

October 2021



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October in the Field

October heralds our region's last big flush of fall migrants. First-of-season songbirds, such as the Golden-winged Warbler, appear now, and several of our wintering species also typically begin arriving, including the Whip-poor-will and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Painted Bunting also become almost common now. There is also an excellent chance of spotting vagrants at this time of year (check [Tropical Audubon's Rare Bird Update](#) for the latest sightings). To see what other birders are posting and share your birding highlights visit our [Bird Board](#) and [Facebook Bird Board](#). Birders of every level are invited to join one of our October field trips listed below. To view our entire Fall 2021-Winter 2022 trip schedule visit our [website calendar](#). Please note that **REGISTRATION** is required for all trips.

Banner Photo: Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Steven Bieglyer. [Learn how native plants and backyard feeders provide hummingbirds with nectar critical to their survival, especially during fall and spring migration.](#)

RSVP for an October Field Trip

[Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#) | Saturday, October 2, 7am-6pm

[Tropical Park Bird Walk](#) | Sunday, October 3, 7:30-11am

[A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, October 9, 7:30-11am

[Kendall Indian Hammocks Park Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, October 16, 7:30-11am

[Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, October 23, 8:15-11am

[Phoebes Birding Field Trip to Florida Keys Hawkwatch](#) | Sunday, October 24, 11am-2pm

[A.D. Barnes Park Bird Walk](#) | Saturday, October 30, 7:30-11am

Conservation News

Join "Lights Out Miami" &
Help Birds Survive Fall Migration!





Migrant songbirds that fly over Miami generally rest and forage during the day and travel at night, using the stars as a navigational aids, but brightly lit cities impede their night vision and confuse and disorient birds, steering them off course or causing them to collide with a building. We recently launched the [Lights Out Miami](#) initiative, which includes a Bird Collision Monitoring Campaign within Miami-Dade County and [Bird-Safe Buildings Act](#) legislation advocacy. *You can help!* We encourage homeowners and building managers to turn off unnecessary lights during fall (August-November) and spring (February-May) migrations. [Volunteer](#) as a bird collision data collector. **Learn simple steps to reduce building collisions and take the [Lights Out Miami Homeowner's Pledge](#).**

Photo: Miami Skyline

TAS poised to Challenge Governor & Cabinet's SR-836 Extension Order



Tropical Audubon Society will appeal Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet's Final Order that paves the way for Miami-Dade County's (MDC) proposed SR-836 extension. If built, the tollway extension would breach the county's Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and intrude into Everglades Wetlands. [Your support is crucial.](#)

The Governor and Cabinet's Final Order not only allows a new highway through scarce Everglades wetlands, it also sets a dangerous precedent that weakens the future interpretation of land use and transportation planning in Miami-Dade County, and elevates political decisions over facts for all land use planning decisions statewide. In order to approve of the highway, the state Cabinet interpreted the County's land use plan in a manner that will weaken the plan for all future decisions, and deemed otherwise binding factual findings of an administrative law judge to be "policy preferences" that the Cabinet can reject with impunity.

We must seek to overturn the Cabinet's misguided decision to reject an administrative law judge's recommendation against the highway, and approve claims made by the County the law judge had found unsupported by the evidence.

With your help we can appeal the Governor and Cabinet's misguided decision, and also continue our critical work to ensure the proposed tollway extension does not get permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. [Read the Miami Herald story Here.](#)

Photo: Wood Stork by Larry Temple

Support our efforts to Save 793 acres of Homestead Farmland from Industrial Development!



The Miami-Dade County (MDC) Board of County Commissioners voted 9-3 on September 9 to transmit an [application for State review to move the Urban Development Boundary \(UDB\)](#). This application aims to accommodate a proposed industrial development on 793 agricultural acres near Biscayne Bay, just north of the Homestead Air Reserve Base. The proposed "South Dade Logistic and Technology District" would permanently remove this valuable agricultural land to make way for unneeded industrial land, would encourage sprawl, and would have serious long-term adverse impacts on our county, including Biscayne Bay and its critical buffer lands. Importantly, there is still an opportunity to nix this ill-conceived project. Please stay tuned for next steps about how to urge MDC Commissioners to **rethink their final vote** and instead opt to protect Biscayne Bay and Everglades restoration efforts. [Read our letter to the MDC Board of County Commissioners.](#)
[Your support is crucial.](#)

Photo: Map of proposed South Dade Logistic and Technology District

Cape Florida Banding Station Fall Migration Update



Volunteers have thus far banded nearly 850 birds representing 32 species during the 2021 Fall Migration season at the Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) on Key Biscayne. [Follow the CFBS Blog Here.](#)

Photo: Swainson's Warbler banded at CFBS by Miriam Avello

Plants for Birds

Dig In! Bird-Friendly Gardening Day @TAS!

Saturday, October 16, 9am-Noon



Join us in maintaining our Bird-Friendly Demonstration Garden and near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds. Get hands-on experience creating wildlife habitat under the guidance of our resident Master Gardeners. Learn how to establish a bird-friendly garden in your own yard, patio or balcony. [Sign Up!](#)

Photo: Volunteer Mia DiCaprio wears a smile as she helps out on Bird-friendly Gardening Day!

Chirping About



"Birdwatching in the Gables — The Return of our Feathered Friends"



Bird virtually with TAS President José Francisco Barros as he writes about the joys of birdwatching during Fall Migration season in his leafy neighborhood and across The City Beautiful. [Read the story online.](#)

Green Things to Do



Visit Florida Keys Hawkwatch Thru November 30

Florida Keys Hawkwatch is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and conservation of birds by committing to the long-term study of their migration through the Florida Keys. Visitors are welcome 9am to 4pm daily through November 7; 8am to 3pm through November 30. [Learn More](#)



Restoration Before Demolition Webinar October 20, Noon

Join architect and preservation specialist Richard Heisenbottle for a discussion about "Restoration Before Demolition" as part of The Villagers' "Lunch & Learn" webinar series that covers important topics on the future of South Florida. [Learn More](#)



The Birds Thank ...



... The Everglades Foundation for partially funding our community outreach and other programming that supports our Mission: Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats. [The Everglades Foundation](#) is dedicated to restoring America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and education.

Support Birds

Become a Member

Tropical Audubon Society — *“South Florida’s Voice of Conservation”*

Mission: Conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems,
focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats

www.tropicalaudubon.org



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