



Tropical Audubon Bulletin

Newsletter of the Tropical Audubon Society



5530 Sunset Drive; Miami, Florida 33143

(305) 666-5111

March/April 2003

Second Annual TAS Birdathon!

Birdathon 2003 will span April 12-27, a period of two weeks and three weekends. You can count birds during any 24 consecutive hours during this period. You can even do your birdathon on any of the TAS birdwalks during this period.

A birdathon is like a walkathon. You collect pledges for birds species seen instead of miles walked (for example, \$1 per bird, 25¢ per bird, etc.), or simply for a flat amount. Each participant needs to collect a minimum of \$25 in pledges. Collecting \$35 in pledges nets you an official TAS Birdathon 2003 cap.

Birdathoners can win prizes for raising money and for counting the most birds (solo and team prizes). Prizes last year included a birding trip to the Tortugas, binoculars, accommodations in New Orleans and the Keys, Audubon prints, restaurant meals, native plants and more. Everyone who counted birds last year won a prize. Stay tuned for a list of this year's prizes – beginning in mid-March, look for updates on the TAS website or call the Doc Thomas House. Please contact us ASAP if your business can donate a prize.

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Everglades Restoration:

Sharing the Commitment, Making the Right Choices

By Cynthia Guerra

Earlier this year, the Everglades Coalition hosted its 18th Annual Conference in Delray Beach. The coalition includes 42 national, state and local organizations which collectively represent millions of members. The Tropical Audubon Society is a member of the Coalition, and has been since its inception almost 20 years ago. TAS was well represented at the conference, with four board members and the executive director in attendance.

Everglades restoration is the world's largest environmental project and the Everglades Coalition is the leading environmental voice advocating on behalf of the endangered ecosystem. The Everglades Coalition announced its priorities for 2003 at the conference. They provide direction and focus as the Coalition continues to work on the Everglades restoration effort in the coming year.

Programmatic Regulations: As the regulations that will govern the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) over the next 30 years, the Coalition expects the final regulations, issued by the Corps of Engineers, to include scientific review, interim restoration goals, a strong role for the Department of the Interior, clear direction that restoration goals take precedent over other goals, and a definition of restoration that is based on the ecological characteristics of the Everglades.

Flows to Everglades National Park including Florida Bay: Congress must act immediately on the compromise solution, known as 6D, to restore water flows to the eastern portions of Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Everglades National Park restoration projects must be implemented quickly and in a way that assures water is used for restoration and not other purposes.

Water Quality: The Florida Environmental Regulatory Commission (ERC) must adopt a 10 part per billion (ppb) phosphorous standard that applies uniformly to the entire Everglades. The Coalition will not accept regulations that would continue to allow large parts of the Everglades to receive heavy phosphorous contamination. The 1994 Everglades Forever Act will automatically impose a default standard of 10 ppb on December 31, 2003. If the ERC promulgates anything less protective, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should terminate the current process and simply rely on the default standard already in the law.

Authorizations: Congress must authorize three projects, the Water Preserve Areas (Bird Drive Recharge Area and the Southern Compartment of the Hillsboro Impoundment), Indian River Lagoon, and Southern Golden

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TROPICAL AUDUBON APPRECIATES OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

Tropical Audubon is a not-for-profit organization which depends on the generous donations of our friends and members. TAS represents you. We play an important role trying to safeguard the local environment from the ever-present threats posed by the increasing population of South Florida and employ a full time, professional director to make our voice heard. We offer a broad array of bird and nature walks and educational activities which are free and open to the public. We maintain the historic Doc Thomas House and Botanical Garden. We publish a bi-monthly news letter and have an excellent web site which is updated regularly. All of the above bears a cost. Every year we solicit support and every year a certain number of you step forward to become members, contributors and customers at our now famous native plant sales. Without you, we would not be able to survive. Below is a list of members who donated to the cause during 2002. Please contact us if we left anyone out. We thank one and all!

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David Wright
E. K. Wrigley

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: 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 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:
<http://tropicalaudubon.org>

Director's Report

(Continued from page 1)

Glades Estates. Together, these projects would restore and protect 270 square miles (about 172,000) acres of wetlands and uplands, half the total land acquisition footprint of the CERP. Each of these projects face significant threats so fast action is critical.

Funding: The State must appropriate adequate money to continue the current pace of land acquisition and the

legislature must act to provide the authority to issue bonds for Everglades restoration. Although the State has started to expedite land acquisition, funding is not adequate. If delays continue, lands for CERP implementation will increase in value or be lost entirely. In 2002, the Legislature enacted an Everglades restoration bonds law and appropriated \$125 million for the current year. Because the law included an unrelated and damaging amendment and is under litigation,

the state has chosen not to sell bonds.

Growth Management: Local governments must stop urban sprawl into the Everglades. In addition, local governments in the Keys must amend their land use plans to implement the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study. If these local governments do not uphold their responsibilities, the state must step in to exercise its oversight responsibilities under state law. Any restructuring of the state Department of Community Affairs must ensure a strong state oversight and enforcement role over decisions in south Florida that could adversely impact the Everglades.

Birdathon!

(Continued from page 1)

Prize categories include:

- Highest pledge total (\$)
- Most bird species seen by an individual/team
- Most bird species seen in a yard
- Most bird species seen from a boat
- Most bird species seen from a bicycle
- Couch potato birding: most bird species seen on broadcast TV.

To participate, simply get a pledge package and you are on your way:

- Go to the TAS website tropicalaudubon.org
- E-mail birdathon@tropicalaudubon.org and request the packet
- Call 305-666-2842 to request the birdathon packet; leave your name and mailing address

Then:

- Get pledges from friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers.
- Count birds.
- Collect pledge donations and send to TAS.

Prize winners and high totals will be announced at the TAS Annual Picnic on May 4. It is fun and every dollar raised goes to further Tropical's work. Our goal for Birdathon 2003 is to raise at least \$8,000, a little more than twice what we raised last year. We need your help to do it.

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

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2120 W. Greenview Dr. - Middleton WI 53562

TAS General Meetings

Our monthly meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., near Red Rd. The doors open at 7:30pm and the presentations begin at 8pm. The events are free. Members and friends are welcomed.

Wednesday March 12

CHANGE IN PRESENTATION:

"Everglades restoration and the importance of flow"
by Dr. Tom Lodge

Dr. Lodge is an ecologist with 30 years of consulting experience. He grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked part-time from 1959 to 1966 for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as the curator of the preserved fish collection and later as an instructor in the Museum's "Future Scientists Program". He graduated with Departmental Honors in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University (1966), and completed his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Miami (1974) where his dissertation involved the physiological ecology of fish in the Everglades.

Most of Dr. Lodge's work has been with environmental consulting firms, but he spent two years as the Director of The Kampong, a botanical garden and the former home of David Fairchild. Dr. Lodge has become is a recognized ecologist specializing in wetlands. He has conducted projects pertaining to freshwater and estuarine water quality; terrestrial, wetland, aquatic, and shallow marine environments, including consideration for rare, threatened, and endangered species and conditions such as noise and toxic contaminants. The primary applications of his work have been in federal, state, and local wetland permitting; Florida Developments of Regional Impact; and NEPA documents. He has considerable experience as an expert witness.

He is author of The Everglades Handbook, Understanding the Ecosystem, a book widely used as a college text and by lay people getting involved in Everglades restoration. With a strong interest in wildlife photography, he is regularly an invited speaker on the Everglades. Dr. Lodge is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Tropical Audubon Society.

Wednesday April 9

"Restoration of Coastal Habitats in S.E. Florida"
by Dr. Gary Milano of DERM

Mr. Milano earned a Bachelor of Science (Zoology) Degree from the University of Florida, and a Master's Degree

in Marine Biology and Coastal Zone Management, from Nova Southeastern University. He has published technical papers on coastal habitat restoration and marine fishery population dynamics.

Mr. Milano began his career with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and continued as a fisheries biologist for the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Marine Research Institute from 1974-1979.

Mr. Milano is presently the Coastal Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). He has successfully completed over 40 habitat restoration efforts during his 22 years with DERM. He has coordinated the restoration of over 300 acres of wetlands, 80 acres of coastal strand and dune community, 40 acres of tropical hardwood hammock, and enhanced 14 islands in Biscayne Bay. His commitment and enthusiasm has enabled him to gather widespread government and public support, and participation from the community for his program.

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Capt. Ed Davidson, Chairman Emeritus of Florida Audubon, long time Board member of Tropical Audubon, and former eco-tour concessionaire for Biscayne National Park, lives on site and is available for tours, discussions, and environmental field trips for student and adult groups.

Located in the heart of the Keys at Mile Marker 52 in Marathon - 2 hrs from Coral Gables, 1 hr north of Key West. Call Capt. Ed at 305-743-6054 -- 24 hrs, 7 days for info, or email:

CaptEcoEd@aol.com



Everglades Wildflowers



One of the best Everglades field guides to hit bookshelves has arrived! *Everglades Wildflowers* by Rodger L. Hammer, published by The Globe Pequot Press is the latest Falcon Guide that will undoubtedly be getting people away from the TV and into nature. This easy to use field guide covers wildflowers of the historic Everglades, including Big Cypress, Corkscrew, and Fakahatchee Swamps.

Everglades Wildflowers is the ultimate field guide to wildflowers of the southern Florida region that stretches from Lake Okeechobee through the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Bay. Packed with vivid, full-color photographs of indigenous wildflowers, this valuable reference book will help you identify and appreciate the varied flora of this vast watershed.

Everglades Wildflowers is ideal for both the novice and expert wildflower enthusiast. What sets this guide apart

from others is the approach to flower ID. The guide is organized into sections that reflect the color of the flower. This straight forward approach helps you ID quickly in the field. Unlike many other field guides, *Everglades Wildflowers* has a tough, water-resistant cover and durable binding- designed to withstand years of vigorous field use.

About the Author- Mr. Hammer has been a resident of Florida since 1969, is the director of Castellow Hammock Nature Center for the Miami-Dade Parks Department, and one of Florida's foremost Everglades naturalists. Mr. Hammer's other nefarious exploits include being a board member for Tropical Audubon Society.

You can support Tropical Audubon's Everglades conservation work by buying a copy of *Everglades Wildflowers* through the TAS online bookstore:

<http://tropicalaudubon.org/books.html>

Audubon's Agenda for the 2003 Legislative Session

Audubon's legislative agenda is derived mainly from conservation priorities recommended by regional chapter committees and the annual Audubon Assembly.

This year's legislative agenda is largely affected by the state's budget crisis. Tax cuts and the voter approved class-size amendment are squeezing every other area of state spending. Even though Florida is growing by a quarter of a million people a year and nearly 200,000 acres are cleared each year for new development, protecting environmental land and open space is a tough sell. Buy-

ing power for conservation lands has declined by a fifth and management costs are a constant target for cuts.

Audubon is working closely with other groups in a Florida Forever Coalition to defend land acquisition and land management funds even as we advance Everglades spending and propose new policies to protect water and wildlife.

Audubon's goal is to protect an acre of habitat for every acre of land that is cleared for development. This can take place through land protection programs, mitigation and local regula-

tion. The starting point is making sure that state, water management district and local land programs are functioning at full throttle - just like Florida's real estate economy.

For a detailed look at Audubon's 2003 legislative agenda please visit the Audubon of Florida web site: <http://www.audubonofflorida.org> - click on 'Conservation Action'.

If you do not have Internet access and would like a postal copy of the 2003 legislative agenda, please call the Audubon of Florida Miami office @ 305-371-6399. Ask for Shannon.

Local talent Oscar Thompson, noted for swamp pictures, dies at 59

Article originally appeared in the News-Press of Ft. Myers, FL Feb. 9, 2003 and has been reprinted with their permission.
By MARY WOZNIAK

Southwest Florida has lost a native son who spun vivid tales of swamp lore from the past and created equally vivid color photos of his beloved Everglades from the present.

Oscar Thompson, fifth-generation Florida Cracker, gator hunter and photographer, died in his sleep Sunday at his North Fort Myers home. He was 59.

Thompson had been suffering from bronchitis, but his death was unexpected.

Thompson's death comes as his nature photography was gaining acclaim, although he'd been taking color photos of the Everglades for more than 25 years.

He turned over his photography business, Oscar Thompson Photographs Inc. to his son, Doug, and friend, Tom Harper, two years ago so he could focus on his Everglades photography and

work with Clyde Butcher, the renowned black-and-white photographer of the Everglades. At the time of his death, Thompson worked with Butcher at his Big Cypress Gallery in Ochopee. An exhibit of Thompson's work is ongoing at the gallery, 52388 Tamiami Trail.

A memorial service is planned. Details will be listed in The News-Press. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends contribute something in Thompson's name to charity.

TAS NOTES

PLANT SALE

Workdays

Saturdays, Mar. 22 and Apr. 26 - **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, Mar. 23 and Apr. 20 - **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.

CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please join Tropical for our monthly discussion on environmental issues confronting South Florida. All concerned and interested citizens are welcomed. Meetings are the fourth Wednesday's of every month at 7:30pm, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami.

Sat. - Sun., Mar. 29-30 – **Native Plant Sale at Doc Thomas House.**

The Tropical Audubon Society Botanical Garden will be open for its quarterly Native Plant Sale, 9-5 on Saturday and 9 until the last plant is gone on Sunday. There will be knowledgeable sales people to help determine the best plants for your home and garden. You should plan to arrive early for the first pick. TAS is located at 5530 Sunset near the intersection of Red Rd.

SPECIAL APRIL EVENTS

Sat-Sun., Apr. 12-13 – **Optics Event at the Doc Thomas House**

Ron Windingstad of Eagle Optics will join Tropical Audubon for the Second Annual Optics Event, bringing a collection of their finest equipment for all to see. Ron will kick off Birdathon 2003 by participating in the Virginia Key bird walk on Apr. 12. His binoculars and scopes will be displayed in the Botanical Garden that afternoon from 1 – 4:30 and again on Sunday, Apr. 13 from 10 - 3. Remember, TAS participates in an affiliate program with Eagle Optics which earns us a commission for all products purchased at the Optics Event or from their website when accessed via the link on www.tropicalaudubon.org.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 12-27 – **Tropical Audubon Birdathon 2003**

(see article on Page One)

SPECIAL MAY EVENTS

Thurs. – Sun., May 8-11

TAS Dry Tortugas Trip, Tropical Audubon has reserved Larry Manfredi's boat for a birding trip to the Dry Tortugas 8-11 May 2003. This will be a fantastic trip. Larry is a superb guide. His boat offers more privacy than most and his trips are noted for their comfort and fine meals. The timing of this trip will catch the latter part of Spring migration yet offer a good chance of seeing later arrivals such as White-tailed Tropicbird. The trip costs \$850 and is limited to eleven participants. Larry is sharing proceeds with TAS, so you can have fun and support conservation in Florida at the same time. Contact Larry for more details (www.southfloridabirding.com or birderlm@bellsouth.net or 305-258-9607) and tell him that TAS sent you

Sun., May 4 – **Tropical Audubon Picnic and Annual Meeting**

Please join Tropical Audubon for our Potluck Picnic and Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4. As always, TAS will open its gates for members, friends and family to spend a fun afternoon under the chickee hut with a special guest speaker and the new board nominees. Winners of Birdathon 2003 will be announced and prizes distributed, and we will have the organization's annual award ceremony. Stay tuned to www.tropicalaudubon.org for more information.

TO A BUZZARD SWINGING IN SILENCE

By Marjory Stoneman Douglas

I never knew how fair a thing
was freedom, till I saw you swing,
Ragged, exultant, black and high,
Against a hollow, windy sky.
You that with such a horrid gait
Lumbers and flops with red, raw pate.
I never knew how beauty grew
>From ugliness, until you flew
With soaring, sombre, steady beat
Of wings rough-edged to grip the fleet

Far coursing horses of the sky --
To ride, to ride them gloriously.
Oh, brother buzzard, you whose sin
On earth is to be shackled in
To horror, teach me how to go
Like you, to beauty, sure and slow.
Like you, to slip such carrion ties
And lift and lift to high, clean skies,
Where winds and sun and silence ride,
Like you, oh buzzard, glorified.

(Included in the description of the Turkey vulture, in *The Birds of Florida*, Harold H. Bailey, privately published by the author, 1924)

What's Growin' On At Fairchild?

The following events are offered by Fairchild Tropical Garden. More information can be found online at <http://www.fairchildgarden.org/index.html> following the links to Public Programs, or by calling 305 667-1651 x 3391.

Moonlight Musicale "Mozart in the Moonlight"
March 16, Sunday, at 7:00 p.m.
(Rain date, March 17) Reservations required.

Afternoon Tea in the Garden
March 20, Thursday, 3:00 p.m.
Reservations required.

Palm & Cycad Show and Sale
March 22 and 23, Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., presented by the South Florida Palm Society.

Fairchild Tropical Garden International Orchid Festival April 4, 5 and 6, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Baroque Candlelight Musicale
April 13, Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Reservations required.

Afternoon Tea in the Garden
April 17, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Reservations required.

Heliconia Sale
April 19, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., presented by the Heliconia Society of South Florida.

Spring Plant Sale
April 26, Saturday, 9:00-9:30 a.m. for Garden Members, 9:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. for the public.

Calling all Volunteers, TAS needs you!

TAS is undergoing major information management 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. Right now we are looking for the following:

Volunteers to help on the grounds and with the new pineland - Workdays are scheduled for March 22nd, and April 26th.

Volunteers to staff the Doc Thomas House - As we approach the spring season, many out-of-town visitors and Miami residents enjoy coming to our property. We would like to make it as accessible as possible for everyone interested.

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

Volunteers to help raise money in support of 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. Please provide your name, phone numbers, e-mail address, and tell us which of the above efforts is most interesting to you.

NOTE: Participation during the workdays does not require any advance notification; you can just join us anytime between 8 am and noon on the dates specified.

DADE HERITAGE TRUST

Don't forget Dade Heritage Days "Golden Wings" planned for March 1-Apr. 30. There will be tours, lectures and education programs highlighting Miami's unique history. Contact DHT for more information at 305 358 9572.

TAS Thanks Synergy Construction!

Synergy Construction has played a key role in the updating of the restroom in the Botanical Garden of the Doc Thomas House. We've all seen the ferns growing from its roof back by the Chickee. As the project progressed, much additional work was found over what was expected and planned for. With the generous support of Jesus Inguanzo and his company, Synergy Construction, we were able to accomplish the update without further cost to TAS. Thank you, Synergy Construction!

TAS Schedule of Outings & Walks

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 6 am 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.

Fri. - Sun., Mar. 21 – 23 **Grand Bahama Birding – NEW!** Reservations required! Larry Manfredi will lead this three day, two night trip to Grand Bahama Island. Airfare, van rental and hotel costs are required. Contact birderlm@bellsouth.net or call 305 666 5111 for more information.

Sat., Mar. 29 – **Wakodahatchee Wetlands Beginning Bird Class** Kevin Sarsfield and Jeff Weber 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.

Sat., Apr. 5 - **Matheson Hammock Bird Walk** Juan Villamil 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 park entrance at 7:30 am. Return is at approximately 11 am.

Sun., Apr. 6 - **A.D.Barnes Park Bird Walk** Gigi Pardo 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 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11 am.

Sat., Apr. 12 - **Virginia Key / Key Biscayne Bird Walk** Ellen and Todd Snow will lead birders through Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. Meet in the west end of the Seaquarium parking lot on the Rickenbacker Causeway at 7:30 am. Participants will carpool to the Bill Baggs / Cape Florida State Recreation Area, and other destinations on both Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. Shared entrance fees are required, plus the causeway toll.

Sat., April 12 – **Biscayne National Park Snorkeling Trip – NEW!** Reservations required! Jeff and Linda Weber, and Brian Rapoza will lead this trip out of Convoy Point in Biscayne National Park. Snorkeling equipment provided by the National Park. Reservations and snorkeling fee required. Contact tas007@tropicalaudubon.org or call 305 666 5111 for more information.

Sun., April 13, - **Charles Deering Estate Plant Walk** Reservations required! Leader: Rick Cohen. This walk will emphasize the botanical features found in the 420-acre park. The park entrance is located just east of Old Cutler Rd. on SW 168th St. Wear sturdy shoes only. Bring water, hat, bug spray. Admission fee to park required. Rating: easy to moderate. Contact Rick at rickc@tropicalaudubon.org and include your phone number or call 305 666 5111 to register.

Sat., Apr. 19 - **Matheson Hammock Park Bird Walk** Juan Villamil 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 park entrance at 7:30 am. Return is at approximately 11 am.

Sun., Apr. 20 - **Elaine Gordon / Enchanted Forest Park (No. Dade) Bird Walk** Joel Abramson will lead a group through the Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest. Meet at 8 am in the first covered picnic area just inside the park entrance at 1725 NE 135th St. west of Biscayne Blvd.

Sat., April 26- **Virginia Key / Key Biscayne Bird Walk** Jeff Weber and Robin Diaz will lead this walk through Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. Meet in the west end of the Seaquarium

parking lot on the Rickenbacker Causeway at 7:30 am. Participants will carpool to the Bill Baggs / Cape Florida State Recreation Area, and other destinations on both Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. Shared entrance fees are required, plus the causeway toll.

Sun., Apr. 27 - **A.D.Barnes Park Bird Walk** Gigi Pardo and Jill Rosenfield 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 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11 am.

Sat., May 3- **Matheson Hammock Park Bird Walk** Juan Villamil and John Boyd 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 park entrance at 7:30 am. Return is at approximately 11 am.

Sun., May 4 – **Kendall Indian Hammock Birding** Brian Rapoza will lead a group through Kendall Indian Hammocks at 11345 SW 79th Street. The entrance is on the west side of SW 112th Ave. at SW 79th Street. The group meets in the parking area adjacent to the baseball field at 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11 am.

Sat., May 10 - **Spring Migration Bird Count for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties** Join the Bird Count! Volunteers are needed for all areas. Call 305 666 5111 for more information and team assignments.

Sun., May 11 - **A.D.Barnes Park Bird Walk** Mickey Wheeler and Jill Rosenfield 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 7:30 am, returning at approximately 11 am.

Tropical Audubon Society
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Miami, FL 33143

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