

Tropical Audubon Bulletin

The Voice of Conservation in South Florida...



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 667-7337

Jan/Feb 2007

Wet Season That Wasn't Brings Calls for Water Conservation

By Nestor Yglesias,
South Florida Water Management District

While the end of summer's almost daily rainstorms is part of the state's natural cycle of wet and dry seasons, it's also a signal that peak annual water demands are right around the corner. This year, those demands are coming on the heels of a shortened wet season which dropped below average rainfalls in most regions of the South Florida Water Management District.

Water conservation is critical throughout the November to May dry season to help ensure that adequate drinking water supplies are available for everyone. The South Florida Water Management District is asking that residents from the Keys to southern Orange County, and east coast to west coast, voluntarily limit water use now to reduce the chance that widespread mandatory water restrictions will be implemented later.

This request follows the disappointingly dry first 10 months of the year. It was the second driest on record, leaving some areas of the District in 1-in-25 year dry spells. Residents and businesses can help by practicing responsible lawn care. Daily lawn irrigation uses 50 percent or more of available drinking water, said Bruce Adams, District water conservation officer. It's an astonishing number given that even in Florida's dry season, lawns don't need to be watered until they begin to wilt. In addition, lawns are more likely to survive the dry season if they have been conditioned to live without excess watering. For a more drought-tolerant lawn, don't water before, during or after rain. Water only when the lawn begins to wilt. Water the lawn before sunrise so less water evaporates. Keep lawn mower blades sharp, but cut the grass on the highest setting.

Anyone who doesn't have to maintain a lawn can help conserve water by making simple changes at home. A short shower using an ultra low flow

showerhead can use one-half the water of the average 40-gallon bath, Adams said. Less water is wasted when dishwashers and washing machines are run with full loads. Thousands of gallons of water a year can be saved just by turning off the water when brushing your teeth.

For more information about rainfall levels and water conservation, visit the District website at www.sfwmd.gov/conserve, or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.



An Eared Grebe was discovered at Green Cay Wetlands in Delray Beach. See Brian Rapoza's Birding Report (Pg. 2) for more info!

Photo by Trey Mitchell, © 2006

Sad News – The Passing of TAS Friends

By Paul Bithorn

It is with a heavy heart that I must report the passing of longtime Tropical Audubon Society member, field trip leader, birder extraordinaire, and my dear friend, Juan Villamil, of cardiac arrest in late October at the tender age of 53. I first met Juan on a TAS fieldtrip at Loxahatchee N.W.R. in 1983 and was impressed with his birding prowess as the point man for trip leader, Mort Cooper. His incredible eyes and ears would pick up birds that us mere mortals would have

missed out on without his presence.

Juan was always a fixture riding shotgun with Mort and would spot rails and bitterns along the roadside while traveling at 55 miles per hour. A man of few words, humility was hallmark of his personality. He would make annual trips all over the U.S. and Canada, attending many regional ABA Regional Conferences, including those in South Florida, where he was in great demand as a leader. He compiled the birds seen at Greynolds Park

as part of the Dade County CBC for more than twenty years.

I never could get him to share with me as to what his ABA or Florida lists were. I'm not even sure he kept a life-list. He birded for the pure pleasure of being outdoors with his friends and enjoying the pure wonderment of birds.

Juan is survived by his parents, a brother and sister and countless

(Continued on page 4)

While there were a number of bird sightings in South Florida this past fall that were worthy of note, none seemed to trigger as much perplexity and hyperventilation as the Eared Grebe that was discovered at Green Cay Wetlands in Delray Beach. First reported in late November, with photographs published shortly thereafter, the sighting generated a virtual blizzard of posts on the TAS Bird Board, with many debating the grebe's true identity and demanding a resolution to the crisis from the area's so-called "experts." Though an annual visitor to Florida, it's a bird not often seen in the southern reaches of the state; as a result, few local birders had extensive experience with this species. When the dust finally settled, all parties seemed to be in agreement that the bird was in fact, an Eared Grebe.

There was no question as to the identity of the female Masked Duck that was found at Viera Wetlands in Brevard County. First seen in early November, this beautiful duck was enjoyed by hundreds of visiting birders, and was still being seen through December. One or more Cinnamon Teal were also present at Viera Wetlands during this period. In mid-November, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher was discovered at a park in nearby Sebastian, Indian River County. Seen briefly the next morning, the bird disappeared and was never relocated. For its discoverer, David Simpson, this was the second Fork-tailed Flycatcher he's found in Florida!

The fall's most scorching hotspot was Ft. DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg, where the state's first Hammond's Flycatcher was seen and photographed in late October. Unfortunately for Florida listers, this western Empidonax flycatcher only remained in the area for two days. A few days earlier, a Warbling Vireo was found in the park and in mid-October, a Thick-billed Vireo visited this remarkable birding destination. Beginning in early November, Golden-crowned Kinglets arrived at Ft. DeSoto and many other locations throughout the northern half of the state. At the same time, Ruby-crowned Kinglets invaded South Florida in unusually high numbers, raising hopes among some area birders that their golden-crowned cousins would turn up here as well.

In mid-October, a Brown Creeper was reported from the Oasis Visitor Center in Big Cypress National Preserve; another was seen in early December at a Naples golf course. Only a handful of South Florida reports exist for this species. Also reported from Naples during this period were one, and possibly two Buff-bellied Hummingbirds. A

Calliope Hummingbird was banded in Tallahassee during early December; other hummingbirds reported from the Tallahassee area included Buff-bellied, Black-chinned and Rufous. Additional fall and early winter sightings around the state included a Kirtland's Warbler, reported in late October from Lake Kissimmee State Park, a Couch's Kingbird, seen and heard calling near Lake Apopka, a Red-necked Grebe, reported during early December from Lake Seminole in the Panhandle, and two Common Eiders, first spotted during late November at Ft. Clinch State Park, on the Georgia border in Nassau County.

A Purple Sandpiper, regular in winter at Ft. Clinch, was seen at the park during the same period; Purple Sandpipers were also found at Ponce Inlet in Volusia County, another regular winter location for this species. Vermilion Flycatchers, another rare but regular winter visitor to the state, were seen in several locations during the season, including in Collier, Seminole, Alachua and Columbia Counties. Fox Sparrows, a species much desired by a certain local birder (who will be co-leading the TAS trip to North Florida in January), were discovered during late November in both Alachua and Leon Counties. Hopefully, he'll get to see one on this upcoming trip.

A little closer to home, four Snow Geese and two Canvasbacks were found during a late-November tour of Stormwater Treatment Area 5, in Hendry County. In our own backyard, the Bell's Vireo at Bill Sadowski Park continued through late November. A Philadelphia Vireo was found at this productive little park in late October, while a Wilson's Warbler was seen there in late November. Another Wilson's Warbler was found in Key Largo two weeks earlier. At least two Bell's Vireo's were recorded during November at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area; one (or maybe two) around Lucky Hammock, another farther down Aerojet Road in the area known to local birders as "The Annex." A Brown-crested Flycatcher was identified at Lucky Hammock in late October. Lesser Nighthawks were seen at dusk over this area beginning in December, while wintering Common Nighthawks were once again seen and heard over the Homestead area.

In early November, a Yellow-headed Blackbird was discovered among other blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds (including some Shiny Cowbirds) at a horse corral in Homestead, while a single Franklin's Gull was spotted later in the month among hundreds of Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls at Cutler Wetlands. A late Swainson's Warbler was found in Key Largo Hammock Botanical Site in late October, while even later Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from both Everglades National Park and the Kendall area during early December. Also in early December, a Nashville Warbler, still rare but now annual in winter in South Florida, was seen at the University of Miami. Finally, in October a Cuban Emerald was reported from the Royal Palm Tennis Courts in Pinecrest and a Thick-billed Vireo was reported from Miami Beach. Unfortunately, neither of these sightings could be independently verified.

Brian Rapoza's Birding Report

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 subtropical 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 Lindsay
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 bi-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

Thanks to our Donors!

The following generous individuals and organizations have contributed to TAS since the last Bulletin. As always, we **GREATLY** appreciate your support!

Roseatte Spoonbill (\$1000 to \$4999)

Dr. James Kushlan
Joe & Helen Barros

Great White Heron (\$500 to \$999)

Greg Bush
Amy Kimball-Murley

Painted Bunting (\$100 to \$249)

John Atkinson
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Fishman
Jamie Orozco & Sara Fain
George & Jeanne Van Wyck
Bruce & Joyce Chesney

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

Roxanne Featherly
Martha C Sonderegger
Florence Goldstein
Douglas & Peggy Hudson
Adrienne Promoff

Other Donors

Beth Marin-Werner
Michael Chenoweth

Special thanks to John Sheldon and AA-Lift Crane for donating the services of his mobile crane in up-righting downed trees, greatly furthering our efforts at hurricane recovery, and for repairs of the Doc Thomas House.

Thank You!

What a bright idea!

Changing the World – One lightbulb at a time!

By Cynthia Guerra



In September 2006, Fast Company magazine published an article by Charles Fishman titled, "How many lightbulbs does it take to change the world?" In the article, Mr. Fishman details how Wal-Mart is taking the lead in converting American consumption of lightbulbs. Wal-Mart, it seems, wants to sell every one of its customers a compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb.

You may be familiar with these bulbs – they look like a swirl of glass – you may have even tried one in the past. Well, if you tried one in the past or never tried one before, now is the time. Technological advancements have made these bulbs consumer friendly, reliable and a great substitute for traditional bulbs. And here's the best part:

- 🌐 A typical 60-watt bulb lasts 1,000 hours and costs 62 cents a month to power; a CFL lasts 12,000 hours and costs 16 cents a month to power.
- 🌐 If 100 million people replaced one bulb in their house with a CFL, 6.57 billion kilo-watt hours would be saved per year. This is enough energy to power 619,811 homes, or a city of 1.5 million people. That's the equivalent of shutting down two typical power plants!
- 🌐 If 100 million people replaced one bulb in their house with a CFL, the national annual carbon dioxide (green house gas) emission would be reduced by 13 billion pounds. That's the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars off the road or not burning 29,963 railcars of coal.
- 🌐 For every 100 million CFLs installed, 700 million regular bulbs are not sent to landfills.

What a simple way to improve the global environment, cut your energy consumption, and save some money!!

The Best of Panama Birding

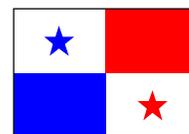
Pack your Bags & Binoculars!

There is still time to register!

February 7-18, 2007!

Tropical Audubon Society once again partners with **Exotic Birding** for a professionally organized and conducted birding tour to Panama. Our last trip with Exotic Birding was featured as a cover story in the travel section of the Miami Herald on November 5th! You still have a chance to join a master Panamanian birding guide and experience a unique mix of Central and South American bird species in the area surrounding the Panama Canal plus high elevation specialties and endemic birds of western Panama. The tour is priced at \$3,450 from Panama City, of which \$345.00 is a tax deductible contribution to TAS.

For additional information, email Brian Rapoza at brianrapoza@aol.com, phone Brian at 305-388-1544, or contact Laura Fellows of Exotic Birding toll-free at 877-247-3371.



TAS NOTES

TAS Work Days

Want to learn about native plants, help Tropical Audubon 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. Call 305-667-7337 or e-mail volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org for more information.

**TAS workdays will be held
Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2007**

Mulch Matters Part 2

In our last newsletter, we reported to you the environmental damage that results from the harvesting of cypress mulch. What we forgot to tell you was what you should use instead of cypress mulch in your garden. Sustainable mulches include pine straw and pine bark nuggets. Ask for it at your local garden store, hardware store or big-box retailer. If they are not selling alternatives to cypress mulch, ask for the manager and tell him that you are interested in these pine products as an ecologically-sensitive choice. We have the ability to alter the market for mulch – we can all do this small thing to help protect the global environment.

Recycle your Xmas Tree!

Beginning January 1, residents of unincorporated Miami-Dade County can drop off undecorated Christmas trees at any of the Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers. Trees can be dropped off daily between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., and must be cleaned of all ornaments and tinsel. Chips will become available as trees are shredded. Call (305) 594-1500 for further information. Remember, clean trees equal clean chips for your garden and landscaping needs!

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets on fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (social time 7:15). Meetings are free and open to the public.

On January 23, Ken Marks, Florida Director of the Bromeliad Society International, will present *Florida's Native Bromeliads*. Mr. Marks' recent obsession to locate and photograph all of the native bromeliads of Florida started early this year, resulting in this presentation and a two-part article in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society.

On February 27, Dr. Thomas Van Lent, Senior Scientist with the Everglades Foundation will discuss *Everglades Restoration: Are We There Yet?* This will include a science-based look at the historical Everglades, the damage inflicted by flood-control projects, how a "restored" Everglades might look, an environmentalist perspective on how restoration is progressing, a behind-the-scenes look at the process, and a prognosis for success.

For more information, call 305-255-6404 or visit www.fnps.org and follow links to the Dade Chapter.

R. I. P.

(Continued from page 1)

friends scattered across the country. Private services have already been held. Juan, we're gonna miss you. Life is good.....knowing that Juan is birding in a place where Birds of Paradise abound.

Note from Nancy Freedman, TAS Board Member

As this edition went to press, we learned of the passing of Mort Cooper on December 6. With only one kidney and pancreatic cancer, he birded on for years. I remember when he was really sick about six years ago. Maria Matos and I joined him on the Flamingo spring migration count. He had to stop and take a handful of pills (vitamins and herbs) at the marina store. He had trouble talking for awhile but eventually I guess those pills kicked in and he was fine. We were walking down the road right outside of Flamingo and I heard a mangrove cuckoo. Thinking it was Mort and his tape, I turned around to look at him but he was looking up - at two mangrove cuckoos and their youngster. I'll never forget that. He was my mentor. I remember and respect his directness and dry sense of humor. With Mort, he either liked you or he didn't; luckily he liked me. And I love and miss him.

TAS General Meeting Schedule

Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., near Red Rd. The doors open at 7:30 pm and the program begins at 8:00 pm. Early-birds may join us at 6:00pm for a pre-meeting dinner at Beverly Hills Café, on Sunset Drive across from Doc Thomas House. Call (305) 667-7337 for more information.

Wed., Jan. 10 -

"Wildlife of the Everglades Agricultural Area"

The Everglades Agricultural Area, south of Lake Okeechobee, is well known for spectacular assemblages of waders, migrant shorebirds, wintering waterfowl and other wildlife. Elise Pearlstone of the University of Florida's Everglades Research and Education Center will present findings from a five-year survey of birds and other wildlife found in the area, and will discuss upcoming research in areas being converted to Stormwater Treatment Areas.

Wed., Feb. 14 -

"Herons of the World - Their biology and conservation"

Herons are among the most obvious and intriguing of large water birds, especially in southern Florida. Based on two recent books, Dr. Jim Kushlan will take us on a tour of the interesting and threatened herons of the world. Jim is currently president of the American Ornithological Union, Chair of the Herons Specialist Group, and well known for his heron expertise.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and it's effect on Biscayne Bay

By Cynthia Guerra

For many years now, the Tropical Audubon Society has been tracking the progress of ecosystem restoration projects in Miami-Dade County. Following is an overview of some of what is planned to benefit Biscayne Bay.

The Deering Estate and Cutler flowways are part of the Acceler8 portion of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). These projects include portions of 8 CERP projects that were chosen to be 'accelerated' for partial or full completion before the timeline that was originally projected in the full restoration plan. These flowways are components of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (BBCWP) - which is one of two Dade County CERP projects that became part of Acceler8. The flowways are intended to take water from the canals and divert that wa-

ter to wetlands. This water diversion will accomplish important hydrologic and ecologic restoration for coastal wetlands, tidal creeks, shorelines, and the associated near shore waters of Biscayne Bay.

Other components of the BBCWP, while not part of Acceler8, are moving forward as well. One of those is another flowway that will take water from the C-100 canal and divert it to a spreader canal that passes through coastal wetlands running south of the old Burger King property towards Black Point. Again, the diversion of water is important to the long-term ecological health and sustainability of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park and the coastal wetlands. Canal discharges are very damaging to the bay, causing drastic fluctuations in salinity that can have devastating impacts on water quality and wildlife. Canal discharges also often transport damaging excess nutrients and other pollut-

ants directly to the bay. Historically, the water that now flows through canals used to get to the bay by flowing over land - across wetlands. This 'sheet flow' provided the water needed for the wetlands to be healthy, and the wetlands acted as water treatment - taking out any excess nutrients or pollutants before the water made it to the bay.

Right now, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are trying to finalize the design of BBCWP components. To get the most hydrologic and ecological benefit, the spreader canal needs to be built as far west as possible. Unfortunately, land is being developed faster than the CERP projects are being built, and once land is converted to development, it is no longer usable for CERP. Tropical Audubon Society is urging regulatory agencies to consider the needs of CERP as they consider any applications for development. We are also urging the Army Corps and the District to acquire those lands (at fair market value from willing sellers) in order to protect the opportunity to fully implement CERP and realize the best benefits for Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park.

CERP is envisioned to provide associated benefits to the built environment (like existing neighborhoods). By building features that allow water managers alternatives for how and where canal water is moved, we move towards a future water management system that better provides for our urban drinking water supply and flood control, as well as the tremendous environmental benefits we know can be achieved. Tropical Audubon remains committed to advocating for the full implementation of CERP. Please lend your voice to this effort.

TAS Conservation Committee Meetings

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

Wed. Jan 24, 2007

"South Miami-Dade Watershed Study & Plan"

Michael L. Davis, Vice President of Keith & Schnars, will present information on the South Miami-Dade Watershed Study and Plan. We will have the opportunity to ask questions about the plan that seeks to ensure a sustainable environment and economy in South Miami-Dade County through the year 2050.

Wed. Feb 21, 2007

"From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska"

Taldi Walter from the National Audubon Society policy office in Washington, DC will present an overview of NAS advocacy efforts on behalf of the environmental resources of Alaska. The current administration and some members of congress have advocated vastly accelerating the extraction of oil, gas, and mineral deposits in this important ecological area. Audubon seeks a balance between resource extraction and protecting internationally critical habitat. Ms. Walter will discuss the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

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 tas007@tropicalaudubon.org, or see our web page <http://tropicalaudubon.org> for more information.

Sat., Jan. 6 — South Dade Birding Raul Urgelles and Roberto Torres will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Castellow Hammock and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00 am in the parking lot of the Burger King on US-1 in Florida City (just after the end of the turnpike). This is an all day trip. Bring lunch.

Fri.-Mon., Jan. 12-15 — North Florida Birding Brian Rapoza and Paul Bithorn will lead this four day, three-night van trip to the Tallahassee area. Costs (\$250.00 per person double occupancy; \$75.00 single supplement) include hotel and van/gas. Reservations are required by December 29. Email Brian at brianrapoza@aol.com for further information.

Sat., Jan. 20 — Wakodahatchee /Green Cay/ Loxahatchee NWR Birding John Boyd will lead this carpool trip. Meet at 6:30am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset, Miami) or at 7:45am at Wakodahatchee Wetlands (13026 Jog Road, about 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Avenue in Delary Beach, Palm Beach County.) Bring lunch. There is an entrance fee to the LNWR.

Sat., Jan. 27 — Everglades National Park Birding This is an all day carpool trip with Robin Diaz and Susan Schneider. 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., Feb. 3 — North Broward Birding John Hutchison will lead this carpool trip to birding locations in northern Broward County. Meet at 8:00 am at Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek (just south of Atlantic Boulevard and west of Florida's Turnpike). Bring lunch.

Sat., Feb. 10 — 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.

Sun., Feb. 11 — Fakahatchee Strand State Reserve Nature Walk Rick Cohen leads. Meet at the Preserve HQ. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Be prepared to wade. Bring water, a hat, bug spray, and snacks. A walking stick can be helpful. A change of clothes and shoes at the end is suggested. Rating: moderate to difficult, trail can be wet and muddy. Limited to 10 participants. Reservations required by February 4. Email the TAS field trip coordinator or call 305-388-1544. Fee: \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for nonmembers.

Sat., Feb. 24 — 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 \$4.00 per vehicle at Tigertail Beach. Bring lunch and wading footwear.

Sat., Mar. 3 — Everglades National Park Birding This is an all day carpool trip with John Boyd. 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.

TAS Plant Sale

Sat.-Sun., Feb 24 & 25, 2007
Native Plant Sale at the Doc Thomas House

Go Native! Kick-start conservation at home by purchasing some native plants at the next Tropical Audubon Society Native Plant Sale. Plants available for sale are perfect for creating bird, butterfly and wildlife habitat and also help to conserve water. Experts will be on hand for advice. All proceeds support TAS. The gate opens both days at 9 am. Saturday we close at 5 pm, Sunday at 3 pm.

6th Annual TAS Birdathon!!!

Saturday, April 7 – Sunday, April 22

Have a blast birding and raising money for TAS! Tropical Audubon's Sixth Annual Birdathon is coming in April. Bird for up to 24 consecutive hours anytime during April 7-22. Collect pledges per bird seen or for the whole day. Win prizes – great prizes – while supporting a good cause!

Last year's grand prize winner won a \$500 gift certificate for American Airlines. Contact us if you or your business can donate a prize. E-mail birdathon@tropicalaudubon.org with your team name by February 15 to have your team publicized in our next edition, and check www.tropicalaudubon.org for more details soon!

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Miami, Florida
Permit No. 3677