

# TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



April 2023



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## April in the Field

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Millions of neotropical migrants will pass through South Florida this month on their way north to their breeding grounds, offering birders many opportunities to see a variety of songbirds, such as the Northern Parula (*pictured above*), touching down to rest and refuel along their journey. Our schedule of guided morning bird walks, day trips and extended field trips will take advantage of the spring migration action, including our annual, 3-day/2-night van tour to [Ft. DeSoto and other Tampa Bay area hotspots](#). New this year is our [Marius Robinson Bird Festival](#) featuring bird walks, games, author's readings and a spotlight on our Cape Florida Banding Station at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. Scroll down for more details about this Sunday, April 23 event.

To view our complete Spring 2023 trip schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that [REGISTRATION](#) is required for all trips.

Share your birding highlights and see what other birders are posting on our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

***Photo:** Northern Parula by Neil Bowman*

## RSVP for a Field Trip

[A.D. Barnes Park Birding](#) | Saturday, April 8, 7:30-11am

[Ft. DeSoto Birding](#) | Friday, April 14-Sunday, April 16

[Snake Road, CREW Bird Rookery Swamp and Picayune Strand](#) | Saturday, April 15, 7am-4pm

[Peaceful Waters Sanctuary with Phobes Birding](#) | Sunday, April 16, 7:30-11am

[Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Birding](#) | Saturday, April 22, 8:15-11am

[Matheson Hammock Park Birding](#) | Saturday, April 19, 7:30-11am

[Evergreen Cemetery Bird Walk with Phobes Birding](#) | Sunday, April 30, 8-11am

## RSVP for an International Field Trip

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

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

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

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## Featured Events

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Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk

@Tropical Audubon

Wednesday, April 12, 7pm

*Waitlist Only*





Toast our glorious spring with a bevy of New World wines courtesy of world-class DAOU Vineyards. The Central Coast California winery (*pictured above, right*) will pair choice selections from its prestigious portfolio of Paso Robles wines with delightful seasonal offerings by *Whisk Gourmet's* Executive Chef Michelle Minotti. A Joy Wallace Catering will again help set the convivial table. This enchanting, biannual alfresco dinner party is an intimate, delicious, singular experience not to be missed. Seating under the chickee is highly limited. \$150 per person. Net proceeds benefit capital improvements to our historic Doc Thomas House and Steinberg Nature Center near-native grounds.

To be added to the waitlist please email your name and desired number of tickets to [events@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:events@tropicalaudubon.org)



## Marius Robinson Bird Festival

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### Key Biscayne, FL

A Spring Migration Celebration!  
*A FREE Community Event for*



## *Kids, Parents, Scouts, Students, Naturalists!*

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Pavilion D-18

Sunday, April 23, 8:30am-12:30pm

The South Florida community is invited to experience the wonders of birds, nature and science at the inaugural [Marius Robinson Bird Festival – A Spring Migration Celebration](#) at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, April 23, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The newly hatched, family-friendly event will honor late Key Biscayne resident and birder Marius Robinson, and celebrate the annual northbound flight of nearly 150 species of migratory birds that stop to recharge in South Florida on their return to North America from the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico.

Featuring enriching outdoor experiences for nature enthusiasts of all ages, the program includes interactive activities, expert talks, field sketching, games, prizes, book readings, binocular demonstrations, and an opportunity to learn about the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS), a community science project under the Tropical Audubon Society wing.

Chaired by Michelle Davis, cofounder and director of CFBS, and coordinated in partnership with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Key Biscayne Community Foundation and Biscayne Nature Center, the festival is made possible by a generous donation from the Key Biscayne Life Enhancement Forum. The late Mr. Robinson was a businessman, philanthropist, partner, father, grandfather, and naturalist who truly enjoyed Key Biscayne's natural treasures and avian life, and the event organizers are privileged to honor his legacy.

## RSVP

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## Birdstock @Tropical Audubon

### Saturday, April 29, 7-11 pm

A playbill of top-flight bands will headline the much-ballyhooed **Birdstock**, anchored by "Acoustic Anarchy" with pop-up appearances by promising young troubadours. Be sure to catch these generous-spirited singer-songwriters as they jam for the Birds. This highly anticipated annual event serves as the finale to the society's 13th annual Conservation Concert series. Door proceeds help fund stewardship of the near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

**Food & Drink:** Grab some fan-tabulous Mexican dished by Nacho Bizness. Belly up to the RNDC Donation Bird Bar, featuring a bevy of divine wines and bodacious brews.

**CASH ONLY**

#### **BIRDSTOCK EVENT DETAILS & PROTOCOLS**

- Bring a Blanket, bring a Friend!
- \$10 minimum Donation p/p, children 12 and under FREE
- A limited # of folding chairs are available on a first-come basis

**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.

## Tickets

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TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY 

# MEMBERS MIGRATION

presented by LEICA STORE MIAMI

**Keynote Speaker Louis Aguirre**  
WPLG Local 10 News Anchor and  
Environmental Advocate:

## "DON'T TRASH OUR TREASURE"

SUNDAY | APRIL 30 | 3-6PM  
5530 SUNSET DRIVE, MIAMI, FL 33143

The poster features a circular inset image of Louis Aguirre, a man in a blue suit and tie, standing in shallow water with a mangrove tree in the foreground. The background of the poster is a solid green color.

Tropical Audubon Society members and friends are invited to celebrate local conservation heroes, and hear from our headliner Louis Aguirre, Emmy-award-winning WPLG Local 10 News Anchor and a passionate environmentalist, who will deliver the Keynote speech titled "The Accidental Advocate." He'll talk about why education and messaging are crucial to saving and restoring South Florida's most precious habitats, his transition from an entertainment reporter to environmental journalist, and his *Don't Trash Our Treasure* series (designed to enlighten and engage viewers about doing their part to save our challenged ecosystems).

Attendees can also take a bird walk (it's Spring Migration!), savor *Sports Grill* sliders, Bird Bar libations and enjoy live music by local sensation "Ricky Valido & The Hialeah Hillbillies." Between bites attendees can duck inside the Historic Doc Thomas House to browse and bid on a tempting array of Silent Auction items.

A Conservation Awards Ceremony hosted by TAS President José Francisco Barros will follow Aguirre's Keynote address. The ceremony will recognize outstanding environmental role models in their respective fields of endeavor. These citizen volunteers and public servants have dedicated themselves to protecting and preserving area wildlife, critical habitat and/or our region's natural resources. Award recipients and their presenters will include:

**Amanda Prieto**, Polly Redford Citizen Conservation Award

— Presenter TBA

**Elizabeth Golden**, Daniel Beard Government Conservation Award

Presented by Dennis Olle

**Javier Prat & Martha Kent**, TAS Board Appreciation Award

Presented by TAS Events/Grounds Director Amy Creekmur

**Tickets:** Members Migration is FREE to active TAS members. Not a member? Join at the door! Or make a \$10 minimum CASH donation p/p for admission.

## Tickets

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## Plants for Birds

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**Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!**

**Dig in Saturday, April 15, 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 expert guidance of our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a bird-friendly garden in your own yard, 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).

[Sign Up!](#)

***Photo:** Painted Bunting in native Blanketflower by Simon Tan*

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## Conservation News

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Join “Lights Out Miami” —  
Help Birds Survive Spring Migration!  
Volunteers Needed!



Spring bird migration is at its peak from now through 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. [Read an article in The Biscayne Times.](#)

To lower the mortality rate, our "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](#).

## Follow Spring Banding Season at Cape Florida!



It's high season for Spring Migration at the Cape Florida Banding Station! Volunteers, under the direction of master banders, have banded or re-encountered from other seasons 120 birds representing 18 species as of March 31. The banders were greeted with a notable array of migratory warblers, along with some wintering species such as Gray Catbirds and Myrtle Warblers. A resident Northern Cardinal banded in 2016 is the oldest bird encountered thus far this season. Several Ovenbirds and Swainson's Warblers banded last fall are still hanging around the station, demonstrating the importance of Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park's restored habitats for birds who stay for the winter, as well as those just passing through. Keep up with what's happening at the Station all season on the [CFBS Blog](#).

***Photo:** Young male American Redstart by Miriam Avello*

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## Chirping About

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## Exploring our Chapter history & unique headquarters



Thirteen participants keen on history and architecture were treated to an informal, interactive session about our 1932 Historic Doc Thomas House and the colorful stories that comprise our chapter's history during our inaugural History Seminar on March 12. The engaging afternoon was led by TAS/DTH Historian and Board member Dan Jones, M.S.Ed. (*pictured standing*); Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, Ph.D.; and Doc Thomas House Docent & Master Gardener Steve Rawlins, M.S.

Interested in taking your own deep dive into our past? Attend our next spring [house tour on May 6](#), or write to [volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org) about becoming a docent yourself.

## Nurturing Young Scientists @ Sunset Elementary School — Full STEAM Ahead!





Tropical Audubon Society is excited to announce a new community partnership with our neighbor, STEAM-designated Sunset Elementary School! The acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. TAS will be providing Sunset students with a science education component designed to nurture young naturalists in the classroom and in the field, where they can discover the wonder of South Florida birds and flora. Coordinated by TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, who holds a Ph.D. in Biology, the program includes lessons on bird migration, behavior and adaptation, and Birding 101.

Students were treated to an interactive Birding 101 Activity Day on March 15. Michelle Davis, TAS's Cape Florida Banding Station Director, joined Stephanie to teach a class that enabled students to test out bird identification tips and tricks in a Bird ID guessing game. Using their newfound binocular skills, they then eagerly searched for hidden birds on their school grounds, where they were rewarded by the presence of spring migrants.

## TAS Walk & Talk Connects Native Plants & Birds



TAS Field Trip Coordinator and Board Member Brian Rapoza (*pictured above, center, in blue*) hosted a Bird Talk ("Creating Bird-Friendly Backyards") and Walk on March 25 at Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park for the Florida Native Plant Society Dade Chapter's Native Plant Day.

Seventeen participants joined Brian for the walk that yielded 19 bird species, including a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. See the [eBird Checklist](#).

*Photo by Sandy Moise*

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## Green Things to Do

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## Leica Lounge Interview & Book Signing with Lisette Morales McCabe & Aldeide Delgado



Join our community partner Leica Store Miami for its monthly Leica Lounge featuring a talk and book signing with photographer [Lisette Morales McCabe](#). It will be an interview-style presentation moderated by Aldeide Delgado, founder and director of the [Women Photographers International Archive](#). This month's Leica Lounge focuses on Lisette's new book, [The Pulse of Nature](#), containing a variety of photographs from her long-term project on [Spirituality in the Florida Swamps](#). Lisette will sign books after the presentation.

**ABOUT the Leica Lounge:** Hosted by Leica Store Miami, the monthly lecture series features presentations by local photographers, editors, gallerists and educators. These FREE events are designed to create and inspire the local photography community through sharing images and exchanging ideas.

**Photo:** Great Egret by Lisette Morales McCabe

## iNaturalist City Nature Challenge Friday, April 28 – Monday, May 1



[City Nature Challenge](#) showcases Miami-Dade County's amazing biodiversity, while competing against cities around the world for the most observations, species and participants. Add observations to iNaturalist on your phone from anywhere in Miami-Dade County. Learn more about the contest [here](#).

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## The Birds Thank ...

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**The Birds Thank ...** Eagle Scout Troop 336 (of the South Florida Council) for refurbishing the nine picnic tables that anchor our shady grove on our Steinberg Nature Center campus. The project was directed by Junior Assistant Scoutmaster Ethan Pagan (*pictured above, right*) and supervised by TAS Board Member DeBlois Milledge in the tradition of her late father, TAS Board member and Grounds Chair Lewis “Brother” Milledge, who joyfully organized on-site scout projects throughout his decades-long tenure.

The restoration/painting project offered the Eagle Scouts an opportunity to give back to their community and work with their hands. Ethan was tasked with developing a budget, securing supplies and organizing his troop members to complete assigned jobs in order to earn a merit badge. All in, 20 volunteers contributed 150 planning hours and 63 on-site man-hours. The Birds also thank Ethan’s Scoutmaster Allen Smith and Eagle Coach Tom Robertson.

Support Birds

Become a Member

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



{{Disclaimer}}

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