



March 2024

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In the Field

March is a month of transition for South Florida's birding community. Many of our winter visitors will depart for their Northern 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, will just be arriving from their wintering grounds further south.

Our March field trips will therefore provide opportunities to encounter a potpourri of lingering winter visitors, spring migrants and year-round residents. For a chance to spot a Florida Scrub Jay — our state's only endemic bird species — register for our March 23

[Martin and Northern Palm Beach County Birding](#) trip, which begins at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, home to the scrub jay population nearest to Miami.

From mid-March through mid-May, millions of birds migrate over South Florida on their way north along the Atlantic Flyway to their summer breeding grounds. The possibility of colliding with highly reflective windows are just one of the many dangers these birds face during their annual Spring Migration. In large cities, such as Miami, brightly lit buildings can disorient migrant birds and greatly increase the likelihood that they will hit the windows.

To get a sense of how many birds are killed in Greater Miami each year by window strikes, TAS has organized and implemented a bird collision monitoring campaign within Miami-Dade County as part of our [Lights Out Miami](#) initiative.

Data collection volunteers are urgently needed for this campaign!
Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Sign up for March Field Trips below. To view our complete Spring 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: Florida Scrub-Jay by Don Green

RSVP for a Field Trip

[Everglades National Park Birding](#) | Saturday, March 2, 7:30am - 4pm

[Southern Palm Beach Birding](#) | Saturday, March 9, 7:30am-3pm

[Peaceful Waters Sanctuary with Phoebes Birding](#) | Saturday, March 16, 7:30-11am

[Martin and Northern Palm Beach County Birding](#) | Saturday, March 23, 8am-4pm

[Big Cypress Birding](#) | Saturday, March 30, 7:30-11am

[Matheson Hammock Park with Phoebes Birding](#) | Saturday, March 30, 7:30-10am

RSVP for an International Field Trip



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

CANCELLED

[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: Laughing Kookaburra by Bellbird Tours.

Featured Events

Tour the Historic Doc Thomas House
Saturday, March 2, 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.

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

Bonus: Explore our Bird-Friendly pollinator gardens and nature trails.

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

RSVP HERE

Conservation Concert @TAS
featuring "Been There Done That"

Saturday, March 23, 7pm



The big-hearted and much-beloved **Been There Done That** group will return to the Keystone stage to again anchor the March playbill! The musically gifted Classic Rock cover band is known for its hard-driving delivery of enduring '70s hits leavened by the occasional '60s Oldie. Coming together to play this gig is a veritable Who's Who of gifted SoFla musicians: **Denise Margolesky**, lead vocals; **Phil Allen**, guitar and vocals; **Burt Bruton**, bass and vocals; **Jerry Cohn**, guitar and vocals; **Noel Cleland**, keyboards and vocals; **Jose Arencibia**, drums (formerly of Brimstone); **Tony Sinatra**, drums/percussion; and guest guitar guru **Joel Plattor** of longtime Miami band favorite "The Fit."

Been There Done That's musical chops span genres and generations, and if you follow the Miami music scene you'll enjoy reconnecting with some of our city's top talents. Phil, Burt, Joe and Bruce once graced the Keystone stage under the guise of **Southbound Suspects**; Noel Cleland and Tony Sinatra are veterans of the great local band **Deck 52**.

Also on the playbill: Nacho Bizness Food Truck. Wash down your tacos with bodacious brews and wonderful wines at the RNDC Donation Bird Bar.



Bring a Blanket, bring a Friend!

A limited # of picnic tables and folding chairs are available on a first-come basis.

Gates open at 7pm; music begins at 7:30pm

\$10 Donation p/p, children 12 and under FREE

Proceeds benefit capital improvements to the Steinberg Nature Center grounds and historic buildings.

NO FUMAR: Our Steinberg Nature Center campus is a strictly enforced SMOKE-FREE environment.

Parking: Limited free parking via our 55th Avenue auto gate and along 56th Avenue; metered parking on Sunset Drive; various garage and valet parking options within 1-3 blocks; Metrorail service to South Miami Station.

Don't miss a gig!

Circle these 2024 ConCon Season dates:

Saturday, March 23

Saturday, April 27

Tickets

Conservation News

TAS team surveys Biscayne Bay Nesting Rookery

Take Action Today to protect Islands



Top Photo: *Magnificent Frigatebird.*

Second Row Photos: *Brown Pelican (left); Great Egret.* Photos by Ana Lima

In the early morning of February 21, TAS staff and Board members surveyed Mangrove Island and the Legion Picnic Islands for marine birds in north Biscayne Bay. Our team identified 23 bird species on or around the islands that lie off of Morningside Park, including Magnificent Frigatebird, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret and even a *state-threatened* Tricolored Heron! Twelve species were roosting on the islands. Notably, Brown Pelicans were observed carrying nesting material, and several well-established Double-crested Cormorant nests were sighted. To view the survey results on eBird, [click here](#).



Top Photo: Mangrove Island.

Second Row Photos: TAS Communications Director Ana Lima (front of kayak), TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements (middle) and TAS Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis survey Mangrove Island; TAS Field Trip Coordinator Brian Rapoza and TAS President Joe Barros survey Mangrove and Legion Picnic Islands from a kayak. Photos by Ana Lima

Because these spoil islands serve as crucial habitat and nesting areas for many bird species, TAS and other conservation groups are working together to urge the City of Miami to better protect them.

Take action now and urge the City of Miami to implement a Non-Motorized Vessel Zone either or a Critical Wildlife Area around Mangrove Island!

Take Action

Plants for Birds

Native Plant Day

A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park Natural Area

Saturday, March 16, 9am-4pm



The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society & Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces’ **FREE Native Plant Day** makes it easy for you to nurture and shelter birds, bees and butterflies, and create your own native habitat. In addition to procuring plants, visitors can join TAS President Joe Barros for an 8am bird walk (meet at the Campfire at the rear of the Nature Center) and visit the TAS exhibit; can visit exhibitor displays and raffle tables, and explore and enjoy the park.

Location: A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park Natural Area, 3401 SW 72nd Ave, Miami, FL 33155.

[Click HERE for more information](#)

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS Dig in Saturday, March 16, 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: *Prairie Warbler in native Cornus-florida (Flowering Dogwood).* By Jessee Gordon

RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

Chirping About

Advocates Mobilize for Everglades Action Day



Top Photo: Advocates gather for the 2024 Everglades Action Day.

Second Row Photo; TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements (left) and Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis framed by the Florida State Capitol building.

Photos by Federico Acevedo

The Everglades Coalition mobilizes advocates annually to flock to Tallahassee for a day of action during the Legislative Session. This year's February 7 Everglades Action Day was

attended by TAS's Senior Conservation Director, Lauren Jonaitis, Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, and Digital Communications Coordinator Federico Acevedo, Education Intern Juliana Alvarez, along with Tropical Audubon Ambassadors. The team met with all 22 *Miami Dade County (MDC)* legislators and/or their staff as well as a few MDC Commissioners who were in town. Everglades Action Day's purpose is to encourage state legislators to fully fund Everglades Restoration and promote [EVCO 2024 priorities](#).

Altogether Everglades Coalition attendees visited 65 legislative offices in just a few short hours.

Fun Family Festivities & Red-shouldered Hawk release attract 300+ Peeps to 10th Annual **BIRD DAY**

Presenting Sponsor: Leica Store Miami

Hummingbird Sponsor: National Parks Conservation Association





Hundreds of children, parents and naturalists of all ages turned out for an engaging afternoon featuring games, crafting, prizes and rehabilitated bird encounters at our **10th Annual BIRD DAY** held at our Steinberg Nature Center grounds on February 17.

By 4 p.m., 300+ visitors and 40+ volunteers had alighted at our 2.2-acre campus. The enriching activities enabled participants of every age to learn about bird protection programs, native habitat gardening and bird identification. This year's BIRD DAY was dedicated to the late Lewis "Brother" Milledge, who founded the event in his role as TAS Education & Grounds Chair.

Conservation Partners: Cape Florida Banding Station, Deering Estate, Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, Everglades National Park, Friends of the Everglades, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, Phoebes Birding, and Wildlife Rescue of Dade County.

Hospitality Partners: Riviera Presbyterian Church, Nacho Bizness

[Read our Media Advisory Here.](#)

Things to Do

Attend *The Villagers 2024* Garden Tour
"Tropical Oasis"
Saturday, March, 2, 10am



Take a delightful Villagers Garden Tour themed “Tropical Oasis” and get an intimate look at the beautifully curated showcase of High Pines and Coral Gables gardens on display. Villagers and gardening experts will host each stop on the progressive tour.

A gift boutique at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 5692 N Kendall Drive, will feature unique artisan wares, vintage jewelry, garden-related gift items and plants. A Rita Tennyson pop-up café will offer food for purchase.

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.](#)

The Birds Thank





The Birds Thank ... Our amazing volunteers who so generously lend their time and talents for the Birds! Whether it's beautifying our wooded Steinberg Nature Center Campus, digging into our Native Plant Demonstration Garden, educating youth at our Annual BIRD DAY event, staging Conservation Concerts, or assisting with Membership, every volunteer hour given to the Birds by these generous-hearted folks advances our Conservation Mission. We couldn't do what we do without each of you. You're the wind beneath our wings, and our staff and Board are ever-grateful!

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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