

May 2022



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May in the Field

Global Big Day, a.k.a. World Migratory Bird Day, takes place on Saturday, May 14. The 24-hour event challenges birders the world over to submit their bird sightings to [Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology](#). Conceived by the renowned Ornithology program in 2015, [Global Big Day](#) is intended to inspire more participants to contribute their bird sightings to [Cornell's global bird database](#).

Participating is easy! Stick close to home, or venture further afield. Songbirds are usually most active in the morning and late afternoon, but waterbirds are often conspicuous at any time of day. Although Spring Migration is winding down this month, many species can still be spotted in South Florida by simply being observant.

Multiple checklists may be submitted on Global Big Day via the [eBird website](#) or the eBird Mobile app. Birding time must be at least 10 minutes for each checklist submitted.

Cautionary Note: [Avian influenza](#) has now been confirmed in wild birds found sick or dead in Florida, including waterfowl and other waterbirds, birds of prey and scavengers such as vultures, gulls and crows. There have been no cases of human infection to date, but it is currently recommended that *no one handle sick or dead birds or other wildlife*. For the most current information on the Florida outbreak and where to report bird mortalities, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's [Avian Influenza](#) page. Read National Audubon Society's report on the spread of this disease in North America [here](#).

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

Banner Photo: Mangrove Cuckoo by Arend Trent. Look for one on our Key Largo Field Trip.

RSVP for a May Field Trip

[Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site: Birds, Butterflies and Native Plants](#)

Saturday, May 7, 7am - 2pm

[Phoebes Birding Bird Walk: Matheson Hammock Park](#)

Saturday, May 14, 7:30-10am





RSVP for an International Field Trip

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

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

[Charm of the Colombian Andes - Birding the Coffee Triangle](#) | July 23 - 31, 2023

Photo: Masked Trogon (Colombia Trip) by @Birding by Bus

Featured Events

Tour the historic Doc Thomas House
Saturday, May 7, 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.](#)

Chirping About

Miamians Flock to TAS 75th Anniversary Weekend



As the local chapter of National Audubon, we've been leading area bird walks, defending wildlife, protecting natural resources, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades since our 1947 founding. We celebrated our 75 years of environmental advocacy and education over Earth Day weekend in a very big way, also marking the 90th Anniversary of our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters and kicking off a Capital Campaign for its restoration, too.

Happily, Miamians flocked to our 2.2-acre near-native Steinberg Nature Center campus in record numbers to toast our dual milestones, selling out the enchanting April 22 "Bubbly & Bites Birthday Bash," (pictured top left), packing the picnic grove for the acoustic April 23 "Birdstock" (pictured top right), and filling every available seat on April 24 to honor South Florida conservation heroes at "Members Migration."

At Sunday's annual meeting, folk artist Grant Livingston (*pictured bottom left*) performed a memorable musical tribute to The River of Grass, and Everglades Foundation board member and author **James Kushlan** led a book talk showcasing 75 years of Everglades history brought to life by coauthor and TAS board member **Kirsten Hines's** award-winning photography (*pictured together bottom right*). An Awards Ceremony capped the breezy afternoon: Ron Magill, founder of the Ron Magill Conservation Endowment at the Zoo Miami Foundation, presented the Polly Redford Citizen Conservation Award to Wildlife Rescue of Dade County founder **Lloyd Brown**; former Miami-Dade County Assistant Attorney Randy Duvall presented the Daniel Beard Government Conservation Award to MDC/RER-DERM Chief of Water Resources Coordination Division **Craig Grossenbacher**; and TAS Executive Board Member Brian Rapoza presented the TAS Board Appreciation Award to Field Guide **Luis Gonzalez**.

[Read our Media Advisory](#)
[View PHOTOS!](#)

TAS Receives Preservation Award for Historic Doc Thomas House Project



Tropical Audubon Society received a 2022 Historic Preservation Award and plaque from Dade Heritage Trust for our Doc Thomas House Structural Restoration and Repair Project, in the category of "Stabilization, Renovation, Restoration" on April 21.

Accepting the award for TAS at the historic Woman's Club of Coconut Grove was TAS Board President José Francisco Barros and Board Historian Dan Jones, along with co-awardee representatives from Red Door Construction, R. J. Heisenbottle Architects and Douglas Wood Associates.

Every year at its "Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards Ceremony" Dade Heritage Trust recognizes the outstanding achievements and efforts of those who strive to save our community's places that matter. In 2022, Dade Heritage Trust is marking its own 50th Anniversary, which Tropical Audubon Society has been honored to co-celebrate alongside our organization's 75th Anniversary and our Doc Thomas House's 90th Anniversary.

Pictured at the Steinberg Nature Center, from left: TAS President José Francisco Barros, Dade Heritage Trust's Christine Rupp, TAS Board of Director and Historian, Dan Jones.

TAS Helps Launch Plastic Free 305



Single-use discarded plastics, such as bottles, bags and food containers, are a colossal global problem for humans and wildlife. That's why TAS signed on as a "Plastic Free 305" co-founder. The new initiative, sponsored by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and administered by the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, is intended to encourage businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics.

Plastic Free 305 is designed as a three-tier annual certification program based on the progressive level of single-use plastic elimination by each business. Participants can start by pledging to eliminate single-use plastics and move up the tiers as they progress toward that goal.

To help launch the new initiative, TAS Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis joined MDC Mayor Daniella Luján Cruz April 29 at the Business Clean-up Day at Morningside.

PHOTO: MARYOL BARNHART LEVINE. CAPTION: APRIL 23 AT THE MAYNARD Cleanup Day at BOWLINGGREEN Park.

Take-home Message: No matter where you live and work in Miami-Dade County, you can make a difference!

[Learn More](#)

Conservation News

Follow Spring Banding Season at Cape Florida!



Spring Migration at the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) has been productive, but strong easterly winds in April kept many migrants flying to the west of our area. Of the hundreds of birds who touched down at the park since March 15, volunteers – under the direction of master banders – banded 533 representing 31 species. April is traditionally migration prime time, with new bird species appearing almost daily, and the number of individuals increasing throughout the month.

The early April waves of migrants were mostly male birds in a hurry to get north to establish their breeding territories. A larger percentage of female birds of all species will arrive this month, mainly because they delay migrating by a few weeks to ensure their breeding grounds are ready. Notable among last month's visitors were Kentucky Warblers, Magnolia Warblers and the exquisite Indigo Bunting (pictured). Prairie Warblers and Worm-eating Warblers have largely passed through by now; Blackpoll Warblers and more Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts and Black-Throated Blue Warblers made late April appearances, too, but should continue to touch down into mid-May.

Keep up with what's happening at the station all season on the [CFBS Blog](#).

Photo: An Indigo Bunting banded at the Cape Florida Banding Station shortly before being released. Photo by Liz Golden

Join "Lights Out Miami" –
Help Birds Survive Spring Migration!
Volunteers Needed!



Spring bird migration in our region spans mid-March to mid-May as millions of birds heading north to their breeding grounds 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. each year.

To lower the mortality rate, TAS's "Lights Out Miami" initiative urges homeowners and building managers to turn off or block non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to sunrise through May 15 to protect migratory birds traveling through our region.

You can help! [Volunteer to be a bird collision data collector.](#) Learn simple steps to reduce building collisions and take the [Lights Out Miami Homeowner's Pledge.](#)

Plants for Birds

Go-Native Plant Sale Volunteers Needed!



We're recruiting volunteers for our annual Go-Native Plant Sale! We need help setting up, unloading plants and watering on June 2; arranging plants, adding signage and watering on June 3; and setting up, sales, watering, assisting customers, attending the cash register and securing plants after the event on June 4, anytime 8am-5pm.

Contact Amy Creekmur at volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org. Please include your name, phone number, date and time available and preferred tasks! Thank you.

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!

Dig in Saturday, May 21, 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: Prairie Warbler in Florida privet by Ana Lima

Save the Date

Go-Native Plant Sale @TAS

Saturday, June 4, 9am-4pm



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Go-Native Plant Sale @TAS

Saturday, June 4, 9am-4pm



STORE
MIAMI

The Birds thank [Leica Store Miami](#) for so generously presenting "Members Migration" last month. Its support of our annual meeting also included capping the Sunday afternoon event with a fantastic free raffle of 8x32 Trinovid HDLEICA birding binoculars. Additionally, the Leica Store Miami team provided loaner binoculars and pointers to attendees of two TAS-led bird walks, April 23 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida and April 24 at our Steinberg Nature Center campus. Over the years, our highly valued Community Partner's kindnesses have also included organizing and/or sponsoring birding adventures for TAS members; underwriting our annual Bird Day; and sponsoring the Miami Christmas Bird Count (CBC) with the loan of binoculars, scopes and cameras. We are humbled by Leica Store Miami's abiding generosity.

Located on Miracle Mile, the independently owned shop and gallery specializes in the world's finest photographic and sports optics gear. It hosts local and destination boot camps and workshops, as well as in-store events designed to enhance your Birding experiences.

Visit [Leica Store Miami](#) on-site or on-line soon and "Bird with the Best." Supporting those vendors who support TAS is an easy way to contribute to our Mission. The birds will thank you

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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