



EcoAdventures E-Newsletter

The 110th Annual Christmas Bird Count

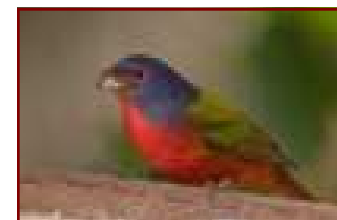
From Dec. 14—Jan. 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission— often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday Season.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations—and to help guide conservation action.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition—and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

For more information: [National Audubon](#) or [Tropical Audubon](#)

**Volume 1, Issue 1
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Painted Bunting (male)

Nature Centers

**AD Barnes Sense of
Wonder Nature Center**

3401 SW 72 Ave.
Miami, FL 33155
305-662-4124

Feature Event for December

Winter Camp



Week 1: December 21-24

Week 2: December 28-31

Kids can enjoy winter break with these fun and active nature camps. Activities include exploring nature trails, interactive presentations, games, arts & crafts and so much more.



Camp will be held at the following Nature Centers:

AD Barnes Nature Center (ages 6-12) 305-662-4124

Arch Creek at the Greynolds Park Boathouse (ages 6-14) 305-944-6111 / 305-948-2891

Bill Sadowski Nature Center (ages 6-12) 305-255-4767

December Calendar of Events

CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES: SEAGRASS

Saturday, December 5, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 / person (Bring your own mask and snorkel gear or rent ours for \$8 (you get to keep the snorkel!))

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center
(305) 361-6767 ext 112

SUNSET & MOONLIGHT KAYAK

Saturday, December 5, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

\$40 / person

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center
(305) 365-3018

NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Saturday, December 12, 7:00 PM– 8:30 PM

\$8 / person

Bill Sadowski Nature Center
305-255-4767

NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Saturday, December 12 & 19, 7:30 PM—9:30 PM

\$8 / person

AD Barnes Nature Center
305-662-4124

CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES: MANGROVES

Saturday, December 19, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 / person

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center
(305) 361-6767 ext 112

YOGA

Thursday, December 10, 6:00 PM—7:30PM

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 AM– 11:30 AM

\$10 / person

Bill Sadowski Nature Center
305-255-4767

**Arch Creek
Nature Center**

1855 NE 135 St.
North Miami, FL 33181
305-944-6111

**Bill Sadowski
Nature Center**
17555 SW 79 Ave.
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
305-255-4767

**Castellow Hammock
Nature Center**
22301 SW 162 Ave.
Miami, FL 33170
305-242-7688

**Crandon Park Visitors
& Nature Center**
6767 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
305-361-6767 ext. 112

**For information on
customized or group
tours please contact**

EcoAdventures Office
4000 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
305-365-3018

[email](#)

Visit our

EVERGLADES SUNSET BIKE HIKE & WINE TASTING

Sunday, December 27, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

\$50 / person

305-365-3018

For a full list of events, including **on going programs** [click here](#)

EcoAdventures

[Website](#)

Kid's Corner

Do you know what bird is listed as Florida's state bird?

The mockingbird is the Florida state bird and is a resident of Florida year-round.

The mockingbird mimics many other birds' calls, and is sometimes described as "mocking" the songs of others. Its scientific name, *Mimus polyglottos*, means "Mimic of many tongues."

The mockingbird eats fruit, insects, spiders, and other small animals (like lizards and snakes). Maybe you will see one if you participate in the Christmas Bird Count! Good Luck



Ask a Naturalist

Q: I have a small, sunny area that I would like to plant with a native ground cover that would also attract butterflies. What would you suggest? - Amy, Miami

A: The native blue porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, is a low-spreading plant that is about one foot tall at maturity and has long, green spikes with blue flowers that attract a wide variety of butterflies. It would be perfectly suited for a small sunny area. Plant blue porterweed about one or two feet apart when used as a ground cover.



Have a question for our Naturalists? Send it to us [here](#).

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at ecoadventures@miamidade.gov or call 305-365-3018

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to apply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Call (305) 365-6706 (V/TDD) to request material in accessible format, sign language interpreter five days in advance, or for information on access for persons with disabilities.

