



November 2022



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In the Field

November provides South Floridians with a Fall Migration curtain call, as the last

transient songbirds journey south and our winter visitors arrive. By month-end, waterfowl diversity will reach its peak, with more than a dozen duck species joining our resident ducks; gull diversity at local beaches also increases notably.

Join one of our November field trips led by expert guides and see for yourself! New this month is our first [Accessible-Inclusive Birding outing](#)! TAS board member and Nature Photojournalist Kirsten Hines will lead this half-day trip at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne. This event is designed for beginning birders, particularly families with small children or strollers, people in wheelchairs, or others with mobility concerns. You can also check out our regularly-scheduled field trips to [Southern Palm Beach](#) and [Everglades National Park](#).

Scan Tropical Audubon's [Rare Bird Update](#) for the latest sightings.

Sign up for a November field trip below or visit our [website calendar](#) to view the entire Fall schedule. Note that [registration](#) is required for all field trips.

Share your bird sightings on our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#).

Banner Photo: Join us on a field trip to the Everglades to see a Purple Gallinule. By Jeana Harms

RSVP for a November Field Trip

[Southern Palm Beach Birding](#) | Saturday, Nov. 5, 7:30am-3pm

[Accessible Inclusive Birding at Crandon Park](#) | Saturday, Nov. 12, 8-10am

[Everglades National Park Birding](#) | Saturday, Nov. 19, 7:30am-4pm

Rare bird delights local Birders —
Red-legged Honeycreeper reported in record numbers!



An unprecedented number of Red-legged Honeycreeper sightings in our area has enthralled the local birding community for weeks. Birders have been lighting up the local bird boards, eBird and WhatsApp chats about seeing this small songbird of the tanager family in our neck of the woods. It's normally found in the tropical New World from southern Mexico south to Peru, Bolivia and central Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and on Cuba.

Yet 14 different birds of this species, notable for its red legs, have been discovered in seven South Florida locations spanning three counties over the last two weeks of October. Three were spotted in A.D. Barnes Park on October 26. All of the local sightings are listed in the [Rare Bird Update](#). Other Red-legged Honeycreepers have alighted in Louisiana and Texas.

According to TAS Field Trip Coordinator Brian Rapoza, there may be hundreds of displaced honeycreepers in Florida, just waiting to be discovered. He says there's no way to know for sure exactly where these birds are coming from or why, but he believes it's most likely that they are arriving here from western Cuba, which was severely impacted by Hurricane Ian in late September. The hurricane may have disrupted the honeycreepers' food sources, forcing them to migrate north to find food. It remains to be seen if other species from Cuba will be similarly impacted. A Western Spindalis of the Cuban race, sighted in Key West last week, is the only other Cuban bird reported in Florida since Hurricane Ian swept up the Gulf Coast.

Photo: Red-legged Honeycreeper photographed by Jessica Castillo at A.D. Barnes Park October 25, 2022.

RSVP for an International Field Trip

[Kenya Birding and Wildlife Tour](#) | May 13 - 28, 2023

[Charm of the Colombian Andes - Birding the Coffee Triangle](#) | July 23 - 31, 2023

[Peru, Spectacles of Nature: Birding Amazonia and the Andes](#) | Sept. 13 - 23, 2023



Photo: Tour Kenya with us for a chance to see a Lilac-breasted Roller. By Sara Stein

Featured Events

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

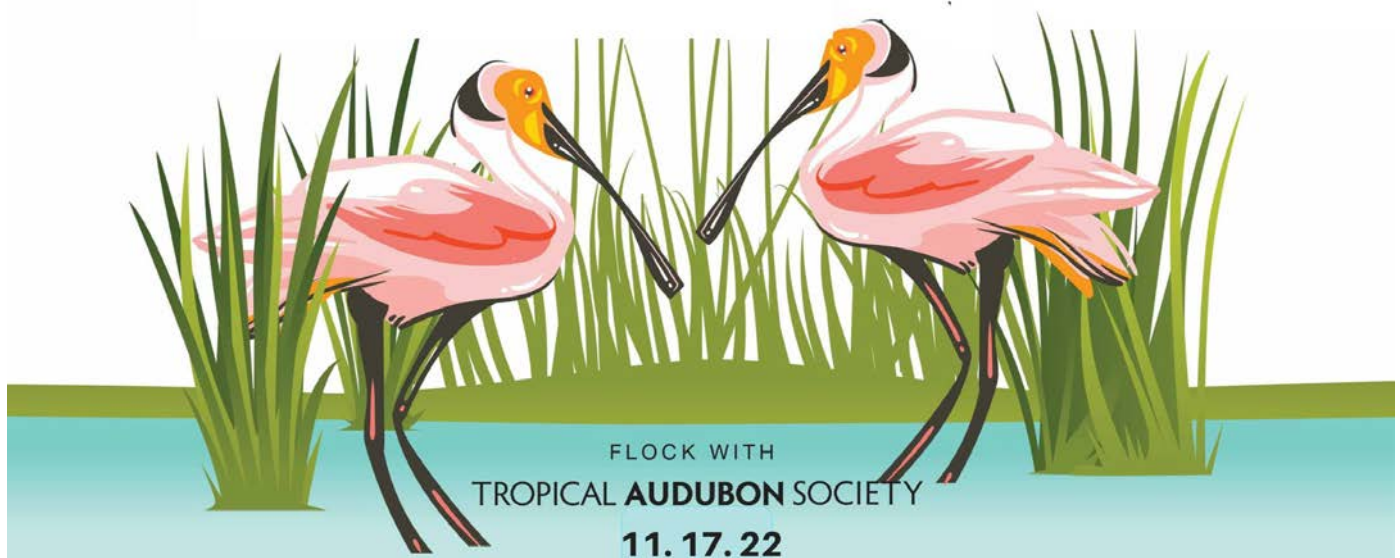


You're invited to tour our historic Doc Thomas House headquarters. Our charming 1932 cottage has recently undergone extensive structural repair. Enjoy a captivating, 1-hour guided tour led by a Tropical Audubon docent. Learn about TAS patron and area pioneer Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas and Robert Fitch Smith, the architect 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 grounds.

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



Be part of the most exciting annual giving event of the year. Let's flock together and surpass our previous Give Miami Day (GMD) fundraising record!

Your GMD gift to TAS of \$25 or more will be enhanced via The Miami Foundation with the generous support of Knight Foundation. Your generosity will help us fulfill our Mission to "Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats." Early Bird Giving: The donation portal will be open for three days, so your gift has wings November 14-17! Save this link to [Tropical Audubon Society's Give Miami Day page](#)!

OR be an Early Bird and [PLEDGE today](#) by filling out our secure online giving form. Your gift will be processed November 14-17, 2022, through The Miami Foundation

portal. On the 17th, you will receive an itemized receipt from info@miamifoundation.org to submit with your taxes. Your donation will be fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Pledge your Give Miami Day Gift Today

“Members Gratitude Concert”

Featuring Folk Artist DeBlois Milledge

Saturday, November 26

Gates Open 6pm, Music Begins 7pm



We appreciate our wonderful members and invite you to gather with us Thanksgiving Weekend for a complementary “Members Gratitude Concert” featuring homegrown singer-songwriter DeBlois Milledge. Her intimate concert marks the second annual

staging of the “Members Gratitude Concert” on our 2.2-acre Steinberg Nature Center campus. The Coral Gables native and Tropical Audubon Society board member is critically acclaimed for her repertoire of Folk-inspired originals infused with her authentic “soul meets song” storytelling that also reflects her conservation ethos.

Attendees can order "Toasted Sandwiches (Healthy Gourmet)" Food Truck Fare on site, or pack a picnic with Thanksgiving leftovers. Wash it all down with wine and brew at the RNDC Donation Bird Bar.

Don't miss out on this wonderful evening of song and renewal!

Tickets

Plants for Birds

Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!
Dig in Saturday, November 19, 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. Activities include invasive plant removal, planting native species, selective pruning of native shrubs and small trees, and tidying our network of trails.

[Sign Up!](#)

Photo: Volunteers with "green thumbs" keep our Steinberg Nature Center grounds beautiful!

Conservation News

“Zombie” South Dade Logistics and Technology District application not dead yet

— next vote TODAY, November 1



The “South Dade Logistics and Technology District” (SDLT) [application](#) has become like the walking dead — a zombie-like proposal haunting Miami-Dade County (MDC) Commission meetings. It was actually dubbed a “zombie project” in an October 17 [Miami Herald Op-Ed](#), a theme echoed by MDC Commissioner Eileen Higgins, who opposes the ill-conceived project. As absurd as it may sound, on October 18 the MDC Commission failed to deliver a final vote for a *fifth time!* What’s at stake is voting down the developer’s application for an industrial park to be sited beyond the existing Urban Development Boundary (UDB). The next vote takes place today, November 1.

Conservation loses if the Commission actually votes in favor of this application. A development precedent will be set that can’t be undone. The protection of the Everglades and Biscayne Bay should not be for sale. Nor can Everglades Restoration be compromised, certainly not so developers can obtain cheap land with the flimsy promises of job creation.

Here's what you can do:

Please write the Commissioners this morning or ASAP. Use our letter or personalize your own to urge the Commissioners to VOTE NO. [Click HERE to send a letter](#)

Ending Gridlock:

Thankfully, Item 4A, a [procedural improvement ordinance](#) proposed by Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, passed by a vote of 11 to 1 on October 18. Item 4A has the potential to end unlimited deferrals for Comprehensive Development Master plan (CDMP) amendments, including UDB modifications that fail to pass after three board votes, and end the type of application gridlock we are experiencing with the SDLTD. The ordinance, however, will still need to be reviewed by municipal officials and requires a detailed County's Mayor Report before final approval and implementation. We will keep you posted.

Lights Out Miami!

Bird Collision Data Collectors urgently needed



Fall Migration winds down this month as millions of birds heading south for the winter pass through South Florida. Because migrating birds generally rest and forage during the

day and travel at night using the stars as navigational aids, brightly lit cities impede their night vision, steer them off course, and can confuse and disorient them, often causing deadly collisions. Sadly, millions of birds are lost to building collisions in the U.S. each year.

To lower the mortality rate, TAS's [*Light's Out Miami*](#) initiative urges homeowners and building managers to turn off or block non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. through November 15 to protect migratory birds traveling through our region.

Bird Collision Data Collection volunteers are urgently needed to search for birds who have been injured or killed by colliding with buildings. Data collected anywhere in Miami-Dade County is of value, but most needed are volunteers to monitor the Brickell, Downtown and Biscayne Boulevard corridor, as well as areas such as Aventura, Coconut Grove and Coral Gables business districts, Downtown Dadeland, Miami Beach and any other communities with a concentration of tall buildings where collisions are highly likely.

Take the "Lights Out Homeowners Pledge"

Volunteer to be a "Bird Collision Data Collector"

**Fall Migration "Extravaganza"
at Cape Florida Banding Station**



The Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) celebrated its 20th Anniversary on October 5, highlighted by the banding of a vibrant Summer Tanager (*pictured above*). The Station's milestone month would prove record-breaking. CFBS Director Michelle Davis reports that the station experienced a "migration extravaganza" when a strong cold front brought scarcer species, including Magnolia, Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers — species that were reported in higher numbers than usual for October across the Florida peninsula!

Among October's highlights:

- CFBS broke its American Redstart banding record with 375 birds banded, surpassing the 368 banded in 2020! [Read the blog post here.](#)
- The Station banded a Bobolink, a common migrant, yet this one was only the second banded by CFBS over 20 years. [Read the blog post here.](#)
- October 19 was a banner day with 210 birds banded, including a male Common Yellowthroat originally banded in 2020 in Vermont. [Read the blog post here.](#)

Read Michelle's [blog](#) for more detailed reports and stunning photos.

CFBS is a community science program under Tropical Audubon Society's wing since

2020! The field research conducted by CFBS and its team of skilled volunteers illuminates the importance of protecting native habitat for migrating songbirds, especially within Miami-Dade County's urban core.

Photo: Miriam Avello, Michelle Davis and Rangel Diaz admire a spectacular Summer Tanager on the 20th Anniversary Day of the CFBS! (Photo by Miriam Avello)

Green Things to Do

Visit Florida Keys Hawkwatch
thru November 30



[Florida Keys Hawkwatch](#) is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and conservation of birds by committing to the long-term study of their migration through the Florida Keys. Visitors are welcome, weather permitting, 8am to 4pm daily through November 15; 8am to 3pm November 16-30.

The Birds Thank ...



The Birds Thank ... our kind neighbor and perennial community partner [*Whisk Gourmet*](#). The endless generousities shown to TAS and, by extension, the birds, by the *Whisk Gourmet* team — year in and year out — are nothing short of extraordinary. From stepping up for our recent 75th Anniversary "Bubbly & Bites" celebration, to hosting our long-standing "Dine Out at Whisk Summer Series," to cooking up our signature "Walk in the Woods with Wine and Whisk" Spring and Fall alfresco dinners, our 56th Avenue "Whisker" friends are always there for us.

The exciting seasonal menus authored by *Whisk Gourmet* Executive Chef Michelle Minotti are generously imbued with fresh, bold flavors and locally sourced ingredients. Whether you're up for a lovely Sunday Brunch, effortless Take-Out or a memorable Sit-

Down meal, we hope you'll patronize *Whisk Gourmet* year-round. You may just find one of your TAS friends perching at their favorite kitchen-side community table!

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

Address: 7382 SW 56th Avenue
South Miami, FL 33143

Hours: 11am-9pm Monday through Thursday, 11am-10pm Fridays and Saturdays, and 11am-4pm on Sundays.

Phone: 786.268.8350

Pictured: Poached Pear Salad (left), Grilled Bone-In Pork Chop



Support TAS while you shop on Amazon! Amazon will donate 5% of the price of eligible purchases to TAS whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Click here for a direct link. Thank you for supporting South Florida's Voice of Conservation. [Click HERE to use AmazonSmile.](#)

Support Birds

Become a Member

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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