

April 2022



Inside: In the Field | Featured Events | Conservation News
Plants for Birds | Chirping About | The Birds Thank

April in the Field

Millions of neotropical migrants will pass over South Florida this month on their way north to their breeding grounds, offering birders many opportunities to see songbirds, such as the stunning Cape May Warbler, touching down to rest and refuel along their journey. Our April array of guided bird walks and field trips will take advantage of the season, including our annual, 3-day, 2-night van tour to [Pt. DeSoto](#) and other spring migration hotspots in the Tampa Bay area, as well as day trips to local migration hot spots. New this month, LEICA STORE MIAMI will loan a limited number of Leica binoculars and scopes on a first-come, first-served basis for our [Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park](#) walk.

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: Cape May Warbler by Julie Torkomian

RSVP for March Field Trip

[Fortymile Bend Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, April 2, 7:30-11am

[A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk](#) | Sunday, April 3, 7:30-11am

[Snake Road, CREW Bird Rookery Swamp & Picayune Strand Birding](#)
Saturday, April 9, 7am - 4pm

[Pt. DeSoto Birding](#) | Friday, April 15 - Sunday, April 17

[Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, April 16, 7:30-11am

[Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, April 23, 8:15-11am

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



RSVP for an International Field Trip

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

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

Photo: Volcano Hummingbird by Chris Jimenez

Featured Events

Tour the historic Doc Thomas House
Saturday, April 2, 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.](#)

News Flash! Our historic Doc Thomas House was featured on CBS 4 last month!
[You can view it here.](#)

75th Anniversary Celebration



Bubbly & Bites Birthday Bash | Friday, April 22, 6:30-8pm

Bird Walk @Bill Baggs | Saturday, April 23, 8:15- 11am

Birdstock | Saturday, April 23, 7-10pm

Members Migration | Sunday, April 24, 3-6pm

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Party with the Birds!

[Click Here for 75th Anniversary Event Tickets](#)

South Florida's "Voice of Conservation" is throwing a milestone Birthday bash this spring to mark our 75 years of environmental advocacy and education. As the official local chapter of National Audubon, Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) has been leading area bird walks, defending wildlife, protecting natural resources, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades since its 1947 founding. Fittingly, our grassroots conservation organization will celebrate our 75th Anniversary over Earth Day Weekend at our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. (The charming 1932 cypress and pine cottage, an architectural treasure and Florida Heritage Site, turns 90 this year!)

The community is invited to party with the proverbial birds at one or more of our 75th Anniversary venues: Friday evening's Bubby & Bites Birthday Bash; Saturday morning's Bill Baggs Bird Walk; Saturday evening's Birdstock Conservation Concert; Sunday afternoon's Members Migration.

Among the weekend highlights, Everglades National Park Superintendent **Pedro Ramos** will introduce Everglades Foundation board member and author **James Kushlan**, who will lead a book talk showcasing 75 years of Everglades history. Additionally, Ron Magill, founder of the **Ron Magill** Conservation Endowment at the Zoo Miami Foundation, will present an award to Wildlife Rescue of Dade County founder **Lloyd Brown**. The two will share insights about the Bald Eagle Nest Cam that has captivated the community. [Click here for tickets!](#)

Conservation News

Tropical Audubon asks Court to Overturn Governor & Cabinet's SR-836 Order



Tropical Audubon Society on March 28 filed its [Initial Brief in its appeal to Florida's Third District Court of Appeal](#) seeking to overturn a vote by Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet (the Cabinet) to approve a new highway that threatens Everglades Restoration and risks Miami-Dade County drinking water security.

The Cabinet's September 22, 2021, vote reversed a judge's factual and legal rulings, and if unopposed, would pave the way for Miami-Dade Expressway Authority's (MDC) proposed extension of the 836 Tollway. If built, the tollway extension would breach the county's Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and intrude into Everglades Wetlands and the County's West Wellfield from which the County draws drinking water.

Our TAS board, staff and birds thank you — and all of our members and friends — for the ongoing support you have given to our opposition of the proposed SR-836 extension. Whether through membership, donations or advocacy, your engagement is crucial to helping us to protect Wetlands, Wildlife and Drinking Water.

We will continue to need your voice to strengthen ours in the coming months. [Read our Media Advisory.](#)

[Donate to Protect Wetlands, Wildlife & Water Security](#)

Follow Spring Banding Season at Cape Florida!





It's high season for Spring Migration at the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS)! Volunteers, under the direction of master banders, have banded 90 birds representing 15 species since March 15. Most are individuals who are spending the winter at Cape Florida, and range from the common Gray Catbirds to the rare Wood Thrush. Early migrants, such as Prairie and Palm Warblers, Northern Parulas and Black & White Warblers, are also on the move. Keep up with what's happening at the station all season on the [CFBS Blog](#).

Photo: A Swainson's Warbler banded at the Cape Florida Banding Station shortly before being released. Photo by Steffanie Munguia.

Join "Lights Out Miami" —
Help Birds Survive Spring Migration!

Volunteers Needed!



Spring bird migration is at its peak this month from 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, Tropical Audubon Society'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

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!
Dig in Saturday, April 16, 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!](#)

Chirping About

TAS Welcomes Lauren Jonaitis



TAS welcomes Lauren Jonaitis as Conservation Director. In her new role she will be called on to focus her environmental expertise on expanding and amplifying our organization's role and reach across South Florida. Her background includes science communication, environmental permitting/policy, land use planning and coastal ecology.

Previously, Lauren worked to reduce artificial light pollution impacts to sea turtles and their nesting habitat while employed with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the Imperiled Species Management Section. She then moved to the private sector where she was an Environmental/Coastal Scientist, focusing on environmental permitting and dune restoration/maintenance efforts. [Read her bio.](#)

The Birds Thank ...



... **Modeste Electric** for the family-owned company's generous consideration toward the birds. Father and son team Ezra and Ezra Jr. Modeste have recently joined the Tropical Audubon nest as community partners, immediately going to work on re-lighting the picnic grove and ensuring our volunteer ConCon bands had all the juice they needed to rock the Keystone stage this season. Additionally, the two restored our parking lot lighting in short order, and were "an absolute joy to work with," reports Events & Grounds Director Amy Creekmur. Let there be light!

To contact Modeste Electric, call 305.609.5545 or e-mail office@modesteelectric.com

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

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