



# Tropical Audubon Bulletin

The Voice of Conservation in South Florida...



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 667-7337

Summer 2007

## 2007 Birdathon Soared to New Heights!

**T**he 2007 Birdathon was a great success. New teams joined our event regulars for fabulous birding all in the name of conservation. Mark your calendars for next year's event, and give these folks some competition for the great prizes they were awarded after participating in the event.

🦉 Dolora Batchelor was our grand prize winner for the second year in a row! Way to go Dolora! She won a \$500 gift certificate to American Airlines for her efforts that raised the most money for TAS.

🦉 The pelagic birding trip prize for the most bird species counted (131) went to the "Life is Good..." team of Paul Bithorn & Robin Diaz, who dedicated their Birdathon in memory of Juan Villamil and Mort Cooper.

🦉 Ingrid Hunter & Aileen Bartholemew won a bird song clock.

🦉 The "Mass Ducks" (John Hutchinson and Friends) won a framed photo of a swallow-tailed kite.

🦉 Jocelyn Robinson won a new pair of binoculars from Eagle Optics.

🦉 The "Corkscrews" (Laura Reynolds, Pilar Rodriguez, and Brooke Shamblin) won a framed photo of a hawk.

🦉 And although not eligible for a prize, our Birdathon organizer's team the "King Boyds" (Nancy Freedman and John Boyd) raised a lot of money and gave the "Life is Good..." team some stiff competition in terms of number of species seen.

Our appreciation goes out to all those who made and honored pledges to the teams: Paul Bithorn, Robin Diaz, Daniel Koch, Koch & Tushin, Jorge Torres, Jennifer Huber, Dean Murphy, John Freedman, Brad Tushin, Doug Shapiro, Deeanna Deluca, John Boyd, Dick Squires, Jim Daniel, Pat Vegnanu, Jill Rockfort, Joan Swallen, Sara Ellenburg, Barbara & Linda Crutchfield, Barbara Hosford, George & Carol Green, Gloria Golightly, Barbara Stabley, Peter & Sima Siegel, Barbara Blank, Nancy Domenico, Estelle Roth, Margo Williams, Mary Rose, Vicki Brown, Jocelyn Robinson, Ann Knutson, Gigi Abbadie, April Gromnicki, Greg Butcher, Betsy Layless, Taldi Walter, Julie Leibach, Connie Mahan, Noah Van Gilder, Yasmin Blancas, Bruce Reynolds, Leslie Tucker, Joe Hale, Edna Aldarondo, Libeth Greenwood, Sandra Ajao, Tina Gonzalez, Roe Ragin, Chiquita Polite, Marc Rhodes, Mary Andersen, Maykel Reabaerem, Douglas & Barbara James, Anthony & Janice Zepko, Christopher Gentes, Heather McQueen, John Weeks and Christine Chinni, James Barnes, Theresa Woktanowski, and Seth Kellog.

Extra special thanks to TAS Board member Nancy Freedman for all her hard work making this event a success and for donating the grand prize. We also would like to thank Larry Manfredi, Eagle Optics and Cynthia Guerra for donating other prizes in support of this great event!

**Thank You One And All !**

**INSIDE: A fanTAStic year of events ➡**

# TAS 2007-2008 Schedule of Events

Tropical Audubon Society is proud to once again offer an outstanding lineup of outings and monthly programs. You will see bird, plant and butterfly trips; morning trips, all day trips, overnight trips; outings nearby and outings afar; the very important seasonal bird counts; special events (Birdathon!!); workdays; plant sales; and lots of ways to have a good time while supporting a great cause and learning more about our native environment. All events with a confirmed date are included. Please mark your calendars and join us!

All trips (except for the Dry Tortugas trips) are led by volunteer leaders from the Tropical Audubon Society. Unless otherwise indicated, they are free and open to the public, and reservations are not necessary. For more information concerning any field trip, fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org, or call him at (305) 388-1544. For

more information concerning workdays and plant sales, email director@tropicalaudubon.org or call TAS at (305) 667-7337.

Please remember that some parks charge entrance fees, participants usually share gasoline costs for carpool trips, and overnight and boat trips will mean additional costs. Also, on some of the nature walks a fee may be required. Please note the reservation deadline on trips where reservations are required. To allow communication with trip leaders, walkie-talkies are recommended for carpool trips. The specifics for each trip are indicated below. In some cases, the trip leader has included his/her email address and phone number for direct contact. The schedule will be updated as more information becomes available.

(Habla espanol) - indicates a trip with bilingual leaders.

## JULY 2007

**Sat. July 21 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** 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. Call 305-667-7337 or e-mail volunteer@tropicalaudubon.org for more information.

## AUGUST 2007

**Sat. Aug. 18 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Aug. 18 — Everglades Agricultural Area Birding** Paul Bithorn will lead an all day carpool trip to the sod farms in the Belle Glade area of Palm Beach County. Meet at 6:00am at the east gate (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.

**Wed. Aug. 22 — Conservation Meeting** 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.

**Sat. Aug. 25 — Butterflies and Birds of CREW Marsh** Join the Miami Blue chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and Tropical Audubon Society for a joint carpool trip to CREW Marsh in Collier County, with a late day stop at Everglades City and dinner at the Rod & Gun Club before returning to Miami across Tamiami Trail. Leaders: Roger Hammer and Brian Rapoza.

CREW Marsh (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) contains 5000 acres of pineland, hammock and freshwater marsh, with 5 miles of well-maintained trails. According to Roger Hammer, this little known preserve, adjacent to National Audubon's popular Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, offers a wealth of plants and wildlife, including over 60 species of butterfly, which approaches half of the species seen in South Florida. This includes many rarities plus several commonly sighted in the Corkscrew area: Orange Sulphur, Red-banded Hairstreak, Little Metalmark, Red Admiral, Carolina and Georgia Satyr, Southern Skipperling and Silver-spotted, Least, Twin-spot, Brazilian and Salt Marsh Skipper.

To carpool, meet at 6:00am at the east gate (on SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Bring lunch, lots of water and sun, rain and mosquito protection. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

For those not carpooling, directions follow: From Tamiami Trail (U.S. Highway 41), turn north onto State Road 29, through Immokalee. About 5 miles past the town, turn west (left) onto State Road 82; proceed west 5.3 miles to County Road 850 (Corkscrew Road) and turn south (left). Main entrance is 1.5 miles farther, on your left, with entrance sign on a wood fence with bold blue letters. From I-75, take Exit 123, turn east onto County Road 850 (Corkscrew Road). Proceed east about 18 miles, past the locked gate entrances, to the main entrance on your right, with entrance sign on a wood fence with bold blue letters.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

**Sat. Sept. 1 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida Bird Walk** Jeff Weber 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. Sept. 8 — Matheson Hammock / Fairchild Tropical Garden Bird Walk** John Boyd will lead birders through Matheson Hammock and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The group meets at 7:30am in the parking area on the left inside the Matheson north entrance. Entry to Fairchild is at 10:00am. The Fairchild entrance fee will be waived for TAS members. Return is at approximately 11:30am.

**Sun. Sept. 9 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk** Bill Boeringer will lead birders through A.D. Barnes Park. Enter on SW 72nd Ave. just north of Bird Rd. (SW 40th St.) and take the first left to park near the baseball fields. Meet at 7:30am, returning at approximately 11:00am.

**Wed. Sept. 12 — Monthly Membership Meeting** Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., near Red Rd. The doors open at 7:30pm and the show beginning at 8pm. Call for more information (305) 667-7337.

**Sat. Sept. 15 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Sept. 15 — 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, September 15, birders from around the country will be collecting information on the abundance and distribution of both migrant and resident birds. If you can find

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and identify birds and would like to participate in the count in either Miami-Dade or Monroe County, email 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 September 15.

**Sun. Sept. 16 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk** Paul Bithorn will lead. See September 1, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Sept. 22 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk** Robin Diaz will lead. See September 9, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Sept. 23 — Matheson Hammock Bird Walk (Habla espanol)** Joe Barros will lead birders through Matheson Hammock on Old Cutler Rd. immediately north of Fairchild Gardens. The group meets in the parking area on the left inside the north park entrance at 7:30am. Return is at approximately 11:00am.

**Wed. Sept. 26 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Sept. 29 — Greynold's Park Bird Walk** Jim King 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. Sept. 30 — Cutler Bay Birding (Habla espanol)** 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, Dump Marsh and Cutler Wetlands. Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.



## OCTOBER 2007

**Sat. Oct. 6 — Corkscrew Swamp / Tigertail Beach Birding** Brian Rapoza will lead an all day carpool event to Collier County. Meet at 6:00am at the east gate (on SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). There is an admission fee for Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (discount for Audubon members). Bring lunch and wading shoes. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Sun. Oct 7 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk (Habla espanol)** Gigi Pardo will lead. See September 9, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Oct. 10 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Oct. 13 — South Dade Birding** John Boyd will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Castellow Hammock and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00am 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. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Thurs. and Sat. Oct. 18 and 20 — Learn to bird! BIRDING 101 with Brian Rapoza** This is a 2-part program focusing on finding and identifying the birds of South Florida. On Thurs., Oct. 25 at the Doc Thomas House (5530 Sunset, Miami), Brian Rapoza, TAS field trip coordinator and author of *Birding Florida*, will cover bird watching basics and present slides of the area's resident and visiting birds. On Sat. Oct. 27, you can put this newly found knowledge to use on a walk in a local park. Call 305-388-1544 for more information. Reservations and fee required: \$35.00 for an individual TAS member / \$40.00 for TAS member families / \$40.00 for nonmember individuals / \$45.00 for nonmember families (family prices include as many kids as you want to bring). Fee includes a copy of *Birding Florida*. Children and adults will enjoy this class. We would love to see more people of all ages interested in our unique natural heritage!

**Sat. Oct. 20 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Oct. 24 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Oct. 27 — Shark Valley / Loop Road Birding** Paul Bithorn will lead this carpool trip. Meet at 7:00am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

## NOVEMBER 2007

**Sat. Nov. 3 — 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. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Sat.-Sun. Nov. 3-4 — Native Plant Sale at 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.

**Sat. Nov. 10 — Everglades National Park Beginning Bird Walk** Susan Schneider 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.

**Wed. Nov. 14 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Nov. 17 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Nov. 17 — Wakodahatchee / Green Cay Wetlands Birding** John Hutchison will lead this carpool trip. Meet at 7:30am at Wakodahatchee (13026 Jog Road, about 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, Palm Beach County.)

**Wed. Nov. 28 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

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## DECEMBER 2007

**Sat. Dec. 1 — 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). Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Sat. Dec. 15 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

### Christmas Bird Counts

**Join the 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.**

**Sat. Dec. 15 — Miami-Dade County CBC** Coordinated by Brian Rapoza. For additional information, email [fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org)

**Wed. Dec. 19 — Long Pine Key CBC** Coordinated by Robin Diaz. For additional information, email [robin@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:robin@tropicalaudubon.org)

**Sat. Dec. 22 — Kendall CBC** Coordinated by Bill Boeringer. For additional information, contact [bill@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:bill@tropicalaudubon.org)

**Sat. Dec. 29 — Coot Bay / Everglades CBC** Coordinated by Brian Rapoza. For information, email [fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org)

## JANUARY 2008

**Sat. Jan. 5 — South Dade Birding (Habla español)** Roberto Torres will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Castellow Hammock and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00am 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. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Wed. Jan. 9 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Jan. 12 — Wakodahatchee /Green Cay/ Loxahatchee NWR Birding** John Boyd 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. There is an entrance fee to the LNWR. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Fri.-Mon. Jan. 18-21 — North Florida Birding** Brian Rapoza and Paul Bithorn will lead this four day, three-night van trip to the Tallahassee area. Costs of \$300.00 per person double occupancy (\$100.00 single supplement) include hotel and van/gas. Reservations are required by January 4. Email [fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org) for further information.

**Sat. Jan. 19 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Jan. 23 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Jan. 26 — North Broward Birding** John Hutchison will lead this carpool trip to birding locations in northern Broward County. Meet at 8:00am at Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek (just south of Atlantic Boulevard and west of Florida's Turnpike). Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

## FEBRUARY 2008

**Sat. Feb. 2 — Everglades National Park Beginning Bird Walk** Jeff Weber will lead. See November 3, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Feb. 9 — Everglades National Park Birding** Robin Diaz will lead. See November 3, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Feb. 13 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Feb. 16 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Feb. 16 — 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. Feb. 23 — West Broward Birding** John Hutchison will lead this carpool trip to birding locations in western Broward County. The trip begins at Markham Park, 16001 SR 84 in Sunrise. Meet at the nature trail parking area (turn left after the entrance station) at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Sat.-Sun. Feb. 23-24 — Native Plant Sale at Doc Thomas House.** See November 3-4, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Feb. 27 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

## MARCH 2008

**Sat. Mar. 1 — Everglades National Park Birding** John Boyd will lead. See November 3, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Mar. 8 — Shark Valley Biking and Birding** Brian Rapoza leads this 15 mile bike and birding tour on Shark Valley's tram road. Everglades National Park entrance fee is required. Bring a bicycle (rentals are available at Shark Valley), helmet, lunch, water and insect repellent. Mid-afternoon return. Reservations are required by March 1. Limited to 20 participants. For information E-mail [fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org)

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**Wed. Mar. 12 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Mar. 15 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Mar. 15 — Wakodahatchee / Green Cay Wetlands Birding** Nancy Freedman 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.)

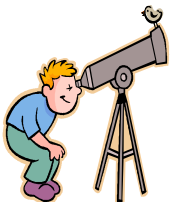
**Sun. Mar. 16 — Spring Wildflower Walk with Roger Hammer** Well known South Florida plant expert, Roger Hammer, will lead this walk down the Long Pine Key Nature Trail in Everglades National Park. See the wildflowers, butterflies and birds that share the varied habitat of pine rockland, Everglades prairie and upland hammock communities. This is an excellent chance to see the grass-pink orchid in bloom. Meet at the Ernest Coe Visitor Center in Everglades National Park at 8am, return approximately 11:30am. Reservations and fee required: \$40 members/\$45 nonmembers includes an autographed copy of Roger's recent book, Everglades Wildflowers. Call 305-247-1634, or e-mail rhammer@adelphia.net to register or for more information.

**Wed. Mar. 26 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Mar. 29 — Lake Kissimmee Area Birding** This is an all day carpool trip to the Lake Kissimmee State Park and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Meet Brian Rapoza 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. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

## APRIL 2008

**Wed. Apr. 9 — Monthly Membership Meeting** See September 12, 2007 for info!



## TAS 5th Annual Birdathon!!!

Saturday, April 5 – Sunday, April 20

**R**aise money for TAS! Tropical Audubon's Sixth Annual Birdathon is coming in April. Bird for up to 24 consecutive hours anytime during April 5-20. Collect pledges per bird seen or for the whole day. Win prizes! Stay tuned for more information about our exciting Birdathon...fun teams, good prizes, all day birding and all for a good cause!

**Sat. Apr. 5 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk** Robin Diaz will lead. See September 1, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Apr. 6 — Matheson Hammock Bird Walk (Habla español)** Joe Barros will lead. See September 23, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Apr. 6 - Wed. Apr. 30 — 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!

Eight trips available: April 6-9, April 9-12, April 12-15, April 15-18, April 18-21, 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 or call 305-258-9607. More information is on Larry's website, [www.southfloridabirding.com/](http://www.southfloridabirding.com/)

**Sat. Apr. 12 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk (Habla español)** Gigi Pardo will lead. See September 9, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Apr. 13 — Cutler Bay Birding (Habla español)** 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, Dump Marsh and Cutler Wetlands. Bring lunch. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

**Fri.-Sun. April 18-20 — 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: \$225.00 per person double occupancy; \$75.00 single supplement (includes hotel and van/gas). Reservations are required by April 4. E-mail fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org for further information.

**Sat. Apr. 19 — Greynold's Park Bird Walk** Jim King 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. 20 — Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk** David Wright and Mary Ellen Ahearn will lead. See September 1, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Apr. 19 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Wed. Apr. 23 — Conservation Meeting** See August 22, 2007 for info!

**Sat. Apr. 26 — A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk** Susan Schneider will lead. See September 9, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Apr. 27 — Matheson Hammock Park Bird Walk** John Boyd will lead. See September 23, 2007 for info!

**Sun. Apr. 27 — TAS Wingding: 4-7pm, Doc Thomas House** Flock to our Annual Meeting and Picnic on Sunday, April 27th from 4 to 7 pm, at the Doc Thomas House.

## MAY 2008

**Sat. May 3 — North Key Largo State Botanical Site: Birds, Butterflies and Native Plants (Habla español)** 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

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## TAS WingDing a Rousing Success!

On Sunday, April 30, Tropical hosted a large and enthusiastic group of members and friends for our annual membership meeting, now called the WingDing! This year, we welcomed Senator Robert Smith, Past-President of the Everglades Foundation, who spoke to everyone about the future of Everglades Restoration and how groups like the Tropical Audubon Society are important contributors to the effort. Senator Smith has a long history of public service, both as an elected official and also as a leader and strong advocate on behalf of the Everglades. He spoke eloquently, and we were so privileged to have him come share this special day with us.

After the Senator's comments, TAS was proud to honor Juanita Greene, recipient of the TAS Polly Redford Citizen Service Award; Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson, recipient of the TAS Dan Beard Government Service Award; and George Gann, recipient of the TAS Board Appreciation Award. The awardees collectively have invested decades of work toward protecting the environment in South Florida.

The event concluded with recognition of our Birdathon teams and a fabulous silent auction. Many TAS members and supporters helped to bring the event together and we are grateful to them all, but special thanks go to TAS

Board members Amy Kimball-Murley, Patty Phares, and Joe Barros for doing most of the 'heavy lifting.' Thanks to one and all for making this event a great success!

We hope you make plans to join us next year...



**Keynote Speaker Senator Robert Smith addresses members, friends, supporters and honorees of TAS at the 2007 Wingding!**

*(more photos on Page 8)*

## TAS 2007-2008 Schedule of Events

*(Continued from page 5)*

Burger King on US-1 in Florida City (just after the end of the turnpike). Bring water and insect repellent. Walkie-talkies are recommended. Lunch at a Key Largo restaurant.

**Sat. May 10 — 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 10, 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](mailto: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, neighbor-

hood, 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 12.

**Sat. May 17 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

**Sat. May 17 — 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. Walkie-talkies are recommended.

### JUNE 2008

**Sat.-Sun. June 7-8 — Native Plant Sale at the Doc Thomas House** See November 3-4, 2007 for info!

**Sat. June 14-Sun. June 22 — Birds and Beasts of the Great Parks** Brian Rapoza and Paul Bithorn for this 9-day,

8-night adventure to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, in northwestern Wyoming, and Glacier National Park, in northwestern Montana. A wide variety of Rocky Mountain and western birds are possible in and around these incredibly scenic parks. Mammals we hope to encounter include bison, elk, moose, grizzly and black bear, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and gray wolf. Costs: \$970.00 per person double occupancy (not including air fare to Billings, Montana); \$400.00 single supplement. Reservations and payment are required by March 31, 2008. E-mail [fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@tropicalaudubon.org) for an itinerary, target species and further information.

**Sat. June 21 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!

### JULY 2008

**Sat. July 19 — Workday at the Doc Thomas House** See July 21, 2007 for info!



## Brian Rapoza's Spring Birding Recap

**D**uring North American Migration Counts, held twice each year (on the second Saturday in May and third Saturday in September), birders from around the country spend the day tallying birds migrating either to or from their breeding grounds. The counts are scheduled to coincide with the peak of migration across most of North America. Unfortunately for south Florida birders, spring migration is typically all but over by the mid-May count, with only a handful of migrants still trickling through. Spring migration of 2007, though, was anything but typical. Persistent westerly winds in the days leading to count day produced perfect conditions for migrant fallouts along our southeast coast. Warblers, nineteen species seen just in Miami-Dade, were everywhere, including hundreds (if not thousands) of Blackpoll and Black-throated Blue Warblers, American Redstarts and Common Yellowthroats. Connecticut Warblers, a scarce migrant in Florida during most years, were found at a number of locations on count day; at least eight were at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park during the week prior to the count. Mourning Warblers, a circum-Gulf migrant hardly ever seen in south Florida, were found at both Cape Florida and Bill Sadowski Park during that week. On count day, two Bicknell's Thrushes were banded and measured at Cape Florida, providing, if accepted, only the third and fourth state records for that species!

Mid to late April is usually the peak of spring migration in south Florida. By the third week in April, good numbers of warblers, thrushes, tanagers and grosbeaks were appearing at local migrant hotspots such as A.D. Barnes Park and Enchanted Forest. On the opposite side of the peninsula, trans-Gulf migrants and more, 176 species in all, were tallied during Tropical Audubon's highly successful mid-April van trip to Ft. Desoto in St. Petersburg. An amazing twenty-six species of warblers were seen during the trip, including Mourning, Cerulean, Blue-

winged, Swainson's, Kentucky, Hooded and Chestnut-sided. Other colorful migrants spotted at Ft. DeSoto included Acadian Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Wood Thrush, Scarlet and Summer Tanager, Blue and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Orchard and Baltimore Oriole. Other birds found on stops along the way included Northern Bobwhite, King Rail, White-rumped Sandpiper, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Florida Scrub-Jay, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow.

Good numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in south Florida throughout the spring, including over 40 at Cutler Wetlands during the migration count. Other locations hosting White-rumped Sandpipers included the Belle Glade area south of Lake Okeechobee and Eco Pond in Everglades National Park. Also seen this spring in the Lake Okeechobee area were Buff-breasted Sandpipers. At Eco Pond, up to 34 American Avocets, all in breeding plumage were present for the migration count. A Wilson's Phalarope, rare in Florida during spring, was discovered near Eco Pond a week later. Cutler Wetlands continued to be a great location to see a not only a variety of migrant shorebirds, but unexpected species as well. In late May, a small flock of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks took up residence at the wetlands; in early June, a White-faced Ibis was discovered there.

By late May, when most shorebirds had left the area on their way to Arctic breeding grounds, persistent easterly winds began to force migrating seabirds close to Florida's Atlantic coast. An Arctic Tern, among the champions of long-distance migration, was photographed near the visitor center at Biscayne National Park; others were reported farther up the coast. A number of other pelagic species, including Leach's Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope and Brown Noddy, were also driven inshore, presumably by the strong winds. During an offshore boat trip out of Ponce Inlet in early June, when winds had finally calmed, an amazing six Black-capped Petrels, as well as Leach's, Band-rumped and Wilson's Storm Petrels,

Greater and Audubon's Shearwaters and other seabirds were seen and photographed by trip participants. By mid-June, large numbers of migrant shearwaters, mostly Greater but also a few Cory's, were being seen from sea watch sites in the central peninsula. It appears that an inability to find food farther offshore, rather than strong winds, drove these birds to coastal areas. Sadly, many were found either dead or emaciated along area beaches.

A number of Caribbean vagrants were reported in the area during the season. In mid April, a Neotropic Cormorant, a possible first for Florida, was photographed on Boca Chita Key near Key West. The Loggerhead Kingbird that was first found on Key West in March was relocated in late April, this time on nearby Stock Island. In addition to the Bahama Mockingbird found at Evergreen Cemetery in Ft. Lauderdale during early April, another was photographed at Cape Florida during early May. Other Bahama Mockingbirds were seen in the Dry Tortugas and a Miami Shores backyard. In addition to the male Western Spindalis that continued through April at Evergreen Cemetery, a female was found in late April at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Other Western Spindalis were reported from Oleta River State Park, A.D. Barnes Park and Crandon Park, but were never verified. Also never verified were Zenaida Doves reported from John Pennekamp State Park and Marathon Airport in the Keys and a LaSagra's Flycatcher from Key Largo Botanical Site. Shiny Cowbirds were seen at a number of locations, including Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach County and Flamingo, in Everglades National Park. Farther up the coast, a Kirtland's Warbler, which winters in the Bahamas, was discovered in early May at Sebastian Inlet State Park in Indian River County. Not a Caribbean vagrant (though found in the Bahamas), but certainly out of place was the Hairy Woodpecker photographed at Cape Florida in mid-May. Also out of place was the Mississippi Kite seen over Key Largo in early May. Of completely unknown origin was the Trumpeter Swan found in Okeechobee County during late April.

*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!

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*Cynthia Guerra would like to extend her appreciation for contributions made directly to TAS in honor and memory of her father, Phil Guerra, who passed away in April after a 14 year battle with cancer: William Berk, Kathy Aterno, Freda and William Tschumy, and Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Fishman.*

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

**MORE WingDing Pix!**

Top to Bottom Honorees! Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson (1), George Gann (2), and Juanita Greene (3) accept their awards from TAS...



(1) Commissioner Sorenson and Cynthia Guerra



(2) Cynthia Guerra, George Gann and Joe Barros



(3) Joe Barros, Cynthia Guerra, Juanita Greene and Lloyd Miller

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