



TROPICAL **AUDUBON** SOCIETY

SOUTH FLORIDA'S VOICE OF CONSERVATION



For Immediate Release

Marius Robinson Bird Festival

— *A Spring Migration Celebration*

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

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Pavilion D-18

***A FREE Community Event for
Kids, Parents, Scouts, Students, Naturalists & Neighbors!***

KEY BISCAYNE (Miami), Fla. — 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. The newly hatched, family-friendly event will honor the 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, authors' 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 CFBS cofounder and director Michelle Davis, 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, CFBS, Key Biscayne Community Foundation, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, are privileged to honor his legacy. *Cont.>*



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“Marius had a passion for nature, science, and medicine. He pursued knowledge and shared it throughout his life,” says Melissa White, Executive Director of the Key Biscayne Community Foundation. “Marius cared about enhancing his quality of life, and the lives of his loved ones and community members.”

This desire led Marius to establish the Key Biscayne Life Enhancement Forum at the Key Biscayne Community Foundation. The Forum hosts lectures by experts on a range of topics, particularly science, aging and healthy habits. “We are grateful for Marius's invaluable contributions during his lifetime, and his legacy continues to inspire us,” White says.

Key Biscayne is a strategic stopover for migrating birds. Every spring and fall, thousands of songbirds alight at Bill Baggs to rest and refuel on their way north or south along the Atlantic Flyway, heading either for North American summering habitats or southern wintering destinations in the Caribbean and South America. CFBS volunteer Community Scientists have now been banding these neotropical migrants for 21 years.

“Spring Migration gives local residents an opportunity to observe migratory songbirds and engage in Community Science in their own “backyard” here on Key Biscayne,” says CFBS’s Davis. “The festival is a wonderful way to educate and inspire the public about the amazing birds and habitats that make Key Biscayne such a wonderful place to live and visit.”

Festival attendees will have an opportunity to hear from Davis about the important work the Station does, take a bird walk and also learn the how-to’s of “bird banding” from a Master Bander, who will demonstrate using an artificial bird the practice of gently removing a captured bird from a mist net and carefully placing a uniquely numbered aluminum band around its leg. Actual banded birds, if recaptured at CFBS or elsewhere, can then be individually identified. The data gathered enables researchers to study bird migration, flight range, how long birds live and the impacts of Climate Change over time.

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MARIUS ROBINSON BIRD FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Date/Time/Location: Sunday, April 23, 2023, 8:30am-12:30pm, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, 1200 Crandon Blvd, Key Biscayne, FL 33149, Pavilion D-18

8:30am-12:30pm: Bird Walks led by Tropical Audubon Society guides, Activity Stations, Bird Sound Bingo, Nature Art & Journaling, Book Readings, Bird Banding Demonstrations, Binoculars 101, 3D Printing, Conservation Partner Tables.

8:30am: Key Biscayne Tai Chi Group

9 a.m. Native Plant Gardening for Birds talk with Tropical Audubon Society Master Gardener Amy Creekmur.

9:30 a.m. Story Session with Debbie Wanninkhof and Marta Magellan

10:00 a.m. Ecology of Bird Migration with CFBS Director Michelle Davis

10:30 a.m. Story Session with Debbie Wanninkhof and Marta Magellan

11:00 a.m. Legacy of Marius Robinson with Melissa White

11:30 a.m. Story Session with Debbie Wanninkhof and Marta Magellan

Conservation Partners: Cape Florida Banding Station, Key Biscayne Community Foundation, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Friends of Cape Florida

Tickets: <https://tropicalaudubon.org/marius-robinson-bird-festival>

Parking: Parking available at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (park fees apply); Freebee shuttle service available from the Village of Key Biscayne Community Center, 10 Village Green Way, Key Biscayne, FL 33149. The shuttle will pick up passengers from the front of the Community Center and drop them off at the festival. Free parking is available around the Village Green, the central park on Key Biscayne, and the community center parking garage. *Cont.* >



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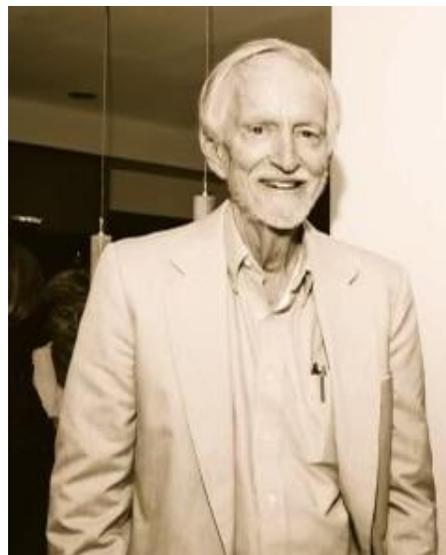
Event Contacts:

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Marius Robinson Biography



When Marius was seven, he and his family migrated to the United States from England, a country severely affected by war. It was in their suburban Boston home surrounded by woods where Marius first discovered his love for nature, particularly birds. Although he obtained a Biology degree from Stanford University, he did not pursue a professional career in the field. Instead, his entrepreneurial drive led him to establish The Robinson Value Group, a money management firm, and settle permanently with his family on Key Biscayne. Nevertheless, his passion for birds remained an unwavering force that inspired his philanthropic pursuits and influenced his travels across various birding hotspots worldwide, such as Mexico, Botswana, Australia, France, Canada, and Chile. Despite his extensive birding expeditions, Key Biscayne remained Marius's favorite birding destination.

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MISSION:
Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems,
focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats