

Birding Florida

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Florida, USA, April 2nd - 11th 2004

Front cover

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*, Dry Tortugas National Park 10.4 2004.

Participants

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Highlights

First full day we birded Merrit Island with loads of waterbirds and great wildlife drives: Least Bittern, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Sora Rail, Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers and best of all the endemic Florida Scrub Jay. Next day we birded the pine forest at Three Lakes with rare Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. At Joe Overstreet Road we found a Burrowing Owl. At Sanibel Island on the west coast we encountered the first obvious waves of migrant warblers with Ovenbirds, Worm-eating Warblers and Prothonotary Warblers. Next morning at Tigertail Beach we found a newly arrived Swainson's Warbler. One of the finest reserves we visited was Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary with an excellent boardwalk from where we had Black-whiskered Vireo in a wave of songbirds, Limpkin, Barred Owl and a venomous Water Moccasin. Further south we had a few Snail Kites at Tamiami Trail. At the Everglades we connected with the local subspecies of Seaside Sparrow, and White-crowned Pigeon. We went further south on US-1 down to the keys where Ohio Key produced three easily frightened Upland Sandpipers. Our main destination was Dry Tortugas National Park where we spent one night camping. Among rare migrants we found one male Shiny Cowbird, one Black-whiskered Vireo and one Chuck-will's-widow. Other stragglers to the islands were a Red-footed Booby in the colony of Frigatebirds on Long Key and two Black Noddy. Back at Key West we found Grey Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on high wires. The last morning was spent at A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park in Miami where we added Black-throated Blue and Cape May Warblers to the trip list.

General information

Our objective for this trip was to visit some of the prime birding-sites of south and central Florida. With the main focus on shorebirds and warblers as well as some local specialities. We also tried to observe the potential North American vagrants to Europe with extra care. Many of the sites proved excellent for photographing birds as the birds were more or less used to people. This also gave great opportunities to study otherwise difficult birds to identify, like the smaller *calidris*-sandpipers. The trip became one day shorter than planned due to a cancelled flight from Sweden, and we had to stay over night in Paris before we could continue to Orlando via Atlanta. We tried to spend as much of the daytime as possible birding and used the time before dawn and after dusk for inevitable transports. It was easy to find accommodation (that's why we don't include any closer information about accommodation) at motels across the state, rates varied from 50 to 75 USD for three persons. We hope that this report will give you some additional information and inspiration about birding in southern Florida.

Literature & CD

- * The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America, DA Sibley (2003)
- * A Birder's Guide to Florida, B Pranty (1996)
- * Several trip-reports from internet: Daniel Bengtsson (1999), Annika Forssten (1989), Marcus and Zoe Ward (2003)
- * Birdsongs of Florida, G Keller (CD) (1997)

Itinerary

- 2.4: Arrival late afternoon at Orlando. Evening at East Lake Tohopekaliga. Drive to Titusville
- 3.4: Merrit Island NWR (MINWR)
- 4.4: Three Lakes WMA (TLWMA)
Joe Overstreet Road
Avon Park
Myakka River State Park
Ackerman Park, E Sarasota
- 5.4: Sanibel Island ("Ding" Darling (DD) NWR, Bailey Tract, Lighthouse Park)
Fort Meyer's Beach (FMB)
- 6.4: Tigertail Beach
Briggs Nature Center
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (CSS)
Tamiami Trail
- 7.4: Castellow Hammock Park
Homestead
Everglades NP (ENP)
- 8.4: Everglades NP
Ohio Key
Bahia Honda State Park
Sugarloaf Key
- 9.4: Morning ferry from Key West to Dry Tortugas NP (DTNP)
- 10.4: Dry Tortugas NP
Key West – Fort Zachary Taylor Park
- 11.4: A.D. Doug Barnes Park
Matheson Hammock County Park
Mid-day flight from Miami to Sweden via Paris.



Sooty Terns *Onychoprion fuscatus fuscatus* on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas National Park.

Map of Southern Florida



Some of our main destinations pointed out.

A few site comments

East Lake Tohopekaliga

This site is located quite near to Orlando International Airport, that's why we tried it out. We didn't see anything unexpected. We searched the reeds and shores close to Kaliga Park. The wind was strong and made birding a bit difficult.

Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge

This turned out to be the most bird-rich place on the whole trip. Amazing amounts of wetland-birds. Besides the well-known Black Point Wildlife Drive which off course was a true enjoyment, we tried a couple of other sites. At Scrub Ridge Trail we only had to walk a few hundred yards before a pair of Florida Scrub Jays gave up. Later on the season when the warblers are peaking the area around the park HQ (At HQ ask for a free map over the area) and the Oak and Palm Hammock Trails would probably be excellent. The highest numbers of *calidris*-sandpipers were found south of the main road (#406) before the turn off to park HQ (road 402) (this is where we saw the Marbled Godwits). We found the rails at dusk along the BPWD close to the watching

tower at Cruickshank trail.

The best drive turned out to be a newly opened drive called Peacocks Pocket Road (the entrance is a few hundred yards east of the HQ, and the exit close to the 402-406 crossing). This drive gave great numbers of shorebirds, wading-birds, raptors, ducks and terns. Don't forget to scan the Indian River for wintering diving ducks. And if you have the time try to visit the Manatee Observation Deck at Haulover Canal (just follow the signs from 406).

Best birds seen: Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Clapper Rail, King Rail, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer, Chuck-Will's-Widow (4 heard), Florida Scrub Jay.

Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

The good birds (Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow) are all possible to find along the main dirt road from the park entrance at the camping site and approximately 3 miles southward. There supposed to be some Whooping Cranes in the south-western parts of the park. However that parts of the park were closed when we were there.

Best birds seen: Common Ground-Dove, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Pine Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird.

Joe Overstreet Road

Easy birding along the road. The Burrowing Owl was on the field south of the road just west of the Sailor Hammock sign. Nothing special at the large Lake Kissimmee.

Best birds seen: Northern Crested Caracara, Northern Harrier, Chimney Swift, Burrowing Owl.

Avon Park Air Force Range

Unfortunately, most of the park where closed, so suggestion number one for this area: call ahead! We did see three Crested Caracaras at the check point and on a short trail 500 yards before the check point on the north side of the road by a deserted house we had a few landbird migrants. Avon Park seems to be the only reliable area for 'Florida' Grasshopper Sparrow.

Best birds seen: Crested Caracara 3.

Myakka River State Park

We spent only an hour or two in this relatively birdless park. It was windy and in the middle of the day though.

Ackerman Park, East of Sarasota

This should be the site for the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. We didn't got lucky with it though. The vegetation around what seemed to be an overgrown old dumping site looked interesting for land-birds. We had quite many Palm Warblers in this area.

Best birds seen: Northern Bobwhite (1 heard just north of the park), Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Sanibel Island

Great site with plenty of shorebirds and warblers. At the "Ding" Darling NWR we tried parts of the Indigo trail which was slow and difficult to bird, the wildlife drive which was excellent with crowds of wading-birds and shorebirds, and finally the Shell Mound Trail which was quite productive. The Bailey Tract was easy to bird and well worthy a short visit. The Lighthouse Park should be the best place to see warblers according to a Ranger we met. Even though we didn't went until the middle of the day this park was excellent. Try to find the trails between the Lighthouse and the different parking lots.

Best birds seen: Great Northern Loon, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Baltimore Oriole.

Fort Meyers Beach

Just make sure that if you go here on the morning you won't have to walk the long way out to the beach (the sun will be in your back, if you're watching from the "hotel-side". We went here in the evening which meant we had to watch the lagoon from the "beach-side", which meant quite a walk. Only a few shorebirds frequent the actual beach, most of the birds are in the lagoon. The shorebirds are very approachable and used to people. Don't miss this one!

Best birds seen: Magnificent Frigatebird, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover, American Oystercatcher (2 in the lagoon), American Avocet, Forster's Tern.

Tigertail Beach

We found this site surprisingly good. At the parking lot close to the resort there is a small forest where we by chance found a Swainson's and a Hooded Warbler. On the beach we turned right and walked north a couple of hundred meters. In the morning-light we got great views of high numbers of shorebirds. Tigertail Beach held even more birds than Fort Meyers Beach.

Best birds seen: Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Magnificent Frigatebird, Black Skimmer, Swainson's Warbler.

Briggs Nature Center

They no longer feed the birds at Briggs (at least not in April) so there was no sign of any Shiny Cowbirds. The trail that goes from Nature Center was not worth going. The Florida Scrub Jays at this area are locally introduced according to a report found on the net.

Best birds seen: Downy Woodpecker.



Northern Barred Owl *Strix varia georgica*,
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 6.4.



Bachman's Sparrow *Peuaea aestivalis aestivalis*,
Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area 4.4.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

The most exciting forest-area we visited. An extremely well-managed park, with extensive board-walks that takes you into wet areas otherwise inaccessible. Beautiful nature scenery along the boardwalk. One set of feeders is just outside the HQ and another set is on your left hand side after a few hundred yards along the main boardwalk. Ask at HQ. At one point we found a great party of warblers. Limpkin was surprisingly easy to find. Also good views of the Barred Owl.

Best birds seen: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Merlin, Limpkin, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Black-whiskered Vireo, Pine Warbler, American Redstart, Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting (1 elusive bird frequenting feeders at both sites), American Goldfinch (1 at the HQ-feeder)

Tamiami Trail

The spot for the Snail Kites is at the very large sign (AIRBOAT TOURS, impossible to miss) for an (disused) Airboat stand on the north side of TT (US 41). We easily found at least four birds, even though we arrived late in the evening.

Castellow Hammock Park

Most of the birds were found around the park centre, the short trail going into the hammock we found quite birdless. Check the feeders for Painted and Indigo Buntings. This was the only place where we saw White-winged Dove. At least three Painted Buntings (1 male and 2 female/1st year-males) frequented the feeders. Apparently a few Western Kingbirds had been wintering along the power lines north of the hammock, and a Grey Kingbird was seen a few days ago half a mile south of the park.

Everglades National Park

After been visiting such prime birding sites as Merrit Island, Sanibel Island and Corkscrew we actually felt a little disappointed with The Everglades. Although many good birds were seen. But there wasn't any huge numbers of anything. The Gumbo Limbo Trail was ok (e.g. Black-throated Green Warbler). At the small canal/lake at the end of the trail, is where we had the Louisiana Waterthrush. Since we already had seen most of the wading-birds we actually didn't visit the over-crowded Anhinga Trail. We tested both Bear Lake Trail (e.g. Magnolia Warbler) and Snake Bight Trail (e.g. Louisiana Waterthrush). Both trails difficult to bird with slow activity, both good for White-crowned Pigeon though. The boardwalk at Mahogany Hammock (e.g. Magnolia Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo) was well-managed and well worthy a visit. Eco Pond and the scrubby area around it, was probably the best birding in Everglades in our opinion. We had Purple Gallinule, Gull-billed Tern, House Wren, Painted Bunting (2 birds), Indigo Bunting (3 birds). There seems to be good opportunities to watch raptors from here, even though we didn't see anything unusual.

We had at least three 'Cape Sable' Seaside Sparrows at the site near the turn off to Mahogany Hammock along the main road, described in Pranty, even though we went there at noon. There is a small "beach" on the backside of the Flamingo Lodge that probably could hold some shorebirds, we had Least and Spotted Sandpipers here.

Just after sunset we went from Flamingo north by car in good hopes of finding some calling owls or nightjars. Somewhere between the take-off to Bear Lake Trail and Snake Bight Trail, suddenly, a Florida Panther briefly stood close to the road, running into the forest as the headlights of our car frightened it. Two seconds of true magic...

Ohio Key

Great site for shorebirds in the Lower Keys. The area is opened for public and you don't have to ask at the camping site on the other side of the road (as told in Pranty). At high tide many shorebirds is feeding in the big lagoon in the middle of the key. We found a big flock of shorebirds feeding on the eastern shores of the island.

Best birds seen: Cooper's/Sharp-shinned Hawk (soaring at distance), Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper (2 + 1 very shy birds).

Florida Keys in general

There are probably many more good sites for shorebirds along the way, we had good counts at Bahia Honda State Park for example. Also good for raptors (Short-tailed, Broad-winged and even Swainson's Hawks were reported on the Key West Hotline). Check the wires along the US-1, we had three Grey Kingbirds and two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (close to the eastern city limit of Key West). Also warblers can be good (especially when weather is bad, according to a birder we met at Dry Tortugas). At the Fort Zachary Taylor State Historical Site, Key West (see Pranty) we had at least five Roseate Terns off-shore together with many other terns (Cabot's and Least).

Dry Tortugas National Park

We went with the Yankee Freedom II. It was great to spend a night on the island (we had to bring all food, water and camping gear). The trip cost 150 USD/person. We booked via internet a couple of weeks in advance, which probably can be necessary at certain times. Obviously this site doesn't need any more introduction, it's an exciting place to say the least. One the week

before our arrival a Golden-winged Warbler had been seen.

Best birds seen: Brown Booby (en route, including one bird perched on a pole close to Fort Jefferson), Masked Booby (Hospital Key), Northern Gannet (en route), Red-footed Booby (on the 9th, in the colony on Long Key together with the Frigatebirds), Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sora, Whimbrel, American Golden Plover (a distance flock of 10 birds on Long Key), Black Noddy 1 2cy-year bird (two birds were seen, apparently, together with Brown Noddy on poles on the north-east side of the island), Chuck-Will's-Widow, Common Nighthawk, Cave Swallow, Black-whiskered Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Ovenbird, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Shiny Cowbird (1 male at Fort Jefferson the 10th, one female was seen the week before our arrival and another female was seen by other birders on the Loggerhead Key on 10th, according to other birders we met there were only 5 previous records on Dry Tortugas).

A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park

Quite nice birding close to Miami International Airport. On three morning hours we got Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Matheson Hammock County Park

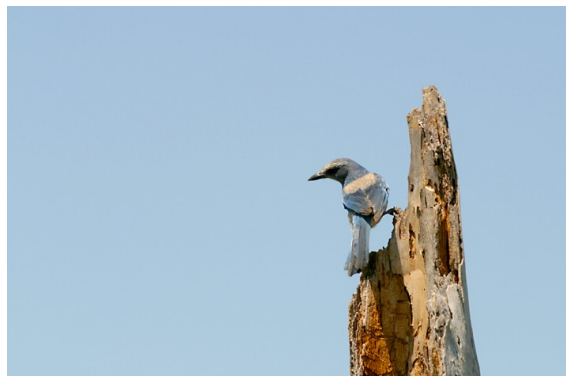
We searched the picnic area, nothing worth mentioning besides three soaring Chimney Swifts.

Mangrove Cuckoo

We tried at "Ding" Darling, at different sites in the Everglades and at the Sugarloaf Key in the Lower Keys. The Mangrove Cuckoo seems to be really hard to get. A birder we met at Dry Tortugas saw one at Key West Botanical Gardens on the 8th. At "Ding" Darling there was one report a week before our arrival. May good luck be with you!



Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis exilis, Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge 3.4.



Florida Scrub Jay Aphelocoma coerulescens, Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge, Scrub Ridge Trail 3.4.



Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus griseus, Sanibel Island 5.4



Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla, Fort Meyers Beach 5.4.

List of birds: Florida, April 2nd - 11th 2004

Following IOC World Bird List 3.3 (January 2013) (www.worldbirdnames.org). In total: 185 species (3 species on the IUCN Red List). Subspecies notations are foremost literature-based.

1. Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus floridanus*
1 heard close to Ackerman Park

2. Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo osceola*
A few in the Lake Kissimmee area

3. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*
1 male at Ackerman Park

4. Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula fulvigula*

5. Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*
e.g. 2000 MINWR, 8 at Ohio Key

6. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
10 at MINWR

7. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
1 male at Peacocks Pocket Road, MINWR

8. Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
Only seen at MINWR

9. Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
1 pair at MINWR

10. Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*
30 at MINWR

11. Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Many at Sanibel Island

12. Great Northern Loon *Gavia immer*
1 at the bridge to Sanibel Island

13. Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*

14. Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*
1 at MINWR, 4 at CSS

15. American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

16. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Easy at MINWR

17. Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*
Easy at MINWR and "Ding" Darling, 1 at Mrazek Pond, ENP

18. Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis exilis*
1 male at BPWD, MINWR

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- 19. Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*
Recorded at MINWR, "Ding" Darling, CSS
- 20. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*
Recorded at "Ding" Darling, CSS, ENP, DTNP
- 21. Green Heron** *Butorides virescens virescens*
- 22. Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
- 23. Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias occidentalis*
"White phase" observed at ENP, Ohio Key and DTNP
- 24. Great Egret** *Ardea alba egretta*
- 25. Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens rufescens*
"White phase" observed at FMB
- 26. Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*
- 27. Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*
"White phase" observed at "Ding" Darling
- 28. Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula thula*
- 29. American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*
- 30. Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*
- 31. Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*
1 male at FMB, 1 Tigertail Beach, 100 pairs are said to nest at DTNP, a few seen on the Keys
- 32. Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*
3 Key-West-DTNP boat-trip
- 33. Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra dactylatra*
40 at Hospital Key, DTNP
- 34. Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula sula*
1 subad in the colony of Frigatebirds at DTNP
- 35. Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster leucogaster*
4 Key West-DTNP boat-trip, 1 subad roosting DTNP
- 36. Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*
- 37. Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga leucogaster*
- 38. Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*
- 39. Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*
- 40. Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*
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- 41. Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus forficatus*
Only six birds seen during our trip, CSS, ENP
- 42. Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*
Four at Tamiami Trail
- 43. Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*
A few around Orlando and MINWR, 1 ad at Key West
- 44. Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*
5 females at MINWR, 1 male + 1 female Joe Overstreet Road
- 45. Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus extimus*
- 46. Northern Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*
2 at Joe Overstreet Road, 3 at Avon Park
- 47. American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius paulus*
- 48. Merlin** *Falco columbarius columbarius*
1 at MINWR, 1 female at CSS, 1 male at DTNP
- 49. Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus anatum*
1 at MINWR, 1 at Tigertail Beach, 1 at DTNP
- 50. Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris saturatus*
5 at Black Point Wildlife Drive
- 51. King Rail** *Rallus elegans elegans*
1 heard at Black Point Wildlife Drive
- 52. Sora** *Porzana carolina*
15 at MINWR, 1 at DTNP
- 53. Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus*
1 at Eco Pond
- 54. Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata cachinnans*
- 55. American Coot** *Fulica americana americana*
e.g. 8000 at MINWR
- 56. Sandhill Crane** *Grus canadensis pratensis*
A few in the Lake Kissimmee area and around central Florida (Orlando area)
- 57. Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna pictus*
8 at CSS
- 58. American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus palliatus*
2 at FMB
- 59. Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*
- 60. American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*
30 at MINWR, 20 at FMB

- 61. American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*
10 at DTNP
- 62. Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
- 63. Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*
- 64. Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia*
20 at FMB, 40 at Tigertail Beach, 1 at Ohio Key
- 65. Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus vociferus*
Easy at MINWR
- 66. Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus melodus*
2 at FMB, 40 at Tigertail Beach, 3 at Ohio Key, 2 at Bahia Honda
- 67. Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus nivosus*
10 at Tigertail Beach
- 68. Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*
1 at East Lake Tohopekaliga, 5 at MINWR, 1 in the woods on the Shell Mound Trail, "Ding" Darling
- 69. Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus griseus*
e.g. 300 at MINWR, 150 at "Ding" Darling, 300 at Tigertail Beach, 150 at Ohio Key, 80 at Sugarloaf Key
- 70. Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
At least 3 at MINWR.
- 71. Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa fedoa*
3 at MINWR
- 72. Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*
1 at Tigertail Beach, 6 at DTNP
- 73. Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*
2+1 at Ohio Key
- 74. Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*
e.g. 200 at MINWR
- 75. Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*
e.g. 200 at MINWR
- 76. Willet** *Tringa semipalmata semipalmata*
e.g. 180 at "Ding" Darling, 20 at FMB
- 77. Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*
1 at a small key before Sanibel Island, 1 at Flamingo, ENP
- 78. Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
e.g. 50 at Sanibel Island+FMB, 100 at Key West-DTNP area

79. Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

2 at Tigertail Beach

80. Sanderling *Calidris alba*

1 at MINWR, 20 at Sanibel Island, 100 at FMB, 1 at Ohio Key

81. Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

1 at MINWR, 1 at "Ding" Darling, 3 at FMB, 1 Tigertail Beach, 3 at Ohio Key, 2 at Bahia Honda

82. Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

5 at MINWR, 20 "Ding" Darling, 400 at FMB, 400 at Tigertail Beach, 5 at Ohio Key, 30 at Bahia Honda

83. Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

700 at MINWR, 750 at "Ding" Darling, 750 at FMB, 300 at Tigertail Beach, 50 at Flamingo, 250 at Ohio Key, 300 at Bahia Honda

84. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

50 at MINWR, 200 at FMB, 500 at Tigertail Beach, 50 at Bahia Honda

85. Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*

300 at MINWR

86. Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus stolidus*

2250 pairs are said to nest on Bush Key

87. Black Noddy *Anous minutus americanus*

1 2cy-bird DTNP

88. Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger niger*

130 at MINWR, 150 at FMB, 80 at Tigertail Beach, 50 at Key West

89. Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla megalopterus*

e.g. 1000 at MINWR

90. Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis***91. American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*

e.g. 100 at FMB, 25 at DTNP

92. Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*

2 at Eco Pond

93. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

e.g. 10 at MINWR, 4 at West Lake Pond, ENP

94. Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus maximus***95. Cabot's Tern** *Thalasseus acutiflavus acutiflavus***96. Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum antillarum***97. Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus fuscatus*

45000 pairs are said to nest on Bush Key

- 98. Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii dougallii*
5 at Fort Zachary Taylor, Key West
- 99. Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*
10 at MINWR, 1 at Ackerman Park, 2 at FMB
- 100. Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
- 101. White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala*
Quite easy at Bear Lake Trail and Snake Bight Trail, also seen at Eco Pond
- 102. Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
- 103. Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura carolinensis*
- 104. White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica asiatica*
5 at Castellow Hammock Park
- 105. Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina passerina*
e.g. 2 at TLWMA, 6 at Briggs Nature Center
- 106. Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*
20 at DTNP, 1 at Matheson Hammock
- 107. Northern Barred Owl** *Strix varia georgica*
At least 1 at CSS and 1 heard at Mahogany Hammock, ENP
- 108. Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia floridana*
1 at Joe Overstreet Road (see Pranty)
- 109. Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*
1 at DTNP
- 110. Chuck-will's-widow** *Antrostomus carolinensis*
3 heard at MINWR, 1 seen at DTNP
- 111. Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*
1 at Joe Overstreet Road, 3 at Matheson Hammock
9190 Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*
1 at Castellow Hammock
- 112. Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*
- 113. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*
1 at Shell Mound Trail, "Ding" Darling
- 114. Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*
- 115. Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens pubescens*
1 at Briggs Nature Center, 1 at CSS
- 116. Red-cockaded Woodpecker** *Picoides borealis* VU
5 at TLWMA
- 117. Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus auratus*

Most easily seen in central Florida, e.g. MINWR

118. Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus pileatus*
Seen at TLWMA, Myakka River, CSS, Sanibel Island

119. Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens*
1 at TLWMA

120. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*
2 at Key West (on US 1)

121. Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*

123. Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis*
1 at Marathon Key (on US 1), 1 at Key West, 1 at Sugarloaf Key

124. Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

125. Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

126. White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus maynardi*
Most widespread and numerous vireo

127. Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

128. Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus olivaceus*
2 at Mahogany Hammock, ENP, 2 at DTNP

129. Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus barbatulus*
1 at Corkscrew, 1 at DTNP

130. Blue Jay *Cyanositta cristata semplei*

131. Florida Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens* **VU**
2 at Scrub Ridge Trail, MINWR, 1 at Briggs Nature Center

132. American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos pascuus*

133. Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus*

134. Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*
5 at CSS

135. Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

136. Purple Martin *Progne subis subis*

137. Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis serripennis*
2 at Ackerman Park, 2 at DTNP

138. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*

139. Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva cavicola*
100 at Homestead (see Pranty), 1 at DTNP

- 140. Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus miamensis*
Many heard only a few seen
- 141. House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon aedon*
1 at Eco Pond
- 142. Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*
1 at BPWD, 1 at park HQ, MINWR, 5 at CSS
- 143. Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla pusilla*
5 at TLWMA
- 144. Grey Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*
- 145. Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*
- 146. Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
- 147. Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis grata*
10 at TLWMA, 10 en route central Florida
- 148. House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
- 149. American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis tristis*
1 male at CSS
- 150. Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*
2 at Shell Mound Trail, 1 at Lighthouse Park, 1 at CSS, 1 at Snake Bight, 2 at DTNP
- 151. Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*
2 at Lighthouse Park, 2 at DTNP
- 152. Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla*
1 at Snake Bight Trail, 1 at Gumbo Limbo, ENP
- 153. Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*
1 at MINWR, 1 at Lighthouse Park, 6 at CSS, 10 at ENP, 1 at DTNP
- 154. Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*
1 at Indigo Trail, DD, 3 at Lighthouse Park, 4 at DTNP
- 155. Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii*
1 at Tigertail Beach Resort
- 156. Tennessee Warbler** *Leiothlypis peregrina*
4-5 at DTNP
- 157. Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*
- 158. Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*
13 at Sanibel Island, 30 at DTNP
- 159. American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*
1 male at CSS, 2 females at Gumbo Limbo, ENP, 2 males at DTNP, 1 male at A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park

- 160. Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*
1 male at A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park
- 161. Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*
- 162. Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*
1 at Bear Lake Trail, ENP, 1 at Mahogany Hammock, ENP
- 163. Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*
1 male at A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park
- 164. Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*
Most numerous warbler
- 165. Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus florida*
Seen at TLWMA and CSS
- 166. Myrtle Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*
5 at DTNP
- 167. Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*
5 at DTNP
- 168. Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor*
Widespread
- 169. Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*
1 female Gumbo Limbo, ENP
- 170. Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius spurius*
4 at DTNP
- 171. Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*
1 male at Bailey Tract
- 172. Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis minimus*
1 male DTNP
- 173. Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater ater*
Seen at TLWMA and Flamingo
- 174. Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*
- 175. Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*
- 176. Boat-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus major westoni*
- 177. Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*
- 178. Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*
- 179. Seaside Sparrow** *Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*
3 close to Mahogany Hammock turn-off, ENP (see Pranty).

180. Bachman's Sparrow *Peueaea aestivalis aestivalis* NT

15 at TLWMA

181. Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni*

182. Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra rubra*

1 at Corkscrew, 1 at DTNP

183. Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus*

184. Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

2 males + 1 female at Eco Pond, 1 male at DTNP

185. Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris ciris*

1 male at CSS, 1 male + 2 females at Castellow Hammock Park, 1 male + 1 female at Eco Pond

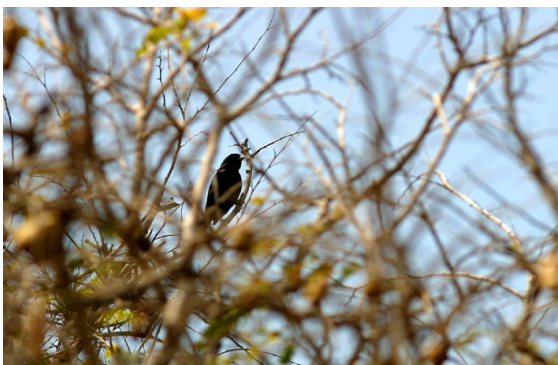
Additional record shots



Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*, Dry Tortugas National Park 9.4.



Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Dry Tortugas National Park 9.4



Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis minimus*, male at Dry Tortugas National Park 10.4.



White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala*, Everglades National Park 8.4.



Prairie Warbler Setophaga discolor, Dry Tortugas National Park 10.4



Red-cockaded Woodpecker Picoides borealis, in pine forest at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area 4.4.

Additional trip-shots



Florida Manatee Trichechus manatus latirostris, at the Manatee Observation Deck, Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge 3.4.



Along the wildlife drive in "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island 5.4.



Scanning for shorebirds at Fort Meyers Beach 5.4.



Migrant trap, Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas National Park 9-10.4.