

# TROPICAL **AUDUBON** SOCIETY



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## **In the Field**

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### **Attention Beachgoers!**

When we're at the beach this summer, let's remember to share the sand with the shorebirds who nest in our area at this time of year — specifically, the Wilson's Plover, Least Tern and Black Skimmer. Helping these beach denizens safely hatch and raise their

chicks is deeply meaningful, and a captivating teaching opportunity for kids.

### **Tips to help Shorebirds Survive & Thrive!**

- Give nesting birds plenty of space. Signs or volunteers usually alert us to nesting areas.
- Where pets are allowed on beaches, keep them leashed, away from birds and off dunes.
- Remove trash and food scraps, which attract foraging animals and potential predators.
- Stay on marked pathways, and do not traverse beach dunes or other nesting areas.

[Click here to view "Three Ways to Share the Shore" short video.](#)

[More information from National Audubon Society about how to become a bird-friendly beachgoer.](#)

Regularly scheduled birding field trips will resume in mid-August. Share your bird sightings on our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

### **Shorebird Stewards Needed Now!**

A colony of [Least Terns](#) have returned to nest at the Mayan Dune, a historic Ft. Lauderdale nesting site for the small seabirds who winter on South America's northern shores. The Least Tern is listed as "Threatened" in Florida and is a federally protected seabird. *Stewards are needed immediately* to help protect these birds and their tiny chicks, and to better educate the public. The site has been marked off by the State Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to protect the estimated 200 terns and their 70+/- nests. Volunteer stewards are most needed for shifts of two hours or more, primarily 6-9 a.m. and/or 6-10 p.m. To participate, please call Ann Wiley at 954.805.3355.

**Banner Photo, above:** *Mayan Dune Least Tern Colony 2022 by Sarah Laubscher*



## RSVP for an International Field Trip

[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

[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: Laughing Kookaburra by Bellbird Tours*

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## Featured Events

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### Go-Native Plant Sale @TAS (Rain or Shine)

*Presented by Galloway Farm Nursery*

Saturday, June 3, 9am-4pm



Just in time for rainy season, our annual **Go-Native Plant Sale** presented by [Galloway Farm Nursery](#) makes it easy for you to nurture and shelter birds, bees and butterflies, and create your own native habitat at home. Select from hundreds of native plants on offer — which can include Tickseed, Coontie, Peperomia, bird and butterfly attractors, and more — and get cultivation tips from experts. Find inspiration on our 2.2-acre near-native Steinberg Nature Center campus. Learn how to transform your yard, balcony or patio into a hospitable, nurturing oasis for indigenous and migrating birds, other pollinators and area wildlife. Net proceeds help support our bird-friendly gardens and grounds.

**RAIN or SHINE!**

**LOCATION:** 5530 Sunset Dr. Miami FL 33143. Limited onsite parking via our 55th Avenue Auto Gate.

***Bonus Activities:***



- Join a Beginner's Bird Walk 8:30am
- Attend a Rain Barrel/Water Conservation Workshop with IFAS Extension, University of Florida. Registration required to attend the Rain Barrel workshop. Pre-purchase of rain barrels is highly recommended to guarantee June 3 delivery. [Click HERE to RSVP or to purchase a rain barrel, or both.](#)
- Learn about “Lights Out Miami” and how to make your windows bird-safe
- Purchase bird- and garden-themed books and note cards
- Buy wild “Tropical Honey” produced in our on-campus beehives
- Explore our 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center campus
- Take a guided tour of our historic Doc Thomas House. Tours at 1&3pm
- Pack breakfast or lunch and perch in our oak-shaded picnic grove

**Photo:** *Black-throated Blue Warbler in native American Beautyberry Bush by Will Stuart*

## RSVP for the Go-Native Plant Sale

Dine-in or Take-out @Whisk Gourmet  
Tuesday, June 13, 5-9pm



Make a “Second Tuesday” dinner date at [Whisk Gourmet](#) this summer and Whisk will feather the proverbial Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) nest with 10 percent of its dinner revenues. The beloved bastion of Southern-accented American Comfort Food offers a refreshing summer menu, and Indoor Dining or Outdoor Covered Seating options, Take-out or Curbside-pick-up. (Deliveries are not eligible for this promotion.)

No matter how you choose to dine, Executive Chef Michelle Minotti infuses generous helpings of New Orleans and Caribbean influences to her captivating signature cuisine. Check out the daily fresh fish special, experience the melt-off-the-bone BBQ glazed pork loin ribs, savor the Whisk tacos, local mango salad, salmon cake with green apple slaw, shrimp remoulade (*pictured above*), fried conch appetizers, and don't miss the iconic fried green tomatoes.

Despite hurricanes, restaurant ownership changes, and even the global pandemic, Whisk has been a generous TAS ally every summer since 2011. The annual “Dine Out” series helps TAS protect the places South Floridians cherish — Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay and The Everglades.

[RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED](#) for all on-site dining. Call 786.268.8350

**Save July 11 and August 8 for two more opportunities to Dine Out for the Birds!**

This event takes place at [Whisk Gourmet 7382 SW 56 Avenue Miami FL 33143](#)  
Limited onsite free parking available.

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## Conservation News

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Endangered Miami Tiger Beetle wins critical Habitat victory, but defeating Theme Park development remains crucial



Following a hard-won legal victory achieved by TAS in partnership with the Center for Biological Diversity and Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, on May 22 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated 1,869 acres of lifesaving critical habitat for the endangered Miami tiger beetle in Miami-Dade County. The beetle currently survives in only two isolated populations, separated by urban development.

In its federal notice, the Service emphasized that the Miami tiger beetle will need to have additional populations if it is going to recover and emphasized the importance of the beetle's last remaining habitat in the Richmond Pine Rocklands, noting that it contains biological features the beetle needs to survive.

Although the Service's decision protects remnant pine rockland habitat, the beetle and its habitat are threatened by imminent development in Miami-Dade County. The proposed Miami Wilds water park and retail development plans to bring a 27.5-acre water park, retail area, hotel and dozens of acres of associated parking lots to the area. Development threatens to cause cascading effects on imperiled species, including the Miami tiger beetle, and to surrounding ecosystems.

TAS Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis is happy to see that the Service finally designated critical habitat for the Miami tiger beetle, which is key to the survival of this highly endangered species, but she says "we still have a fight on our hands." Why? Because, according to Jonaitis, if the proposed Miami Wilds waterpark and retail development is built adjacent to Zoo Miami it will irrevocably harm the beetle and other endangered species, including the Florida bonneted bat and Bartram's scrub-hairstreak butterfly. All three depend on the undeveloped Pine Rockland habitat. "To ensure these integral native species recover, we'll need another victory to save this rare remnant of their crucial habitat from the bulldozers," Jonaitis warns.

**Photo:** Miami tiger beetle photo by Jonathan Mays, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation



*Commission*

## Cape Florida Banding Station wraps up Spring Migration Season



Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) concluded its 2023 Spring Migration season on May 15 with 1,310 birds of 32 species banded, 33 of which were return visitors from previous seasons. While spring activity started off quietly due to wind patterns, the first half of May yielded an excellent movement of birds, and the Station had its busiest day ever with 230 birds banded on May 3! Over the course of the Spring season, a record 10 Veery and 21 Swainson's Warblers were encountered with 2 overwintering Swainson's Warblers originally banded during the record Fall 2022 Swainson's Warbler season. CFBS Director Michelle Davis says, "It's gratifying to see this secretive and unique warbler species in greater numbers here over recent years."

[Check out the latest CFBS blog](#) for a rundown of all of the season's visitors.

Spring Migration slows to a trickle in early June, as these transitory winter and migratory birds reach their summer breeding grounds in Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern forests.

Among our year-round South Florida residents, the Northern Cardinals are busy instructing their fledglings as we head into our steamy summer.

**Photo:** *The American Redstart (left) and Black-throated Blue Warbler were gently banded at CFBS by trained volunteers, and then released unharmed. By Steffanie Munguía*

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## Plants for Birds

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Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!  
Dig in Saturday, June 17, 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, 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).

We thank [Marriott Vacations Worldwide](#) and [Interval International](#) volunteers (*pictured above*) for donating their time to beautify and maintain our Steinberg Nature Center grounds in May. An HR team spent a day organizing our tool shed and removing invasive potato vines. The team-building activity day was part of "Associate Appreciation Celebrations," an annual tradition for Marriott Vacations Worldwide (MVW) and Interval International.

## RSVP for Bird-friendly Gardening Day

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### The Birds Thank ...

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*“A Joy Wallace” has been setting the table, literally, for “Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk” since the event’s inaugural al fresco dinner party in 2012.*

The Birds Thank A JOY WALLACE ... the catering, design and special events firm that so graciously and elegantly sets our “Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk” dinner tables every spring and fall. From founder Joy Wallace’s patronage of the Birds at the event’s 2012 inception, to the generosity of current CEO Reinaldo Ramos, the upscale firm has been instrumental in our society’s ability to stage the bi-annual event, making it possible for us to dedicate nearly all of the proceeds to the upkeep of our historic Doc Thomas House and 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center grounds. We’ve also tapped WWWW income to re-thatch the chickee *twice* and to rebuild it from the ground up last year.

Supporting those vendors who support TAS is an easy way to contribute to our Mission. The Birds will thank you!

A Joy Wallace



<http://www.ajoywallace.com/>

305.252.0020

## Support Birds

## Become a Member

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



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