



Tropical Audubon Bulletin

Newsletter of the Tropical Audubon Society



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 666-5111

January/February 2003

TAS Executive Director's Report

Environmental Victories

Imagine walking down a nature trail or boardwalk and on either side of you is a pine forest growing on a strange landscape. Limestone bedrock is visible on the uneven ground, and pockets of soil have accumulated in limerock holes that support a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses. If there has been a prescribed fire recently, you'll see new shoots on the saw palmetto and other fire-dependant plant species will be flourishing. Pineland animals like birds, geckos, frogs and lizards dart through the vegetation and large raptors soar overhead.

The Richmond Pineland

TAS was fortunate to play a significant role in preserving approximately 140 acres of pine rockland just like the one described above. The Richmond Pineland, located on SW 137 Avenue north of SW 184 Street is a natural area that was, until recently, the last unprotected pine rockland in Miami-Dade County. Pine rocklands are a globally imperiled ecosystem; only 2% of the original acreage remains in Miami-Dade County because the re-

maining acreage has been converted to farmland and suburbia over the past several decades. The Richmond Pineland also contains a remnant transverse glade (a marl prairie wetland), and this area is the last such glade remaining in Miami-Dade County. The site is known to support more than 20 endangered or threatened plant species including the deltoid spurge. The deltoid spurge is an endemic species restricted to a very small region of the world only 12 miles long by 5 miles wide between South Miami and Goulds.

The Richmond Pineland occupied land that formally housed a federal military facility. When the federal government began the process of deeding the surplus land to Miami-Dade County, the MD Park & Recreation Department applied to acquire the land to preserve this unique treasure. The Miami-Dade School Board also applied for the land so they could build a new school. For many months, TAS tracked the applications through the state and federal process, providing comment and feedback to administrators. We are now happy to report that

the property will in fact be given to the Park & Recreation Department, and they have committed to maintain the site as a natural area with passive recreation and environmental education opportunities. They are also tasked to maintain the site in order to ensure the long-term survival of these rare ecosystems.

The City of Doral

In another victory, TAS helped to convince the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners that the boundaries of the proposed City of Doral needed to be re-drawn such that the new municipality would not be formed over any portion of the Northwest Wellfield. TAS was concerned that the proposed city may at some point negatively impact the county's purest source of drinking water. We applaud the Commissioners action to pull the boundaries of the incorporation area east of the critical wellfield recharge zone.

- Cynthia Guerra

Environmental Scorecard for our Washington Representatives

I just received the National Environmental Scorecard from the League of Conservation Voters. The document records 16 senate roll call votes and eight House roll call votes for all of our Washington representatives. The issues selected as environmental votes are explained in some detail and cover a broad spectrum of environmental questions. Nationwide the average score for the senate is 43, with Democrats averaging 72 and Republicans 13. For the House the national average is 47, Democrats 79 and

Republicans 17. Our senators have respectable environmental scorecards: Bob Graham 64 and Bill Nelson 68. Our House representatives scored as follows: Meek (D) 73, Ros-Lehtinen (R) 18, Deutsch (D) 95, Diaz-Balard (R) 18, Shaw (R) 27, Hastings (D) 73. You can also find the details of this report on the League's web site: www.lcv.org.

- Karsten Rist

Attention Golfers, Golf Fans and Birdie Watchers

Charity begins on the golf course at the 2003 Ford PGA Championship at Doral. You can make TAS a big winner by participating in the Birdies for Charity® competition. That's because TAS will receive every single penny of the donations that are pledged to us in the program. All you have to do is call TAS for your copy of the registration form and then return the form to us with your pledge to donate a specific amount per birdie or a flat donation amount. It is expected that between 1500-1800 birdies will be made by the PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, so a one cent per birdie pledge will mean you will make a \$15 to \$18 donation to TAS. By the way, for you non-golfers, a birdie is a score of one under par.

The pledge drive is being sponsored by the South Florida Golf Foundation, which will also be sponsoring a "Guess

the Birdies" contest. Participants who commit to a minimum pledge of one cent per birdie or a minimum donation of twenty dollars will be eligible to guess the number of birdies that will be made in the tournament. Those guessing the correct or closest number of birdies can win fabulous prizes like: two spots in the Ford Championship at Doral 2004 Silver PRO-AM played on the Blue Monster; two round trip coach tickets on American Airlines for domestic travel; a spa day at the Doral Resort; and Waterford Crystal.

Call TAS today at 305-666-5111 to get your pledge form, and then watch the birdies during the tournament March 6th through March 9th at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa!

EAGLE OPTICS KICKS OFF THE SECOND ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13, 2003

Back by popular demand: the Optics Event! Eagle Optics will once again be visiting Miami and bringing a collection of the equipment we would all love to have. This year's event will act as a kick off to our Second Annual Birdathon which is starting on Saturday, April 12. EO's representative will participate in the Virginia Key bird walk that morning, taking a few of the most popular items from his traveling road show. Afterwards, in the Botanical Garden behind the Doc Thomas House, he will be available to demonstrate a wider selection of binoculars and spotting scopes and talk about their applications in bird watching, butterfly watching and nature viewing. There will be products on hand from a variety of manufacturers for the beginner as well as the advanced enthusiast. All who are interested will be able to compare various types of equipment, ask questions, and purchase or order items of their choice.

Based in Middleton, Wisconsin, Eagle Optics has one of the nation's largest selections of binoculars, spotting scopes and accessories. Products are sold from their extensive catalogue and web page. The company is an authorized dealer of each manufacturer represented. Almost all models listed are stock items available for immediate shipment and include factory new equipment with all accessories supplied by the manufacturer, including U.S. warranty. Eagle Optics has built a solid reputation on offering birders the best in selection, service and prices on quality optic products.

The Virginia Key bird walk, led by Ellen and Todd Snow, starts at 7:30am on Saturday, April 12. Eagle Optics will be at the Doc Thomas Botanical Garden on Saturday from 1 - 4:30 and on Sunday from 10 - 3. We look forward to seeing you! Think how nice it would be to have new binoculars TAS Birdathon!

TAS is proud to participate in an affiliate program with Eagle Optics wherein any purchases made from their website when accessed by a link from our website will earn Tropical a commission. Purchases made during the Optics Event will earn TAS 5%. If you don't buy directly from Ron in April, please consider making your next optics purchase from Eagle Optics via the TAS website at www.tropicalaudubon.org.

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: Cathy Coates
Layout: 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) 666-5111. 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:
<http://tropicalaudubon.org>

Calling all Volunteers TAS needs you!

TAS is undergoing major information management infrastructure improvements. This means that we are now ready to maintain a database of people who would like to be TAS volunteers. Over the next year, we will be asking for people to volunteer in specific areas and we will keep track of your volunteer interests. Right now we are looking for the following:

☀ Volunteers to help on the grounds and with the new pineland. Workdays are scheduled for January 18th, February 8th, March 22nd, and April 26th.

☀ Volunteers to staff the Doc Thomas House. As we approach the winter and spring season, many out-of-town visitors like to visit our property to bird-watch and stroll on the grounds. We would like to make the property as accessible as possible for visitors and residents alike. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our native flora and fauna and to spend time in a pleasant environment.

☀ Volunteers to help coordinate membership-recruitment events. Do you like to organize and host parties? Than we could use your help as we try to reach out to potential new members.

☀ Volunteers to help raise money to support our programs. We are looking for individuals with fundraising and grant-writing experience.

If you would like to volunteer, please send an e-mail to

director@tropicalaudubon.org

or call 305-666-5111. Provide your name, phone numbers, e-mail address, and tell us how you would like to assist. NOTE: Workday participation does not require any advance notification. You can join us at our property anytime between 8 am and noon on the dates specified.

EAGLE OPTICS
OPTIC OUTFITTERS

NEW The All New Eagle Optics Ranger Platinum Class



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Everything you've always wanted in a binocular...
For Less!!

- Waterproof/Fogproof
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We will see you at the Doc Thomas House on the afternoon of April 12th and the 13th as part of the Bird-a-thon kickoff!

Come celebrate the Centennial of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and the entire NWR System at the Pelican Island Wildlife Festival March 15&16 in Sebastian, FL Visit www.pelicanisland.fws.gov or call 772-562-3909 (xt-258).



Eagle Optics products are available locally at your participating Wild Birds Unlimited store.

(800)-326-4WBU
www.wbu.com
for locations near you.

Call for Your Free Comprehensive Buying Guide
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www.eagleoptics.com
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"MARVEL MEAL" SUET RECIPE

(makes 4 suet cakes)

BASIC MIX
1 cup peanut butter
1 cup shortening or solid bacon drippings
1 cup white flour
4 cups yellow cornmeal

mix ingredients (I find a pastry cutter works great)
put into molds (reuse old suet containers)
put into a large zip lock baggie and refrigerate for at least 2 hours so it sets up nicely (extra cakes can be kept in the refrigerator until needed)

SERVE!

OPTIONAL ADDITIONS TO THE BASIC MIX
(no more than ½ cup total for each basic mix batch otherwise the mix won't hold together)
up to ½ cup dried nuts, fruit, or birdseed
up to ½ cup crushed oyster shell or eggshells

To make your own calcium care additive - rinse and dry eggshells until you have enough to cover a layer on a baking sheet. Bake shells in the oven at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes. When cool finely crush the shells and store in an airtight container. Females appreciate extra calcium in their diets during the breeding/nesting season (March - August) as it helps strengthen their eggshells.

Bird the Bahamas with Larry!

TAS has a new field trip to Grand Bahama! Mark your calendars for Friday, March 21 – Sunday, March 23. Limited to 12, the group will depart Ft. Lauderdale on Friday morning on Discovery Cruise Lines. It is about a 4-hour journey which should yield some good pelagic birds. Once arriving on Grand Bahama, we'll rent vehicles and check into the motel. The rest of the day is devoted to a search for Bahamas specialties and a few wintering warblers. Saturday and Sunday we look for any specialties missed so far. See the bird list below. We will be able to bird about half a day on Sunday, before returning the cars and boarding the boat back to Ft. Lauderdale for more pelagic birding.

The cost is \$415.00 per person double occupancy, \$465.00 per person for

single occupancy with a deposit of \$150 per person. This includes transportation to and from Grand Bahama on Discovery Cruise Lines (departing from Fort Lauderdale), 2 nights motel accommodations, transportation while on Grand Bahama, departure tax, hotel tax and security surcharge. This does not include meals or drinks.

Participants will need drivers license or passport or birth certificate to enter the Bahamas. You are also requested to bring sunscreen, bug repellent, motion sickness medication, and a hat.

Please contact Larry Manfredi for information and reservations: P.O. Box 322244 Homestead, Fl. 33032, Phone: 305-258-9607; E-mail: birderlm@bellsouth.net ; web site <http://www.southfloridabirding.com>

Expected Bahamas specialties:

Zenaida Dove, Cuban Emerald, Bahama Woodstar, Cuban Pewee, La Sagra's Flycatcher, Loggerhead Kingbird, Bahama Swallow, Red-legged Thrush, Bahama Mockingbird, Thick-billed Vireo, Olive-capped Warbler, Bahama Yellowthroat, Bananaquit, Western Spindalis, Black-faced Grassquit, Greater Antillean Bullfinch.

Species we hope to see but are uncommon or hard to find:

Key West Quail-Dove, West Indian Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch (very rare), Yellow-throated Warbler (Bahamian race)

Pelagic species:

Cory's Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird, Northern Gannet, Roseate Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy, Pomarine Jaeger

TAS NOTES

General Meetings

Wed., Jan. 8 – Membership Meeting: “**The Fakahatchee Strand- Fla’s Botanical Paradise**” Mike Owen, biologist at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, will present an introduction to the botany of this orchid paradise. Rick Cohen will again lead a TAS Fieldtrip there in February. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the area before hitting the trail. 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.

Wed., Feb.12 – Membership Meeting: “**Desert Pollination: Bats, Birds and Moths**” Professor Ted Fleming, a world authority on bats, will do the TAS February program on Pollination in the Desert: Bats, Birds and Moths. Ted is a TAS member and an excellent speaker. 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.

Wed., Mar. 12 – Membership Meeting: “**The Upland Avian Restoration In Everglades National Park**” Gary Slater from the Ecostudies Institute Homestead Field Office will be doing the program on the bird reintroductions into the pinelands at ENP. 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.

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee is meeting again! Please join us on the 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, at 7:30pm. January meeting: Wed.22

Workdays

Saturdays, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8 - **Workdays at the Doc Thomas House** We need you at the Doc Thomas House! Come get some dirt under your fingernails raking, trimming, digging and planting. Bring your family and friends. There will be plant experts and plenty of learning available for those who ask questions. 5530 Sunset, 8am until around noon.

Garden Tours

Sundays, Jan. 19 and Feb. 23 - **Tour the Botanical Garden at the Tropical Audubon Society** David Lysinger, native plant expert and Botanical Garden architect, will lead tours from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn about our botanical heritage and visit the garden at the historic Doc Thomas House. 5530 Sunset near the intersection of Red Road.

NATIVE PLANT DAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2003

Learn about Florida native plants in landscaping and natural areas at Native Plant Day at The Deering Estate at Cutler on Sunday, March 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. Enjoy a day of programs, nature walks, displays, plant and book sales, raffles and children's nature activities sponsored by the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and The Deering Estate at Cutler.

Local experts will share their knowledge of Dade County's natural areas and native plants; natives for your yard and landscape design with natives; landscaping to attract wildlife; how to plant and care for

trees; plant identification; native orchids and wildflowers; and more. Bring a picnic or purchase drinks and light lunch fare at the park.

The Deering Estate is located 1 block east of Old Cutler Road on SW 168 Street. \$3 adults, \$2 children. For more information or a complete schedule of activities, call the Native Plant Society at 305-255-6404 or visit

<http://www.fnps.org/chapters/dade>

SOUTH FLORIDA PINES

A JEWEL OF FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDEN

CORAL GABLES, FL - After Hurricane Andrew in 1992, many of the pines commonly found in the natural areas, parks, and home landscapes of South Florida were snapped in half or uprooted by the hurricane-force winds. Those that remained standing, later succumbed to pine beetles and fungal diseases that colonized the wounded trees. A concerted effort by local agencies to replant and manage South Florida's natural areas was successful in reestablishing many of the natural pine forests. In urban and residential neighborhoods, however, pines are still few and far between. Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, recently created a pine forest to display South Florida's native pine rockland vegetation. This pine forest is part of a larger 10-acre Jewels of the Caribbean exhibit being developed in the Garden lowlands.

The Jewels of the Caribbean exhibit showcases plants from six ecosystems found throughout the Caribbean basin. These include the pine forest, seasonally dry forest, humid forest, palm savanna, mangrove forest, and coastal scrub. "Ecologically speaking, South Florida is more similar to the Caribbean than mainland United States," says Dr. Julia Kornegay, Director of Fairchild Tropical Garden, "and many members of our local eth-

nic communities are of Caribbean origin. One of the goals of this exhibit is to demonstrate the biological and cultural links between South Florida and the broader Caribbean region. "

To prepare the pine forest site, coarse limestone rock was brought in to elevate the soil level about three feet to provide a rocky substrate typical of the natural pine rockland of Miami-Dade County. Then, about 200 South Florida slash pines (*Pinus elliotii* var. *densa*) of different sizes were planted throughout the site. Over the next few weeks a number of understory plants, include rare and endangered South Florida native plants, will be added to the exhibit.

The pine rockland habitat is highly endangered in South Florida, primarily due to urban development. Today, only small fragments of pine rockland are protected. Fairchild Tropical Garden's pine forest exhibit will be used to inform the public about the importance of conserving our natural habitat. Funding for the exhibit was provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.

Fairchild Tropical Garden is located at 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables

(Miami), FL. The Garden is open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, closed December 25. For more information call 305.667.1651 or visit

www.fairchildgarden.org

Ongoing Fairchild events

(call 305 667 1651 for more information on any of the following)

☛ Saturdays January 11 - March 8 L.E. A.F. (Let's Explore at Fairchild) is for children ages 8-11 who enjoy being outdoors and learning about the world around them. Time: 9:00 am to noon.

☛ January 16 and February 20, Thursdays, at 3:00 p.m. "Afternoon Tea in the Garden" will be on the Veranda overlooking Pandanus Lake. Reservations required.

☛ February 22 and 23, Saturday and Sunday - The "Rose Show and Sale" will be from 9:30a - 4:30pm. The juried show opens to the public at 1pm on Saturday.

☛ March 8 and 9, Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - The "Begonia Show and Sale" is presented by the Miami Begonia Society.

The Miami Blue Butterfly

Jeffrey Glassberg, Ph.D., President of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) reports that the State of Florida has declared the Miami Blue (*Hemiargus thomasi*), a small but brilliantly colored butterfly, to be an endangered species. This was the first time that the State of Florida has used the emergency listing process and the first time that the State of Florida has listed a butterfly as endangered in advance of federal listing.

Miami Blues were once common throughout southern Florida and the Keys, but declined precipitously in the 1980s. By the late 1980s they could be found only at a few sites on the Florida Keys. Following the destruction caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, no Miami Blues were seen, despite much searching by butterfly enthusiasts. Reasons for the decline of the butterfly are not known with certainty, but the widespread use of mosquito control chemicals and the loss of

habitat are strongly suspected.

NABA, along with TAS and the Florida Native Plant Society and other interested groups and individuals, have been working to ensure the future conservation of this butterfly. Because of the imminent dangers faced by a small butterfly which can now be found at only one location – changes to its habitat caused by natural disasters, such as hurricanes, or by man-made causes; spraying of toxic anti-mosquito control chemicals; natural disease epidemics; and killing by butterfly collectors – NABA petitioned the State of Florida to list, on an emergency basis, Miami Blue as an endangered species. The granting of endangered species status will afford Miami Blues significant protection from some of the threats it currently faces. In addition, the State of Florida, NABA, and others are moving forward with other plans to protect the butterfly. Ongoing studies of the but-

terfly's biology will help us to learn as much about its lifestyle requirements as possible while the just instituted captive breeding program will produce individuals that can be used to reintroduce Miami Blues into former habitats that may now be suitable again for the butterfly.

NABA extended their thanks to Renate Skinner of the Florida Park Service, Frank Montalbano of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Dennis Olle of the Tropical Audubon Society, and especially Benjamin Brumberg, Ombudsman, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, all of whose help and strong interest in the conservation of this butterfly has resulted in definitive actions on behalf of Miami Blues and has succeeded in creating an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between Florida government, NABA and other environmental organizations.

Dade Heritage Days 2003

"Golden Wings"

Dade Heritage Trust is planning a spectacular Dade Heritage Days 2003. This annual county-wide celebration of our area's history, architecture and culture, will be held March 1st – April 30th 2003. We work in coalition with a multitude of different groups and organizations to showcase historic districts and sites, to introduce one part of town to the other and to build bridges across cultural barriers. The theme of the upcoming Dade Heritage Days 2003 is "Golden Wings." During this time we will be offering a vast array of events, including tours, lectures, and educational programs that showcase this intriguing aspect of Miami's history. For more information or to receive a brochure of events, please call Dade Heritage Trust at 305-358-9572.

Writing Nature

at Riverwoods Field Lab

The Florida Center for the Literary Arts at Miami Dade Community College, is offering a Writing Nature workshop the last week of February. The four day program will be held near the Kissimmee River with outings on the river and writing classes. The cost is \$300 which includes travel from Miami, food and lodging and all workshops. Noted nature writer David Rains Wallace and M-DCC Creative Writing professor Michael Hettich will join the group, plus a local naturalist. Please contact Colleen Ahern-Hettich at 305-237-3298 or cahernhe@mdcc.edu for more information or to register.

Birdathons past, present, and future.

Our first annual Birdathon took place April 27, 2002. Birders took to the field (or backyard), counted birds, and turned in tallies — and won prizes. Nancy Freedman won a trip to the Dry Tortugas by raising over \$760. Tropical Audubon President Joe Barros raised over \$740 and won the Leica 8 x 20 BC Titanium binocular. Young Christopher Craven raised \$350 and won his family a two-night stay in an elegant condo in historic New Orleans. Other prizes included J.J. Audubon art, a night's lodging in the Keys, native plants from TAS, and meals in local restaurants. The total amount raised came to about \$3,500.

Paul Bithorn and Bruce Purdy's "Life is good" team won the prize for most birds counted: 121 (no trivial feat). Read about their exploits on the TAS Bird Board: tropicalaudubon.org/tasboard//messages/886.html Brian Rapoza won the prize for most birds counted by an individual: 98.

Birdathon 2003 will be spread over a two-week period: April 12-27 (note that this includes three weekends). You can count birds during any 24 consecutive hours during this period. For example, a birder could start counting at 2 PM on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas (ticking birds scouted earlier in the day), catch a catamaran to Key West, bird up the Keys until dark, travel north by night to bird Ft. Myers at first light, and have until 2 PM that day to find waders at Corkscrew Swamp and parrots in suburban Miami.

Many Audubon chapters across the country rely on birdathons to raise funds to support their work in conservation and education. Audubon of Portland (Oregon), for example, raised over \$100,000 in their birdathon last year (they've been doing this for a few years). In the last TAS Bulletin we outlined Tropical Audubon's annual budget and projected income. In a nutshell, it costs over \$80,000 per year to run our organization (roughly \$35 per member). Our goal for Birdathon 2003 is to raise at least \$8,000, which is about 10% of our annual budget and a little more than twice what we raised in Birdathon 2002. And we will raise even more in 2004, 2005, 2006... With your help we will reach these goals.

HELP WANTED

TAS needs your help getting Birdathon 2003 off the ground. We need people to:

- ✓round up prizes
- ✓arrange for publicity
- ✓engage corporate sponsors
- ✓form teams that can include inexperienced birders

Help out by contacting us at 305 666 5111
or birdathon@tropicalaudubon.org

We gratefully acknowledge our generous Birdathon 2002 sponsors:

Akashi Japanese Restaurant
Discount Eco-Divers Bed & Breakfast
JoAnna's Market
Leica Sport Optics
Longhorn Steakhouse
Miami Silkscreen & Embroidery
Nunzio's Italian Restaurant
Wilderness Grill

TAS members J. Barros, C. Coates, and D. Wright have also donated prizes.

Please consider adding your business to the list!

Many of us are reluctant to ask people for donations. Fortunately, it is possible to raise Birdathon money without having to walk up to a single person and ask for a donation. Mary Ellen Ahearn, for example, took homemade blueberry muffins in to her office and placed them by the coffeemaker with a brief description of the Birdathon and some pledge forms. She asked that co-workers help themselves to the muffins and support her birdathon. Some people left a dollar or two for muffins, others pledged ten, twenty, or fifty dollars to her birdathon effort. This low-key approach raised over \$275. It is easier than you think — and can be a lot of fun.

TAS Schedule of Outings & Walks

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 11-12 - Merritt Island Overnight Bird Trip Reservations required! Ellen and Todd Snow will lead this overnight carpool trip to Brevard County. Shared gasoline and hotel costs are required. Call 305 666 5111 for more information.

Sun., Jan 12 - South Dade Birding John Boyd will lead this all day carpool trip, which may include stops at Lucky Hammock, Mary Krome Park, and Dump Marsh. Meet at 7:00AM in the parking lot of the Burger King on US1 in Florida City (just after the end of the turnpike). This is an all day trip. Bring lunch.

Fri.-Mon., Jan. 17-20 - North Florida Birding – NEW! Reservations required! Brian Rapoza will lead this four-day, three-night carpool trip to North Florida. Stops will include Paynes Prairie, Tall Timbers Research Station, Black Swamp, Florida Caverns State Park, Alligator Point, and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Shared gasoline and hotel costs are required. Call 305 666 5111 for more information

Sat., Jan. 18 - Workday at the Doc Thomas House We need you at the Doc Thomas House! Come get some dirt under your fingernails raking, trimming, digging and planting. Bring your family and friends. There will be plant experts and plenty of learning available for those who ask questions. 5530 Sunset, 8am until around noon.

Sun., Jan. 19 - Tour the Botanical Garden at the Tropical Audubon Society David Lysinger, native plant expert and Botanical Garden architect, will lead a tour from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn about our botanical heritage and visit the garden at the historic Doc Thomas House. 5530 Sunset near the intersection of Rd. Rd.

Sat., Jan. 25 - Loxahatchee NWR / Wakodahatchee Wetlands / Pembroke Pines 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). Bring lunch. Entrance fee to the LNWR is required. Call 305 666-5111 for directions if you'd rather meet on site.

Sat., Feb. 1 - Archbold Biological Station/Old Venus Birding This is an all day carpool trip to Highland County. Meet Ellen and Todd Snow at 6:30am at the east gate (SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Tho-

mas property (5530 Sunset, Miami). Gasoline costs will be shared. Bring lunch.

Sat., Feb. 8 - Everglades National Park Birding This is an all day carpool trip with Ellen and Todd Snow, and Dick Cunningham. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National Park at 7:30am. Shared gasoline costs and entrance fee are required. Bring lunch.

Sat., Feb. 15 - Flamingo Road ESL / Pembroke Pines Birding Paul Bithorn will lead a trip to the Flamingo Road Environmentally Sensitive Land, and to the wetlands at the South Broward Regional Library in Pembroke Pines. Meet at 7am at the east gate of the Doc Thomas property on SW 55th Ave. just south of Sunset (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami) to carpool OR in the ESL parking lot at 8am. Directions: From I-75 exit Griffin Rd. east to Flamingo Rd; turn north on Flamingo to SW 36th Ct.; west on SW 36th Ct. to SW 130 Ave; north on SW 130 Ave to the entrance on the left. There are grass trails and no facilities.

Sun., Feb. 16 - Fakahatchee Strand State Reserve Nature Walk Reservations required! Leader: Rick Cohen. The Fakahatchee Strand is one of the most botanically rich areas in No. America. It contains the largest stand of Royal palms found in the state, as well as many unusual species of plants. We will 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 for the end is suggested. Rating: moderate to difficult, trail can be wet and muddy. Space is limited to 20 so call early! Contact Rick at rickc@tropicalaudubon.org and include your phone number or call 305 666 5111.

Sat., Feb. 22 - Everglades National Park Beginning Birding Class Jeff Weber and Dick Cunningham will lead this trip. Contact Bob Kelley at hornedowl@earthlink.net, or by calling 305 666 5111 to register and to obtain information on the meeting location and time.

Sun., Feb. 23 - Tour the Botanical Garden at the Tropical Audubon Society David Lysinger, native plant expert and Botanical Garden architect, will lead a tour from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn about our bo-

tanical heritage and visit the garden at the historic Doc Thomas House. 5530 Sunset near the intersection of Rd. Rd.

Sat., March 1- Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary/Ft. Myers Beach Birding Brian Rapoza will lead this all day carpool event to Collier and Lee Counties. Meet at 6AM at the east gate (on SW 55th Ave.) of the Doc Thomas property (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Gasoline costs will be shared. Admission fee required to Corkscrew Sanctuary. Bring lunch and walking shoes.

Sun., Mar. 2 - Charles Deering Estate - Birds, Butterflies and Native Plants Reservations required! This trip will be led by Joe Barros. Bring water and insect repellent. Admission fee required. Contact tas008@tropicalaudubon.org or call 305 666 5111.

Sat., Mar. 8 - 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. Shared gasoline costs and entrance fee are required. Bring lunch.

Sat., Mar. 15 - Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area Birding This is an all day carpool trip to the Lake Kissimmee area. Meet Brian Rapoza at 6am at the east gate of the Doc Thomas property on SW 55th Ave. just south of Sunset (5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami). Gasoline costs will be shared. Bring lunch.

Sun., Mar 16 - Florida Trail, Big Cypress National Preserve Nature Walk Reservations required! Leader: Rick Cohen. This section of the Florida Trail passes through open prairie, pineland, and a hardwood hammock. Spring wild flowers and other plants of the Big Cypress will be featured on the trip. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, snacks, a hat, bug spray. A walking stick can be helpful. Long pants advised. Rating: moderate. Contact Rick at rickc@tropicalaudubon.org and include your phone number or call 305 666 5111 to register.

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143

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