray Kingbird, Red-eyed and Black-whiskered Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler, are just arriving. Join one of our March Field Trips for a chance to see these captivating species along with our year-round residents. For a chance to spot a Florida Scrub Jay, our state's only endemic bird species, join our Martin County Area Birding Trip at [Jonathan Dickinson State Park March 12!](#)

To view our entire Winter/Spring 2022 trip schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that **REGISTRATION** is required for all trips. Share your sightings our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

Banner Photo: Florida Scrub Jay by Shaina DeCirman

RSVP for March Field Trip

[Everglades National Park Birding](#) | Saturday, March 5, 7:30am - 3pm

[Martin County Area Birding](#) | Saturday, March 12, 8am-4pm

[Southern Palm Beach Birding](#) | Saturday, March 19, 7am - 3pm

[Southern Broward Birding](#) | Saturday, March 26, 8am - 4pm

[Long Key Natural Area Birding with Phoebes Birding](#) | Sunday, March 27, 9-11:30am



Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer by Greg Basco

RSVP for an International Field Trip

[Costa Rica: Birder's Paradise](#) | August 7 - 17, 2022

[Kenya Birding and Wildlife Tour](#) | May 13-28, 2023

Featured Events

Tour the Doc Thomas House
Saturday, March 5, 1 & 3pm



Tropical Audubon Society invites you to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. Our charming 1932 cottage has recently undergone extensive structural repair. Enjoy a captivating, 45-minute 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 commissioned to design the charming Florida vernacular cottage, distinguished by its native woods and oolitic limestone features. Out of courtesy for others, masks are recommended indoors. Directions: 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143; limited onsite parking via the SW 55 Avenue auto gate. [Registration Required HERE.](#)

News Flash! Our historic Doc Thomas House was featured on Telemundo's "Ayer y Hoy" (Yesterday and Today) program last month! [You can view it here.](#)

Conservation Concert @TAS
Featuring "Plan B"
Saturday, March 26, 7pm



Rock 'n' Roll lives! Ever-popular **Plan B** returns to the Doc Thomas House Keystone Stage this month with Pinecrest residents Dr. Scott Kenward (guitar and vocals) and Al Roque (drums), South Miamian Alex Leeds (vocals, percussion, guitar), High Piner Al Larcada (bass) and east Kendall-ite Alvaro Gomez (keyboards, guitar, vocals) performing a repertoire of classic and contemporary Rock 'n' Roll with a dash of the unexpected.

FREE RAFFLE: A pair of Birding Binoculars will be raffled by our gracious community partner DADE HERITAGE TRUST to mark triple milestones: the Doc Thomas House 90th Anniversary, the Tropical Audubon Society 75th Anniversary and Dade Heritage Trust's 50th Anniversary! *Concert attendance is required to participate in the free raffle, and you must be present to win.*

Also on the playbill: Featured Food Truck and the donation CASH-ONLY Bird Bar stocked with divine wines and brews courtesy of Republic National Distributing Co.

Please note: Our Steinberg Nature Center campus is a strictly enforced SMOKE-FREE environment.

Gates open at 7pm; music begins at 7:30pm
[RSVP HERE: \\$10 donation p/p, children 12 and under FREE](#)

In Memoriam

Margaret "Maggy" Reno Hurchalla



The late Margaret Hurchalla was a legendary environmental advocate, a former five-term Martin County Commissioner, and an avid kayaker. (Photo: The Miami Herald, courtesy of the Hurchalla Family)

"If you've already done a lot, you need to do more. If you haven't done anything yet, you need to do something."

These words of inspiration were delivered by the late Margaret "Maggy" Reno Hurchalla during her keynote address at Tropical Audubon Society's 2015 Annual Member's Meeting. She made the Everglades her passion and life's work. It was her fierce advocacy for The River of Grass that made the native Floridian, environmentalist and five-term Martin County Commissioner a Sunshine State conservation legend. The widely admired Everglades patroness died in Stuart, Florida, on February 19, 2022. She was 81.

A lifelong wilderness adventurer and avid kayaker, Hurchalla had a deep love for Florida's natural treasures, which fueled her life's work. She made an indelible mark on South Florida's environment, and is credited with helping pass landmark policies that protect wetlands today. Hurchalla, younger sister to the late U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, remained involved in Everglades Restoration advocacy up until her final days.

"Maggy was the soul of Everglades Restoration," said Tropical Audubon Board member and longtime friend Terrence "Rock" Salt, who served with her on the Governor's Commission for Sustainable South Florida in 1994. "She had the passion of a lioness for the Everglades, and could work with anyone to find a way forward. There is no one else like her."

[Read the obituary HERE.](#)

Chirping About

TAS & Partners file Lawsuit to Protect Critical Habitat for Florida Bonneted Bat



On February 7, 2022, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and Tropical Audubon Society filed a [formal notice](#) of their intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to designate lifesaving critical habitat for the Florida bonneted bat, our state's largest bat.

Pesticide use and development nearly drove the species to extinction. The bat finally received endangered status under the Endangered Species Act in 2013, thanks largely to the Center for Biological Diversity's [litigation](#).

Subsequently, Center for Biological Diversity, the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and Tropical Audubon Society [sued](#) in 2018 to compel the Service to propose critical habitat, but the Service still has not finalized the proposal.

"The protection of this Florida endemic species can only be ensured if its critical habitat is designated, a measure that is long overdue," said Tropical Audubon Society Executive

Director Paola Ferreira. "This iconic bat deserves the protections granted by the Endangered Species Act — protections it will need to face the multiple threats to its very survival." [Read More.](#)

Photo: Florida bonneted bat by Joel Sartore

Volunteer at the Cape Florida Banding Station



Volunteer opportunities are available during the 2022 Spring migration season at the [Cape Florida Banding Station \(CFBS\)](#) at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. Experienced birders are needed to assist with banding operations during weekdays. Volunteers will receive training in how to gently and securely handle mist-netted songbirds, as well as conduct in-hand species identification, sexing and ageing techniques. The Banding Station requires a commitment of one day per week for the March 15 to May 15 season. The data gathered by volunteers helps scientists understand songbird migration patterns, and underscores the importance of the park's restored native hardwood hammock to these migrants.

To volunteer or arrange a visit to the station contact Michelle Davis at capefloridabanding@tropicalaudubon.org.

Photo: Cape Florida Banding Station Volunteer Steffanie Munguia bands a Yellow-billed Cuckoo before releasing it.

Plants for Birds

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



Help steward our Bird-Friendly Demonstration Garden and near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds. Get hands-on experience creating wildlife habitat under the guidance of our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a bird-friendly garden in your own yard, patio or balcony. [Sign Up!](#)

Photo: University of Miami student volunteers, along with TAS Master Gardener Amy Creekmur (1st row far left) and MDC Pine Rockland expert Joy Klein (2nd row, 4th from the left) at last month's special Pine Rockland Restoration Talk & Gardening Day.

Green Things to Do

Bird Photographers Take Note:
2022 Audubon Photography Awards
Deadline: March 9, 2022



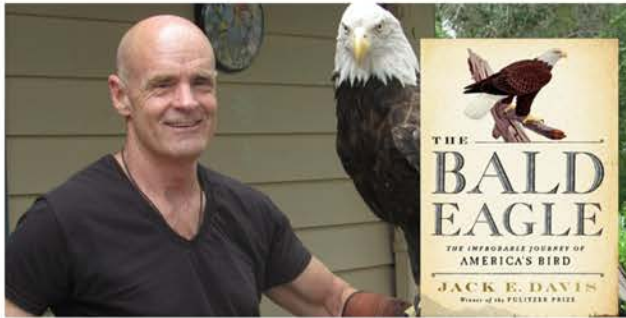


Do you have a passion for birds and photography? Enter your best bird photos in the 2022 Audubon Photography Awards. For the second year, Audubon will award the Female Bird Prize and the Video Prize along with six other prizes for spectacular images of birdlife.

The contest is accepting entries until March 9, 2022. [Read more](#) for more information on judges, categories, prizes and rules.

Photo: Sandhill Cranes by Robin Uleriy

An Evening @Books & Books with Jack E. Davis
— Author of "The Bald Eagle"
Introduction by TAS President José Francisco Barros
Wednesday, March 2, 7pm



Books & Books is partnering with Tropical Audubon Society and Audubon Florida to host a special conversation with Jack E. Davis, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Gulf," as he discusses his latest book, "The Bald Eagle."

Tickets are FREE. Books will be available for purchase at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, the night of the event. The author will sign copies following the talk. [Register HERE](#).

The Villagers Garden Tour
"Redland Retreat"
Saturday, March 12, 10am-4pm



The Villagers Garden Tour returns this month with the Redland providing attendees with an exceptionally unique and illuminating recreational experience. Tour-goers will receive a map to guide them, as well as detailed landscaping highlights. Locations include [Patch of Heaven Sanctuary](#), a 20-acre nature preserve (the recently expanded not-for-profit is dedicated to conservation, reforestation and education), [Plant Creations Nursery](#) and two surprise nurseries that are not usually open to the public.

Attendees can check-in at Pinecrest Gardens, and also enjoy complimentary confections and The Villager's signature Boutique featuring a variety of unique garden-related gifts for sale.

Participants drive their own vehicles between the featured locations.

Participants drive their own vehicles between the featured properties.

Please note: The Villagers is a TAS community partner engaged with helping fund restoration of the historic Doc Thomas House. Supporting this Annual Garden Tour enables The Villagers to continue its philanthropic restoration efforts.

[Click Here](#) for tickets and more information. Tickets are also available from a Villager member or online at: www.thevillagersinc.org

The Birds Thank ...



... [First National Bank of South Miami](#) for so graciously hosting the Tropical Audubon Society "Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future" February art exhibit in its elegant Wirtz Gallery. Opened in 1983 in honor of past Chairman of the Board Arthur M. Wirtz, The Wirtz Gallery is a distinguished public art space featuring month-long exhibits by local, national and international artists of note.

The private bank is considered a South Miami mainstay, deeply involved in "community," staunchly committed to customer service and always at the forefront of New Age banking.

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

[First National Bank of South Miami](#)
5750 Sunset Drive, South Miami, FL 33143
Phone: 305.667.5511

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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