



Tropical Audubon Bulletin

The Voice of Conservation in South Florida...



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 667-7337

Nov/Dec 2008

Urban Development Boundary is being challenged again!

As you may have heard, the Lennar Corporation is seeking approval from the County to build 7,000 new homes in Parklands. Located on a 961 acre lot West of Krome (SW 177th ave) and South of SW 136th St., west of Tamiami Airport. This application comes at a time when the Miami-Dade housing market has already reported 59,798 pre-foreclosures in the first nine-months of 2008, why is there a need to build more? How will this affect the value of the homes that have already been constructed, and your own home?



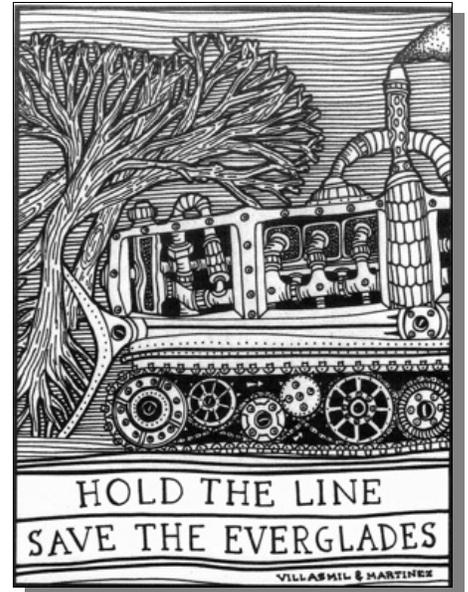
This application is an example of green washing. It would be a wonderful new urbanism community and has many components that we would like to see applied to planned developments for Florida. However, the project violates fundamental rules of what a GREEN development should have. It is proposed in a FEMA designated flood zone and it is within 1.5 miles of Everglades National Park outside of the urban development boundary. Building in these low-lying areas should be a concern within this proximity to the restoration footprint and is also a concern in the face of sea level rise associated with climate change. Are we really planning for the future in

Miami-Dade County and looking out for the best interest of its residents?

The DCA is currently suing the County for being out of compliance for their last attempt to allow applications 5 and 8 to be rezoned for development. This and any future attempt to build outside the boundary while we still have sufficient land to use within the boundary is a grave mistake. And the waste continues, as many hours of work and our tax dollars are being used for a project that does not intend to have a certificate of occupancy until 2018? At this moment in time we should be focusing our efforts elsewhere such as our already existing infrastructure and how we can improve our city for the future. We should be focusing on greenways, bike paths, public transportation improvements, habitat restoration, renewable energy incentives and efficiency, and water supply issues.

Please take time to contact your commissioner and the mayor, let them know how important smart growth is to you and your family. We are all facing the following problems as a result of increased sprawl westward:

- **Decreasing home values**
- **Traffic congestion**
- **Overcrowded schools**
- **Insufficient emergency services**
- **Impacts drinking water supply**
- **Impacts on the Everglades and surrounding natural areas**
- **Threatens the overall economic future of South Florida**



You can also help by planning to attend the following meetings to voice your opinions and show turn out for the Hold the Line Campaign:

November 3, 2008, 6:30pm
W. Kendall Community Council (11)
Jorge Mas Canosa
Middle School Auditorium
15735 SW 144 Street

November 19, 2008, 9:30am
Hearing of the Planning Advisory
Board (PAB)
County Commission Chamber
111 N.W. 1st Street

December 18, 2008, 9:30am
Board of County
Commissioners Hearing
County Commissioners Chamber
111 N. W. 1st Street

MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON COUNT

Join the Christmas Bird Counts! - FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 8



Brian Rapoza's Birding Report

Least Grebe is a locally common resident in the Bahamas and Cuba, and can also be found elsewhere in the Caribbean, as well as from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to South America. It has rarely been seen in Florida, though, with only a handful of confirmed records for the state. In late September, two Least Grebes were sighted on a small pond at Yamato Scrub Natural Area, in Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, and one was photographed. As birders descended on the area, it was quickly discovered that the pair was nesting; two chicks hatched shortly thereafter, providing the first breeding record for this species in Florida! The chicks were soon seen riding on their parent's backs, as is typical for grebes.

Scores of birders visited the nesting site in ensuing days to witness this unprecedented sighting. The grebes, though, were not the only unusual visitor to Boca Raton during the past few weeks. In mid-October, a Northern Fulmar, a seabird of the far north, was found in that city in the middle of Old Dixie Highway! The bird was taken to a rehabilitation center, but sadly did not survive. This represents only the second state record for this species.

Other recent south Florida sightings of Caribbean species include twenty-four American Flamingos (so-named since their split from Greater Flamingo), spotted over Biscayne Bay in mid-June. Beginning in early August, three flamingos were consistently being seen near Snake Bight, in Everglades National Park, and a single flamingo appeared at Cutler Wetlands in mid-October. In late June, a Western Spindalis was found at Ft. Zachary Taylor in Key West; also during that month, a Bahama Mockingbird was reported from Key Largo Hammock

Botanical Site. A La Sagra's Flycatcher was seen in South Miami during July; another was photographed on No Name Key, near Big Pine Key, in early October. In mid-September, an immature Bananaquit was banded at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne, providing the first confirmed banding record for that species in the continental United States!

During late summer, agricultural fields in the Homestead area are often scanned for migrant shorebirds such as Upland and Pectoral Sandpipers. A completely unexpected find during one such search was a Horned Lark, first found in the middle of an untilled field in early August, and seen by many birders for several days afterwards. In mid August, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was discovered in these fields; an American Golden Plover turned up there at month's end. These two shorebirds, as well as Wilson's Phalaropes, were also found during the period in the Everglades Agricultural Area, south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County. In mid-July, a Hudsonian Godwit was reported from the Cutler Bay area.

Crandon Beach on Key Biscayne attracted a wide variety of shorebirds during August and September, including American Avocet, Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpiper and Red Knot. Over 300 Black-bellied Plovers were seen there in late September. Ten species of terns were recorded there during the season: Gull-billed, Caspian, Royal, Sandwich, Common, Forster's, Least, Black, Sooty and Brown Noddy; several of these species were found on the beach, or just offshore during the passage of hurricanes. Fifty-three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found on Crandon Beach during Tropical Storm Fay; sixteen Great Black-backed Gulls were there in mid September. Other storm-related sightings there included Sooty Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger and most unexpected, several flocks of White-winged Scoters.

A number of uncommon warbler species were banded this fall at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne, including four Canada Warblers, two Golden-winged Warblers and single Cerulean and Blue-winged

(Continued on page 6)

SAVE THE WHOOPING CRANES

George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, will speak on how Florida is helping to save the whooping cranes! This lecture is sponsored by Tropical Audubon Society and will be presented at Fairchild Tropical Garden, Corbin A, on Wednesday, Jan. 14th, at 7:30, 2009.

Please call 305-666-2842 or e-mail tropicalaudubon@gmail.com to reserve your place and purchase your ticket.

Tickets are required due to limited seating. Advance tickets \$10, \$15 at door



THE U.S. SUGAR DEAL

What does it mean for the EAA, Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, our estuaries and our birds?

During the summer of 2008, Lake Okeechobee switched from drought to flood in just one month, demonstrating the inadequacy of Florida's water management systems. The lake had been below 11 feet (100% of the marsh was dry) for a record 18 months. When hit by tropical storm Fay, it rose to 15 feet. Water managers almost immediately switched from conserving water, by severely rationing it to farms and cities, to wasting it, by dumping it harmfully, down the estuaries. This once again demonstrated the need to find new places to store and clean the vast amounts of water the great lake can belch out.

Governor Crist's surprise announcement about the possibility of buying the entire assets of the US Sugar Corporation, encompassing almost one-third of the entire EAA, now creates the possibility that vast amounts of water can indeed be stored, cleaned, and saved, until a beneficial use is available. But what are the trade-offs? How can the SFWMD finance such a large effort and still fund other needed projects? If we store large amounts of water downstream of the lake, do we

still need to store vast amounts upstream of the lake, as envisioned in the "Northern Everglades" plans? Should the land be made into a flowway, or are reservoirs and filter marshes better? The farm fields also provide substantial habitat to birds: ducks raise young and molt in them, migratory shorebirds by the tens of thousands re-fuel in them on their arduous journeys north and south each year. Will those benefits be destroyed without replacement?

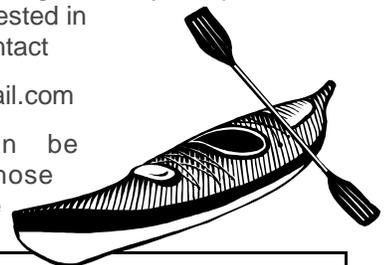
Dr. Paul Gray,
Audubon of Florida's Lake Okeechobee scientist, will speak to our chapter on January 28, 2009 at 7:00 pm and bring us up-to-date on the latest plans for the land and the implications for restoration.

Let's go Kayaking!

We had our first trip in on October 19th, and have two more planned for the 2009 season. Even if this is your first time paddling, we will offer a short class at the start of each trip to help assist new paddlers. If you need all of your equipment you must reserve a spot one week in advance and provide a 25 dollar deposit. Tropical Audubon will now offer guided kayak trips on a regular basis, if you are interested in signing up for one please contact

tropicalaudubon@gmail.com

Special group trips can be arranged outside of those already listed on our website



Pot Luck Picnic

presented by the
Dade Chapter FL Native Plant Society
Tropical Audubon Society
TREEmendous Miami
Miami Blue Chapter, NABA

All members, their families, and guests are invited!

**4th ANNUAL
HOLIDAY POTLUCK PICNIC**
Sunday, December 7, 2008, NOON – 3 pm

Rain or Shine
A.D. Barnes Park - Shelter #2
3401 SW 72 Avenue
(Bird Road and SW 72 Ave.)
Miami, FL 33155

NO glass beverage containers or pets allowed - sorry!

RSVP by December 3
with the number of persons attending,
your potluck contribution
(main dish, side/salad, dessert)
and your phone number to:
Patty Phares, 305-255-6404,
pphares@mindspring.com

TAS WorkDays

Want 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

TAS Workdays will be held on

November 15 & December 20

Holiday Green Tips

Please permit us to "recycle" these great holiday tips we shared with you during the last holiday season. Share these with your friends and colleagues to help make the holidays easier on the planet!

GIVING GREEN: Wrap presents in recycled paper, old calendars, outdated maps, the Sunday funnies, or children's artwork. Decorate with raffia bows, evergreen snippets, or labels made from old holiday cards. If every family wrapped just three gifts this way, it would save enough ribbon to tie a bow around the earth, and enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

GIVING GREEN (part 2): Instead of adding to the clutter and craziness of everyone's busy lives, consider making a charitable contribution in the name of your gift recipient instead of buying them a 'thing.' It's a fabulous way to honor the person you want to acknowledge on their special occasion in a particularly meaningful way.

BRIGHT IDEAS: Adding light to the dark season is part of every religious tradition, but there's no need to squander power to celebrate right. Use energy-efficient lights and put them on a timer. Look for fewer bulbs on longer lengths, or try LED lights, which use up to 90 percent less energy than traditional seven-watters.

TREE-FARM FACTS: The Christmas-tree question isn't as clear-cut (if you'll pardon the expression) as it appears. Ninety-eight percent of tanenbaums were grown on farms, not

in forests, so it's not as if you're stringing lights on Luna. And the million acres devoted to tree plantations in the United States do offer some breeding and foraging habitat for birds and other animals. The big downside is the more than 40 different pesticides used in tree farming, including nasty ones like the herbicide *atrazine*, a hormone disrupter linked to prostate cancer, and the fumigant *methyl bromide*. The quest for a flawless fir or perfect pine has also led some growers to spray trees with chemical colorants, or even experimenting with cloning. If you do choose a cut tree, don't let it become one of the 10 million that get unceremoniously landfilled at the end of the year. If not covered with flocking, tinsel, or fire retardant, trees can be chipped for mulch or used whole to stabilize wetlands. Call (800) CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.org to find the tree-recycling program near you.

TREE-FREE: Plastic trees don't have that piney-fresh smell, but if you use the same one each year, you're only tapping our petroleum supply once, not burning up gas on every trip to the tree lot. (They're pesticide-free, too.) For a natural look, try making your own tree of trimmed evergreen boughs, a storm-felled branch, or a piece of driftwood. You could even hang ornaments on a potted plant.

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>.

November 25 program:

Adrian Hunsberger, entomologist with the UF/IFAS Miami-Dade Extension, will talk about insect pests in our South Florida yards, including recent arrivals and established pests.

T A S Thanks

The following generous individuals have contributed to TAS over the Summer of 2008. We **GREATLY** appreciate your support!

in honor of Philip Guerra
Adorno & Yoss

Purple Gallinule
(\$250 to \$499)

Brother and Sandy Milledge
H. James Sigsbee
Richard and Bonnie Townsend
The Manny & Ruthy Cohen
Foundation

Painted Bunting
(\$100 to \$249)

Barbara and Linda Crutchfield
Dennis J. Olle
Sara Sinclair Ellenburg
Celina Cunningham
Patricia A. Harris

White-crowned Pigeon
(\$50 to \$99)

George and Carol Green
Steven Siegel, M.D. P.A.
Claudia Laurindo
Bickley Simpson
David D. Simpson
Fernando A. Casablanca
Arthur and Susan Sissman
Denise Fairbanks Simpson
Diana Faulkner McCoy

Other donors
Cindy Dwyer

David and Holly Blount
David Russell
Estelle Roth
Mary L. Butterfield
Phyllis A. Brady
Stanley and Myra Rosen
Helen O. Donaldson
John and Dolora Batchelor
Marion S. Glenn
Sharon Avery
Mark and Mary Ann Bolla
John and Mary Rose
Shaffer and Lichy De Lichy AP PA

Thank
You!

Illegal Migratory Bird Trapping Rampant in South Florida

by Sean Waggoner, FWC

The problem of the illegal trapping and subsequent selling of migratory birds in South Florida is rampant. The two main targeted species are Indigo Buntings *Passerina cyanea*, and Painted Buntings, *Passerina Ciris*. However, other more common Migratory birds have been trapped including Cardinals, Orioles and others. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits, among other things, possessing or killing any migratory bird. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) together with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regularly finds and appropriately cites those that choose to engage in this trade. We need your help to preserve these National treasures. Past cases have shown a number of common traits. Combining what we know about the subjects with what we know about the migratory habits of the species in question will enable us to effectively combat this problem. A few years ago the FWC and USFWS broke up a large ring of trappers and dealers leading to

multiple arrests and thousands in penalties. All current data suggests the trappers are back. The goal of this enforcement effort is to break up these rings and free the captive birds into their natural habitats to proliferate and continue the species.

We as Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers are faced with an enormous problem as we are notoriously understaffed. Additionally, possessing a protected bird is a misdemeanor and a sworn law enforcement officer, by law, must witness the possession. Roughly translated, I cannot arrest a subject based solely upon what you saw. However, using what we know of the trade bringing large amounts of cash for a few hours work, the trapper will return, especially if he or she was successful in a particular area. In short, if while enjoying your passion for birding you find a large congregation of Buntings or other colorful birds send one of us an email so we can return later and thoroughly search the area and include the area on our "Areas to Watch" list. If you happen to find a trap in the woods or brush, please **call immediately** and an Officer will respond to begin the surveillance. A word of caution, the trappers know that what they are doing is wrong so they are very suspicious by nature. Hanging around the trap or making it obvious that you know the trap is present may scare the individual away and we may "lose" this area for awhile. If you are able to see an individual with a trap in hand and you see his or her vehicle, attempt to get a license plate number and description of the individual. Most birders carry binoculars and/or cameras, some of you carry very nice cameras and getting a good photo from a long way off is not impossible. Remember, your safety is more important than any bird so absolutely do not confront the subject.

In the past we have found some common traits that we use to find the traps. These tips are only

guidelines and not set in stone. The traps are usually placed 2-5 feet off of the ground. They don't use ladders and birds roost off of the ground to avoid predators. The birds seek safety in brushy corridors. We have found that corridors with a North-South orientation have more success than East-West. The Buntings like Lantana and the trappers know this, so be especially vigilant around brushy corridors containing Lantana. For those that are not familiar with Lantana, you can search Lantana on your favorite search engine or at your local library for a picture. Next, the trappers rarely leave their traps unattended.

To reiterate, if you happen to spot a trap or traps remember the trapper is more than likely close by. Keep your safety in mind and **DO NOT** confront the subject. Remember the location i.e. street and avenue and make the call. Additionally, most of the traps will have a bait bird in it to attract another bird. Females attract males and other females and males attract females. The traps are usually homemade and appear extremely time-consuming to construct which also supports the information of trappers not leaving their traps unattended. Lastly, don't hesitate to call, don't feel silly if you call us to what turns out to be a false alarm. Remember, this is our job and all of us have a passion to protect the wildlife.

Tropical Audubon General Meetings

Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Drive, near Red Road. The doors open at 7:30 pm and the program begins at 8 pm. Call (305) 667-7337 for more information.

Wednesday, November 12
Flora and Fauna of the Great Parks
Brian Rapoza and Jeff Weber

Stunning scenery, an incredible variety of wildflowers, beautiful birds and magnificent mammals—the Great Parks experience. Jeff Weber and Brian Rapoza recap, in words and photographs, the recent TAS birding adventure to Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks.

STOP THE POACHING! CALL FOR ACTION

Officer Sean Waggoner
(Florida Fish and Wildlife)
786-255-3949 Cell
Sean.waggoner@myfwc.com

Special Agent David Pharo
(US Fish and Wildlife)
786-236-2862 Cell

Investigator Andy Carcasses
(Florida Fish and Wildlife)
Andy.carcasses@myfwc.com

SOUTH FLORIDA BIRDING: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

(Continued from page 2)

Warblers. Fifty-seven Black-throated Blue Warblers were banded there during a single day in early October. Golden-winged Warblers were found at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park and at least two residential areas in south Miami-Dade; Canada Warbler and Western Tanager were also reported from south Miami-Dade backyards. Cerulean Warblers were seen at A D Barnes Park in late August and Matheson Hammock Park in late September; other "good" warblers seen at Matheson Hammock included Swainson's, Kentucky and Hooded. Blue-winged Warblers were reported from Bill Sadowski Park and Yamato Scrub Natural Area; Nashville Warblers were seen at Sadowski, Kendall Indian

Hammocks and Castellow Hammock Parks, as well as along Aerojet Road. Philadelphia Vireos were also found at a number of locations, including Sadowski, A D Barnes and Castellow Hammock Parks and in Palmetto Bay. Alder Flycatchers were seen and heard calling in Cutler Bay and along Aerojet Road; Willow Flycatchers were also seen and heard at both of those locations as well as at Cape Florida. Swainson's Thrush was by far the most common thrush reported during fall migration; over thirty were banded during the season at Cape Florida.

A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen off Miami in mid-June was the first report of that seabird for Miami-Dade County. A Carolina Chickadee

discovered at Kendall Indian Hammock Park in early July was only the third Miami-Dade sighting of that species. A Seaside Sparrow found in mangroves at Matheson Hammock Park during the North American Migration Count in mid-September was completely unexpected for that location. Lark Sparrows are occasionally seen in south Florida during fall; individuals of this species were spotted along Aerojet Road in mid-August and in Weston, Broward County in late September. An immature White-crowned Sparrow was found at Cape Florida in early October; House Finch and Mississippi Kite were among the other unusual species seen there during the season. Also in early October, a Bell's Vireo was discovered along Aerojet Road; this species is now annual at that location. Finally, Smooth-billed Anis were reported this fall from not only the Old Griffin Road location in Broward County, but also from Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County and the Chekika area of Everglades National Park in Miami-Dade County, raising hopes that this species is not yet ready to disappear from Florida.

Tropical's Holiday Wish List

The season of giving is fast approaching and TAS needs a few things to make the 2009 season a success! We are looking for useful items as well as in kind services to increase our productivity. If you can help us please e-mail Laura Reynolds at tropicalaudubon@gmail.com

Office:

- Quick Books software 2009
- Lap Top computers
- New office phones
- A Color Printer
- Publishing software, like *Illustrator*
- Conference phone
- Folding chairs

Grounds:

- Native Plants
- Re-thatch for chickee
- Plumbing and electrical services
- General carpentry services
- Volunteers for restoration

General:

- Silent Auction Items
- Historical Docents
- Film making services
- Embroidery and Printing service
- Event planning and fundraising ideas



Tropical Audubon Conservation Committee Meetings

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 Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143. Call 305-667-7337 for more information. November's meeting will be held on the 26th.

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

Project FeederWatch

More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! The 2008-09 season of **Project FeederWatch** gets underway November 8 and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 **FeederWatch** season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges - a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

Birdwatching is an easy way to create new environmental stewards by teaching young people to spend time outdoors identifying year-round and migratory species. Providing native plants, water and food will also help birds as they navigate South Florida's fragmented, urban landscape.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the *FeederWatcher's Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the **FeederWatch** annual report, *Winter Bird Highlights*.

GIVE THE GIFT OF TAS

It's that time of year again!

What do you get that person that has everything?

How about a gift membership to the Tropical Audubon Society!

Here's a quick list of the reasons why every membership with TAS counts:

- ⊕ Elected officials listen to membership organizations because they represent groups of voters. Your name on our rosters makes our voice stronger.
- ⊕ Membership dues help maintain our important operations (staff, Doc Thomas House and Botanical Garden, full schedule of excellent activities, 6 Bulletins/year, informative website and more).
- ⊕ Our mailings will keep you in the loop and you can become more active as desired.
- ⊕ Membership provides you with the opportunity to support a cause which promotes the conservation ideals in which you believe.

WHAT A FAN-TAS-TIC IDEA !!

***YES** I want to give TAS memberships as gifts this holiday season!
I have included \$20 for each gift membership*

Your recipient(s) will receive a card acknowledging your gift, and you will as well!
Just cut out the form to the right and mail it along with your check in the proper amount to our offices at
5530 Sunset Dr, Miami, Fl, 33143.

.....

Gift #1 to: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Gift #2 to: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

.....

MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON COUNT!Join the **Christmas Bird Counts!**

Every year since 1900, teams of interested birders have joined together across the country to count the number of individual birds within each species occurring on the same date in the same place. This huge task is coordinated by the National Audubon Society. The consistency of the count creates a viable set of statistics that can be compared and used to measure the effects that changes in the environment

have had on the bird population. These measurements act as important warnings of environmental deterioration that should be heeded. In addition to the serious consequences of the bird counts, they are a fun way to spend a day with fellow birding enthusiasts. This is an all day event. Volunteers are needed for all areas.



Fri. Dec. 19

Biscayne National Park CBC
Coordinated by Max Tritt. For additional information, contact Max via Howard_Tritt@nps.gov

Sat. Dec. 20

Miami-Dade County CBC
Coordinated by Brian Rapoza. For additional information, email Brian at fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org

Sun. Dec. 21

Broward County CBC
Coordinated by Mary Butterfield. for information call 954-776-7735 or email maryb707x@comcast.net

Mon. Dec. 22

Long Pine Key CBC
Coordinated by Robin Diaz. For additional information, email Robin at robin@tropicalaudubon.org

Sat. Dec. 27
Kendall CBC

Coordinated by Bill Boeringer. For additional information, contact Bill via bill@tropicalaudubon.org

Sat. Jan. 3, 2009

Coot Bay / Everglades CBC
Coordinated by Brian Rapoza. For information, email Brian.

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.

Sat. Nov. 1 — Everglades National Park Beginning Bird Walk Jeff Weber will lead this trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch.

Sat. Nov. 8 — Everglades National Park Birding John Boyd will lead this all day carpool trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch.

Sat. Nov. 15 — STA-5 Birding Hendry Glades Audubon Society invites TAS to join them for a tour of Stormwater Treatment Area-5 in Hendry County. TAS participants planning to carpool should meet Brian Rapoza at 6:00am at the east gate (on SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). There will be a lunch stop at a restaurant. Walkie-talkies are recommended. Prior to this trip, send an email to Margaret England at sta5birding@embarqmail.com (of Hendry-Glades Audubon Society) with your name and contact information, and the number in your party. You may also leave a message at (863) 517-0202.

Sat. Nov. 22 — Wakodahatchee / Green Cay / Okeehetee Birding John Hutchison will lead this carpool trip. Meet at 7:30am at Wakodahatchee Wetlands (13026 Jog Road, about 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, Palm Beach County.) Bring lunch.

Sat. Dec. 6 — Marco Island Birding Brian Rapoza will lead this all day carpool trip, which will include stops at Big Cypress Bend boardwalk, Eagle Lakes Park, and Tigertail Beach. Meet at 6:30am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Bring lunch. The first stop will be at Kirby Storter Park. Shared gasoline costs, plus \$5.00 per vehicle at Tigertail Beach. Bring lunch and wading footwear. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

Sat. Dec. 13 — South Florida Exotics Trip Paul Bithorn will lead birders in search of parrots, bulbuls, mynas, and other introduced species in this carpool trip. Meet at 1:00pm at the east parking lot of Baptist Hospital (8950 N Kendall Drive).

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143

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