

# Florida, U.S.A. 050324-050403



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## **Introduction**

This trip was my second birding trip to North America. The main purpose of the trip was to see as many of the Florida specialties as possible and get new ticks for my ABA-list. I saw 179 species, and most of the key species. Those key species that I didn't see were the following: Black-whiskered Vireo, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Mangrove Cuckoo and Roseate Tern. Positive "extras" were Groove-billed Ani, White-tailed Kite, Bell's Vireo and Lesser Nighthawk.

The flight ticket from Copenhagen to Miami with Air France/Delta Airlines was about 6000 SEK (at the time of writing about 865 \$). I rented a car through Holiday Autos (Alamo) for ten days, which cost 2750 SEK (at the time of writing about 390 \$). All in all I drove 1712 miles/2756 kilometers. Petrol for the entire trip was about 120 \$.

### **Itinerary at a glance**

- 24/3 Arrival to Miami. Night spent at Everglades Hostel.
- 25/3 Florida City – Research Road – Anhinga Trail – Gumbo Limbo Trail – Paurotis Pond – Nine Mile Pond – Mahogany Hammock – Long Pine Key Picnic Area – Greenway Bike Trail – Lucky Hammock – Royal Palm – Research Road.  
Night at Everglades Hostel.
- 26/3 Greenway Bike Trail – Mahogany Hammock – Paurotis Pond – Eco Pond – Flamingo Campground and Cottages – Flamingo Visitor Center – Anhinga Trail.  
Night at Everglades Hostel.
- 27/3 Anhinga Trail – Paurotis Pond – Mahogany Hammock – Long Pine Key Picnic Area – Lucky Hammock and Annex – Robert is Here Fruitstand/Florida City – Castellow Hammock Park – Tamiami Airport – Baptist Hospital.  
Night at Everglades Hostel.
- 28/3 Dry Tortugas and Key West.  
Night at Sugarloaf Key Resort KOA.
- 29/3 Saddlebunch Key – Indigenious Park – Fort Zachary Taylor – Bahia Honda State Park – Ohio Key – Key Largo Hammock Botanical Site – Carysfort Circle – Card Sound Road Bridge. Night at Everglades Hostel.
- 30/3 Tamiami Trail – Eagle Lakes – Tigertail Beach – Fort Myers Beach.  
Night at Koreshan State Park.
- 31/3 Bunche Beach – J.N. "Ding" Darling – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.  
Night at Three Lakes W.M.A. Camping Ground.
- 1/4 Three Lakes W.M.A. – Joe Overstreet Road – Merrit Island.  
Night at Highway Inn, Titusville.
- 2/4 Merrit Island – Joe Overstreet Road – Three Lakes W.M.A.  
Night at Three Lakes W.M.A. Camping Ground.
- 3/4 Wakodahatchee – Ft. Lauderdale Airport. Return flight from Miami.

## Literature

Grundsten, Måns, Gerdin, Mattias and Stafström, Tomas, *Florida, April 2-11-2004*,  
[www.club300.se](http://www.club300.se)

Pranty, Bill, *A Birder's Guide to Florida*, American Birding Association, Colorado Springs,  
1996.<sup>1</sup>

Sibley, David, *The North American Bird Guide*, Pica Press, Sussex, 2000.<sup>2</sup>

Ward, Marcus and Zoe, *South Florida & Dry Tortugas Birding Trip Report, 29/03/03-  
12/04/03*, <http://www.birdtours.co.uk/>

## CD-recordings

Keller, Geoffrey A., *Bird Songs of Florida*, Library of Natural Sounds, New York, 1997.<sup>3</sup>

## Useful Internet-resources

<http://tropicalaudubon.org/specialty.html> [Where to find key species]

<http://tropicalaudubon.org/locations.html> [Good sites in the Miami-area]

<http://tropicalaudubon.org/tasboard/index.html> [Recent observations]

<http://www.surfbirds.com/phorum/list.php?f=25> [Recent observations]

<http://www.yankeefreedom.com/> [Boat to Dry Tortugas. I booked and paid in advance via  
Internet, which worked perfect]

## Accommodation

Notice! If you spend your nights in a tent, it's important that you think about having all water and food stored in your car away from the tent, otherwise there's a risk that rats and/or raccoons will try to get into the tent ...

**Everglades Hostel** is situated in Florida City close to Everglades N.P. I found it to be an perfectly situated and cheap place to stay; it's possible to sleep in dormitories or to pitch your tent in their garden! To get there from Miami you take the "Florida Turnpike Extension" southwards to the very end where it will automatically drop you off on US 1. Turn right at first traffic light onto Palm Drive (SR 9336). Pass the next traffic light (Krome Avenue) and make a left at Rosita's Mexican Food Restaurant on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. You'll find more information on the following address: [www.evergladeshostel.com](http://www.evergladeshostel.com)

**Sugarloaf Key Resort KOA** is a nice campground on Sugarloaf Key, at Milemarker 20 (20 miles from Key West). It's perfectly situated on Sugarloaf Key very close to the best site for Mangrove Cuckoo on Saddlebunch Key. It's an expensive place (50 \$ or more to pitch a tent) but accommodation is expensive everywhere on Florida Keys. You'll find more information on the following address: <http://www.koa.com/where/fl/09316/>

**Koreshan State Park** is found on Corkscrew Road (exit 123 from I-75) just south of Fort Myers. It cost me 24 \$ to camp there. The Fort Myers-area seems to be very popular with holiday-makers why I advice you to book a site here in advance. You'll find more information on the following address: <http://reserveamerica.com/>

**Three Lakes Hunter's Campground** is situated by road 523 between St. Cloud and Kenansville. There is plenty of space to pitch your tent and it seems to be free of charge.

**Highway Inn** is situated in Titusville close to Merrit Island. It's right off I-95, exit 220 (old 80). The room was clean and cost me 50 \$ including tax.

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<sup>1</sup> Pranty's guide I found to be rather unnecessary – most of the important information is easily gathered through different Internet-sites and some of the information in the guide is out of date.

<sup>2</sup> Sibley's Guide is also available in two compact forms; one for the eastern and one for the western portion of North America. You can buy the guide for the eastern portion at most of the visitor centers, for example in Everglades, Ding Darling, Corkscrew and Merrit Island, for 20 \$.

<sup>3</sup> This record was possible to buy at Merrit Island Visitor Center for 20 \$. The record is very good and usable.

### **Site comments (in chronological order)**

Before entering **Everglades National Park** you'll find Ernest Coe Visitor Center where you can get maps over the area, books etc. The Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. **Research Road** is a paved road heading west from Royal Palm Road to Daniel Beard Center. **Anhinga Trail** and **Gumbo Limbo Trail** is found by the end of Royal Palm Road. **Eco Pond** is found down in Flamingo.

**Lucky Hammock/Annex** is found along Aerojet Road which is ½ mile before the Everglades park boundary and ½ mile past the C-111 canal. Coming from Florida City on SR 9336 there is a sign, "Southern Glades Youth Camp", where you turn left onto Aerojet Road. Lucky Hammock is about ¼ mile on the right. It's possible to walk around the hammock on a path. The "Annex" is the area between the Southern Glades WEA sign and the gate just beyond the youth camp entrance.

**Greenway Bike Trail** is the third possible right turn as you leave Everglades N.P. (Lucky Hammock/Aerojet Road is first and Glenn Garrett Memorial Park is second).

**Castellow Hammock Park** is a tranquil, small park. From Florida City head north on Krome Avenue (SW 177<sup>th</sup> Av). Turn right onto Hainlin Mill Drive (SW 216<sup>th</sup> Street) and then right again onto Farmlife School Road (SW 162<sup>nd</sup> Av). The park entrance is on the left hand side of the road. This site seems reliable for *White-winged Dove*.

**Tamiami Executive Airport** is a site where you'll easily find *Burrowing Owl*. From Castellow Hammock Park return to Hainlin Mill Drive and turn right/east. From Hainlin Mill Drive turn left/north onto Naranja Road (SW 147<sup>th</sup> Road) and continue to Coral Reef Drive (SW 152<sup>nd</sup>) where you turn right/east. Continue on this road until you reach Lindgred Road (SW 137<sup>th</sup> Av) where you turn left/north. From Lindgred Road turn left/west to the airport onto 128<sup>th</sup> Avenue. When you enter the airport area you'll soon see a red cone on the left hand side of 128<sup>th</sup> Av. Park your car close to this cone and look from this cone to the northwest where you'll see another cone on a field. I saw one Burrowing Owl close to that cone.



Burrowing Owl, Tamiami Airport, 050327

**Baptist Hospital** is a good area for some Florida specialties; I saw *Red-whiskered Bulbul*, *Spot-breasted Oriole*, *Monk Parakeet* and *White-winged Parakeet* in this area. To get there from Tamiami Airport return to Lindgred Road and turn left/north. Turn right/east onto N Kendall Drive (SW 88<sup>th</sup> Street) and continue on this road until you reach the hospital area on the right hand side of the road. Check the residential area across the street from the hospital (north of N Kendall Drive between Snapper Creek Lake and SW 87<sup>th</sup> Av); I found the Spot-breasted Oriole and the Monk Parakeets here.

**Indigenous Park** is a nice park in Key West found close to the intersection between Atlantic Boulevard and White Street (free parking!). I went here to search for a male Western Spindalis who had spent the winter there, but it's definitely a park exciting enough in its own to spend an hour or so there.

**Bahia Honda State Park** is found close to Milemarker 39.1 on Florida Keys. The best species seen there was *Gray Kingbird*.

**Ohio Key** is supposed to be good for waders, although I had no luck here. It's found opposite the campground at Milemarker 41.2 on Florida Keys. You don't have to ask at the camping ground (which Pranty say) to be able to bird the area.

**Key Largo Hammock Botanical Site** is found very close to the intersection between US 1 and Road 905. From the intersection drive east on Road 905 0.4 mile and you'll find the entrance on the right hand side of the road (big gate marking the entrance). This is supposed to be a good place for *Black-whiskered Vireo*, but I didn't find any.

**Carysfort Circle** is found off old 905 in north Key Largo about 2 miles south of the intersection of 905 and Card Sound Road (905 A). I went here to search for Brown-crested Flycatcher and Clay-colored Sparrow (rarities reported on Miami Birdboard) and found the area quite exciting; it's a place worth visiting if you're driving by.

**Snail Kite Site** at Tamiami Trail is found along US 41 a mile west of Shark Valley, across the road from the Everglades Tower Motel. You'll see a big sign saying "Airboat Tours". Park here and scan the vicinity.



Snail Kite, Lake Kissimee, 050401

**Tigertail Beach** is found on Marco Island. From US 41 turn south onto Road 951. When you have entered the island you're driving on N Collier Blvd. Turn right onto Tigertail Ct, and then left onto Hernando Drive. The beach is at the end of this road. You have to pay a fee to park here.

**Eagle Lakes** is situated in west Naples. I went here to search for the reported Eurasian Wigeons. It's a nice area with a few small lakes with plenty of birds; the best bird seen by me was an *American Bittern*. Eagle Lakes can be found about 3 miles west on US 41 from the county road to Marco Island/Tigertail Beach; it's the first exit past the toll booth on alligator Alley/I-75 going west.



Wilson's Plover, Fort Myers Beach, 050330

**Fort Myers Beach** is found if you park your car at Holiday Inn along Estero Blvd on Estero Island (if the parking lot at Holiday Inn is crowded you can park at the shopping mall which is found about 500 feet south). Walk from here to the beach. Turn left/southeast and walk along the shoreline. After a while you'll get to a lagoon around which I found a lot of waders, terns and gulls.



**Bunche Beach** is found by turning south from Summerlin Road onto John Morris Road in Fort Myers. Drive until this road ends where you park your car. I advice you to be here early before all sunbathers will arrive. Prepare yourself with insect repellent; there are nasty loads of blackflies here.

**“Ding” Darling NWR** is found on Sanibel Island. When you’ve entered the island you turn right/west on Periwinkle Way. Turn onto Palm Ridge Road from where you continue on Sanibel-Captiva Road until you see the sign for the Visitor Center. The Wildlife Drive is open 7.30 a.m. to sunset Saturday to Thursday (closed Fridays). It costs 5 \$ to enter the drive. **Bailey Tract** is found if you return on Sanibel-Captiva Road and turn right onto Tarpon Bay Road (this road is found around 2 miles east from the entrance to “Ding” Darling). The entrance to Bailey Tract is on the right hand side of the road. There is no entrance fee here and there are free parking.

**Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary** is a very nice place which seems to be reliable for *Limpkin*. To get there you take I-75 to exit 111 (Naples Park, C.R. 846, formerly exit 17) and exit east onto Immokalee Road. Go approximately 15 miles and turn left onto Sanctuary Road. Follow the signs for the Visitor Center. This place is open 7 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and entrance fee is 10 \$.

**Three Lakes WMA** and **Joe Overstreet Road** are found along C.R. 523 between St. Cloud and Kenansville. Both sites are well-signed.

**Merrit Island** is found east of Orlando. At Titusville you take exit 220 from I-95 and follow 406 until you reach the island. All the sites are well-signed. You can get an excellent map at the Visitor Center which is located along Road 402 and open 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Notice that the refuge closes 4 days prior to and the day of a scheduled shuttle launch, and that the refuge closes the day of a space shuttle landing. One way to find out about if the refuge will be open is to e-mail the refuge manager on the following address: [merrittisland@fws.gov](mailto:merrittisland@fws.gov) More information is found here: <http://merrittisland.fws.gov>

The **Wakodahatchee Wetlands** are located in suburban Delray Beach (south of West Palm Beach and north of Ft. Lauderdale) on the east side of Jog Road. Exit I-95 onto Atlantic Avenue West. Continue westwards to Jog Road where you turn right/north. The wetlands are on the right hand side of the road after the intersection with Lake Ida Road. I easily located *Least Bittern* and *Purple Gallinule* here.

**Greenbelt Park** is a small park close to Ft. Lauderdale Airport where I saw *Smooth-billed*- and *Groove-billed Ani* and *Monk Parakeet*. I don’t know if the Anis will be there in the future, but if you see reports about them it can be good having a description how to reach the park. To reach it you use exit 23 from I-95 onto Griffin Road. Go east about ½ mile and take left at second stop light into Greenbelt Park Road (look for a stainless steel sculpture marking the park). The road curves to the west into a parking lot. From here you walk north towards the chain link fence surrounding the airport. Walk east along the East-West berm that parallels the airport perimeter road, scanning the hedgerow across the street.



Groove-billed Ani, Greenbelt Park, 050403

## The trip day by day

### **March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Even though I arrived to Miami late last night it's not difficult to get up before dawn – a choir of for me mostly unknown voices is filling the garden at Everglades Hostel in Florida City where I've spent the night. I walk around in the neighborhood surrounding the hostel; a very exciting thing to do this first morning when most species are new to me, for example *White-winged Dove*, *Northern Mockingbird*, *Loggerhead Shrike* and *Common-* and *Boat-tailed Grackle*. After an hour or so birding the neighborhood I visit the local bakery for a cup of café con leche and some croissants; most people living in Florida City seem to be of Mexican origin so I get use of my knowledge of Spanish.

I start driving on SR 9336 towards Everglades N.P. with the intention to start birding just outside the park at a site called Lucky Hammock, a site I've read about on Tropical Audubons homepage. I'm looking for the sign "Southern Glades Youth Camp", a sign that's supposed to be big and clearly visible, but for some reason I don't see it and end up by the entrance to the National Park where I pay the 10 \$ entrance fee valid for a week.

On Internet I've read a lot of reports from a site called Research Road, so that's the place where I start. I stop by gate 2, a place where a Brown-crested Flycatcher has been seen lately; no sign of that flycatcher but instead two *Great Crested Flycatchers* and one *Eastern Towhee*. Past Daniel Beard Center, at a bend where the road curves to the left, I stop the car and start scanning the air for raptors; this is a very good place and I see my first *Swallow-tailed Kite*, one of the most beautiful species I've ever seen, *American Kestrel*, *Northern Harriers* and *Turkey-* and *Black Vultures*. As I know that there is supposed to be a *White-tailed Kite* in the area I continue to the old missile site where the first bird I see is the kite perched in a tree! In the trees surrounding the area around the old missile site a few *Eastern Kingbirds* remind me about my trip to British Columbia while an *Eastern Phoebe* is a nice new acquaintance. On the return trip I see a few swallows around Daniel Beard Center; they turn out to be the *Cave Swallows* of the Mexican race that has been reported from the area! One of the key species ticked!

From Research Road I turn right onto Royal Palm Road towards Royal Palm Visitor Center and Anhinga Trail. There are a lot of people walking the trail, and birding here is pretty slow and not very exciting, even though the birds are so used with people that you can get first class views. At the Visitor Center I talk to a British birder and we exchange some tips. A Brown-crested Flycatcher has been reported from Gumbo Limbo Trail, but it takes me almost half an hour before I see one single bird, a *Yellow-throated Vireo*. Since it's so slow I haste to the next destination, Paurotis Pond, which turns out to be a nice, quiet place. In the trees surrounding the pond there are *Roseate Spoonbills*, *Wood Storks*, *White Ibises* and *Green Herons*. There has been a drab female Vermilion Flycatcher in the area surrounding the parking lot all winter, but although I spend some time searching for it I can't find it; it's probably gone by now towards it's breeding ground in Texas. I continue to Nine Mile Pond where I see my first *Little Blue Heron*, a *Belted Kingfisher* and three *Caspian Terns*; two adults and one young bird still begging for food.

From Nine Mile Pond I return north again and visit Mahogany Hammock. A hammock is an island of trees in the middle of extensive sawgrass areas. For me it's a new and pleasant experience to walk in a hammock with a lot of tropical trees; for a moment I almost forget about birding and really enjoy the beauty of the old trees and the different plants on the ground. I search for the Black-and-White Warblers that the British birder has told me about, but with



Boardwalk at Mahogany Hammock

no success. I continue to Long Pine Key Picnic Area, an area with pines, why the most common bird is the *Pine Warbler*. I search for the Brown-crested Flycatcher that's been reported from the area, also this time with no success. I actually hear a sound that sounds good, a bit like a Spotted Crake, but I can't find the bird making the sound and since it would be a new tick to me I would like to see the bird to tick it, so I leave the place a bit disappointed.

When I've left the entering point to the National Park I start searching for the entrance road to Greenway Bike Trail, a place where a male Vermilion Flycatcher has spent a couple of weeks. Now it's getting close to dusk and when I arrive at the site the bird activity is very high. I can't find the flycatcher but a male *Painted Bunting* and an *Ovenbird* are good enough. The Ovenbird is a strange and cool bird; it's like a warbler jumping on the ground behaving like a thrush. The reddish stripe on the head makes it look a bit like a Firecrest and so on ... It's like God, or whoever, has taken parts from different bird species and put it all together into the Ovenbird.

Just before dusk I finally arrive to Lucky Hammock. At a telephone pole a *Pileated Woodpecker* looks out from a hole. All of the sudden, when I'm enjoying the woodpecker, I get a glimpse of something flying like a nightjar just above the car. I quickly get out of the car, and yes there are four nightjars hunting just above my head. I've read reports on Internet about Lesser Nighthawks in this area, but I didn't think they were still there, so when I've consulted Sibley's book and can establish that the birds are *Lesser Nighthawks* I'm pleasantly surprised.

Even though I'm exhausted after a hot day and after having something like three hours of sleep last night I can't resist the temptation to go listening for owls after it's turned dark. I start at Royal Palm Visitor Center where a *Barn Owl* and a *Great Horned Owl* are heard calling. From here I continue to Research Road where at least five *Chuck-will's-widows* are heard. Happy and satisfied, but totally knocked up, I return to the hostel where I spend an hour or so with a few beers and my trip list before I dive into the tent and a few hours of sleep.

### March 26<sup>th</sup>

This morning I start with a café con leche and some bread at the local café before I head for Everglades. I start at Greenway Bike Trail for another try for the Vermilion Flycatcher. A *White-crowned Pigeon* is heard calling and two greenish female *Painted Buntings* are seen in a bushy area.

After this short stop I continue to Mahogany Hammock where I'm the first person this wonderful morning. On the boardwalk towards the hammock I enjoy excellent views of two *Swallow-tailed Kites* and as I approach the hammock two *White-crowned Pigeons* fly away from a tree. The first bird I see after entering the hammock is a young *Barred Owl* sitting close to the trail; after a while an adult bird turns up to join the party.



Barred Owl, Mahaogany Hammock, 050326

Now it's time for the "Cape Sable" Seaside Sparrows south of the hammock. Even though I've listened a lot to their song on my CD I get confused many times hearing Red-winged Blackbirds – the Sparrows and the Blackbirds have a very similar sounding song! Although I spend a lot of time in the area, and although it's only something like half past eight in the morning when I start listening (you have to listen for the Sparrows before ten) I have to leave



the area with mission uncompleted. Via Paurotis Pond with the same breeding birds as yesterday I drive all the way down to Flamingo where I start birding at Eco Pond. Twelve *American White Pelicans* and four *Glossy Ibises* are the best birds seen here. The area around the pond is really nice and you can follow a trail around it. I take this trail, but since there are a lot of mosquitoes I walk it hastily and find it difficult to really enjoy it.

From Eco Pond I drive the short distance down to the sea at Flamingo's Campground. From here I walk a path eastwards. After a while I arrive to some cottages where there are a lot of birds. I spend an hour of great birding here seeing loads of new species, for example *Northern Parula*, *Black-throated Green Warbler*, *Black-and-White Warbler* (Yes! So cool!), *American Redstart* and *Summer Tanager*. The best bird of them all is however a *Bell's Vireo* (rare in Florida; eastern race), which sings and gives great views. This bird had actually been reported from the area before I got here but I didn't think it would still be here, so I'm pleasantly surprised.

At Flamingo Visitor Center there are only a few trees, but in one of them a *Cape May Warbler* and a *Black-throated Green Warbler* give great views two meters above my head. I also spend some time relaxing in the pleasant marina where I buy a cold drink and a sandwich and enjoy stunning views of *Laughing Gulls* and *Brown Pelicans*. Sitting here with all those gulls around me I think about how many people who went a long distance to see the dying Laughing Gull at Nohagaviken at Alingsås in Sweden. It feels a bit absurd for the moment, but I know that I won't feel this way as soon as I've returned to Sweden.



Laughing Gull, Flamingo Marina, 050326

From Flamingo I drive all the way to Anhinga Trail, where I arrive just before dusk, to try for the Purple Gallinule that the British birder saw there yesterday. No sign of the Gallinule but one *Black-crowned Night-Heron* and one *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* suddenly flies into the area making it a perfect end for a successful day.

### March 27<sup>th</sup>

Since *Purple Gallinule* is one of the key species I start the day by trying another time at Anhinga Trail, and, yes, this time I'm successful. That's a good way to start the birding day! From Royal Palm I continue down to the area south of the turnoff towards Mahogany Hammock where the "*Cape Sable*" *Seaside Sparrows* are said to be singing. It doesn't take long before I hear and see a singing bird, and that feels so good, especially because I spent so much time here yesterday for this one species.

After spending some time at Paurotis Pond (last try for Vermilion Flycatcher) and Mahogany Hammock (best bird *Black-and-white Warbler*) I continue to Long Pine Key Picnic Area for a last try for Brown-crested Flycatcher. I don't find the target species, but I'm pleased to find my first *Eastern Bluebirds* and *Brown Nuthatch*.

Via Lucky Hammock (best bird a *Peregrine Falcon*) I continue towards Florida City. I make a quick stop at Robert is here Fruitstand to enjoy one of their gorgeous milkshakes, when I suddenly notice that there is a lot of swallows flying around in the vicinity. I'm very surprised when it turns out that most of the swallows are *Cave Swallows* and *Purple Martins*.

The next stop is Castellow Hammock, a tranquil small park, which seems to be perfect for picnics (a lot of free parking lots and tables), but strangely enough I'm almost alone there although it's a Sunday. At the Park Center buildings there are a couple of feeders which I



spend some time watching. I've read on the Internet that a *Shiny Cowbird* is supposed to be around and it doesn't take long before it turns up at one of the feeders giving great views. Four *White-winged Doves* are at one of the feeders at the same time, but there are probably even more birds of this species in the park; this seems to be a reliable spot in the Miami area for this species!

From the tranquility of Castellow Hammock Park and the countryside feeling of the area surrounding it it's a bit of a chock to drive northwards; all of the sudden there are plenty of traffic. It's not difficult, however, to find my way to Tamiami Airport, where I pretty soon find the target species, a *Burrowing Owl*. For me it's a strange feeling to see an owl standing on the ground on a field, but when I think about it's behaving a bit like a Short-eared Owl, although it's smaller, so after all it's not that strange when you think about it.

From the airport I continue in the busy traffic along Kendall Drive to Baptist Hospital, a place that to me looks like a big castle. It's a very nice area to walk around in, and it doesn't take long before I find two *Red-whiskered Bulbuls* and two *Hill Mynas*. Am I in India? From the hospital area I cross Kendall Drive and start walking around in the neighborhood between Snapper Creek Lake and SW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I find two *Monk Parakeets* building a nest on the top of a telephone pole, a lot of *White-winged Parakeets* and a big flock of *Mitred Parakeets*. The only target species that I haven't found within a few minutes is the *Spot-breasted Oriole*. I return to the car but for some reason decide to give it another try, and after half an hour or so I actually find one of these beautiful birds in a garden in the neighborhood across Kendall Drive. Yes! Of course it's mixed feelings to spend time looking for introduced species, but I must say that even though the main goal was to get a few Florida key species for my ABA-list the bird species seen were all beautiful and worth the effort in it's own right.

After this success story and after a meal at a Mc Donald's restaurant I return to the hostel to get a few hours of sleep before I have to drive towards Key West (from Florida City it takes about three hours to drive to Key West).

### March 28<sup>th</sup>

I get up in the middle of the night and starts driving along US 1 towards Key West. The day for the trip to Dry Tortugas, what I expect to be the highlight of my Florida-trip, is here! The road is good and there is almost no traffic, why I actually arrive to Key West an hour before I'd expected to arrive. I park my car in a parking garage (10 \$ a day) and walk down to the marina where I check in at Yankee Freedom's Ticket Booth. Before 7.30 a.m., when I'm allowed to enter the boat, I spend some time in the marina, where an for me amazing thing is that there are *Ruddy Turnstones* running around on the quay.

I enter the boat and have the breakfast that's included in the price before we leave the harbor. When the boat leave the harbor I'm standing on deck together with five British birders. There are plenty of birds the first half hour, for example *Magnificent Frigatebirds* and a probable Roseate Tern, but after that we see almost no birds at all before we get close to Dry Tortugas, where we easily find a few *Brown Boobies* sitting on navigation marks.

When we're finally able to enter the island we almost rush into Fort Jefferson. I've read a lot about exciting species found in the trees inside the fort, so my expectations are high and the adrenaline is pumping. The six of us spread and walk from tree to tree, and all



Brown Noddy, Dry Tortugas, 050328

the time new species are encountered, for example *Hooded Warbler*, *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* and *Yellow-billed Cuckoo*. After a while we decide to bird also outside of the fort where we are awarded with *Prothonotary Warbler*, *Yellow Warbler* and *Ovenbird*. We are also able to get close to a few *Brown Noddies* perched on some poles, giving great photo opportunities.

It's difficult to pervade yourself having lunch, but since it's included in the price and rumors have reached us that it's a wonderful meal, we have a quick meal. After lunch it's time for another try inside the fort and this time we're rewarded with *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* and *Red-eyed Vireo*. All the time *Magnificent Frigatebirds* are flying above our heads! Outside of the fort we find a *Bank Swallow* and a few waders and terns on poles.

Unfortunately it's time to leave; I wouldn't have minded staying on the island for a couple of days. From the island we have seen the *Masked Boobies* on Hospital Key, but the views have, to say the least, not been very good. When it's time to embark the boat I ask the captain if it's possible for him to go closer to Hospital Key on the way back and he agrees, so finally we get excellent views of the boobies. The birding is slow also on the return trip but finally we see those *Northern Gannets* that we've read are possible on this trip. Nice! When we get close to the marina we see a few terns that look very much like Roseate Terns, why we as soon as we've left the boat starts walking hastily through hordes of holiday makers to get to the spot where we saw the terns. Unfortunately we can't find any Roseate Terns, but reminding myself about what Jack Nicholson says in *One flew over the cuckoo's nest* makes it feel ok: "Well, at least I tried"! After this we say goodbye to each other, exhausted but happy after an exciting day, actually one of the best days in my birding life. I drive down to Sugarloaf Key where I pitch my tent and get to sleep already around 9 p.m.

### **March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Feeling thoroughly rested for the first time since I arrived to Florida I awake and rise around 5 a.m. to be able to be at Saddlebunch Key around dawn, that is to say around 6.20 a.m. At Saddlebunch Key, a famous site for Mangrove Cuckoo, I meet the British birders from the trip to Dry Tortugas. We walk along the road with mangrove trees on both sides and listen for the characteristic calls, but after an hour with hardly a bird we decide to give up. To tell the truth I kind of had given up the chance of seeing/hearing Mangrove Cuckoo in advance, knowing how hard they are to get nowadays, so I don't feel anything but relief when we leave the boring spot and all the mosquitoes behind and drive towards Indigenious Park in Key West. The target bird at the park is a Western Spindalis, a very rare bird that has been there for weeks. We find it easy to find our way to the park through Key West, and when we start birding we immediately feel it is an exciting place. After two hours of birding no Spindalis has been seen, but among the many nice birds seen are *Hermit Thrush*, *Red-eyed Vireo* and *Black-throated Green Warbler*.

From Indigenious Park I drive down to Fort Zachary Taylor where I find a few *Gray Kingbirds* and a *Broad-winged Hawk*. I also climb the stairs up to the roof of the fort to be able to search for Roseate Terns that are said to nest in the vicinity, but I have no success with the terns.

Now it's time to leave Key West and begin the long drive towards Florida City. The first stop is Bahia Honda State Park, a very nice place. Here I enjoy great views of two *Gray Kingbirds*. I haven't brought any swimming gear, but the water looks so tempting that I decide to have a quick swim in my underwear. It is gorgeous!

From Bahia Honda I drive to Ohio Key, a place supposed to be excellent for shorebirds. I don't know why, but when I am there, there is not one single wader in the area opposite the campground ...

After this forenoon I feel kind of low-spirited, but I still have a few places to visit and a few target birds to see, especially Black-whiskered Vireo. To be able to see this key species I drive to Key Largo Hammock Botanical Site, a place where they are supposed to be common breeders. During 45 minutes at that site I don't see a single bird except for the always present vultures in the air ... I know that probably only a few Black-whiskered Vireos would have

arrived, but it feels strange that I don't see one single bird at this site where they are supposed to be common breeders.

I continue north to Carysfort Circle, where a Brown-crested Flycatcher and a Clay-colored Sparrow has been reported. No sign of those birds but a *Black-and-white Warbler* and a *Cooper's Hawk* are pretty good. Now it's getting close to dusk so I begin driving towards Miami. After crossing the Card Sound Road Bridge I park the car on the left side of the road and walk back to the bridge, from where I watch a mudflat north of the bridge where some shorebirds and pelicans are standing.

### March 30<sup>th</sup>

From Florida City I drive the one hour drive to the site for Snail Kites along US 41 (Tamiami Trail). Having parked the car by the big sign on the north side of the road, "Airboat Tours" (disused Airboat stand), it doesn't take long before I find at least four *Snail Kites*. In the vicinity is also a *Swallow-tailed Kite*. This is supposed to be a good site also for Limpkin but I don't see any Limpkins here.

After the pretty long drive to Tigertail Beach on Marco Island I finally arrive to a site with a lot of waders. I'm happy to see my first *Wilson's Plover* and *Piping Plovers* ever. From here I continue towards Fort Myers. On the way I make a stop at Eagle Lakes, a site where Eurasian Wigeons have been reported. No sign of the Wigeons, but an *American Bittern* is a real surprise (getting late for this wintering species). The place is really tranquil and nice and there are a lot of birds to enjoy. This is a site I really recommend that you visit on your way to Fort Myers. From Eagle Lakes and all the way to Fort Myers the traffic situation is a nightmare; because there are roadworks at many places I'm able to drive for 25 to 40 miles/hour all the way. Finally I arrive to Koreshan State Park where I check in before I start the drive towards "Ding" Darling. I decide to drive south to Bonita Beach Road from where I drive northwest on Estero Island. After a while I'm stuck in an endless car queue, why I decide to turn around and take Fort Myers Beach instead. I park at Holiday Inn and walk down to the beach. There I can see no waders why I begin to wonder if I'm at the right spot. However I decide to try to walk southeast and it doesn't take long before I see huge flocks of waders, terns and gulls in an around a lagoon. Yes! Here I really enjoy birding at its best until dusk! Among the best bird species seen are *American Oystercatchers*, *American Avocets*, *Dunlins*, *Forster's Terns* and *Black Skimmers*.

After returning to Koreshan State park I enjoy the sound of two *Chuck-will's-widows* before I fall to sleep.



Am. Oystercatcher, Fort Myers Beach, 050330

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

To avoid the worst morning traffic in the Fort Myers-area and to be able to be at the site at dawn I start driving towards Bunche Beach at around 5 a.m. When I arrive there the light is splendid and there are loads of waders all along the beach. Unfortunately there are also a lot of blackflies, so birding here is a struggle between trying to enjoy the waders and avoiding the blackflies.

The star bird here is a *Marbled Godwit* almost in breeding plumage; there are also some *Piping Plovers* and one *American Oystercatcher*.

From Bunche Beach I continue to Sanibel Island and J.N. "Ding" Darling. I drive the Wildlife Drive, which is very nice, although I've seen most of the species in greater numbers



down in Everglades. There are however a few new species, for example *Red-breasted Mergansers* and *Lesser Yellowlegs*. Along the drive I make a few stops where I get out of the car to listen and search for Black-whiskered Vireos, but with no success. At the entrance to Shell Mound Trail I get out of the car and I'm rewarded with a *Northern Waterthrush* and a *Blue-headed Vireo*.

When I have returned to the Visitor Center I ask the staff if they know where to find Black-whiskered Vireos, and they say the same thing as Pranty, that is to say at Bailey Tract. At Bailey Tract I meet a large group of American birders, and they tell me that you usually are able to find the vireos here (although rare nowadays), but that they haven't seen or heard any. One of the birders tell me that one Black-whiskered Vireo was seen at the lighthouse yesterday, so after a short walk along the southern part of Bailey Tract I drive towards the lighthouse. The lighthouse area is supposed to be really good for warblers and vireos, at least at migration times and at the right weather conditions. Unfortunately it turns out that the parking lot by the lighthouse is full. The place seems overcrowded with tourists who has gone there to swim and sunbathe, so I make a quick decision to skip trying to find a parking lot somewhere else and just get away from the overcrowded and commercial Sanibel Island.

From Sanibel Island I drive towards Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. This time I take the I-75 instead of US 41 and it's really much faster. When I've arrived to the sanctuary I pay the admission fee and enter the fantastic area. Along the trail I find a *Tufted Titmouse*, a *Red-eyed Vireo* and a few *Black-crowned Night-Herons*. I also hear a *Limpkin* calling a few times. When it's only half an hour left to when the sanctuary will close I finally find a *Limpkin* standing on a branch in a tree giving strange calls. It's a moment of true magic to be standing all alone deep in the wood with this fantastic bird a few meters away.

Outside the Visitor Center is a small park where I find a *Brown Trasher* and a *Common Ground-Dove*. Now it's close to dusk and I've a long drive ahead of me. From Corkscrew Sanctuary I drive to Immokalee, and from there north on road 29 via La Belle to Palmdale. At Palmdale I turn north on US 27. From US 27 I drive via Frostproof on road 630 to Indian Lake Estates, and from there to Yeehaw Junction. From the junction I turn north on US 441, from where I turn onto road 523 to get to the entrance of Three Lakes. All the way from Corkscrew the roads are very good and you can easily find places to eat, especially in and around Palmdale.

Very tired I finally arrive to the campground where I've decided to spend the night. I'm too tired to pitch my tent so I decide to sleep in the car instead.

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

At dawn I just have to get out of the car and I'm at the first birding site, the Hunter's Camp, where I hope to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. I walk around in the small area, all the time listening for the characteristic sounds of the woodpeckers. I don't see or hear any woodpeckers but at least I find the other target species, *Bachman's Sparrow*. Other nice birds in the area are *Chipping Sparrows*, *Eastern Bluebirds*, *Pine Warblers*, *Brown-headed Cowbirds* and one *Brown-headed Nuthatch*.

From the Camp I drive the short drive to Joe Overstreet Road, a road leading down to Lake Kissimmee. There are loads of raptors along the road (especially vultures), and to my delight I discover a *Northern Caracara*. I also find some huge *Wild Turkeys* walking on the grass fields. Down by the lake, a very nice place, there is a *Purple Gallinule*, a few *Snail Kites* and some *Sandhill Cranes*.

Now it's time to continue to Merrit Island, a place I've read a lot about. My expectations are high! From I-95 I take exit 220 and follow road 406 to the island. After having crossed Indian River I make a stop by the entrance to E. Gator Creek Road. I cross road 406 and follow Pump House Road to the pumphouse. Here I meet a birder, Thomas J. Dunkerton, whose reports from the area I've read on Internet. He tells me what's around and also shows me a large flock of *Ruddy Ducks* and a *Gull-billed Tern*. From Pump House Road I return to the car and start driving south on E. Gator Creek Road. This is a great place with

huge amounts of waders and ducks. Among the many *Blue-winged Teals* I find a few *Northern Shovelers*, *Green-winged Teals* and two *Mottled Ducks*. On a sandpit I find two *Least Terns* and three *Gull-billed Terns*. The most common wader is *Least Sandpiper*, but there are also good amounts of *Stilt Sandpipers*, *Western Sandpipers* and *Short-billed Dowitchers*. Among the many sandpipers I find at least one *Semipalmated Sandpiper* (there are supposed to be many around; Thomas J. Dunkerton said there were 100+ of them around in this area ...).

Close to the toll booth on the road to Playalinda Beach I find a few *Florida Scrub-Jays*, and I enjoy photographing those for a while. From here I continue down the road to the intersection with Bio Lab Road. The ponds in this area are supposed to be good for Pectoral Sandpipers, but I don't find any. At dusk I drive Black Point Wildlife Drive. I've read reports about two Black Rails at a marsh north of stop 10, and the tower at Cruickshank Trail is supposed to be a good place from where to listen for Clapper- and King Rail. Unfortunately it's very windy this evening, so it seems almost impossible to hear anything. However I park at the parking lot at the beginning of Cruickshank Trail and there in a small pond the first bird I see is a *Least Bittern*. From the tower not a single sound is heard, probably because it's so windy. Neither any Black Rails are heard at stop 10. Well, well you can't have it all ... Unusually early I quit birding this day; I have a motel room waiting. The rest of the evening I spend in the room enjoying a couple of cold beers and peanuts. During the night a heavy rain hits the area.



Florida Scrub-Jay, Merrit Island, 050401

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

When I rise at 5 a.m. I notice that it's raining cats and dogs. It doesn't take me long to decide to return to the bed. At 10 a.m. the rain has stopped and I'm ready for another day of true enjoyment, that is to say of birding. It's still windy and everywhere I go there are less birds compared to yesterday. I start with Black Point Wildlife Drive where the only new species is *Northern Rough-winged Swallow*. From BPWD I decide to drive to Manatee Observation Deck. On the way there I find a *Cedar Waxwing*, strangely enough my first on this trip. At the observation deck the strange-looking manatees give stunning views (around ten of them there when I'm there). After another visit to the Visitor Center I start driving Peacocks Pocket Road, but the road is in such a bad condition after the rain that I decide to turn back. E. Gator Creek Road have the same birds as yesterday, but for some reason in smaller numbers.



Forster's Tern, Merrit Island, 050402

From Merrit Island I drive to Joe Overstreet Road, where I arrive around 4 p.m. On the grass fields surrounding the road I find four *Upland Sandpipers* which really make me happy. The last time I saw this species was at Kråks Skjutfält in Västergötland, Sweden together with loads of birders. Now I'm able to enjoy those wonderful waders on my own in perfect light conditions. There are also many *Black-bellied Plovers* and among them I find two *American Golden-Plovers*. Now it's time to get to Hunter's Camp to be able to be there one hour before dusk. I've been told that the best time to see the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers is the hour before it gets dark. A few American birders also turn up, but unfortunately no luck this time either. Well, well, I guess I'll get a new chance in Texas next spring. I spend the night sleeping in my car at the Hunter's Camp.

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

At 4 a.m. I rise and start driving towards Wakodahatchee Wetlands. During the night the time has been changed to summer time (always does so first Sunday in April!), so dawn isn't before 7.20 a.m. this day. When I arrive to Wakodahatchee an hour or so after dawn (it took longer than I'd expected to drive there) I'm surprised to see that there are around 25 cars in the parking lot. This site is very popular, which I can understand when I start walking the boardwalks. There are not many birders around; most people here are photographers, which is understandable considering what great photo opportunities you get from the boardwalk. The best birds seen are *Least Bittern*, *Purple Gallinules* and *Mottled Ducks*.

From Wakodahatchee I drive to Ft. Lauderdale to look for the *Smooth-billed Anis* and the *Groove-billed Ani* that's been there for weeks. Considering my luck with most of the other rarities I've tried for (Brown-crested Flycatcher, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vermilion Flycatcher and Western Spindalis) I feel far from certain that I will see those birds. Another annoying thing is that for the moment I've got 119 new ABA-ticks and my goal is 120. This is my last birding stop on the entire trip and I really want those birds. After 45 minutes searching for the birds along the East-West berm that parallels the airport perimeter road I finally find them! What a relief!

### **List of bird-species**

Species marked with \* new ABA-ticks for the compiler

1. **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (Tjocknäbbad dopping)  
2 at Snapper Creek Lake, Miami 27/3, 1 at Tamiami Trail and 7 at Eagle Lakes 30/3, 8 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3, 5 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 on Merrit Island 2/4.
2. **American White Pelican\*** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Hornpelikan)  
12 at Eco Pond 26/3, 4 at Lucky Hammock 27/3, ~30 at Card Sound Road Bridge 29/3, 4 at Bunche Beach and ~20 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3, 2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 1 on Merrit Island 2/4.
3. **Brown Pelican\*** *Pelecanus occidentalis* (Brun pelikan)  
Common along the coast; seen seven of the days.
4. **Magnificent Frigatebird\*** *Fregata magnificens* (Prakfregattfågel)  
2 at Key West Harbour and ~50 at Dry Tortugas 28/3, 1 at Fort Zachary Taylor 29/3, 1 at Tigertail Beach 30/3 and 1 from bridge to Sanibel Island 31/3.
5. **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* (Öronskarv)  
Very common; seen every day.
6. **Anhinga\*** *Anhinga anhinga* (Amerikansk ormhalsfågel)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
7. **Northern Gannet\*** *Morus bassanus* (Havssula)  
~45 on return trip from Dry Tortugas to Key West 28/3 and 1 at Ohio Key 29/3.



8. **Masked Booby\*** *Sula dactylatra* (Masksula)  
23 on Hospital Key 28/3.
9. **Brown Booby\*** *Sula leucogaster* (Brun sula)  
11 around Dry Tortugas 28/3.
10. **American Bittern\*** *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Amerikansk rördrom)  
1 at Eagle Lakes 30/3.
11. **Least Bittern\*** *Ixobrychus exilis* (Amerikansk dvärgrördrom)  
1 at Blackpoint Wildlife Drive, Merrit Island 1/4 and 1 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
12. **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* (Amerikansk gråhäger)  
Common; seen every day.
13. **Great Egret\*** *Ardea alba* (Ägretthäger)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
14. **Snowy Egret\*** *Egretta thula* (Snöhäger)  
Very common; seen every day.
15. **Reddish Egret\*** *Egretta rufescens* (Rosthäger)  
1 at Bahia Honda State Park 29/3, 2 at Tigertail Beach and 2 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3, 2 at Bunche Beach and 3 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3, 3 on Merrit Island 2/4 and 4 on Merrit Island 2/4.
16. **Tricolored Heron\*** *Egretta tricolor* (Trefärgad häger)  
Common; seen nine of the days.
17. **Little Blue Heron\*** *Egretta caerulea* (Blåhäger)  
Seen seven of the days but not very numerous.
18. **Cattle Egret\*** *Bubulcus ibis* (Kohäger)  
Very common; seen every day in all kind of habitats.
19. **Green Heron\*** *Butorides virescens* (Grönryggad häger)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
20. **Black-crowned Night-Heron\*** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Natthäger)  
1 at Anhinga Trail 26/3 and 3 at Corkscrew 31/3.
21. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron\*** *Nyctanassa violacea* (Gulkronad natthäger)  
1 at Anhinga Trail 26/3, 1 at Bahia Honda State Park 29/3 and 1 along Tamiami Trail 30/3.
22. **White Ibis\*** *Eudocimus albus* (Vit ibis)  
Very common; seen every day.
23. **Glossy Ibis\*** *Plegadis falcinellus* (Bronsibis)  
4 at Eco Pond 26/3, 6 along Tamiami Trail 30/3, 4 at Joe Overstreet Road and ~90 on Merrit Island 1/4, ~45 on Merrit Island 2/4 and 2 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
24. **Roseate Spoonbill\*** *Ajaia ajaja* (Rosenskedstork)  
2 at Paurotis Pond 25/3, 26/3 and 27/3, 2 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3, ~50 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 on Merrit Island 2/4.
25. **Wood Stork\*** *Mycteria americana* (Amerikansk ibisstork)  
~15 at Paurotis Pond 25/3, 26/3 and 27/3 and seen in J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3 (no numbers noted unfortunately).
26. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* (Gräsand)  
2 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.
27. **Mottled Duck\*** *Anas fulvigula* (Fläckand)  
2 on Merrit Island 1/4, 3 on Merrit Island 2/4 and 3 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.

28. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* (Skedand)  
~20 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 6 on Merrit Island 2/4.
29. **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* (Blåvingad årta)  
Seen six of the days; for example ~200 on Merrit Island 1/4.
30. **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis* (Amerikansk kricka)  
5 on Merrit Island 1/4.
31. **Red-breasted Merganser\*** *Mergus serrator* (Småskrake)  
4 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3.
32. **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* (Amerikansk kopparand)  
~20 on Merrit Island 1/4.
33. **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (Kalkongam)  
Very common; seen nine of the days (not on Dry Tortugas).
34. **(American) Black Vulture\*** *Coragyps atratus* (Korpgam)  
Common; seen nine of the days (not on Dry Tortugas).
35. **Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (Blå kärhök)  
2 at Research Road 25/3 and 1 at Joe Overstreet Road 1/4.
36. **Snail Kite\*** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (Snäckglada)  
4 at the big sign "Airboat Tours" along Tamiami Trail 30/3 and 5 at Joe Overstreet Road 1/4.
37. **White-tailed Kite\*** *Elanus leucurus* (Vitstjärtad glada)  
1 at Research Road 25/3.
38. **(American) Swallow-tailed Kite\*** *Elanoides forficatus* (Svalstjärtsglada)  
1 at Research Road and 3 at Paurotis Pond 25/3, 2 at Mahogany Hammock and 1 at Eco Pond 26/3, 1 at Long Pine Key Picnic Area 27/3, 1 at the big sign "Airboat Tours" along Tamiami Trail 30/3 and 1 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
39. **Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* (Coopers hök)  
1 at Carysfort Circle 29/3, 1 on Merrit Island 2/4 and 1 at Ft. Lauderdale Airport 3/4.
40. **Red-shouldered Hawk\*** *Buteo lineatus* (Bandvingad vråk)  
Pretty common; seen seven of the days.
41. **Broad-winged Hawk\*** *Buteo platypterus* (Bredvingad vråk)  
1 at Fort Zachary Taylor 29/3.
42. **Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* (Rödstjärtad vråk)  
1 at St. Cloud 2/4.
43. **Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Vithövdad havsörn)  
2 at Mahogany Hammock 27/3, 2 at Three Lakes W.M.A., 3 at Joe Overstreet Road and 2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 on Merrit Island 2/4.
44. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (Fiskgjuse)  
Common, seen eight of the days.
45. **Northern Caracara\*** *Caracara cheriway* (Tofscaracara)  
2 at Joe Overstreet Road 1/4.
46. **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* (Sparvfalk)  
Seen in small numbers five of the days.
47. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (Pilgrimsfalk)  
1 at Lucky Hammock 27/3.

48. **Wild Turkey\*** *Meleagris gallopavo* (Kalkon)  
11 at Joe Overstreet Road 1/4, 3 along Road 532 and 14 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
49. **Purple Gallinule\*** *Porphyrio martinica* (Amerikansk sultanhöna)  
1 at Anhinga Trail 27/3, 1 at Joe Overstreet Road 1/4 and 5 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
50. **Common Moorhen\*** *Gallinula chloropus* (Rörhöna)  
Common in suitable habitat; seen six of the days.
51. **American Coot** *Fulica americana* (Amerikansk sothöna)  
Common in suitable habitat; seen seven of the days.
52. **Limpkin\*** *Aramus guarauna* (Ralltrana)  
2 at Corkscrew 31/3.
53. **Sandhill Crane\*** *Grus canadensis* (Prärietrana)  
4 at Three Lakes W.M.A., 3 at Joe Overstreet Road and 2 along Road 532 1/4 and 7 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
54. **Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (Kustpipare)  
Common; seen six of the days.
55. **American Golden-Plover\*** *Pluvialis dominica* (Amerikansk tundrapipare)  
2 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
56. **Piping Plover\*** *Charadrius melodus* (Flöjtstrandpipare)  
4 at Tigertail Beach and 2 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3 and 5 at Bunche Beach 31/3.
57. **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* (Flikstrandpipare)  
Common around Tigertail Beach and Fort Myers Beach 30/3 and around Bunche Beach 31/3 and 2 seen on Merrit Island 2/4.
58. **Wilson's Plover\*** *Charadrius wilsonia* (Wilsonstrandpipare)  
1 at Tigertail Beach and 28 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3.
59. **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* (Skrikstrandpipare)  
1 at Glenn Garrett Memorial Park 25/3, 2 at Greenway Bike Trail 26/3, 1 at Eagle Lakes 30/3, 4 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
60. **American Oystercatcher\*** *Haematopus palliatus* (Amerikansk strandskata)  
5 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3 and 1 at Bunche Beach 31/3.
61. **American Avocet\*** *Recurvirostra americana* (Amerikansk skärfläcka)  
~90 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3, 2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 1 on Merrit Island 2/4.
62. **Black-necked Stilt\*** *Himantopus mexicanus* (Amerikansk stytlöpare)  
2 along Tamiami Trail 30/3, ~30 on Merrit Island 1/4, 6 on Merrit Island 2/4 and 4 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
63. **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* (Större gulbena)  
1 at Tigertail Beach 30/3, 13 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3 and common around Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4.
64. **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipeds* (Mindre gulbena)  
6 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3 and common around Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4.
65. **Willet\*** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (Willet snäppa)  
1 at Flamingo 26/3, 5 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, ~30 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3, ~60 at Bunche Beach 31/3 and ~10 on Merrit Island 1/4.
66. **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* (Fläckdrillsnäppa)  
1 at Flamingo 26/3 and 1 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3.
67. **Upland Sandpiper\*** *Bartramia longicauda* (Piparsnäppa)  
4 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.



68. **Whimbrel\*** *Numenius phaeopus* (Småspov)  
3 on Dry Tortugas 28/3 and 4 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3.
69. **Marbled Godwit\*** *Limosa fedoa* (Präriespov)  
1 at Bunche Beach 31/3.
70. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (Roskarl)  
Common; seen six of the days.
71. **Red Knot\*** *Calidris canutus* (Kustsnäppa)  
2 at Card Sound Road Bridge 29/3, 1 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3 and 12 at J.N. "Ding"  
Darling 31/3.
72. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (Sandlöpare)  
Seen four of the days, for example ~40 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3.
73. **Dunlin\*** *Calidris alpina* (Kärrensäppa)  
Seen on Fort Myers Beach 30/3, Bunche Beach 31/3 and on Merrit Island 1/4.
74. **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* (Tundrasnäppa)  
Seen on Tigertail Beach and Fort Myers Beach 30/3, on Bunche Beach 31/3 and on  
Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4; for example ~200 along the south edge of E. Gator Creek Road  
1/4.
75. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* (Sandsnäppa)  
1 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 on Merrit Island 2/4.
76. **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* (Dvärgsnäppa)  
Seen on Tigertail Beach and Fort Myers Beach 30/3, on Bunche Beach 31/3 and on  
Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4; for example ~800 along the south edge of E. Gator Creek Road  
1/4.
77. **Stilt Sandpiper\*** *Calidris himantopus* (Styltsnäppa)  
Seen on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4; for example ~300 along the south edge of E. Gator  
Creek Road 1/4.
78. **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* (Mindre beckasinsnäppa)  
Seen five days; for example ~150 along the south edge of E. Gator Creek Road 1/4.
79. **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* (Wilsonbeckasin)  
1 on Merrit Island 1/4.
80. **Laughing Gull\*** *Larus atricilla* (Sotvingad mås)  
Common in suitable habitat; seen eight of the days.
81. **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* (Ringnäbbad mås)  
Seen in small numbers seven of the days.
82. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* (Gråtrut)  
Seen in small numbers three of the days.
83. **Great Black-backed Gull\*** *Larus marinus* (Havstrut)  
2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4.
84. **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* (Skräntärna)  
3 at Nine Mile Pond 25/3 and 26/3, 3 at Card Sound Road Bridge 29/3, 1 at Fort Myers  
Beach 30/3, 2 at Bunche Beach 31/3, 5 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 9 on Merrit Island 2/4.
85. **Royal Tern\*** *Sterna maxima* (Kungstärna)  
Common in suitable habitat; seen seven of the days.
86. **Sandwich Tern\*** *Sterna sandvicensis* (Kentsk tärna)  
Seen four of the days, for example ~20 at Dry Tortugas 28/3.

87. **Forster's Tern\*** *Sterna forsteri* (Kärrtärna)  
~15 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3, 2 at Bunche Beach 31/3, ~20 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4.
88. **Least Tern\*** *Sterna antillarum* (Amerikansk småtärna)  
2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
89. **Gull-billed Tern\*** *Sterna nilotica* (Sandtärna)  
4 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 1 on Merrit Island 2/4.
90. **Sooty Tern\*** *Sterna fuscata* (Sottärna)  
Common breeder at Dry Tortugas 28/3.
91. **Brown Noddy\*** *Anous stolidus* (Brun Noddy)  
Common breeder at Dry Tortugas 28/3.
92. **Black Skimmer\*** *Rynchops niger* (Amerikansk saxnäbb)  
3 at Dry Tortugas 28/3, ~30 at Fort Myers Beach 30/3, 18 at Bunche Beach 31/3 and ~25 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 2/4.
93. **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* (Spetsstjärtad duva)  
Very common; seen every day.
94. **White-winged Dove\*** *Zenaida asiatica* (Vitvingad duva)  
1 at Everglades Hostel 25/3, 1 at Everglades Hostel and 4 at Castellow Hammock 27/3 and 1 at Everglades Hostel 30/3.
95. **Eurasian Collared-Dove\*** *Streptopelia decaocto* (Turkduva)  
Common in south Florida; seen seven of the days.
96. **Common Ground-Dove\*** *Columbina passerina* (Nordlig markduva)  
1 at Bunche Beach and 1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
97. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia* (Klippsduva/Tamduva)  
Seen seven of the days.
98. **White-crowned Pigeon\*** *Columba leucocephala* (Vitkronad duva)  
1 at Greenway Bike Trail, 2 at Mahogany Hammock and 1 at Eco Pond 26/3 and 1 at Saddlebunch Key 29/3.
99. **Monk Parakeet\*** *Myiopsitta monachus* (Munkparakit)  
2 at Baptist Hospital 27/3 and 2 at Ft. Lauderdale Airport 3/4.
100. **White-winged Parakeet\*** *Brotogeris versicolurus* (Gulvingad parakit)  
~40 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.
101. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo\*** *Coccyzus americanus* (Gulnäbbad regngök)  
4 on Dry Tortugas 28/3.
102. **Groove-billed Ani\*** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (Strimnäbbad ani)  
1 at Ft. Lauderdale Airport 3/4.
103. **Smooth-billed Ani\*** *Crotophaga ani* (Slättnäbbad ani)  
2 at Ft. Lauderdale Airport 3/4.
104. **Barn Owl\*** *Tyto alba* (Tornuggla)  
1 at Royal Palm 25/3.
105. **Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus* (Virginiauv)  
1 at Royal Palm 25/3 and 26/3.
106. **Barred Owl\*** *Strix varia* (Kråsuggla)  
2 at Mahogany Hammock 26/3.
107. **Burrowing Owl\*** *Athene cunicularia* (Prärieuggla)  
1 at Tamiami Airport 27/3.

108. **Chuck-will's-widow\*** *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (Karolinanattskärra)  
5 at Research Road 25/3, 1 at Anhinga Trail 26/3, 2 at Koreshan State Park 30/3 and 1 on Merrit Island 1/4.
109. **Lesser Nighthawk\*** *Chordeiles acutipennis* (Mindre falknattskärra)  
4 at Lucky Hammock 25/3.
110. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird\*** *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* (Rubinkolibri)  
1 on Dry Tortugas 28/3.
111. **Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon* (Bälteskungsfiskare)  
Seen in small numbers five of the days.
112. **Red-bellied Woodpecker\*** *Melanerpes carolinus* (Karolinaspett)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
113. **Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens* (Dunspett)  
1 at Flamingo Cottages 26/3 and 3 at Corkscrew 31/3.
114. **Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* (Guldspett)  
3 at Research Road 25/3, 2 on Merrit Island 1/4 and 1 on Merrit Island 2/4.
115. **Pileated Woodpecker\*** *Dryocopus pileatus* (Amerikansk spillkråka)  
1 at Lucky Hammock 25/3 and 2 at Bunche Beach 31/3.
116. **Eastern Phoebe\*** *Sayornis phoebe* (Grå fibi)  
1 at Research Road 25/3.
117. **Great Crested Flycatcher\*** *Myiarchus crinitus* (Större topptyrann)  
2 at Research Road and 1 at Royal Palm 25/3, 2 at Mahogany Hammock 26/3, 1 at Royal Palm, 1 at Paurotis Pond and 1 at Mahogany Hammock 27/3, 1 at Saddlebunch Key 29/3 and 2 at Corkscrew 31/3.
118. **Gray Kingbird\*** *Tyrannus dominicensis* (Grå kungstyrann)  
3 at Fort Zachary Taylor and 2 at Bahia Honda State Park 29/3 and 1 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3.
119. **Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Östlig kungstyrann)  
2 at Research Road 25/3, 3 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, 3 at Fort Zachary Taylor 29/3 and 2 on Merrit Island 2/4.
120. **Loggerhead Shrike\*** *Lanius ludovicianus* (Amerikansk törnskata)  
Seen in small numbers six of the days.
121. **Red-eyed Vireo\*** *Vireo olivaceus* (Rödögd vireo)  
2 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, 1 at Indigenious Park 29/3 and 1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
122. **Bell's Vireo\*** *Vireo bellii* (Sumpvireo)  
1 at Flamingo Cottages 26/3.
123. **White-eyed Vireo\*** *Vireo griseus* (Vitögd vireo)  
1 at Paurotis Pond 25/3, 1 at Anhinga Trail 27/3, 1 at Carysfort Circle 29/3, 2 at J.N. "Ding" Darling and 2 at Corkscrew 31/3.
124. **Yellow-throated Vireo\*** *Vireo flavifrons* (Gulstrupig vireo)  
1 at Gumbo Limbo Trail and 1 at Mahogany Hammock 25/3 and 1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
125. **Blue-headed Vireo\*** *Vireo solitarius* (Glasögonvireo)  
1 at J.N. "Ding" Darling and 2 at Corkscrew 31/3.
126. **Blue Jay\*** *Cyanocitta cristata* (Blåskrika)  
1 at Glenn Garrett Memorial Park 25/3, 2 at Castellow Hammock 27/3 and 1 at Ft. Lauderdale Airport 3/4.

127. **Florida Scrub-Jay\*** *Aphelocoma coerulescens* (Snårskrika)  
3 on Merrit Island 1/4.
128. **American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (Amerikansk kråka)  
Common; seen seven of the days.
129. **Fish Crow\*** *Corvus ossifragus* (Fiskkråka)  
Only two heard - Fort Myers Beach 30/3.
130. **Purple Martin** *Progne subis* (Blå storsvala)  
8 at Robert is here Fruitstand, Florida City and 4 at N Krome Avenue 27/3, 2 at Saddlebunch Key 29/3, 2 at Eagle Lakes 30/3, 1 on Merrit Island 1/4 and ~20 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
131. **N. Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Nordlig kamvingesvala)  
8 on Merrit Island 2/4 and ~15 at Wakodahatchee 3/4.
132. **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* (Backsvala)  
1 at Dry Tortugas 28/3.
133. **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* (Trädsvala)  
2 at Research Road 25/3, 10 at Robert is here Fruitstand, Florida City 27/3 and ~70 at Joe Overstreet Road 2/4.
134. **Cave Swallow\*** *Petrochelidon fulva* (Grottsvala)  
3 at Research Road 25/3 and ~60 at Robert is here Fruitstand, Florida City 27/3.
135. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (Ladusvala)  
~20 at Greenway Bike Trail 26/3, ~15 on Dry Tortugas 28/3 and 1 on Merrit Island 2/4.
136. **Tufted Titmouse\*** *Baeolophus bicolor* (Östlig gråmes)  
1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
137. **Brown-headed Nuthatch\*** *Sitta pusilla* (Brunhuvad nötväcka)  
1 at Long Pine Key Picnic Area 27/3 and 1 at Three Lakes 1/4.
138. **Carolina Wren\*** *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (Karolinagårdsmyg)  
Common; seen/heard every day.
139. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher\*** *Polioptila caerulea* (Blågrå myggsnappare)  
1 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, 8 at Corkscrew 31/3 and 1 on Merrit Island 1/4.
140. **Eastern Bluebird\*** *Sialia mexikana* (Östsialia)  
2 at Long Pine Key Picnic Area 27/3, 2 at Three Lakes 1/4 and 1 at Three Lakes 2/4.
141. **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* (Eremitkogstrast)  
1 at Indigenious Park 29/3.
142. **Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* (Grå kattfågel)  
Very common; seen every day.
143. **Northern Mockingbird\*** *Mimus polyglottos* (Nordlig härmtrast)  
Very common; seen every day.
144. **Brown Trasher\*** *Toxostoma rufum* (Rödbrun härmtrast)  
1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
145. **European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (Stare)  
Very common; seen nine of the days (not on Dry Tortugas).
146. **Red-whiskered Bulbul\*** *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Rödörad bulbyl)  
2 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.
147. **Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* (Indiansidensvans)  
1 on Merrit Island 2/4.



148. **Northern Parula\*** *Parula americana* (Messångare)  
2 at Flamingo 26/3, 3 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, 2 at Indigenious Park 29/3 and 1 at Corkscrew 31/3.
149. **Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* (Gul skogssångare)  
1 on Dry Tortugas 28/3.
150. **Cape May Warbler\*** *Dendroica tigrina* (Brunkindad skogssångare)  
1 at Flamingo 26/3.
151. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* (Gulgumpad skogssångare)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
152. **Black-throated Green Warbler\*** *Dendroica virens* (Grönryggad skogssångare)  
3 at Flamingo 26/3 and 2 at Indigenious Park 29/3.
153. **Prairie Warbler\*** *Dendroica discolor* (Prärieskogssångare)  
Common; seen and/or heard eight of the days.
154. **Palm Warbler\*** *Dendroica palmarum* (Brunhättad skogssångare)  
Very common; seen nine of the days. Especially common on Dry Tortugas where they were feeding on the ground like pipits.
155. **Pine Warbler\*** *Dendroica pinus* (Tallskogssångare)  
Common breeder in Long Pine Key Picnic Area 25/3 and 27/3, at Corkscrew 31/3 and at Three Lakes 1/4 and 2/4.
156. **Prothonotary Warbler\*** *Protonotaria citrea* (Gyllenskogssångare)  
1 at Dry Tortugas 28/3.
157. **Black-and-white Warbler\*** *Mniotilta varia* (Svartvit skogssångare)  
2 at Flamingo 26/3, 1 at Mahogany Hammock 27/3, 2 on Dry Tortugas 28/3, 1 at Carysfort Circle 29/3 and 2 at Corkscrew 31/3.
158. **American Redstart\*** *Setophaga ruticilla* (Rödstjärtad skogssångare)  
1 female at Flamingo 26/3 and 1 male on Dry Tortugas 28/3. What a beauty!!!
159. **Ovenbird\*** *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Rödkronad piplärksångare)  
1 at Greenway Bike Trail 25/3 and 26/3, 1 at Castellow Hammock 27/3, 1 on Dry Tortugas 28/3 and 1 at Bahia Honda State Park 29/3.
160. **Northern Waterthrush\*** *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Nordlig piplärksångare)  
1 at J.N. "Ding" Darling 31/3.
161. **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (Gulhake)  
Seen in small numbers nine of the days.
162. **Hooded Warbler\*** *Wilsonia citrina* (Kapuschongskogssångare)  
2-3 on Dry Tortugas 28/3. What a beauty!!!
163. **Summer Tanager\*** *Piranga rubra* (Sommartangara)  
1 at Flamingo 26/3.
164. **Northern Cardinal\*** *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Röd kardinal)  
Common; seen eight of the days.
165. **Indigo Bunting\*** *Passerina cyanea* (Indigofink)  
1 female on Dry Tortugas 28/3.
166. **Painted Bunting\*** *Passerina ciris* (Påvefink)  
1 male at Greenway Bike Trail 25/3 and 2 females at Greenway Bike Trail 26/3.
167. **Eastern Towhee\*** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Brunsidig busksparv)  
1 at Research Road 25/3 and 1 at Long Pine Key Picnic Area 27/3.

168. **Bachman's Sparrow\*** *Aimophila aestivalis* (Bachmansparv)  
1 at Three Lakes 1/4.
169. **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* (Tjippsparv)  
5 at Three Lakes 1/4.
170. **“Cape Sable” Seaside Sparrow\*** *Ammodramus maritimus* (Kustsparv)  
1 between Mahogany Hammock and Paurotis Pond 27/3.
171. **Eastern Meadowlark\*** *Sturnella magna* (Östlig ängstrupial)  
Common in suitable habitat; seen five of the days.
172. **Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* (Brunhuvad kostare)  
2 at Three Lakes 1/4.
173. **Shiny Cowbird\*** *Molothrus bonariensis*  
1 at Castellow Hammock 27/3.
174. **Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Rödvingetrupial)  
Very common; seen every day.
175. **Common Grackle\*** *Quiscalus quiscula* (Mindre båtstjärt)  
Very common; seen every day.
176. **Boat-tailed Grackle\*** *Quiscalus major* (Större båtstjärt)  
Very common; seen every day.
177. **Spot-breasted Oriole\*** *Icterus pectoralis* (Fläckbröstad trupial)  
1 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.
178. **American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis* (Guldsiska)  
~150 at Eco Pond 26/3.
179. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (Gråsparv)  
Seen six of the days.

[**Mitred Parakeet** *Aratinga mitrata*]  
~45 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.

[**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* Brun majna]  
Common in Florida City.

[**Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa* Beostare]  
2 at Baptist Hospital 27/3.

[**Whooping Crane** *Grus americana* Trumpetartrana]  
2 at Double C. Ranch, Road 523, 1/4.



Black Vultures and an Alligator, Paurotis Pond, 050327

For any questions write to: tu@skolor.osby.se