

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



February 2023



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February in the Field

Mid-winter in South Florida means it's time to look out for two early-arriving spring

migrants alighting in our area: Purple Martin, one of the largest members of the swallow family, and Swallow-tailed Kite, the stunningly beautiful raptor whose silhouette also illustrates the Tropical Audubon Society logo. Both species winter in South America and then breed here in Florida. Join us on a free February bird walk to look for these species and more!

Do you know a curious young birder/naturalist? Bring them to [BIRD DAY](#), an ideal family event filled with live bird interactions, games and prizes on February 18.

You can also count birds for science from February 17-20 by joining the global [Great Backyard Bird Count](#). Launched in 1988 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the annual event encourages bird enthusiasts of all levels to count as many birds as they can spot and identify in their backyard or favorite birding locale.

To view our complete Winter/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:** Swallow-tailed Kite by Steve Byland.*

RSVP for a Field Trip

[Flamingo Area Birding](#) | Saturday, February 4, 7:30am - 4pm

[Shark Valley and Big Cypress Birding](#) | Saturday, February 11, 8am - 2pm

[Kendall Indian Hammocks Park with Phoebes Birding](#) | Sunday, February 12, 7:30-10:30am

[L-31W Canal Birding](#) | Saturday, February 25, 7:30-11am

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

Featured Events

Tour the Historic Doc Thomas House Saturday, February 4, 1 & 3pm



You're invited to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. The charming 1932 cottage has recently undergone extensive structural restoration and repair. Enjoy a captivating, 1-hour 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 who designed the charming Florida vernacular cottage, distinguished by its native woods and oolitic limestone features.

Bonus: Explore our society's Bird-friendly pollinator gardens and near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds.

Directions: 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143; limited onsite parking via the SW 55 Avenue auto gate. [RSVP HERE](#) .

Photo: An aerial view of our historic Doc Thomas House by Alfredo DeLara.

RSVP

BIRD DAY 2023

Saturday, February 18, Noon-4pm

BIRD DAY 2023

PRESENTED BY
Leica STORE MIAMI

HUMMINGBIRD SPONSOR
NATIONAL PARKS HUMMINGBIRD ASSOCIATION

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

DISCOVER
 CRAFT
 EXPLORE

Saturday | February 18 | 12-4 | 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL

Calling budding birders and junior naturalists! Miami youth and their parents are invited to attend our free annual **BIRD DAY festival Saturday, February 18, Noon-4pm** featuring an engaging afternoon of games, prizes, exploration and educational activities

on our near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds. BIRD DAY is the perfect venue for school ecology clubs, scout troops and young children seeking an outdoor adventure. “Meet” rehabilitated wild birds and animals rescued by the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. Take part in Owl Pellet dissection. Craft Piping Plover “chicks.” Hone your binocular skills. Hear author [Marta Magellan](#) read her new children’s book, *Flying Jewels: A Hummingbird Story*.

The mid-winter event also celebrates the annual migration of the nearly 350 bird species that stop in South Florida to refuel and recharge on their return flight from non-breeding grounds in the Caribbean, South America and Mexico on their way to nesting habitats in North America.

BIRD DAY participants can also join TAS Field Trip Coordinator Brian Rapoza for a primer on the 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count, a global community science initiative that enables birdwatchers of all ages to count birds and help create a real-time snapshot of where birds are located. Learn how your family can participate in the February 17-20 event!

Additionally: Nature lovers can explore the trails that thread the restored Tropical Hardwood Hammock and Pine Rockland habitats that comprise the Steinberg Nature Center. History buffs can tour the 1932 Doc Thomas House, which serves as TAS headquarters and is a designated Florida Heritage Site.

[Click HERE to read our Media Advisory](#)

[Click HERE to RSVP.](#)

[Tropical Audubon Society: 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, FL, 33143](#)

RSVP

Conservation Concert @TAS

Featuring Plan B

Saturday, February 25 , 7pm



Get your Tickets Today!

Fans of Classic and Contemporary Rock will want to make a date with Plan B when the popular band returns to the Keystone Stage this month! Hear your fave songs delivered authentically and with high energy under the stars and oaks by Pinecrest residents Scott Kenward (guitar, vocals) and Al Roque (drums), South Miamian Alex Leeds (vocals, percussion, guitar), High Piner Al Larcada (bass) and East Kendall-ite Alvaro Gomez (keyboards, guitar, vocals). Wear your dancing shoes!

Also on the playbill: Featured Food Truck and the RNDC donation Bird Bar, stocked with divine wines and bold brews. Please note: Bird Bar is CASH ONLY.

NO FUMAR: Our Steinberg Nature Center campus is a strictly enforced SMOKE-FREE environment.

Gates open at 7pm; music begins at 7:30pm

[Get Tickets HERE](#) : \$10 donation p/p, children 12 and under FREE

Proceeds benefit capital improvements to the Steinberg Nature Center grounds and historic buildings.

Don't miss a gig! Circle these 2023 ConCon Season dates:

Saturday, February 25, Plan B

Saturday, March 25, Been There Done That

+ Birdstock, Saturday, April 29

Plants for Birds

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!

Dig in Saturday, February 18, 9am-12pm



Photo: Volunteers joyfully display the bucket of invasive air potatoes they eradicated from our Steinberg Nature Center grounds!

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.

This month we'll take a break from weeding and trimming to lend a hand at our annual BIRD DAY festivities. Volunteers are needed to help tidy the grounds (rake leaves, wrangle fallen branches and clear our network of trails), arrange tables, chairs and displays, and assist vendors.

[Sign Up!](#)

Chirping About

EVCO Awards TAS
“Grassroots Activism Award”



***Photo:** (from left) Everglades Coalition Co-chair Kelly Cox, TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, TAS Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis, TAS Board Vice President "Rock" Salt, TAS President José Francisco Barros, Everglades Coalition Conference Co-chair Mark Perry by Michael Leggett.*

The Everglades Coalition recognized our staff on January 27 with the “Grassroots Activism Award” for our organization’s local environmental leadership demonstrated in 2022, singling out our campaign to defend the existing Urban Development Boundary in Miami-Dade County and safeguard Everglades restoration. Tropical Audubon was lauded for “mobilizing the community” in defense of the Everglades at the 38th Annual Everglades Coalition conference held in Coral Springs.

The annual award is given for “exceptional work” to engage and educate the community in the name of Everglades restoration.

TAS President José Francisco Barros, Board member Terrence "Rock" Salt, Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis and Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie

Clements were on hand to receive the award. Barros praised Jonaitis and Clements, along with Communications Director Ana Lima, Events/Grounds Director Amy Creekmur, Cape Florida Banding Station Director Michelle Davis and Digital Communications Coordinator Federico Acevedo for the scope and impact of their meaningful work.

Their efforts last year included mobilizing our Tropical Audubon Ambassadors, thousands of TAS members and MDC citizens to express their opposition to the “South Dade Logistics and Technology District” (SDLT) development, which would expand the UDB and exacerbate urban sprawl. TAS advocacy was amplified by our Conservation Partners, including [Hold the Line Coalition](#), [Friends of the Everglades](#), [National Parks Conservation Association](#), [Everglades Law Center](#), [Audubon Florida](#), and attorneys Richard Grosso and Paul Schwiep. On the SDLT issue a mayoral veto and a reduced project footprint were achieved.

“An award like this is made possible by the efforts of our amazing staff and dedicated board, who tirelessly beat the conservation drum for birds and our area’s precious natural resources,” Barros said. “EVCO has truly validated our team’s hard work!”

The Villagers alight at TAS



Photo: TAS President José Francisco Barros welcomes The Villagers.

More than 50 members of The Villagers, the esteemed preservation organization that has supported our stewardship efforts for decades, gathered at our historic Doc Thomas House last month for their group's January meeting. They also got a close look at how their dollars have been put to work to date. TAS Board member and Historian Dan Jones gave a talk about our 1932 cottage's history and its ongoing restoration, highlighting the recent enhancements to the front porch and gutters. With the previous installation of a new roof and major structural repairs, Jones estimated that more than 60 percent of the house's current restoration plan is now complete. [Read the Community News article here.](#)

Supporting The Villagers enables the organization to continue their philanthropic restoration efforts across Miami-Dade County, so please mark your calendars for the group's **Annual Garden Tour** on Saturday, March 4, 10am-3pm. This year's theme, "**Pinecrest Paradiso**," will feature the most heavenly gardens in the leafy municipality. [Purchase tickets HERE.](#)

Save the Dates

Bird Photography Workshop with Kirsten Hines
Saturday, March 11, 7am-3:30pm
Wakodahatchee Wetlands
13026 South Jog Road, Delray Beach, 33446



Join wildlife photographer, author and Audubon Florida and Tropical Audubon Society board member Kirsten Hines on Saturday, March 11 for a bird photography workshop aimed at enhancing the design elements and visual impact of the bird images you capture.

This workshop includes a field-based session focused on nesting birds and their

behaviors at the Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Delray Beach, followed by a classroom component at our historic Doc Thomas House that will cover the basics of post-processing using Adobe's Lightroom software. The curriculum is designed for beginning to intermediate photographers with a minimum 70mm lens. Workshop size will be no less than 4 and no more than 8 participants.

Pre-registration and a \$125 fee for members, or \$150 fee for non-members (includes a donation to TAS), should be remitted no later than March 4 to ensure participation. Registered participants will receive an email with logistical details the week of March 6, prior to the workshop. [Click here to register](#) .

Not a Tropical Audubon Society member? Join [here](#) today! Questions about your membership status? Email communications@tropicalaudubon.org with questions. Questions about the workshop? Contact Kirsten at KirstenNatureTravel@gmail.com.

Register Here

Love Old Florida Architecture?

Love Nature?

Love Volunteering?

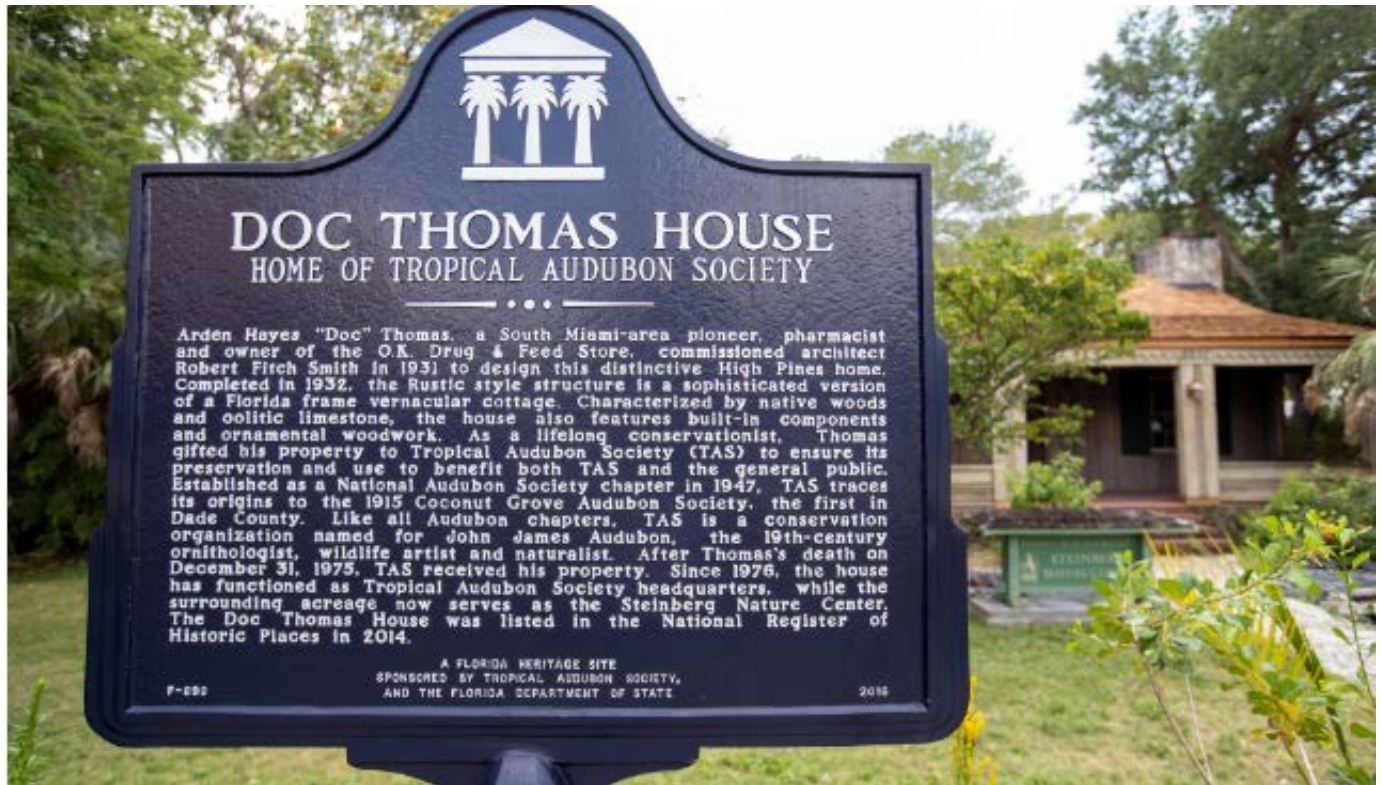
Love Local History?

Take a deep dive at our

Doc Thomas House & Tropical Audubon Society History Seminar

5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

Sunday, March 12, 1-4pm



Local history buffs, Audubon enthusiasts, and anyone interested in becoming a Doc Thomas House volunteer docent are invited to an informal, interactive seminar to learn more about our 1932 Historic Doc Thomas House monthly tours and the colorful stories that comprise our chapter's history.

The engaging afternoon will be hosted by TAS/DTH Historian and Board member Dan Jones, M.S.Ed.; Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, Ph.D.; and Doc Thomas House Docent & Master Gardener Steve Rawlins, M.S., who will explore four main topics: All About Audubon, 1785-1976; Doc Thomas & His House, 1887-1976; A "How To" Tour of the Doc Thomas House; and All Together Now – TAS & DTH 1976-Present. Their presentation will include photographs, artifacts and a walk-and-talk tour of the Doc Thomas House and Steinberg Nature Center grounds. There will be a 15-minute break during the seminar.

PRIMER: The Doc Thomas House, designed and built in 1931-32, is an authentic relic of Old Florida and a recognized architectural gem, both locally and nationally. It was first designated an historic site by Dade County on its 50th birthday in 1982; it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 and earned Florida Heritage Site status in 2016.

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.

RSVP

The Birds Thank ...



Photo: (from left) TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, Deli Lane Cafe & Sunset Tavern co-owner Jahn Kirchoff and TAS President José Francisco Barros at Deli Lane Cafe & Sunset Tavern.

The Birds Thank ... [Deli Lane Cafe & Sunset Tavern](#) as a Community Partner and Tropical Audubon Ambassador Community Sponsor! The iconic café on S.W. 59th Avenue in South Miami is a collegial spot for all-day breakfasts and American fare. It

boasts a 150-seat patio, the largest in South Miami, and offers some of the best people watching in town.

The restaurant inaugurated its partnership with TAS in December with a hearty donation of its signature dishes for our Tropical Audubon Ambassador Closing Ceremony Celebration.

Deli Lane co-owner Jahn Kirchoff, who shares a passion for conservation, has invited TAS members to enjoy a 10 percent discount on food Monday thru Thursday when dining *at* the restaurant. Simply show your server your TAS Membership Card to receive the discount.

Need to sign up or renew your membership? [Click HERE.](#)

Deli Lane Cafe & Sunset Tavern
7230 SW 59th Avenue, South Miami, 33143
305.665.0606

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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