

Florida

Naturetrek Tour Report

4th – 13th February 2026



Black Skimmer



Osprey



Green Heron



Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Tour report by Matthew Capper



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Summary

Once again, the Sunshine State delivered, although the first couple of days had us questioning the Trade Descriptions Act! Thankfully, as the weather warmed, everything fell perfectly into place, and we enjoyed a truly fabulous trip. Each day brought multiple highlights, with wildlife spectacles that were, at times, overwhelming.

The trip was designed to showcase the full diversity of Florida's habitats, from wetlands and swamps, to prairies, coastal lagoons, scrub, and woodland edges. The bird list reflected this variety perfectly, capturing the richness of every landscape we explored.

Highlights were abundant, ranging from impressive gatherings of waders and wildfowl, to iconic Floridian specialities such as Snail Kite, Reddish Egret, Florida Scrub Jay, Limpkin and Crested Caracara. Add to that an array of herons and egrets, countless Bald Eagles, dolphins leaping clear of the water, and close encounters with West Indian Manatee and Northern Raccoon, and it made for an unforgettable wildlife experience.

Day 1

Wednesday 4th February

Arrival in Florida – Kennedy Point Park, Titusville

With flights from the UK arriving slightly earlier than in previous years, Matthew and Toby were ready and waiting with the vehicles, and whisked everyone off to the hotel for a swift check-in. This efficiency left us with just enough time to head up the road to Kennedy Point Park for an hour before dusk.

The first full day of a tour can often feel a little overwhelming, so this gentle introduction was ideal. We acquainted ourselves with semi-familiar species such as Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls, both species of grackle, and some of Florida's more impressive birds, including Brown Pelican, Black Skimmer and Great Blue Heron. Out on the Indian River Lagoon, Lesser and Greater Scaups were present, and the group was delighted to watch an Osprey dive and emerge successfully with its fish supper.

Our timing for the Artemis rocket launch was slightly early, but it was still awe-inspiring to see the rocket on the launch pad, knowing exactly where it would soon be heading.

Back at the hotel, Matthew delivered an introductory briefing, before those feeling peckish headed out to a local ten-pin bowling alley for dinner. Recommended by the hotel receptionist, it turned out to be a fun and authentic introduction to American food and entertainment.

Day 2

Thursday 5th February

Titusville – Merritt Island NWR

Cold weather had gripped much of the USA during the preceding week, with heavy snowfall and freezing conditions along the east coast. Unfortunately, we were not immune this far south, and today required jumpers,

raincoats, and even the odd woolly hat: decidedly un-Floridian! Undeterred, we piled into the vehicles and made our first stop at a Publix supermarket to stock up on lunch. Ospreys seemed to line the route, providing constant distraction.

We arrived at Parrish Park on the causeway, and immediately picked up some Bottlenose Dolphins. Over the course of the next half hour, we were treated to extensive views as they, and a large flock of Double-crested Cormorants and Brown Pelicans, enjoyed a feeding frenzy on the unfortunate fish.

There were many scaups out on the water, a Great Northern Diver (or Common Loon as it is locally known) and plenty of gulls and terns. Along the shore were Willet, Sanderling and Turnstone, and we found a dead Horseshoe Crab.



Wood Stork



Chuck-will's-widow

Our usual stop for Nine-banded Armadillo and Florida Scrub Jay was closed due to the Artemis launch, so we explored nearby roads instead. We were rewarded with excellent views of several scrub jays at two locations, though the armadillo proved elusive: our only sighting of the trip remaining a brief roadside view on day one.

At the Haulover Canal, we stopped to admire a female Great Horned Owl sitting on a nest that she and her mate had commandeered from Bald Eagles. At first, only her ear tufts were visible, but she gradually stood upright, revealing her deep amber eyes and beautifully cryptic plumage.

A short drive later, we were watching an actual Bald Eagle nest complete with two young chicks. Rain had begun to fall, but did nothing to dampen spirits. At the visitor centre, even the walk to the toilets was interrupted by Painted Buntings on the feeders: nearly ten of them offered superb views. Also present were grackles, Mourning Doves, a pair of Northern Cardinals and a Common Ground Dove which lingered obligingly.

Lunch was taken back across the causeway at Sand Point Park: it was a perfectly-timed decision, as heavy rain battered the shelter for twenty minutes. Even so, Lesser Scaup and a couple of dolphins were visible close offshore.

The afternoon was spent on the Black Point Wildlife Drive, where the sun finally broke through and temperatures lifted slightly. Near the entrance, a large feeding flock included egrets, Glossy Ibis, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, and our first Reddish Egret. Waders included Least Sandpiper, Killdeer, Long-billed Dowitcher, both species of yellowlegs, and Wilson's Snipe.

Driving slowly and stopping frequently paid dividends. Reddish Egrets were comparatively numerous, White Pelicans circled overhead, and ducks were plentiful, with the most noteworthy, Hooded Mergansers, appearing near the end. Tightly packed groups of American Coots contrasted with more dispersed Pied-billed Grebes. A Black Skimmer skimming low across the water was a real highlight, while Caspian and Forster's Terns, and cruising Northern Harriers completed a superb afternoon.

A final wader stop added Grey Plover, Dunlin and Stilt Sandpiper to the species we had seen earlier. With Merritt Island only a short drive from the hotel, we returned in good time for dinner and reflected on a thoroughly rewarding first full day.

Day 3

Friday 6th February

Kissimmee – Joe Overstreet Landing and Three Lakes WMA

The day began with scraping ice from the windscreens: surely we had left the British weather behind? Thankfully, the sun was out and although the wind remained chilly, it warmed steadily, and from this point on, conditions became far more Floridian.

After collecting lunch in St Cloud, we began scanning for Crested Caracara and Wild Turkeys, quickly finding a flock of the latter. Pulling over, we noticed several Bald Eagles in the distance and investigated further, discovering a small lake where the cold weather had caused a major fish die-off. The shoreline was lined with vultures and Bald Eagles, with at least thirty birds of varying ages and plumages visible. It was an extraordinary spectacle, enhanced further when a male Northern Harrier drifted across the scene.

Moving on, we encountered more Turkeys, and large gatherings of Sandhill Cranes. A brief stop at a ranch entrance resulted in a less than polite request to move on, delivered from a pick-up truck proudly bearing the word "redneck" on the back!

At Joe Overstreet Landing, we soon found Eastern Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warblers, Northern Mockingbirds, Northern Cardinals, Northern House Wren, Prairie Warblers and more Bald Eagles overhead. Scope views of American Kestrel were enjoyed, and we were pleased to find both Bryant's Fox Squirrel and Red-headed Woodpecker. A slow drive to the end of the track produced Loggerhead Shrikes, American Kestrels, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and an unexpected American (Buff-bellied) Pipit, a first for us at this site.

Scanning near the lake revealed another Bald Eagle nest, close singing Eastern Meadowlarks and our best view of Snail Kite, which had unusually wandered away from the lakeshore. Lunch at the boat ramp allowed us time to relax, while views included a second Snail Kite, Limpkins, Savannah Sparrows in the car park, and tail-flicking Palm Warblers.

Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area proved quieter than usual, possibly due to the wind, yielding only Red-bellied Woodpecker, Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warblers and a Cooper's Hawk. There was no Brown-headed Nuthatch today, sadly. Cutting our losses, we headed south and were rewarded with excellent roadside views of Crested Caracara.

Despite rush-hour traffic, we reached the hotel in good time for an Italian dinner, where we reflected on the day. With over forty seen, it had undoubtedly been a "Bald Eagle day," reinforcing Florida's reputation as second only to Alaska for Bald Eagle density.

Day 4

Saturday 7th February

Boynton Beach – Green Cay, Loxahatchee and Boynton Beach Inlet

Saturday traffic was light as we drove through Boynton Beach to Green Cay Wetlands. As ever, the site didn't disappoint, with birding beginning in earnest before we had even reached the boardwalk.

Once on site, we enjoyed superb close-range views of wetland birds. Green Herons lurked beneath the boardwalk, Mottled Ducks swam nearby and Common Yellowthroats skulked in the dense aquatic vegetation. The recent cold weather had affected more than just the birds: iguanas had been falling from trees, and while we enjoyed excellent views of several, we also heard the unmistakable thuds of a couple hitting the ground. A Marsh Rabbit was close by and a wooded area produced several warblers.

Unseasonal weather had also displaced a few unexpected species. A Crested Caracara was seen sparring with a Northern Harrier, while a Black Skimmer (normally a coastal species) was very unusually present at this inland freshwater site.

One of our targets was a reported Chuck-will's-widow, though finding it turned into something of a saga. Conflicting advice and unhelpful directions led to much scanning and head-scratching, even prompting a return visit to the visitor centre. Eventually, Martin stayed put while the rest of us moved on, only for him to summon us back, this time to the correct spot. Looking in the right place made all the difference, and we finally enjoyed scope views, albeit with the bird partially obscured.

Lunch was taken at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. While Matthew sorted permits, everyone else abandoned food in favour of a lively warbler flock which included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula and Prairie Warbler. Post-lunch, we followed up a tip-off from fellow British birders and soon found their "nighthawk-type" bird. We were rewarded with excellent views and yes, after all the morning's effort, it had to be another Chuck-will's-widow, snoozing in the open.

Butterflies provided a colourful diversion, with Ruddy Daggerwing abundant, alongside Zebra and Julia Heliconians. After a few photos, we followed a dud tip off relating to some baby alligators. But never mind: instead we got a superb Magnolia Warbler and a Pileated Woodpecker on a telegraph pole.

Our final stop was Boynton Beach Inlet. Magnificent Frigatebirds failed to appear, perhaps due to the recent cold. However, Brown Pelicans, Sanderling, Willet and various gulls provided entertainment, including Ring-billed Gulls catching bread tossed into the air by a father and son. It had been another wonderful day, and we returned to the hotel for a cup of tea, a shower and dinner at a nearby steakhouse.

Day 5

Sunday 8th February

Boynton Beach to Fort Myers – Wakodahatchee Wetland, Paul Rardin Park, Alva and Lee County Manatee Park

Wakodahatchee Wetlands, though smaller than neighbouring Green Cay, is always productive. We were on the boardwalk early and were immediately immersed in wildlife, with a Black-and-white Warbler overhead, Green Iguana nearby, and Black-crowned Night Heron within a few feet. The Wood Stork colony was a big highlight, and additional treats included White-winged Doves, Roseate Spoonbill, a Sora and a couple of Brown Water Snakes.



Crested Caracaras



Glossy Ibis



Julia Heliconian



Lesser Scaup

After lunch shopping, we headed to Paul Rardin Park on the shores of Lake Okeechobee, chosen for its recent rarities. Everyone enjoyed excellent views of a stunning male Vermilion Flycatcher and a Tropical Kingbird, while the associated Western Kingbird proved more elusive. A walk along the embankment produced butterflies and close views of American Kestrel.

A brief stop at some garden feeders in Alva yielded superb views of Painted Buntings and Indigo Buntings in a range of plumages, along with three Red-bellied Woodpeckers. With time to spare, we added Lee County Manatee Park to the itinerary. The cold weather had drawn Manatees to the warm-water outflow, and around ten were visible, surfacing regularly beneath the viewing areas.

Super Bowl Sunday required some creative dinner planning, but the Dixie Fish Co. accommodated us all and proved to be an excellent choice.

Day 6

Monday 9th February

Fort Myers & Sanibel Island – Bowditch Point Park, Cape Coral, Six Mile Cypress Slew, JN Ding Darling NWR, Blind Pass Beach

An early pre-breakfast outing was thwarted when access to Bunche Beach was closed, but a quick change of plan led us to Bowditch Point Park instead. Dolphins breaching offshore en route felt like some compensation, and the early morning light illuminated pelicans, a Great Northern Diver, and mixed flocks of skimmers, gulls, Turnstones, and Willets.

After breakfast, we crossed to Cape Coral and immediately found a Burrowing Owl standing proudly outside its nest. It later flew to nearby bushes, continuing to pose obligingly. Closer inspection revealed all-black eyes. Investigation revealed that this is a localised genetic mutation, earning the bird the nickname “the Exorcist Owl.”

Lunch was collected before we headed to Six Mile Cypress Slough, where woodpeckers stole the show. Two Pileated Woodpeckers posed at the base of trees at remarkably close range, allowing phone footage. Even more impressive were five North American Otters, encountered just in time as they finished devouring fish and continued hunting beneath the boardwalk: this was Florida wildlife at its most ridiculously tame. The site also produced vireos, Wood Ducks, warblers, both species of night heron, and a popular Anhinga which caught and swallowed a cichlid fish in full view.

Sanibel Island had fully reopened following Hurricane Ian, and although some vacant lots remained, the island felt largely restored. At JN Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, we prioritised tidal pools before they flooded, enjoying mixed wader flocks including Willet, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin and Turnstone.

Walking the Indigo Trail, we were incredibly fortunate to find a Mangrove Cuckoo, an early arrival and a major bonus. Ensuring everyone got views made it the undisputed bird of the day. The day ended at Blind Pass Beach, where the sun sank into the Gulf of Mexico and everyone enjoyed some well-earned downtime.

Day 7

Tuesday 10th February

Fort Myers to Homestead – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Castellow Hammock Park

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was our morning destination, with Yellow-throated Warbler in the car park and Painted Buntings on the feeders setting the tone. Out on the boardwalk, an American Bittern stood directly beneath

us, a welcome sight after previous misses, and we had our best views of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Raccoons provided entertainment, including a pair climbing a palm tree in order to reach some berries, and youngsters feeding on freshwater mussels at our feet. Two Otters were found playing in the shallow water, courtesy of Peter's exploration ahead.

Warblers included Black-throated Green, Prairie and Northern Parula, alongside White-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos. On the walk back through the pines, Great Crested Flycatcher and the previously missed Brown-headed Nuthatch rounded off a productive morning.

After lunch, we attempted to relocate a Summer Tanager, without success, before crossing the Everglades on the Tamiami Trail. We stopped at Castellow Hammock Park on the other side, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds quickly appeared, including a fine adult male. White-winged Doves, Blue Jays and a superb Ovenbird followed, while our departure was delayed by a final warbler flock as we walked back to the vehicles.

Day 8

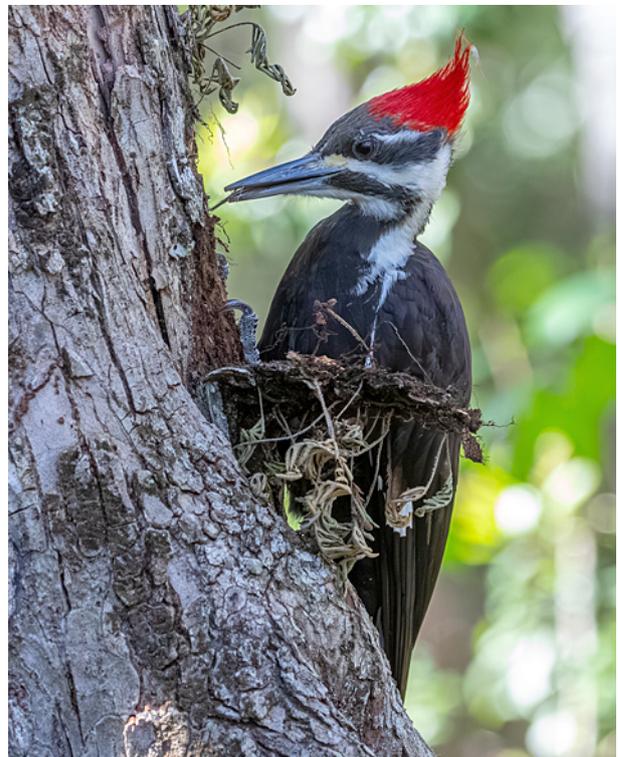
Wednesday 11th February

Homestead – Everglades National Park

Today was all about the Everglades, but we stopped en route by a canal, where our second Vermillion Flycatcher of the tour was feeding around the water control structures, and we immediately picked up a White-tailed Kite perched on the wires. There were plenty of birds around, including Savannah Sparrows close to the vehicles and lots of American Kestrels; some of the group found a Chipping Sparrow.



Burrowing Owl



Pileated Woodpecker

As the morning warmed, vultures started to appear in their droves and there was plenty of raptor action going on with three different *Buteo* hawks seen, each in a slightly different plumage. We took photos of all three and pored over them later. The eventual conclusion was that they were all Swainson's Hawks.

On the other side to the canal, there was a small area of a field that hadn't been cropped, and the seed source was attracting lots of small birds. They would fly down from the hedge and into the field, retreating if they felt threatened, just like farmland birds in the UK. Only here, it was a mix of Painted and Indigo Buntings, Dickcissels, Common Yellowthroat sand Savannah Sparrows. It kept us entertained for quite some time.

Further along, we found our second Tropical Kingbird before we entered the park. Recent policy changes had increased entry fees for non-US residents, but the very helpful staff found a workable (and more affordable!) solution.

At Royal Palm Hammock, we walked the Anhinga Trail. This is *the* spot to get close to Alligators, and everyone was able to see several large beasts lounging by the side of the path. As with other areas, the recent cold weather had killed off hundreds of fish, and they were floating everywhere. The alligators were apparently too full to move. Sadly, it did mean that the usually crystal-clear water was a bit cloudier this year.

Manatees gathered beneath the jetties at Flamingo Marina, offering exceptional views. They were right beneath our feet, and plenty of photos and videos were taken. The large adult male American Crocodile was not in his usual place by the boat ramp today, but a small female was present, and she swam across the channel, allowing everyone to get a view.

We stood on the deck of the visitor centre, so that people could wander round inside while we kept an eye out for actual flamingoes. A flock had been reported further out in the bay, and on occasion they could reportedly be seen from here. We had no joy, but there was an Osprey nest we could look into, and we enjoyed the drama of a Bald Eagle chasing one of them until it gave up its freshly-caught fish.

Mahogany Hammock was quiet, but highlights included Brown Water Snake, Black-crowned Pigeon, several warblers and our only Yellow-throated Vireo of the trip. Rain fell briefly on the way out, but soon stopped. We therefore paused briefly, and had a superb finale: a Merlin perched on a telegraph post, then hunting low over a field with a White-tailed Kite as backdrop.

Day 9

Thursday 12th February

Homestead to Miami and return to UK – C111 Canal, AD Barnes Park

An early start on our final day took us back to the canal, where the Vermilion Flycatcher was still present. And with a little patience, we also enjoyed excellent views of an American Yellow Warbler.

Buntings and sparrows filled the weedy field once more, Sandhill Cranes bugled in the background, and the Merlin from the previous evening was still hunting nearby. An Ovenbird was sat perfectly still in the hedge, allowing for photos and even phone shots through the telescope. Sadly, despite a quick check of the other two likely spots, we failed to find a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher this year.

After breakfast and packing, we visited AD Barnes Park in Miami. Raccoons appeared immediately, followed by a large, cooperative flock of Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warblers. Toby radioed to say he had a small flock of assorted warblers, so we walked round to the nature centre, picking up another sleeping Raccoon on route. The next hour was a joy, with warblers over our heads and constant views of one or another species. Black-and-white Warbler, stunning male Northern Parula and Prairie Warblers, Pine Warbler and best of all, a Nashville Warbler which was well outside its expected winter range.

Lunch by the lake added Red-headed Agama, Muscovy Duck, Egyptian Goose, American Redstart and a final Osprey. We checked out our fourth Raccoon of the day, and then it was time to head to the airport.

Several of the group were staying on in Florida for a few days, so we left them at the car rental centre while the rest of us made our way to the Virgin check-in desk.

Day 10

Friday 13th February

Return to London

The return flight was smooth, and landed at Heathrow under grey winter skies. Immigration and baggage claim were thankfully efficient, and we were soon reunited with our possessions. All that was left was to say our final farewells. It had been a fabulous trip, packed with unforgettable wildlife encounters and shared memories.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>		✓		✓	✓	H				
Egyptian Goose - I	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				✓	✓				✓	
Muscovy Duck - I	<i>Cairina moschata</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>						✓				
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>		✓		✓	✓					
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓								
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓								
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>		✓								
Mottled Duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓								
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>		✓								
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>			✓							
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	✓									
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	✓	✓				✓				
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>		✓								
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>		✓								
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>			✓							
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>				✓						
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>							✓			
Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>						✓				
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>								1		
Eurasian Collared Dove - I	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		✓	✓							
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>					✓					
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓		✓	✓					
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>				✓	✓					
Purple Swamphen - I	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				✓	✓					
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	✓		✓		H				✓	
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓		✓		✓				
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	H				
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						✓				
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>		✓								
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>						✓				
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>		✓								
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>								✓		
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		✓								
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		✓		✓		✓				
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		✓			H					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓	✓				✓				
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>		✓								
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓				

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓				✓				
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		✓	✓			✓				
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓						✓		
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						✓				
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>		✓								
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓		✓						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓		✓		✓				
American Herring Gull	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>	✓	✓		✓						
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>		✓				✓				
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>							✓			
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>					✓	✓				
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>		✓				✓				
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>								✓		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Astur cooperii</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>			✓							
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>								✓		
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>						✓				
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		✓								
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>			✓							
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>				✓			✓			
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>		✓								
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>			✓	✓						
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>								✓	✓	
Monk Parakeet - I	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>					✓			✓	✓	
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>					✓			✓		
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>					✓					
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>							✓	✓		
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>								✓		
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓	
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Florida Scrub Jay - E	<i>Apelocoma coerulescens</i>		✓								
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>						✓	H			
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>				✓	✓					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>				✓			✓			
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>			✓							
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>				✓		H	H			
Northern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>			✓							
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>							✓			
Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>							✓	✓		
Common Myna - I	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>							✓	✓		
Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>			✓							
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		✓								
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>			✓							
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>								✓		
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>			✓					✓	✓	
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>			✓							
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>			✓					H	H	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>			✓							
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>									✓	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓	
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓	
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>				✓						
American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>									✓	
Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pine Warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Myrtle Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>							✓			
Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>			✓	✓					✓	
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>							✓			
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>								✓	✓	
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>					✓			✓	✓	
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasyus novemcinctus</i>	✓									
West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>					✓			✓		
Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>							✓		✓	
North American Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>						✓	✓			
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>							✓			
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		✓				✓				
Marsh Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>				✓						
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bryant's Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>			✓							

Reptiles

E=Endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
American Alligator - E	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>								✓		
Florida Red-bellied Turtle	<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		
Peninsula Cooter	<i>Pseudemys peninsularis</i>					✓	✓		✓		
Florida Softshell Turtle - E	<i>Apalone ferox</i>				✓	✓					
Brown Water Snake	<i>Nerodia taxispilota</i>					✓			✓		
Eastern Rat Snake	<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>								✓		
Green Iguana - I	<i>Iguana iguana</i>				✓	✓			✓		
Red-headed Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>								✓	✓	
Brown Basilisk - I	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>						✓				
Cuban Brown Anole - I	<i>Anolis sagrei</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gecko - I	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>							✓	✓		

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	February 2026									
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>										✓
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>									✓	
Atala	<i>Eumaeus atala</i>				✓	✓					
Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>				✓	✓					✓
Julia Heliconian	<i>Dryas iulia</i>				✓					✓	
Zebra Heliconian	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>				✓						✓
Ruddy Daggerwing	<i>Marpesia petreus</i>		✓		✓						
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>				✓				✓		
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>								✓		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓							
Phaon Crescent	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>			✓							
Tropical Checkered Skipper	<i>Burnsius oileus</i>				✓						