



September 2022



**Inside:** In the Field | Featured Events  
Conservation News | Green Things to Do | The Birds Thank

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## In the Field

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Fall Migration shifts into high gear this month as more songbirds seek stopover habitat

in the Miami area to rest and refuel during their arduous journey south to their wintering grounds. Ruby-throated hummingbirds (*pictured*) are also heading our way! These flittering jewels and important pollinators winter in South Florida or stop off here as they migrate further south. [Let's welcome them](#) with nurturing native habitat and/or hummingbird feeders.

Sign up for a September field trip below or visit our [website calendar to view the entire Fall schedule](#). Note that [registration](#) is required for all field trips. Share your bird sightings on our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

*Banner Photo: Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Caroline Birdman*

### **RSVP for a September Field Trip**

[Lucky Hammock Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 3, 7:30-11am

[Islamorada Area Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 10, 7am-4pm

[Kendale Lakes Park Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 17, 7:30-11am

[Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Birding](#)

Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30-11am



## RSVP for an International Field Trip

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

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

[Peru, Spectacles of Nature: Birding Amazonia and the Andes](#) | September 13 - 23, 2023

*Photo: Andean Cock-of-the-rock of Peru by Ian Segebarth*

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## Featured Events

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Behind the Scenes at Cape Florida Banding Station —  
Celebrating 20 years of Community Science

**Virtual Event**

## Thursday, September 15, 6pm



How did a one-person operation evolve into one of the longest-running community science projects in Florida? You'll find out in this lively exploration of Cape Florida Banding Station (under the TAS wing since 2020) at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. We'll retrace the project's trajectory, share what scientists learn from the long-term data collected by Banding Station volunteers, and explain how such data helps birds survive.

Station co-founder and director Michelle Davis will celebrate the dedicated volunteers who've made this project possible, recount the most interesting birds encountered over 20 years, including a Ruddy Quail Dove (*pictured above*) banded on October 3, 2013 — the rarest bird ever encountered at the station and the only one banded in the Continental U.S. — and discuss the Station's role as a flagship TAS program.

TAS Field Trip Coordinator and Executive Board member Brian Rapoza will moderate the webinar.

**Primer:** Volunteer community scientists have been banding songbirds at CFBS during Fall Migration since 2002. After TAS adopted the project and expanded its capacity in

2020, the Station launched its first regular annual Spring Migration banding season in March 2021. [Click HERE to read Michelle's latest blog post.](#)

[Click Here to Register for the CFBS Webinar](#)

## Lights Out Miami!

### Bird Collision Data Collectors urgently needed



Fall Migration is at its peak this month and 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. each year.



To lower the mortality rate, 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.

Take the "Lights Out Homeowners Pledge"

Volunteer to be a "Bird Collision Data Collector"

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## Conservation News

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**Adopt-A-Net & Help Birds Thrive!**

Fall Migration Fundraiser to benefit

Cape Florida Banding Station field work



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 community science program under Tropical Audubon Society’s wing since 2020!

The field research conducted by CFBS and its team of skilled volunteers illuminates the importance of protecting native habitat for migrating songbirds, especially within Miami-Dade County’s urban core. The CFBS “Adopt-A-Net” effort provides MDC residents with the opportunity to help replace worn “mist nets” essential to station operations. Sponsors will also be helping celebrate the station’s 20th Anniversary, and will receive an embroidered badge to mark the notable milestone.

*Photo: Northern Parula by Federico Acevedo*

Adopt-A-Net Today!

## TAS & Partners Issue Warning to NPS & USFWS for Failing to Protect Endangered Species @Miami Wilds



On August 17, 2022, the Center for Biological Diversity, Bat Conservation International, and the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, together with TAS, notified the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the conservation organizations intend to sue both agencies for failing to protect the federally endangered **Florida bonneted bat**, **Miami tiger beetle**, **Bartram's scrub-hairstreak** and **other imperiled species** from the destructive effects of the Miami Wilds water park and retail development in south Miami-Dade County (Florida).

[Read the Media Advisory.](#)

Take Action by Sept. 21, Show Up on Sept. 22

**PROTECT BISCAYNE BAY!**

Urge MDC to DENY 793-acre Development on Homestead Farmland





Thanks to the hundreds of TAS members who urged Miami-Dade County (MDC) Commissioners to deny an application on May 19, and again on June 1, that would allow a 793-acre industrial project to be built on Homestead farmland, the proposed “South Dade Logistics and Technology District” (SDLTD) failed to get enough votes to expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and move forward. We’re also most grateful for the support of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Commissioners Cohen-Higgins, Garcia, Higgins, Monestime and Regalado.

**BUT IT’S NOT OVER YET!**

The application to move the UDB will be back in front of the commissioners for a final vote on September 22 so WE MUST SHOW UP. Although Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz established that there will be no public comment period, there is strength in numbers so we ask that you attend the MDC BCC meeting to demonstrate your opposition to the misguided proposal!

ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE WRITE or CALL YOUR COMMISSIONER by September 21 and urge them to vote NO on the South Dade Logistics & Technology District application CDMP20210003! Contact information for MDC BCC can be found, here.

Be on the lookout for upcoming emails and Action Alerts regarding this application!

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## Green Things to Do

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Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!  
Dig in Saturday, September 17, 9am-12pm



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: Coral Honeysuckle courtesy of Getty Images.*

# International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, September 17

Sign up for the Steinberg Nature Center Cleanup @TAS!



Make an impact at the Ocean Conservancy's annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), the world's largest, one-day volunteer effort benefiting our oceans and waterways. Scientists estimate that more than 17 billion pounds of plastic enter our ocean every year, threatening marine life — from coral polyps to sharks — the health of people and local economies. By the year 2050, it's estimated there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish!

You can make a difference. VolunteerCleanup.org organizes Miami-Dade's participation in this global event with 40+ simultaneous shoreline cleanups around the county.

[Click HERE](#) to find a site near you and register today.

[Click HERE](#) to register for Tropical Audubon's Eco-Restoration Day at our Steinberg

Nature Center home campus.

## **VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!**

Help TAS stage the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation and the Florida Ornithological Society



Tropical Audubon Society is delighted to serve as the lead local host for this year's joint international research conference of the [Raptor Research Foundation and the Florida Ornithological Society](#) taking place in Fort Lauderdale October 4-9.

Volunteers are needed to assist with various tasks, including registration, workshop setup, field trips logistics and tabling. Bonus: volunteers will have opportunities to attend conference events including expert talks and social hours. Please contact [Brian Rapoza](#) for more information.

Sponsors are needed to help keep the conference affordable for student attendees from across the state, the country, and the world. If you or your company are interested in sponsoring this unique gathering, click [here for more information](#).



## Visit Audubon Florida Assembly 2022

"Birds Tell Us"

Fort Myers, Florida

October 13-15

[Register Today!](#)



Join Audubon chapters from across the state for Audubon Florida's annual assembly. This year's assembly will center on everything that "Birds Tell Us." The event will include learning sessions, panel discussions, a chapter celebration and field trips.

[Register today!](#)

*Photo: Hooded Warbler by Jesse Gordon.*

## Visit Florida Keys Hawkwatch thru November 30





[Florida Keys Hawkwatch](#) 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, 8am to 4pm daily through November 15; 8am to 3pm November 16-30.

Partake in a Labor of Love!

Volunteer for the Birds, Bees, Manatees & Trees



Tropical Audubon Society offers a host of rewarding volunteer opportunities at our Doc Thomas House headquarters and Steinberg Nature Campus. Do you enjoy Birding, Concerts or Conservation? Can you help us out with Accounting, Data Entry, Education, Gardening, History, Hospitality or Restoration? We've got your interests covered and can really use your talents, especially individuals with accounting experience! Contact Amy Creekmur at [volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org) for details.

# Help the Birds fulfill their Wish List!

## New & Used items welcome!

**Items:** Birding Scopes, External Hard Drives, Garden Tools, iPads, Laptops, Power Surge Protectors, Printer, 12 x 12 Pop-up Canopy Tents, Video Production Equipment

**In-Kind:** Accounting Services, Cleaning Services, Fence Repair, Grounds Maintenance

**Marketing Services:** PC Maintenance Services, PR Services, Secretarial Services, Webmaster

**Open Volunteer Positions:** An individual with an accounting background, especially a CPA; individuals interested in South Florida history who would enjoy being a Doc Thomas House docent; Development Director; Field Trip Leaders (walking & kayaking); Grant Writers; Graphic Designer.

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**The Birds Thank ...**

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**The Birds Thank ...** Fantastic Foursome, but, first, here's the backstory: The iconic chickee that anchors our 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center grounds has been rebuilt from the ground up, and it's better than ever! Its predecessor collapsed in a heap in 2020, succumbing to decades of heat, humidity and hurricanes. Fundraising for its replacement had to wait until our on-site events were reinstated last winter. December's Bubbly &

Bites “Raise the Chickee” party, along with door proceeds from the 2022 Conservation Concert season, literally got the replacement chickee off the ground.

The kind-hearted tradesfolk who made it happen pitched in for only the cost of materials and labor, and overcame supply chain hurdles. Key to the project was JC Sanchez of **Island Tiki Huts**, whose skilled team constructed and thatched a newer, bigger, taller chickee; next Ezra Modeste and his son Ezra Jr. of **Modeste Electric** wired the structure for lights and fans; engineer Roger Ricardo’s (*pictured above, left, with foreman Juan Mejia*) **Ronan Construction** firm then laid a lovely pervious floor framed by gorgeous oolitic limestone (*pictured above*) generously *donated* by the amazing owners of **Keystone Products** .

Thanks to these altruistic artisans, our beloved chickee will again be the stage for biannual “Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk” dinner parties. The Fall edition returns Wednesday, November 2. Seating is limited, so to be part of the inaugural soiree [RSVP ASAP](#).

[Or reserve the new chickee for your own private party sometime soon!](#)

Island Tiki Huts, 786.237.1777

Keystone Products, 305.245.4716

Modeste Electric, 305.609.5545

Ronan Construction, 305.962.1739

Supporting our partners who support TAS is an easy way to contribute to our Mission.

The Birds will thank you!





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



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

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