



February 2022



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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!

You can also count birds for science from the February 18-21 by joining the [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. You can share your sightings our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

To view our entire Winter/Spring 2022 trip schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that [REGISTRATION](#) is required for all trips.

*Banner Photo: Swallow-tailed Kite soars over the Everglades by Steve Byland*

### RSVP for a February Field Trip

- [Lucky Hammock Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, February 5, 7:30-11am
- [Shark Valley and Big Cypress Birding](#) | Saturday, February 12, 8am-2pm
- [L31-W Canal Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, February 19, 7:30-11am
- [At-FEB Birding](#) | Saturday, February 26, 7:30-11am



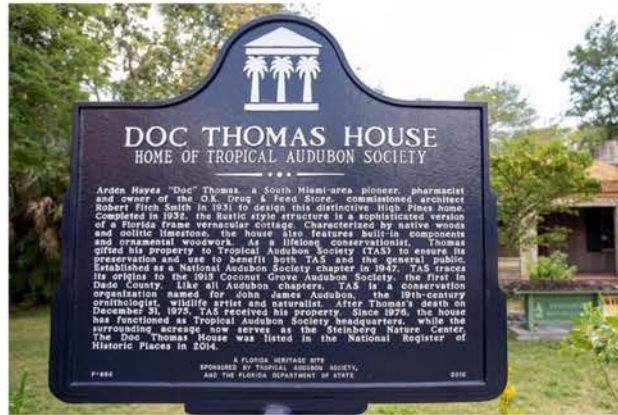
*Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer by Greg Basco*

### RSVP for an International Field Trip

- [Costa Rica: Birder's Paradise](#) | August 7 - 17, 2022
- [Kenya Birding and Wildlife Tour](#) | May 13-28, 2023

## Featured Events

Tour the Doc Thomas House  
Saturday, February 5, 1 & 3pm



Tropical Audubon Society invites you to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. Our charming 1932 cottage has recently undergone extensive structural repair. Enjoy a captivating, 45-minute 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 commissioned to design 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 campus.

Out of courtesy for others, masks are required indoors.

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

**"Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future"**

Tropical Audubon Exhibit

Wirtz Gallery Opening Night Reception

Friday, February 11, 6-8pm



Attend the free opening night reception celebrating the February Wirtz Gallery exhibit titled **"Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future"** – an intimate look at [Tropical Audubon Society's](#) 75-year trajectory, our deep local roots and crucial conservation mission. This colorful and captivating illustrated history will be brought to life via vintage and contemporary images, iconic "Double Elephant" Folio John James Audubon prints, canvases by South Florida wildlife painter [Patricia Cummins](#) and bird photographs by visual storyteller [Federico Acevedo](#).

The month-long exhibit will also illuminate our society's benefactor, South Miami-area pioneer Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas, the gift of his now-historic 1932 cottage to our organization, and our commitment to protecting South Florida wildlife and preserving our region's diverse habitats and natural resources. (The opening night reception is subject to postponement or cancellation pending February pandemic status/protocols.)

**"Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future"** will hang in The Wirtz Gallery from February 1-28; Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 9-4, Friday 9-5.

Located within the [First National Bank of South Miami](#) lobby, [The Wirtz Gallery](#) is a distinguished public art space featuring month-long exhibits by local, national and international artists. It opened in 1983 in memoriam to past bank Chairman of the Board Arthur M. Wirtz, who was a distinguished Patron of the Arts.

[RSVP for the Opening Night Reception, Friday, February 11, 6-8pm](#)

First National Bank of South Miami  
5750 Sunset Drive, South Miami, 33143

Limited free on-site parking directly behind the bank on S.W. 73rd Street.

### Conservation Concert @TAS

"Been There, Done That"

Saturday, February 26, 7pm



Tropical Audubon Society's signature Conservation Concert series returns this month with **Been There Done That** filling the February 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.

*Also on the playbill:* Taco Fresh Food Truck and the donation Bird Bar featuring divine wines and brews courtesy of Republic National Distributing Co. (Masks must be worn at the Bird Bar.)

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

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

Mark your Calendars for:

Saturday, March 26, Plan B

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## Chirping About

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Tropical Audubon Society is marking the 75th Anniversary of our organization's founding this year, as well as the 90th Anniversary of the historic Doc Thomas House that serves as our headquarters. Stay tuned for our 2022 Anniversary celebration events in the months to come!

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### Richard Pettigrew Receives Everglades Hall of Fame Award



Tropical Audubon Society Board Member, environmental attorney and former Florida lawmaker Richard "Dick" Pettigrew (*pictured third from left*) has received the Everglades Coalition "Everglades Hall of Fame" award for his lifetime commitment to Everglades restoration. Pettigrew was so honored on January 7 at the Everglades Coalition's awards ceremony held at Hawks Cay Resort. [Read More.](#)

TAS Welcomes  
Anthony Ocampo



TAS welcomes Anthony Ocampo as Office Manager. A former Investment Banker at International Bank of Miami and Office Manager for Herbal Worldwide Holdings, Anthony brings more than two decades of experience in Office Management to our organization. [Read Anthony's Bio here.](#)

### Chickee Rising



Our iconic Chickee Hut is rising like a Phoenix from the ashes on our Steinberg Nature Center grounds! Many thanks to [Island Tiki Huts](#) for deeply discounting the cost of rebuilding the iconic 20x30' structure, which collapsed last winter after decades of degrading heat, humidity and hurricanes. We look forward to hosting "Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk" on April 6(!), but first we must fund the chickee's thatch, rewiring and a new floor. Stay tuned.

Join us — we're hiring!



Have a professional passion for the environment? Want to help support our Mission to "Conserve and restore South Florida's ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats"? Then Tropical Audubon Society is the place for you! We presently have two open positions: Senior Conservation Director and Education & Advocacy Director. [Learn More.](#)

*Photo: Roseate Spoonbill by Vicki Jauron*

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### Plants for Birds

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Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!

Dig in Saturday, February 19, 9am-Noon





Join us in stewarding our Bird-Friendly Demonstration Garden and near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds. Get hands-on experience creating wildlife habitat under the guidance of our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a bird-friendly garden in your own yard, patio or balcony. [Sign Up!](#)

*Photo: Native American Beautyberry attracts birds. Photo by Nicole Gilbo*

### The Birds Thank ...



... **Mark Howell of Cut Rite Tree Service** for his generous stewardship of the Steinberg Nature Center feeders and birdbaths over the last decade, and for his thoughtful care of our property's treasured tropical hardwoods and legacy trees.

The Miami native and TAS adviser (*pictured above*) advises trimming your non-fruit-bearing trees, such as live oak, mahogany and gumbo-limbo by April. He says fruit-bearing specimens should be tended immediately after the last fruit falls (but *not* trimmed yearly).

Mark has been trimming trees locally for 40 years, is an owner/operator who makes all the cuts, and also provides stump-grinding services. He will be moving to North Florida this summer so get your hurricane work done now!

At this time of year, Cut Rite is a great resource for firewood, too.

To contact Mark, call his 305.661.1453 land line for the best response time; alternatively, you can e-mail him at [cutritetree13@gmail.com](mailto:cutritetree13@gmail.com).

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

Support Birds

Become a Member

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



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