

# TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



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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. 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:** *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* courtesy of Getty Images

## RSVP for a September Field Trip

[Everglades Agricultural Area Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 2, 7am-4pm

[Lucky Hammock Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:30-11am

[Greynolds Park & Highland Oaks Park Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 16, 7:30am-3pm

[Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 23, 7:30-11am

[A.D. Barnes Park Birding](#) | Saturday, Sept. 30, 7:30-11am



## RSVP for an International Field Trip

[Peru, Spectacles of Nature: Birding Amazonia & the Andes](#) **CANCELLED** | Sept. 13-23, 2023

[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*

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## Featured Event

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Sign up for our Steinberg Nature Center Cleanup @TAS!  
Saturday, September 16, 9-11am



Make a difference locally during 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!

### **Volunteer Here:**

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

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.](#)

## Conservation News

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### Protect Endangered Species & imperiled Pine Rocklands habitat from Theme Park development!



**Photo:** Endangered Bartram's scrub-hairstreak butterfly relies on Pine Rocklands habitat to survive. By Holly Salvato

On September 6, the Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners (MDC BCC) will be voting on whether to extend the lease agreement for a 67-acre theme park, hotel and retail development misleadingly dubbed “Miami Wilds.” The development site is on Zoo Miami property — land that is considered vital to endangered species and the largest and most biodiverse fragment of critically endangered Pine Rocklands outside of Everglades National Park.

## Take Action!

**ATTEND the MDC BCC meeting on September 6** 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 September 5** 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!

**Adopt-A-Net and 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 21-year-old community science program partnering with Tropical Audubon Society 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 “Adopt-A-Net” effort provides MDC residents with the opportunity to help replace worn “mist nets” and fund other needs that are integral to CFBS operations.

Fall 2023 also marks the promotion of volunteers Nasim Mahomar and Nicole Rita to the positions of co-coordinators overseeing the daily CFBS field operations.

**Photo:** *A Painted Bunting is among the neotropical migrants banded at the Cape Florida Banding Station. By Rachel DiPietro*

# Adopt-A-Net Today!

## Lights Out Miami!

### Bird Collision Data Collectors 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"

Visit Florida Keys Hawkwatch  
thru October 31



[Florida Keys Hawkwatch](#) (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.

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## Plants for Birds

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

***Photo:** A volunteer joyfully transports native specimens for planting on our Steinberg Nature Center grounds. By Ana Lima*

## RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

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## The Birds Thank ...

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The Birds Thank ... University of Miami School of Law students (*pictured*) for dedicating their "HOPE Day of Service" to Tropical Audubon. On August 16, nearly 30 first-year law students, led by UM site leaders Cassandra Hacker and Angelo Gomez, spent the morning tidying and beautifying our society's 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

Despite stifling heat, the enthusiastic crew was undaunted, pulling invasive Air Potato vines, and mulching and weeding to the great delight of TAS Events/Grounds Director Amy Creekmur. Our Board of Directors — and the indigenous wildlife who forage and shelter on our densely wooded, near-native grounds! — are deeply grateful for their service. Amy, who led the work party, would be thrilled to welcome these UM eco-warriors back in 2024.

# Support Birds

## Become a Member

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



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