



Naturalist Journeys, LLC

FLORIDA EVERGLADES & KEYS

April 16-27, 2012

*Greg Smith, Guide, with Chris and Gary Bard as hosts from Golden Gate Audubon,
with 11 participants: Ken, Craig, Obie, Mary, D-Ann, Betty, Ellen, Analice,
Ann, Kathy and Connie*

SPECIES LIST

Birds

- Black-bellied Whistling Duck** – Seen early on in the trip around Immokalee
- Mottled Duck** – On the ponds of the Ding Darling Bailey Tract were the best
- Mallard** – Only one was at a pond on Shark Valley in the Everglades
- Blue-winged Teal** - Seen two different times, Sanibel and the Keys
- N. Shoveler** - Seen in the Flamingo area of the Everglades
- N. Bobwhite** – A few seen around Imokalee and Babcock – Webb
- Horned Grebe** – A late individual in Flamingo was the only one
- Wood Stork** – Feeding 30' from us in Corkscrew
- Magnificent Frigatebird** – Common at Ft. Jefferson where they nest
- Masked Booby** – We saw a group of forty on their nesting isle in the Tortugas
- Brown Booby** – A few on Hospital Key both going to and from Tortugas
- Double-crested Cormorant** – The cormorant on both fresh and salt water
- Anhinga** – On Anhinga Trail, they walked right up to us
- Am. White Pelican** – A flock soared over while driving in Ft. Myers
- Brown Pelican** – Quite common anytime near saltwater.
- Great Blue Heron** – Everywhere!
- Great Egret** – Like the Great Blue, everywhere.
- Snowy Egret** – Most common on Anhinga Trail in Everglades NP.
- Little Blue Heron** – Seen in most of the same locations as the TCHe
- Tricolored Heron** – Seen at various locations near the coast
- Reddish Egret** – Our closest look was at an adult at Tigertail
- Cattle Egret** – Flocks seemed to be devastating terrestrial insects everywhere.
- Green Heron** – Very close looks at Anhinga along with their odd territorial call
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** – The Venice heron Rookery had a nesting adults.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – A quick look at one in the Keys.
- White Ibis** – At least a half a dozen times a day these white birds would appear
- Glossy Ibis** – Not real common, but definitely in emergent wetlands

Roseate Spoonbill – Great looks at the Sanibel Island Garden Club Trail
Black Vulture – More common than the TuVu, and far more tame
Turkey Vulture – Migration was on and they were moving north
Osprey – Everywhere there was water there were Osprey
Am. Swallow-tailed Kite – Great looks as we continued to see them in habitat
Snail Kite – A female was flying overhead on the road to Immokalee
Bald Eagle – The one young in the nest at Tigertail were the best
Cooper's Hawk – One on the first day Jonathon Dickinson SP
Red-shouldered Hawk – The hawk we would see anywhere there were marshes
Broad-winged Hawk – A second year bird was perched on a line at Danby
Short-tailed Hawk – A gorgeous adult soaring in the Immokalee area
Red-tailed Hawk – Scattered through different habitats in the middle of Florida
Crested Caracara – Five individuals in the Immokalee area
American Kestrel – Not at all common scattered around Homestead
Merlin – A well-observed adult at Fort Jefferson kept birds alert
Purple Gallinule – Shark Valley and Anhinga Trail were the only locations
Common Moorhen – Not as common as Coots, but just about in all freshwater
American Coot – Everywhere there was freshwater
Limpkin – One seen on the water's edge near Immokalee
Sandhill Crane – The resident race was seen dancing with cattle near Immokalee
Black-bellied Plover – Different plumages on different individuals @ Key West
Snowy Plover - A single bird at Long Pine Key
Wilson's Plover – Seen at a couple of locations w/ best look at Tigertail
Semipalmated Plover – Mixed in with shorebirds on Bahia Honda's sandy beach
Killdeer – Not common, but seen & heard at Babcock-Webb
Black-necked Stilt – One was on the beach at Fort Jefferson
Spotted Sandpiper – Our first one was at Babcock Webb
Solitary Sandpiper – One was seen on Big Pine Key
Greater Yellowlegs – Seen on the Shark Valley tram
Willet – The Eastern Willet was the most common large shorebird
Lesser Yellowlegs – A few at Fort Jefferson were pretty tame
Marbled Godwit – Seen in the mixed flock at Flamingo
Ruddy Turnstone – Scattered on beaches wherever there was sand
Sanderling – Mostly mixed in with peeps on sandy beaches
Semipalmated Sandpiper – Our first view was a small flock at Flamingo
Western Sandpiper – A small group in the mixed flock at Flamingo
Least Sandpiper – Seen at Flamingo and out on Fort Jefferson
White-rumped Sandpiper – At least four out at Fort Jefferson
Dunlin – In with a mixed flock at Flamingo after the big storm
Short-billed Dowitcher – In the mixed flock at Flamingo (calling)
Long-billed Dowitcher – At least one bird called at Long Key SP
Laughing Gull – Everywhere there was a beach
Ring-billed Gull – One on the dock at Flamingo

Brown Noddy – Common off of Fort Jefferson
Sooty Tern – Common off of Fort Jefferson
Least Tern – Scattered around the many beaches we visited.
Caspian Tern – One was flying along side the Royals in Marathon
Roseate Tern – A few seen flying by the Yankee Freedom
Royal Tern – Scattered throughout the Keys
Black Skimmer – A single bird at Flamingo and at Key West
Eurasian Collared-Dove – Most residential areas had numerous pairs
White-winged Dove – One on a wire in the parrot feeding station neighborhood
Mourning Dove – Everywhere in and around farms
Rock Pigeon – Around different farm buildings and city streets
White-crowned Pigeon – We had two along the road on Greg’s (No Name) Key
Common Ground-Dove – Seen well at Benton-Webb
Mitred Parakeet – A group of six at the parrot feeding station in Miami
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Seen irregularly in the Keys
Mangrove Cuckoo – Heard at Dagby Preserve in the Keys
Barred Owl – At least three called while we were at Anhinga Trail
Common Nighthawk – We saw them flying along the road out by the Everglades
Antillean Nighthawk – A few of us heard individuals calling in Florida City
Chuck-will’s-widow – One seen briefly at least a couple of time at Fort Jefferson
Chimney Swift – Seen on a couple of days – Jonathon Dickinson SP first
Belted Kingfisher – A couple in the Fort Meyers area
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – Only two and both at Fort Jefferson
Red-bellied Woodpecker – The most common woodpecker for the trip
Downy Woodpecker – Seen at Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management area
Hairy Woodpecker – Seen at Jonathon Dickinson SP
Northern Flicker – A single bird was seen at Jonathon Dickinson
Pileated Woodpecker – Best look was a solo bird in Everglades City
Willow Flycatcher – Heard calling across the RR tracks at Jonathon Dickinson SP
Great-crested Flycatcher – The most common flycatcher on the trip
Western Kingbird – One individual seen in the Immokalee area
Eastern Kingbird – Seen in in the Everglades and at Fort Jefferson
Gray Kingbird – Seen on most of the keys
Loggerhead Shrike – Here in Florida, this is a neighborhood bird
White-eyed Vireo – Seen (but more often heard) throughout the trip
Red-eyed Vireo – One individual at Long Pine Key
Black-whiskered Vireo – Seen at Long Key SP a number of times
Blue Jay – Mostly seen in neighborhoods
Florida Scrub Jay – At Casperson Park, a nest and an extended family group
American Crow – At Flamingo and other locales
Fish Crow – Venice had numerous pairs calling
Purple Martin – Numbers of these big birds at Everglades City
N. Rough-Winged Swallow – Seen at Fort Jefferson

Bank Swallow – Seen at Fort Jefferson
Tree Swallow – The common swallow for the trip
Cave Swallow – Seen at the channel bridge in Miami
Barn Swallow – Foraging over beaches at Fort Jefferson
Tufted Titmouse – Corkscrew Swamp was the easiest location for these
Brown-headed Nuthatch – Seen at a few locations, best at Long Pine Key
Carolina Wren – Calling almost everywhere
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Best look was an adult at Corkscrew building its nest
Eastern Bluebird – A nice male perched near the nest cavity at Long Pine Key
Veery – A few seen at Long Key SP
Gray-cheeked Thrush – A few seen along with the Veerys
Swainson's Thrush – The most common thrush on the trip
Wood Thrush – A solitary individual at Long Key SP
American Robin – Scattered, but moving north
Gray Catbird – Ubiquitous
N. Mockingbird – Mostly in neighborhoods
Brown Thrasher – Great looks at the Venice Rookery
European Starling – Unfortunately they were not uncommon
Common Myna – Seen on the drive south of Miami
Cedar Waxwing – A small flock was at Ding Darling NWR
Ovenbird – Seen on a number of the Keys
N. Waterthrush – Not common, but we saw them in the Keys
Worm-eating Warbler – Nice looks at Fort Jefferson
Golden-winged Warbler – A stunning male at Long Key SP
Blue-winged Warbler – Again, another stunning male photographed at Long Key
Black-and-white Warbler – Scattered but common in forests
Tennessee Warbler – A few out at Fort Jefferson
Kentucky Warbler – Both a male and a female at Long Pine SP
Common Yellowthroat – In marshy areas with emergent vegetation
Hooded Warbler – A nice male at Long Pine SP & that leucistic bird at Ft. Jeff
American Redstart – A few at most warblered stops
Cape May Warbler – A few scattered in the Keys
Northern Parula – Corkscrew Swamp gave us our best looks
Magnolia Warbler – A gorgeous male at Fort Jefferson
Blackburnian Warbler – One male & two females were all we got to see in the Key
Yellow Warbler – Not the least bit common, but the Keys and Fort Jeff had them
Chestnut-sided Warbler – Seen on different Keys
Blackpoll Warbler – Nice adult males at Long Key SP
Black-throated Blue Warbler – At Long Key SP there were three males
Palm Warbler – All over the place at Fort Jefferson
Pine Warbler – Long Pine Key, of course
Prairie Warbler – Everywhere in appropriate habitat
Black-throated Green Warbler – Best look was out at Fort Jefferson

Eastern Towhee – Babcock-Webb gave us our best looks
Bachmann's Sparrow – Seen only at Babcock-Webb
Savannah Sparrow – In brushy coastal habitat on Big Pine Key
Lincoln Sparrow – One on Big Pine Key was it
Summer Tanager – Seen at Fairchild Gardens and other stops
Scarlet Tanager – Both male and female were seen on the Keys
N. Cardinal – Ubiquitous
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Mostly great looking males, but also a few females
Indigo Bunting – All over Flamingo
Painted Bunting - Stunning, up close looks of a female at the Fort Jeff H2o
Red-winged Blackbird – Common where there was wet brush
Eastern Meadowlark – Strangely, most common in Everglades National Park
Brewer's Blackbird – A few at Babcock-Webb
Common Grackle – The name says is all - common
Boat-tailed Grackle – Just about any habitat had a few individuals
Brown-headed Cowbird – In a mixed flock at Flamingo
Shiny Cowbird – An adult male was with the Flamingo cowbird flock
Orchard Oriole – A gorgeous adult male at Fort Jefferson was the only one seen
Baltimore Oriole – Seen in trees feeding on gumbo limbo berries @ Fort Jefferson
American Goldfinch – A single male seen in Venice
House Sparrow – At most McDonald's

Mammals

Hispid Cotton Rat – One moving across the lawn at Long Pine Key
Eastern Gray Squirrel – In most treed areas north of the Keys
Mexican Gray Squirrel – The “gray” squirrel in the Keys we saw
White-tailed Deer – Everglades National Park had them out in the morning
Key Deer – The NWR named after them had them everywhere
Eastern Cottontail – Seen crossing the road at Babcock-Webb WMA
Raccoon – Seen at a couple of places in south Florida
Bottle-nosed Dolphin – Saw them feeding in the shallows of Coot Bay

Reptiles and Amphibians

Red-headed Agama – At Fairchild Gardens
Basilisk Lizard – One male seen at Fairchild Gardens
Spiny-tailed Iguana – On two different hikes
Brown Anole – Everywhere
Green Anole – Everywhere
Cooter – The most common turtle on the trip
Red-bellied Slider – Seen on patches of veg along the Anhinga trail
Soft-shelled Turtle – One big one along the Anhinga Trail
American Alligator – Everywhere in south Florida
American Crocodile – At the Flamingo Marina