

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



March 2023



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

March in the Field

March is a month of transition for South Florida's bird community. Many of our winter visitors are departing for their breeding grounds, but not before birders had a chance to

readily observe American Robins in our region. Miamians saw the cheery, orange-breasted thrush in local parks and backyards in considerable numbers for the first time since the last major irruption of this species in 2003. Robins are an irruptive species, which means they expand their winter range farther south than normal in response to inadequate food supplies within their normal winter range. Other species that exhibit irruptive behavior include American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak and even the Snowy Owl.

Meanwhile, a few spring migrants and summer breeders, including Chimney Swift, Eastern and Gray Kingbird, Red-eyed and Black-whiskered Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler, are just arriving from their wintering grounds further south.

Join us on a March Field Trip for a opportunity to see these captivating species along with our year-round residents. For a chance to spot a Florida Scrub Jay, our state's only endemic bird species, register for our March 11 [Martin County Area Birding Trip at Jonathan Dickinson State Park](#). To bird with us farther afield, sign up ASAP for our 3-day, 2-night van tour to [Ft. DeSoto](#) and other spring migration hotspots in the Tampa Bay area, April 14-16.

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: Florida Scrub Jay by Shaina DeCiryman, Getty Images

RSVP for a Field Trip

[Everglades National Park Birding](#) | Saturday, March 4, 7:30am - 4pm

[Crandon Shorebird Walk with Phoebes Birding](#) | Sunday, March 5, 7-10am

[Martin and Northern Palm Beach County Birding](#) | Saturday, March 11, 8am-4pm

[Southern Palm Beach Birding](#) | Saturday, March 18, 7:30am-3pm

[Southern Broward Birding](#) | Saturday, March 25, 8am-4pm

SAVE THE DATES! RSVP TODAY

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

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, March 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: *Tropical Audubon Society benefactor Arden Hayes “Doc” Thomas and his mother, Margaret, pictured mid-1930s, on the front porch of the now-historic Doc Thomas House.*

RSVP



Bird Photography Workshop with Kirsten Hines

Saturday, March 11, 7am-3:30pm

Wakodahatchee Wetlands

13026 South Jog Road, Delray Beach, 33446

& Tropical Audubon Society

5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

Sold Out! Waitlist Only

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 morning session focused on nesting birds and their behaviors at the Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Delray Beach, followed by an afternoon 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 join the waitlist.](#)

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.

Sign up for the Waitlist Here

Love Old Florida Architecture?

Love Nature?

Love Volunteering?

Love Local History?

Take a deep dive at our

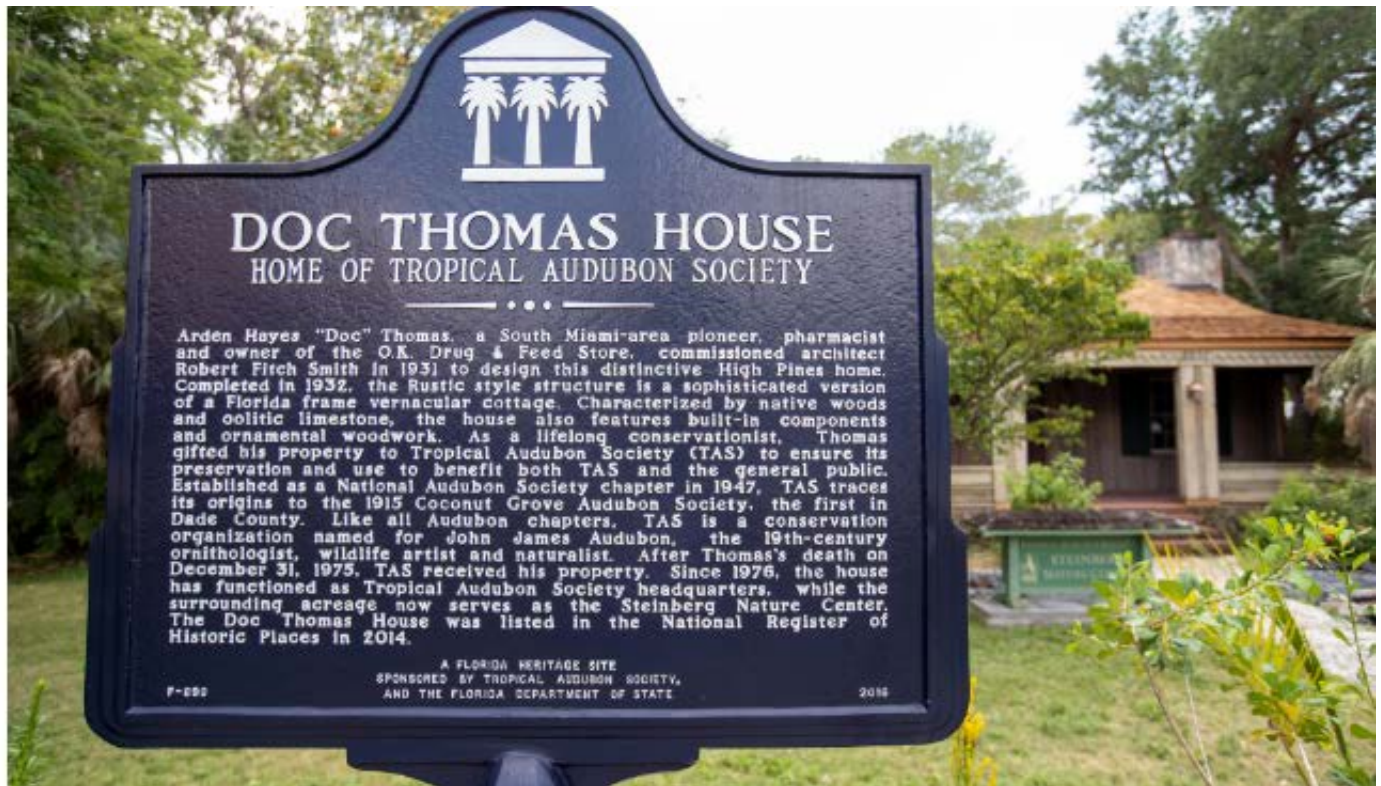
Doc Thomas House &

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 topics will include:

- All About Audubon, 1785-1976
- Doc Thomas and His House, 1887-1976
- A "How To" Tour of the Doc Thomas House
- All Together Now: TAS and DTH, 1976-Present

The seminar will be facilitated by:

- Dan Jones, M.S.Ed., TAS & DTH Historian, Board Member
- Stephanie Clements, Ph.D., TAS Education & Advocacy Director
- Steve Rawlins, M.S., DTH Docent & Master Gardener

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

Conservation Concert @TAS
Featuring Been There Done That
Saturday, March 25 , 7pm



Get your Tickets Today!

ConCon returns this month with **Been There Done That** headlining the March playbill! The musically gifted Classic Rock cover band is known for its hard-driving delivery of enduring '70s hits leavened by the occasional '60s Oldie. Coming together to play this gig is a veritable Who's Who of gifted SoFla musicians: **Denise Margolesky**, lead vocals; **Phil Allen**, guitar and vocals; **Josh Chassner**, guitar (son of BTDT's late founder, Dr. Ron Chassner, and a member of Ashville NC's PyleTribe); **Jerry Cohn**, guitar and vocals; **Burt Bruton**, bass and vocals; **Noel Cleland**, keyboards and vocals; **Jose Arencibia**, drums (formerly of Brimstone); **Tony Sinatra**, drums/percussion; and **Bruce Turkel** on Blues harp.

Been There Done That's musical chops span genres and generations, and if you follow the Miami music scene you'll enjoy reconnecting with some of our city's top talents. Phil, Burt, Joe and Bruce once graced the Keystone stage under the guise of **Southbound Suspects**; Noel Cleland and Tony Sinatra are veterans of the great local band **Deck 52**.

Our April 29 ConCon/Birdstock season finale will feature three of these great guys joined by Larry Misrahi playing as Acoustic Anarchy, a band born out of the pandemic whose original songbook is not to be missed!

Also on the March 25 playbill: Nacho Bizness Food Truck and the donation Bird Bar featuring divine wines and bold brews courtesy of Republic National Distributing Co.
Please note: Bird Bar is CASH ONLY.

Bring a Blanket, bring a Friend!

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.

\$10 Donation p/p, children 12 and under FREE

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

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.

Plants for Birds

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!
Dig in Saturday, March 18, 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: Get ready to rake! Volunteers help us keep our Steinberg Nature Center grounds looking good. By Federico Acevedo

Conservation News

TAS Lawsuit Challenges Federal Failure to Protect Rare Wildlife From South Florida Development



Tropical Audubon is part of a coalition of formidable conservation groups that [sued](#) the National Park Service on February 8 for failing to protect the endangered Florida bonneted bat, Miami tiger beetle, Bartram’s scrub-hairstreak, endangered plants and globally imperiled Pine Rocklands from the destructive effects of the approved Miami Wilds water park and retail development in South Florida. [Read our Media Advisory.](#)

Photo: Florida Bonneted Bat by Melquisedec Gamba-Rios

Chirping About

BIRD DAY 2023 a Soaring Success

Presenting Sponsor: Leica Store Miami

Hummingbird Sponsor:

National Parks Conservation Association





Hundreds of children, parents, and naturalists of all ages turned out for an engaging afternoon featuring games, crafting, prizes, an author's reading and wild bird encounters at our 9th Annual BIRD DAY held on Saturday, February 18. By 4 p.m., 275+ visitors and 40+ volunteers had alighted at our Steinberg Nature Center (SNC) grounds. The enriching activities enabled participants of every age to learn about bird protection programs, native habitat gardening and bird identification.

Rekindled after a 2-year pandemic hiatus, the annual BIRD DAY event — chaired by TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements — celebrates the late winter/early spring northbound flight of nearly 350 species of migratory birds stopping over in South Florida as they return to their North American nesting grounds from points south. To monitor their migration for science, TAS Field Trip Coordinator Brian Rapoza mentored attendees about how to participate that very weekend in the nation's Great Backyard Bird Count, leading a mini bird walk primer on the SNC grounds.

Attendees of every age were enthralled by the release of a rehabilitated Broad-winged Hawk by Wildlife Rescue of Dade County founder Lloyd Brown. It had been rescued after ingesting rat poison, and nursed back to health by Brown and his capable volunteers. The kind folks at Pelican Harbor Seabird Station also brought rescued wild animals to share their stories and educate curious children. Many of the day's visitors tried their hand at Owl Pellet dissection, Nature Journaling, and crafting Piping Plover "chicks." Others honed their binocular skills with loaner binoculars from Leica Store Miami, or learned about Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

[Read our Media Advisory HERE.](#)

Green Things to Do

The Villagers Garden Tour

“Pinecrest Paradiso”

Saturday, March, 4, 10am-3pm



A Tour of Pinecrest's Most Heavenly Gardens

The Villagers Garden Tour returns this month with “*Pinecrest Paradiso*,” a showcase of Pinecrest’s most heavenly gardens. Garden lovers will enjoy a private peek into five gardens featuring lush landscaping, water features, unique plantings, sculptures and more. Members of The Villagers will be stationed at each property to share insider details about the flora that makes each garden special.

Additionally, attendees are invited to tour historic Pinecrest Gardens (formerly Parrot

Jungle), featuring the Upper Garden, recently renovated by renowned landscape architect, Douglas Thompson of Landscape DE and award-winning architect William Lane.

Pinecrest Gardens is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized for its significance by the Cultural Landscape Foundation. It will be one of two starting points for the Garden Tour, as well as the site of The Villagers' Boutique, which features unique gifts and plants as well as Villagers' *Jewel Box Gems*, angels, and breads. The Boutique will be open until 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 when purchased in advance from Villagers members or on Eventbrite <https://thevillagersinc.org/gardentour/>. The day of the tour, tickets will be available for \$55 at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57th Avenue, and at the private garden site located at 6201 SW 96th Street, both in Pinecrest. Tour-goers will receive a map to guide them to each property. There are no refunds and no rain date.

***Please note:* The Villagers is a TAS community partner engaged with helping fund restoration of the historic Doc Thomas House. Supporting this Annual Garden Tour enables The Villagers to continue its philanthropic restoration efforts.**

The Birds Thank ...





The Birds Thank ... Our volunteers who so generously lend their time and talents for the Birds! Whether it's beautifying our wooded Steinberg Nature Center Campus, digging into our Native Plant Demonstration Garden, educating youth at our Annual BIRD DAY event, staging Conservation Concerts, or assisting with Membership, every volunteer hour given to the Birds by these generous-hearted folks advances our Conservation Mission. We couldn't do what we do without each of you. You're the wind beneath our wings, and our staff and Board are ever-grateful!

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



{{Disclaimer}}

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive

Miami, FL 33143
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).