



TROPICAL **AUDUBON** SOCIETY

SOUTH FLORIDA'S VOICE OF CONSERVATION



For Immediate Release

Marius Robinson Bird Festival celebrates Spring Migration on Key Biscayne

Kids, Parents, Scouts, Students, Naturalists Turn Out for Free Event

KEY BISCAIYNE (Miami), Fla. — One-hundred-plus peeps turned out to experience the wonders of birds, nature and science at the April 23, 2023, Marius Robinson Bird Festival at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. Participants enjoyed expert talks, field sketching, games, prizes, book readings, binocular demonstrations and learning about the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS), a community science project under the TAS wing since 2020.

Dedicated to the late Marius Robinson, a businessman, philanthropist, partner, father, grandfather and naturalist who truly enjoyed Key Biscayne's natural treasures and avian life, the first-time festival was made possible by a generous donation from the Key Biscayne Life Enhancement Forum and with the help of our partner event organizers: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Cape Florida Banding Station, Florida State Parks, Friends of Cape Florida, and The Key Biscayne Community Foundation.

Marius established 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.

Festival Chair and CFBS cofounder/Director Michelle Davis notes that 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. *(continued)*>



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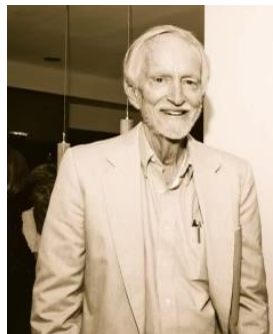


Page 2 of 2

“Spring Migration gives local residents an opportunity to observe migratory songbirds and engage in Community Science in their own “backyard” here on Key Biscayne,” Davis says.

Festival attendees had 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, using an artificial bird, demonstrated 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.

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.

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

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