

TROPICAL  
SOCIETY

AUDUBON

SOUTH FLORIDA'S  
VOICE OF CONSERVATION



October 2022



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**In the Field**

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October heralds our region's last big flush of fall migrants. First-of-season songbirds, such as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, appear now, and several of our wintering species typically begin arriving too, including Eastern Phoebe and Black-throated Green Warbler. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Painted Bunting (*pictured*) also brighten our landscape now. There is an excellent chance of spotting vagrants, such as the Thick-billed Vireo, at this time of year as well. Check Tropical Audubon's [Rare Bird Update](#) for the latest sightings.

Sign up for a October 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: Painted Bunting by Jack Vandenhuevel*

## **RSVP for a September Field Trip**

[Matheson Hammock Park Birding](#)

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30-11am

[Phoebes Birding "Big Sit" at A.D. Barnes Park](#) | Saturday, Oct. 8, 8-11am

A.D. Barnes Park Birding

Sunday, Oct. 9, 7:30-11am

Kendall Indian Hammocks Park Birding Saturday, Oct. 15, 7:30-11am

A.D. Barnes Park Birding

Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:30-11am

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary / Ft. Myers Beach Birding | Saturday, Oct. 29, 7am-6pm



**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

September 13-23, 2023

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## **Featured Events**

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Last Chance to Register for the 2022 Annual Meeting  
of the Raptor Research Foundation &  
Florida Ornithological Society  
October 4-9

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Tropical Audubon Society is delighted to serve as the lead local host for this year's joint international research conference of the Raptor Research Foundation and the Florida Ornithological Society taking place in Fort Lauderdale October 4-9. [Register HERE.](#)

Volunteers are also needed to assist with various tasks, including registration, workshop setup, field trips logistics and tabling. Bonus: volunteers will have opportunities to attend

conference events including expert talks and social hours. Please contact [Brian Rapoza](#) for more information.

**Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!**

**Dig in Saturday, October 15, 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 guidance of

our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a bird-friendly garden in your own yard, patio or balcony. [Sign Up!](#)

*Photo: A Gulf Fritillary Butterfly visits the native pollinator plant Blue Porterweed.  
Courtesy of Getty Images*

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## Conservation News

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Lights Out Miami!

Bird Collision Data Collectors urgently needed

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# LIGHTS OUT MIAMI

**Save Migrating Birds**

**Turn OFF lights 11pm to 6am, Aug 15 - Nov 15**

Fall Migration is in full swing this month and into early November 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"**

**Play it Again!**

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# Behind the Scenes at the Cape Florida Banding Station – 20 years of Community Science



October 5 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS)! How did a one-person operation evolve into one of the longest-running community science projects in Florida? You'll find out in this lively exploration of the CFBS (under the TAS wing since 2020) at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. Hear station cofounder Michelle

Davis retrace the project's trajectory, share what scientists learn from the long-term data collected by Banding Station volunteers, and explain how such data helps birds survive.

Davis celebrates the dedicated volunteers who've made this project possible, recounts the most interesting birds encountered over 20 years, including a Ruddy Quail Dove banded on October 3, 2013 — the rarest bird ever encountered at the station and the only one banded in the Continental U.S. — and discusses the Station's role as a flagship TAS program.

[Click HERE to read Michelle's latest blog post.](#)

[Click Here to Replay for the CFBS Webinar](#)

**Adopt-A-Net & Help Birds Thrive!**

Fall Migration Fundraiser to benefit

Cape Florida Banding Station field work





Support crucial migratory bird research and help educate the next generation of local conservationists by participating in the “Adopt-A-Net” Fall Migration fundraising campaign to benefit the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS), 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. The CFBS “Adopt-A-Net” effort provides MDC residents with the opportunity to help replace worn “mist nets” essential to station operations. Sponsors will also be helping celebrate the station’s 20th Anniversary, and will receive an embroidered badge to mark the notable milestone.

*Photo: Northern Parula by Federico Acevedo*

Adopt-A-Net Today!

MDC Blocks UDB Expansion *again*,

but Developer gets yet another chance!

Next Vote on "Logistics District" October 18



We are grateful to the hundreds of Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) members who urged

MDC Commissioners to deny the South Dade Logistics District (SDLT), but the fight isn't over.

On Thursday, September 22, the Miami-Dade County (MDC) Board of County Commissioners (BCC) again blocked an application to expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDC) on agricultural areas near Biscayne Bay to accommodate an industrial development. After much debate, thankfully, [the application](#) to expand the UDB did not secure the 8 votes needed for approval.

Unbelievably, the developer gets yet another chance to bring this ill-conceived proposal before the BCC on October 18!

Why does this vote continue to get deferred? Because none of the three votes taken to date garnered an 8-vote majority needed to deny or approve the application.

### **We Must Continue to Court Every Commissioner**

**[WRITE or CALL YOUR COMMISSIONER](#)** by October 18 and urge them to vote NO on the South Dade Logistics & Technology District application CDMP20210003! Contact information for MDC BCC can be found, [here](#).

**SHOW UP ON** October 18! The application to move the UDB will be back in front of the commissioners for a final vote on October 18. There is strength in numbers so we ask that you attend the MDC BCC meeting to demonstrate your opposition to the misguided proposal! **Address: Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1st St, Miami, FL, 33132. Bring ID's for check-in.**

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## **Chirping About**

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Terrific turnout for International Coastal Cleanup  
at our Steinberg Nature Center



More than 50 volunteers participated in our Steinberg Nature Center International Coastal Cleanup 2022 Event on September 17. Braving the muggy warm weather our fantastic volunteers picked up 182 pounds of trash and removed heaps of invasive potato vines from our grounds.

The event was part of the world's largest, one-day volunteer cleanup of our oceans and waterways. Spearheaded globally by the Ocean Conservancy, [VolunteerCleanup.org](https://www.volunteercleanup.org) organizes Miami-Dade County's local participation in this worldwide effort with 50+ shoreline cleanups around the county.

Special thanks to TAS staff Senior Conservation Director Lauren Jonaitis, Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, Grounds Director Amy Creekmur, and Cape Florida Banding Station Director Michelle Davis for managing this amazing event! And many thanks to [VolunteerCleanup.Org](https://www.volunteercleanup.org) and [Ocean Conservancy](https://oceanconservancy.org) for their massive local and global coordination to make this happen year after year!

Circle the Date for  
Give Miami Day  
November 17, 2022

*Let's Flock Together!*



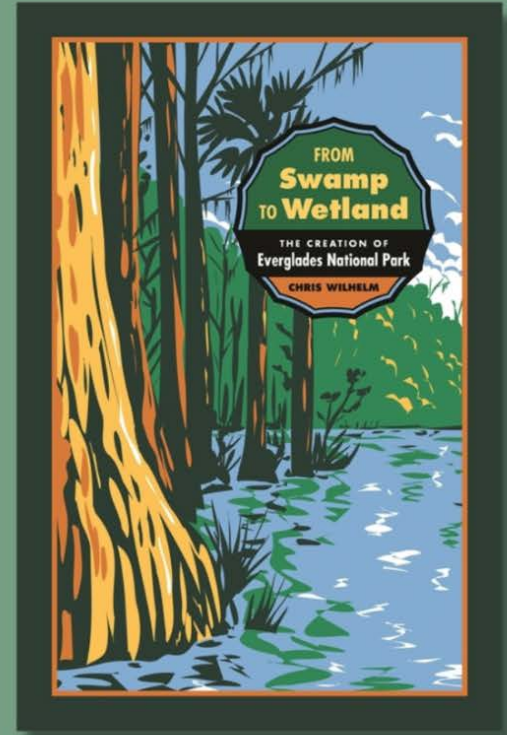


# Green Things to Do

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An Evening with  
Chris Wilhelm

Discussing: *From Swamp to Wetland: The Creation of  
Everglades National Park* @Books & Books, Coral Gables  
Monday, October 10, 6:30pm



Books & Books is partnering with Tropical Audubon Society to host a special conversation with Chris Wilhelm as he discusses his new book, *From Swamp to Wetland: The Creation of Everglades National Park*, which chronicles the creation of the park, the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. TAS President José Francisco Barros will serve as the special presenter.

This event is FREE and open to the public and books will be available for purchase the night of the event so make sure to stay after the talk for a book signing! [Click HERE to RSVP.](#)

Visit Audubon Florida Assembly 2022

"Birds Tell Us"

Fort Myers, Florida

October 13-15

[Register Today!](#)



Join Audubon chapters from across the state for Audubon Florida's annual assembly. This year's assembly will center on everything that "Birds Tell Us." The event will include learning sessions, panel discussions, a chapter celebration and field trips. [Register today!](#)

*Photo: Hooded Warbler by Jesse Gordon.*

Visit Florida Keys Hawkwatch  
thru November 30



**FLORIDA KEYS  
HAWKWATCH**

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.

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## Save the Date

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Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk @TAS

Wednesday, November 2, 7pm — *Wait List Only*



Help the Birds celebrate the return of our signature "Walk in the Woods with Wine & Whisk" event! Toast the resurrection of our iconic chickee with a bevy of Old World wines courtesy of Republic National Distributing Company paired with delightful seasonal offerings by Whisk Gourmet's Executive Chef Michelle Minotti. A Joy Wallace Catering will again help set the convivial table. This enchanting, biannual alfresco dinner party is an intimate, delicious singular experience not to be missed. Seating under the chickee is highly limited. \$150 per person. Net proceeds benefit capital improvements to our historic Doc Thomas House and Steinberg Nature Center near-native grounds.

*This event is presently sold out.*

*Please email [events@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:events@tropicalaudubon.org) to be placed on the wait list.*

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**The Birds Thank ...**

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**The Birds Thank ...** the countless volunteers who have donated their time, talents and skills to the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) over the past two decades. The Station, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this month, relies on volunteers to assist with banding operations in the Spring and Fall migration seasons. These generous individuals receive training in how to gently untangle mist-netted songbirds and handle them with care. They also learn about species identification, sexing and aging techniques. In turn, they commit to volunteering at least one day per week during each banding season. Thanks to their dedication, CFBS — under the TAS wing since 2020 — is one of the longest-running community science projects in South Florida.

Located at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, the Station gathers data that helps scientists understand songbird migration patterns, underscores the importance of the park's restored native hardwood hammock to these migrants, and informs researchers, the public and civic leaders.

*Photo: (from left) Eddy Ibarra, Madison Janney, Miriam Avello, Black & White Warbler, Michelle Davis, Mario Porcelli, Cinthia Porcelli. Photo by Miriam Avello*

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Support Birds

# Become a Member

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



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