

# Florida's Winter Warblers & Hidden Wonders Species List | January 13 – 20, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by Naturalist Journeys tour host Tina Greenawalt with local guide Christian Newton. Our 11 clients included Nancy, Arvella, Charlotte, Sandy, Sara, Margie, Bob, Nick, Pat, Ann, Karen**

Inaugural Florida trip started in Downtown Orlando. Day one saw us at Blue Springs SP viewing manatees and Scrub-jays. Day two was the Space Coast, starting along Cape Canaveral Seashore, then to Black Point Wildlife Drive, then an afternoon at the Kennedy Space Center. Day Three we headed south, working our way through the pine woods of Three Lakes WMA, we hit hot spots like Lake Jackson and Joe Overstreet. We made our way south to the eastern edge of Lake Okeechobee stopping at a kingbird roost at Paul Rardin Park. East to Boca Raton for the night. Day four we worked the Palm Beach County area, birding Peaceful Waters, Green Cay Nature Preserve, Tall Cypress, and Brian Piccolo Park. Day five was exotic day, birding Miami at Pinewoods and Coral Reef Park. Rain damped our clothes but not our spirits, after some Cuban pies. We headed out again going to a Yellow-chevroned Parakeet roost picking up White-winged Parakeet. Day six, Everglades National Park. We started out early and stopped at local spot for some brrrr cold flycatchers, temps around 48 degrees were certainly a shock in the glades. We drove down to Flamingo and looked out over Florida Bay. Leaving the area, we stopped at Anhinga Trail and then ended the day at Roberts is Here for milkshakes. Day seven was our final day, we only had one shot at something, so we headed to Crandon Park, for Piping Plovers.

BIRDS 169 species were recorded of which 2 (Barred Owl, Sedge Wren) were heard only, 1 (Florida Scrub-jay) were endemic and 16 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 169 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Florida's Winter Warblers & Hidden Wonders | January 13 – 20, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

## **MAMMALS: — (6 species observed)**

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis* — Seen everywhere. Native and completely urbanized. Common around parks and woodland edges. Building large leaf litter nests up in the trees. Common at bird feeders.

**Marsh Rabbit** *Sylvilagus palustris* — Reddish furred rabbit, that prefers aquatic edges with lots of greenery. Seen by Tina.

**West Indian Manatee** *Trichechus manatus* — Large aquatic mammal, with the closest relative being elephant. Several were observed at Blue Springs SP and down in the Flamingo Bay. This wonderful animal needs to eat over 100 pounds of aquatic vegetation a day.

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus* — The most common marine animal close to shore. In-shore Bottlenose are regular around the coast, off shore Bottlenoses, rarely come past the Gulf Stream

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — Common all over Florida, this four legged deer can commonly be seen grazing along the road. Winter they will gather in herds and wander neighborhoods looking for greenery to eat,

**Common Raccoon** *Procyon lotor* — Ricky Raccoon, common throughout Florida. Commonly around dumpsters and parks. Thus getting the nick name “trash panda”.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (11 species observed)**

**Florida Softshell** *Apalone ferox* — Common in most water areas, we saw our best at Green Cay Preserve. This long necked turtle is more like a snapping turtle with its snapping abilities. Their neck length can be as long as their shell.

**Gopher Tortoise** *Gopherus polyphemus* — Endangered tortoise of the South. Seen at Mead Gardens in Orlando. These guys are little tanks and can burrow down nearly 15ft into the sand to make their burrow.

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis* — “swamp puppies” , several seen along the St. Johns river and a few down in Palm Beach County and Everglades.

**Cuban Brown Anole** (I) *Anolis sagrei* — A common small anole throughout the Southeast. They push the native green Anole, so they are a nuisance.

**Northern Curly-tailed Lizard** (I) *Leiocephalus carinatus* — Invasive, this limestone or coral living lizard has moved all the way up to Brevard County along the Atlantic Coast. I believe I was the only one that saw it.

**Green Iguana** (I) *Iguana iguana* — A highly invasive reptile that has laid claim in South Florida. Primarily a vegetarian, their size and breeding abilities, makes them a nuisance animal in Florida.

**Common Basilisk** (I) *Basiliscus basiliscus* - Seen at Green Cay Preserve, this the famous walk on water lizard. The one we saw was a youngster.

**Coastal Plain Cooter** *Pseudemys floridana* — Common large turtle found in most areas of water in Florida. One can live up to 30 years.

**Yellow-bellied Slider** *Trachemys scripta scripta* Native to Florida. Not to be confused with its cousin Red Eared Slider which is an exotic. Seen in canals around Miami - Brewsters Park.

**Bark Anole** *Anolis distichus* - Small gray anole, introduced to Florida many years ago. Originally from Hispaniola and Caribbeans.

**Peter’s Rock Agama** *Agama picticauda*- Invasive lizards, quickly making their way north. Up to Orlando area in just several years. Males have beautiful orange head, and have amazing speed.