



# Tropical Audubon Bulletin

The Voice of Conservation in South Florida...



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 667-7337

April/May 2009

## TAS WING DING

**Join us** at the 2009 Annual Meeting featuring keynote speaker, Katy Sorenson, Miami Dade County Commissioner and TAS conservation awardees, Birdathon Winners, our 5th Annual Silent Auction, and more! Flock to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26th from 4 to 7 pm, at the Doc Thomas House, located at 5530 Sunset Drive. Our theme this year is Biscayne Bay conservation and we will be awarding and recognizing people in our community that have been a critical component of that effort for many years. Please help us elevate the importance of Biscayne Bay to Miami-Dade's future economic sustainability.

Help us feather our nest with contributions for our 5th Annual Silent Auction. We need donations, so if you or your business has an item to donate to the auction, please call us at 305-667-7337 or e-mail

[director@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:director@tropicalaudubon.org)

Potential auction items include gift certificates, sporting, cultural, and other event tickets, jewelry, wine, art, electronic equipment, services, or other wonderful and desirable items. Then come to the meeting prepared to bid and win! Items will be auctioned off on a cash and carry basis (Visa, MasterCard and personal checks are accepted).

During this meeting, we will be nominating new and returning members to our Board of Directors. Our nominating committee is actively soliciting names of people who might be interested in serving on the TAS Board. We are always looking for dedicated and energetic individuals who can help with our programs, activities, and fundraising. If you are interested or know someone who might fit the bill, please contact us at 305-667-7337 or e-mail

[director@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:director@tropicalaudubon.org)

## Birdathon 2009

Saturday, April 4 thru  
Sunday, April 19

**R**aise money for TAS! Tropical Audubon's Seventh Annual Birdathon is here. Bird for up to 24 consecutive hours anytime during April. Collect pledges per bird seen or for the whole day. Win prizes!

Our Annual Birdathon will span April 4-19, 2009. You can count birds during any 24 consecutive hours in this period. A Birdathon is like a walkathon. You collect pledges for birds species seen instead of miles walked (for example, \$1 per bird, 25¢ per

*(Continued on page 4)*

***To really enjoy the bay at a slow pace and get some exercise at the same time you should book a kayak trip with Tropical Audubon. If you have a group that needs team building or a fun office retreat, let TAS be your guide. All proceeds from kayaking will go to TAS to support restoration and conservation efforts. For more information contact Laura Reynolds at [tropicalaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:tropicalaudubon@gmail.com) or phone us 305-666-2842***



# Brian Rapoza's Birding Report

In spite of frigid temperatures and one very rainy afternoon, a number of great birds were seen during Tropical Audubon's annual mid-January trip to Florida's panhandle, 157 species in all. We stopped to see two rarities on our way to Tallahassee: the Say's Phoebe that was spending its second winter near Lake Apopka, and a Harris's Sparrow that had been discovered in late December at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. We also found two Whooping Cranes among the thousands of Sandhill Cranes that winter in Paynes Prairie. Near Sumatra in Apalachicola National Forest, we explored pitcher plant savannah habitat, obtaining great looks at Henslow's Sparrow. Most unexpectedly, we twice flushed a Yellow Rail! Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Brown-headed Nuthatches were found in surrounding longleaf pine forest. We also visited several state parks in the central panhandle, including Torreya, Florida Caverns and Three Rivers; birds seen there included Golden-crown Kinglet, Winter Wren and Brown Creeper. At St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, we didn't see the ultralight-assisted Whooping Cranes that had just arrived the previous day, but did see a number of ducks in the refuge impoundments, including Common Goldeneye. In salt marsh habitat along Bottoms Road in Panacea, we found Clapper and Virginia Rails feeding in same tidal pool. Before heading back to Miami, we stopped at the home of Tallahassee resident Fran Rutkovsky, where we topped off the trip with views of Bullock's Oriole and Pine Siskin, both among the many birds visiting her backyard feeders.

Others good birds could be seen this winter by those willing to venture north. A few Horned Larks were found again this winter in agricultural fields in the central panhandle, mixed in with the usual sparrows and American Pipits. A White-faced Ibis was present at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge beginning in mid-January; in recent years this species has also become a much more regular winter visitor to north Florida. A Masked Duck was discovered in mid-January at Alligator Lake Recreation Area in Lake City; a Vermilion Flycatcher and another White-faced Ibis were seen there in February. An Allen's Hummingbird was visiting a feeder in Lakeland beginning in late January, and was soon banded. A Ruff was found in early January at Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, and a Cinnamon Teal was seen the next week near Tampa. The Ross's Goose continued at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, along with a couple of Snow Geese. All sorts of unusual gulls continued to be reported from the Daytona Beach area, including Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's, California, the "Vega"

subspecies of Herring Gull, and even a possible Yellow-legged Gull.

Back here in south Florida, birders had plenty of avian rarities to choose from during the season. In Miami-Dade County, a Black-headed Gull was photographed in early February at Cutler Wetlands in Cutler Bay; Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls were also reported from this location. The Tropical Kingbird continued at Dump Marsh near the south Dade landfill, as did Lesser Nighthawks; another Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen there as well. A Seaside Sparrow was found on Virginia Key during the Miami Christmas Bird Count. The Snowy Plover continued at Crandon Beach on Key Biscayne, joined for at least one day by a Marbled Godwit. Two Wilson's Warblers were found at A D Barnes Park, as were two Summer Tanagers. Bronzed Cowbirds were reported from a restaurant parking lot on Bird Road, west of A D Barnes Park;

*(Continued on page 6)*

## TAS WorkDays

**W**ant to learn about native plants, help Tropical maintain our native landscape at the Doc Thomas House and get your hands dirty? We need you! Show up anytime between 8:30-noon and you will find a host of hard workers. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. For more information call 305-667-7337 or e-mail [volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org)

**TAS Workdays will be held on**

**April 18 and May 16**

## Tropical Audubon General Meetings

TAS members and guests are invited to attend this and other Membership meetings at 8 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143. Call 305-667-7337 for more information.

**Wednesday, May 13**

*Everything you ever wanted to know about dragonflies and more!*

**with Raul Urgelles**

Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) is a group of dedicated citizens who care about the quality of South Florida's environment. Established in 1947, we are a chapter of National Audubon Society and Florida Audubon Society. Our headquarters, the Doc Thomas House, is a Dade County Historic site on three sub-tropical acres of native habitat in South Miami.

Tropical Audubon's purposes are:

- 1) Conservation: to work toward protection of the natural world and to promote wise stewardship of natural resources, especially native plants and animals and their habitat.
- 2) Education: to promote, among members and the public of all ages, an understanding and appreciation of nature, the environment, and ecological relationships.

3) Enjoyment: as a society of members with compatible interests, to enjoy together the study and protection of nature. We believe in the wisdom of nature's design. We seek to foster and promote ecological conscientiousness in our community.

Editor: Jen Lindsley  
Desk Top Publishing: Steven Mumford

Tropical Audubon Bulletin, the official newsletter of the Tropical Audubon Society, is published bimonthly by the Tropical Audubon Society, a non-profit, 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Throughout this newsletter, "TAS" refers to the Tropical Audubon Society, while "DTH" refers to the Doc Thomas House, the site of our office located at 5530 Sunset

Drive; Miami, Florida 33143. The phone number is (305) 667-7337. Membership rate, \$20 per year. Please make your checks payable to Tropical Audubon Society, and mail to our office (address above). Articles, news of events, original drawings, and letters to the Editor are welcomed, and should be submitted to the TAS office 4 weeks prior to each by-monthly publication. It would be preferable if your copy were submitted via the internet. See the "About TAS" section of our website for more information.

Visit Tropical Audubon on the internet at:

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

## Energy At What Cost To The Environment

**F**PL along with its proposed expansion has chosen an area southwest of Homestead Air force base for the 1MM cubic yards of fill required for the new expansion project. This area is 1.5 miles from Biscayne National Park and will certainly continue to exacerbate the saltwater intrusion issues we already have along our coastline. It will also block any naturally occur-

ring flow toward Biscayne Bay, acting like a stone in a stream. Salt Water intrusion is currently moving inland at an alarming rate of 300-400 feet per year, dangerously close to our well fields and drinking water supply. The fill is required for the project to raise the new reactors 20-25 feet high, most likely to mitigate for sea level rise. Tropical Audubon thinks our mitigation for sea level rise should be to create more of a fresh water boundary to the east, to help protect against rising tides and storm surge.

### Upcoming Meetings:

Planning Advisory Board, April 27th  
Miami-Dade County BCC-May 28th

For more information visit  
[www.udbline.org](http://www.udbline.org)

Tropical Audubon feels our limited water supply will directly effect what will be available for restoration. This project will also use an additional 70-90 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) 20-25 of which will be let off

into the atmosphere as steam. FPL will most likely choose reuse water for their water source, and the backup would be pulling water directly out of the Biscayne Bay, through radial wells just outside of Biscayne National Park. This will impact the rate in which the saltwater moves inland and compromise water supplied to the bay through restoration efforts.

With FPL as a no show at a public meeting in South Dade recently, citizens are left with many unanswered questions about how the plant is currently operated and what the future holds.

The application for this expansion is expected to be submitted in June and we encourage you to become involved and learn more by attending an upcoming public meeting:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
April 23rd 6:00pm-9:00pm  
Keys Gate Golf Club  
2300 Palm Drive  
Room: Palm Room



## Protecting our National Park Boundaries

**T**ropical Audubon along with its many conservation partners within the Hold the Line campaign continues to monitor the western boundary of our county. We have come out strong against senate bill 360 which threatens to do away with the Department of Community Affairs. SB360 if it passes through the Florida Legislature will make a development like Parkland, 1000 acres of agriculture land in Miami-Dade County, much easier without the oversight of this agency. For now Parkland is lying low but the Hold the Line Campaign will continue to work to protect Miami-Dade's western boundary and our CDMP ( County Development Master Plan) as it is important that Dade move towards nodal smart growth to increase the mobility of the city. The higher the density, the better the public transportation system will be able to serve our city. Make sure that you encourage density in your neighborhood and redevelopment, so that we may protect the remaining green space within the county.

Another fight along our eastern boundary has reemerged. In 2005 the South Florida Water Management District governing board instituted a moratorium on development along the coastal area of Biscayne National Park. This included about 6,000 acres. These areas are critical par-

cells in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, a component of CERP. By acquiring these lands the project aims to better distribute 1 million acre/feet of water into a habitat that it is becoming hypersaline. Not only is the bay saltier it also suffers from a canal pulsing effect. When it does rain the levee system at the end of each canal dumps large amount of fresh water into the bay. This pulsing causes the system to be even less productive. We are expecting that nursery grounds for our reefs can stand salinity near sea water (35 ppt) then flush them within minutes to 5 ppt, or almost fresh water conditions. Essentially we have removed the seasonality of the wet and dry season from Biscayne Bay.

The Biscayne coastal wetland's project will use all of the remaining coastal areas to try to redistribute some of this water in a more natural way mimicking seasonality. This will occur through a flow way to hydrate the mangroves and remaining coastal wetland areas.

The SFWMD had the opportunity to purchase these critical coastal properties; they even secured 25 million from the state legislature in 2005 to do just that. These pur-

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Birdathon 2009

(Continued from page 1)

bird, etc.), or simply for a flat amount.

You can bird solo, form a team, or join an existing team. This year we encourage all members to take young birders out with them so they too can start appreciating nature as you do, if you like you can offer to do this separate than your competition, but will give new birders or young birders a chance to learn and raise money too. You can even do your Birdathon on any of the TAS bird walks during this period. Collecting \$20 in pledges nets you a colorful TAS shopping bag. Individuals that pledge \$40 or more also get a TAS pin! Birdathoners win prizes for raising money and for counting the most birds. Prizes in the past have included

birding trips to the Dry Tortugas, tickets on American Airlines, binoculars, accommodations in New Orleans and the Keys, Audubon prints, restaurant meals, native plants and more. Check our website for a list of this year's prizes or call the Doc Thomas House for info. Please contact us at 305-667-7337 or e-mail at [director@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:director@tropicalaudubon.org) or if you or your business can donate a prize. Prize categories include: Highest pledge total (\$) and Most bird species seen by an individual or a team.

To participate, simply download the pledge forms from [tropicalaudubon.org](http://tropicalaudubon.org). You can receive mailed copies of the pledge forms by notifying us by email at [director@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:director@tropicalaudubon.org) or by phone at 305-667-7337.

## How to do the Birdathon!

1) Get pledges from friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers. See the info sheet on our website for ideas about how to boost your pledge totals.

2) Count birds.

3) Tell us how many species you saw and how many pledges you received. To be eligible for prizes, this info must be called or e-mailed in by 4 pm April 20th to 305-667-7337. Leave your name, team name, number of birds species seen, total pledged amount. Prize winners will be announced during our annual picnic on April 26th.

4) Collect pledge donations and forward to TAS at 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143 by May 9, with your bird list and contact information.

5) To claim your prizes come to the WingDing on April 26 or contact TAS to arrange a pickup time.

Doing the Birdathon is a lot of fun and every single dollar raised stays right here in south Florida to support Tropical's conservation work. We need your help to do it, so grab some friends, grab your binoculars, and get birding!

## Four Boy Scout Eagle Projects Benefit Tropical Audubon

**B**y the time you are reading this, we will have had four Eagle Scout projects of the grounds since September of 2008. A Boy Scout Eagle project is one of significance to the receiving institution; it requires considerable pre-planning; involvement of others and coordinating of volunteers and materials.

### Here are the projects:

**Scout Wilson Valle**, Troop 76: This project involved removing the old wood on 7 picnic tables; cutting and installing new wood. The project also included clearing a section of exotics and planting 30 native trees in the chickee area.

**Scout Chris Knowles**, Troop 76: This project involved designing and installing a concrete walkway from the chickee to the bathrooms. (The bathrooms were handicapped accessible... getting to them was not accessible.)

**Scout Leo Kaplowitz**, Troop 457: This project involved clearing an area behind the chickee and planting 30 native trees in addition to repainting the interior of the bathrooms at the chickee area.

**Scout Jim Baer**, Troop 457: This project involved building and installing nest boxes, clearing an area behind the chickee of exotics, repainting the picnic tables and planting 65 butterfly plants.

## Where Have All The Birds Gone?

Where have all the birds gone? How many times have we heard this question asked, especially during recent winters here in south Florida? I was particularly struck by a comment in a recent Miami Herald article about the Christmas bird counts, which reported, "... a melancholy aspect..." to these annual events because so many birds have been pushed out by urban development. Bryant Roberts in Broward County was quoted as saying he thought we'd lost 15 - 20 species because of habitat changes over the years.

So I thought I'd check on this estimate of birds lost, in a very unscientific way, by looking at bird records from my own yard, located in the Redland area north of Homestead.

We moved to our home, Palm Lodge, in 1988, and I started keeping monthly lists of birds seen and heard around our 3 acres. So for this "study" I compared the numbers of species recorded for each of three winter months during the "early" years, 1988 - 1995, with what we've seen this winter beginning in November. The differences are striking!

For the early years, the average numbers of species seen at Palm Lodge in each of the three months, November, December, and January (and the range in numbers during each of these months) were 46 species (37-57), 42 species (36-50), and 42 species (32-51), respectively. During these past three months, November - January 2008/09, the monthly totals were 24, 29, and 29 species, respectively. The differences between the monthly numbers for this current winter, and the monthly averages for the earlier winters in

1988 - 1995, are very close to the 15 - 20 species that Bryant Roberts estimated have been lost from his areas in Broward. My initial interpretation is that these losses are real, and that they may be widespread in southeastern Florida in winter.

It is interesting to sort out which species showed the greatest declines at Palm Lodge. There are eleven birds that particularly stand out: Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Whip-poor-will, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, and American Goldfinch. Notice that this list contains four raptors and two woodpeckers. I'll add one other comment that will illustrate the difficulty in knowing why these declines have occurred. To my eye the grounds at Palm Lodge and the character of the surrounding neighborhood have not changed greatly over these years.

The birds that have "gone missing" from Palm Lodge, and possibly in your neighborhood as well are among a growing list of species that show up on various "common birds in decline" lists around Florida and across the country. Because the nature of these declines is different from many of the more traditional bird conservation issues, developing new and effective conservation strategies for these "common" birds will be challenging, and certainly will require collaborative partnerships at local and regional levels. Thus I look forward to working with Tropical Audubon now and in the future, as we scratch our heads together, and try to make a difference.

-John C. Ogden

# Brian Rapoza's Birding Report

(Continued from page 2)

others were seen in Hialeah during the Miami CBC. At Lucky Hammock, a Canada Goose of the "lesser" subspecies was found in late December, associating with the Sandhill Cranes that feed in surrounding agricultural fields. Several Brown-crested Flycatchers were reported from the Royal Palm area of Everglades National Park. Short-eared Owls were spotted on Research Road and in the Flamingo area; White-tailed Kite and displaying American Woodcocks were also seen along Research Road.

In Monroe County, a Neotropic Cormorant was seen in early January on Boca Chica Key near Key West. This is likely the same bird that was discovered at this location last year, the first ever for Florida. During December, two Brant were found in Snake Bight in Everglades National Park; a Long-billed Curlew continued there as well. Three Prothonotary Warblers were spotted around Coot

Bay during the Coot Bay CBC. Several rarities were tallied during the Dry Tortugas CBC, including Cory's Shearwater (a first for the National Park), Eastern Phoebe (a first during winter) and American Pipit. An Eastern Wood Pewee was reported from the Tortugas just prior to the count, but could not be relocated by the count team. In Broward County, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was found during a mid-January TAS field trip at a restoration area in northern Ft. Lauderdale. A Yellow-rumped Warbler of the Audubon's race was reported from Pembroke Pines in late December, and an immature Golden Eagle was photographed near Government Road in late January. A Great Cormorant returned for the third winter to a channel marker off John U Lloyd State Park, and the family of Smooth-billed Anis continued to be seen along Old Griffin Road. In Palm Beach County, a Virginia Rail was spotted at Green Cay Wetlands, and the remaining

Least Grebe continued at Yamato Scrub Natural Area. Finally, birders touring Stormwater Treatment Area 5 in Hendry County found plenty to keep their binoculars occupied this winter, including two Eurasian Wigeon, first seen in December; one continued into January.

## Dry Tortugas Spring Migration Boat Trips

Larry Manfredi leads birders aboard the Playmate out of Key West. These four-day, three-night trips are every birder's dream! Seven trips available: April 7-10, April 10-13, April 14-17, April 17-20, April 21-24, April 24-27, April 27-30. Reservations and fee required. Ten percent of your fee will be donated to TAS and is tax-deductible.

Email Larry at [birderlm@bellsouth.net](mailto:birderlm@bellsouth.net) or call 305-258-9607. More information is on Larry's website: [www.southfloridabirding.com](http://www.southfloridabirding.com).

## Protecting Everglades Boundaries

(Continued from page 3)

chases never took place. And those land owners weren't able to redevelop these lands. At the moment the District is been sued for the condemnation of this areas and they have yet to purchase these lands. In the end we may be paying more in tax dollars for less.

At the next two governing board meetings April and May of this year, they will decide the fate of the Cutler Bay properties which is just south of SW 184 street along of Old Cutler Road. Residents in Palmetto and Cutler Bay were promised the access and education feature on this parcel as well as the protection of 44 acres of wetlands. The residents of the area have been very actively participating with this process and still aim to protect this parcel. They recently traveled to Clewiston and Kissimmiee to explain the reasons why the restoration of Biscayne Bay is so important to residents of Miami-Dade County.

Please attend the May 13th and 14th Governing Board Meeting in West Palm Beach, or call our local Governing Board members to let them know you want to see Biscayne Bay restored.

Need a little **GREEN** in your life these days?

**W**e are actively recruiting docents, volunteers, interns and board positions and committee involvement. If you are wondering how you can become a little greener and want to make a difference in your community, consider picking up a specialized project that matches your skills and talents.

**For more information please contact Laura Reynolds, [tropicalaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:tropicalaudubon@gmail.com) or by phone 305-666-2842**

## TAS Thanks

The following generous individuals have contributed to TAS since our last Bulletin. We **GREATLY** appreciate your support!

### Purple Gallinule

(\$250 to \$499)

Lewis De Blois Milledge Jr

### White-crowned Pigeon

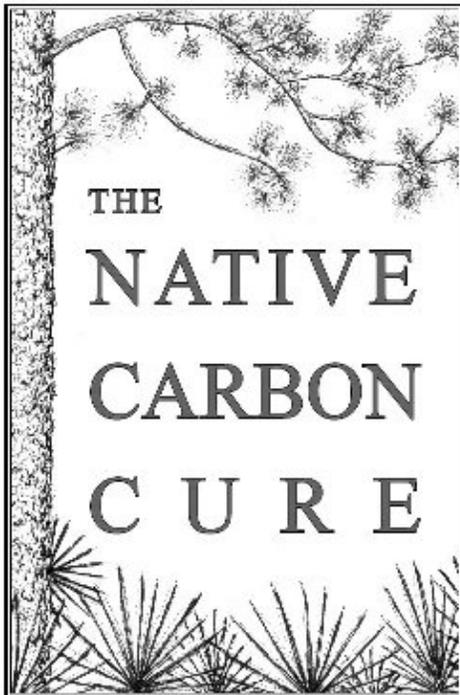
(\$50 to \$99)

Freda Tschumy  
Valerie Seasholtz  
Donald Chauncey

### Other donors

David Schaffter  
James Colson  
Dan Kimball  
Marlene Kocher  
Leah Harman

# THE NATIVE CARBON CURE



**D**over, Kohl & Partners Town Planning and their affiliated architecture firm, Chael, Cooper & Associates have teamed up to create *The Native Carbon Cure*, South Florida's first carbon offsetting program using native Florida plants. Dover, Kohl & Partners - pioneers in the field of Town Planning and members of the Congress for the New Urbanism, and Chael Cooper & Associates have helped to establish or revitalize many walkable, transit-friendly neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the United States and around the globe. In light of the climate change crisis, the two firms realized that their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint resulting from their travel and business operations needed to be reduced. Rather than contribute to existing carbon offsetting programs that benefit distant locals and whose results are impossible to verify, The Native Carbon Cure includes an interactive calculator that allows any business or homeowner to calculate their carbon footprint and design a tree-planting program to sequester that carbon using the unique trees of South Florida. The firms are working with Miami-Dade County Parks Department, Fairchild Tropical Garden (Connect to Protect Network), and the Tropical

Audubon Society to identify planting sites for both street trees and ecological restoration. Members of the firm are also working with native plant nurseries to supply trees to the planting sites. These sites will not only serve as "carbon sinks" but also be designed to increase biodiversity thereby rebuilding globally imperiled habitats, such as pine rocklands and hardwood hammocks, upon which many endangered and endemic species depend for their survival.



### State Agencies Face 20% Budget Cuts Florida's Balanced Budget May not be Environmentally Friendly

Make a phone call today to the Florida Legislature or the Governors office and let them know how precious Florida's protected areas are to you. Florida Forever funding may be in trouble and funding for the Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services as well.

Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve is one of the 5 named Florida preserves that will be cut, this will drastically reduce our ability as a county to protect one of our most valuable resources.

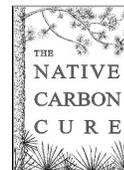
### What Our Friends Are Doing

#### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road (South entrance) on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30. Meetings are free and open to the public, with refreshments and plant raffle starting at 7:15. For more information about all activities, call 305-255-6404 or see <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>.

**Tuesday April 28th:** 7:30pm at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens  
Growing Harvesting and Planting Native Florida Wildflower Seeds  
Terry L. Zinn [www.floridawildflowers.com](http://www.floridawildflowers.com)

For more information,  
please contact:  
**Andrew Georgiadis**  
Dover, Kohl & Partners,  
Town Planning  
(305) 666-0446  
[ageorgiadis@doverkohl.com](mailto:ageorgiadis@doverkohl.com)



# TAS CALENDAR

CALENDAR OF WALKS, WORKDAYS, FESTIVALS, SALES, CLASSES - EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO DO WITH TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
The specifics for Tropical's ongoing activities are indicated below. In some cases, the trip leader has included his email address and phone number for direct contact. Otherwise, please call TAS at 305 667 PEEP (7337) or email fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org, or see our web page <http://tropicalaudubon.org> for more information.  
{ES} denotes events with Spanish language leaders

**Sat. Apr. 11 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk** {ES} Gigi Pardo will lead birders through A.D. Barnes Park. Enter on SW 72nd Ave. just north of Bird Rd. (SW 40th St.), turn left at the T intersection and park in spaces on either side of the road. Meet at 7:30am, returning at approximately 11:00am.

**Fri.-Sun. April 17-19 — Ft. DeSoto Birding** Brian Rapoza and Paul Bithorn lead this three-day, two-night van trip to Ft. DeSoto and other spring migration hotspots in the Tampa Bay area. Stops en-route will include Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, Oscar Scherer State Park and Celery Fields Regional Stormwater Facility. Costs: \$300.00 per person double occupancy; \$75.00 single supplement (includes hotel and van/gas). Reservations are required by April 3. E-mail Brian at fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org for further information.

**Sat. Apr. 18 — Greynold's Park Bird Walk** Jim King, Chief Naturalist for Miami-Dade Parks, will lead birders through Greynold's Park, 17530 West Dixie Highway in North Miami Beach. Meet at the park boathouse at 7:30am. Parking is available near the playground and the elevated mound opposite the boathouse. Return is at approximately 11:00am.

**Sun. Apr. 19 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk** David Wright and Mary Ellen Ahearn will lead birders through Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne. The park opens at 8:00 AM. Participants should meet at No Name Harbor (from the entrance station, take your first right and drive west to the parking area). The walk will begin by 8:15 AM. Costs include an entrance fee to the park and the Rickenbacker Causeway toll.

**Sat. Apr. 25 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk** {ES} Raul Urgelles will lead birders through A.D. Barnes Park. Enter on SW 72nd Ave. just north of Bird Rd. (SW 40th St.), turn left at the T intersection and park in spaces on either side of the road. Meet at 7:30am, returning at approximately 11:00am.

**Sun. Apr. 26 — Matheson Hammock Park Bird Walk** John Boyd will lead birders through Matheson Hammock on Old Cutler Rd. immediately north of Fairchild Gardens. The group meets in the Matheson parking area on the left, inside the park entrance, at 7:30am.

**Sun. Apr. 26 — TAS Wingding: 4-7pm, Doc Thomas House** Celebrate another great year with us at the 2009 Annual Meeting and Picnic. Flock to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26th from 4 to 7 pm, at the Doc Thomas House, located at 5530 Sunset Drive.

**Sat. May 2 — Big Cypress Swamp Birding** Jeff Weber will lead this carpool trip to Loop Road in Big Cypress National Preserve. Meet at 6:00am at the east gate of the Doc Thomas property on SW 55th Ave. just south of Sunset (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Bring lunch and insect repellent.

**Sun., May 3 — Kendall Indian Hammocks Bird Walk** Bill Boeringer will lead birders through Kendall Indian Hammock Park, 11395 SW 79 St. (entrance is on SW 107 Ave.) Meet at 7:30 AM at the parking area near the ballfields, returning at approximately 11:00am.

**Sat. May 9 — North American Migration Count** The North American Migration Count (NAMC), sponsored in Florida by the Florida Ornithological Society, with the assistance of local Audubon chapters, bird clubs and other interested organizations, is a semi-annual snapshot of the progress and shape of bird migration. On Saturday, May 9, birders from around the country will be collecting information on the abundance and distribution of both migrant and resident birds. If you can find and identify birds and would like to participate in the count in either Miami-Dade or Monroe County, contact us at fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org. We'll send you NAMC instructions and a checklist. We'll also let you know which areas need coverage (or, you can let us know which area you wish to cover; it could be your own backyard, neighborhood, a local park or other natural area). It is important that there is no overlap or duplication of coverage areas, so please contact us before May 9.

**Sun. May 10 — Cutler Bay Birding** {ES} Roberto Torres will lead this tour of Cutler Bay birding locations. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park, 17555 SW 79 Ave., at 7:30am. Other stops may include Black Point and Cutler Wetlands. Bring lunch.

**Wed. May 13 — Dragonflies!!** Come to a special Tropical Audubon Society Membership Meeting, co-sponsored by the Miami Blue Chapter. We all see dragonflies when we're birding and butterflying, and we all want to know more about them. This is our chance. Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Drive, near Red Road. The doors open at 7:30pm and the show begins at 8pm. Call (305) 667-7337 for more information.

**Sat. May 16 — North Key Largo State Botanical Site: Birds, Butterflies and Native Plants** {ES} Joe Barros will lead this trip to the largest remaining tract of coastal tropical hardwood hammock in the Florida Keys. Meet at 7:30am in the parking lot of the Burger King on US 1 in Florida City (just after the end of the turnpike). Bring water and insect repellent. Lunch at a Key Largo restaurant.

**Sat. May 30 — Offshore Miami Pelagic Birding** Roberto Torres, Larry Manfredi, Paul Bithorn and Raul Urgelles will lead this all-day boat trip in search of shearwaters, storm-petrels, tropicbirds and other pelagic species. We'll visit Fowey Light, a reliable location for Brown Booby, then head to the edge of the Gulf Stream to search for weed lines and associated pelagic birds. Our vessel will be the Another Reward, a 70-foot air-conditioned party fishing boat based out of Miami Beach. Cost is \$160.00 per person; reservations are required and space will be limited. For details, including meeting place and time, as well as a full list of probable and possible species expected, contact us at fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org.

**Sat.-Sun. June 6-7 — Native Plant Sale** at the Doc Thomas House Our native plant sales are famous and fun. We have a great selection of South Florida plants with knowledgeable sales people to help you choose the best ones for your yard. Come early for the best selection, stay late to enjoy the company.

## TAS Conservation Committee Meetings

Wed. Apr. 22 and May 27th

*Discussion of conservation issues*

TAS members and guests are invited to attend this and other Conservation Committee meetings at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the historic Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143. For more information call 305-667-7337

Tropical Audubon Society  
5530 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143

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