

SOUTH FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE TOUR

Species List 2019



April 29 – May 4, 2019

South Florida: Everglades & More!

With Carlos Sanchez and 7 participants: Sharon, Jeff, Maryann, Darlene, Linda, Lea, and Janna

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

(#) = Number of species in the family

(#) = Number of days of the tour seen when in the species line

Summary: Great birds and company on the recently concluded Naturalist Journeys South Florida Birding and Wildlife Tour. In just six days, we experienced a wide swath of various habitats from sawgrass prairie to mangroves to pinelands to tropical hardwood hammocks to lush tropical gardens, seeing a variety of specialties from White-crowned Pigeon and Mangrove Cuckoo to Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Florida Scrub-Jay. West Indian Manatees frolicking in the marina at Flamingo, an American Crocodile next to her nest, the always busy wading bird rookery at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, the daily parade of excellent meals showcasing the wide variety of nationalities that now call South Florida home... until next time!

BIRDS (122 species recorded, of which 2 were heard only):

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (4)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (1)—small numbers of these colorful and vocal ducks at Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach County

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (I) (2)—common and numerous exotic goose in suburban Miami and Key Biscayne. We also saw a flock on the side of the road in Palm Beach County. Their population is rapidly increasing and spreading in peninsular Florida.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (I) (2)—the most common duck in suburban South Florida, composed of a feral semi-domestic population

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* (2)—quite a few of these Mallard-like ducks at Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach County

Odontophoridae: New World Quail (1)

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* (1)—one flew up into a dead Florida Slash Pine at Three Lakes WMA, allowing great views for everyone in the group! Many more heard at the same location

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (1)—although common in winter, only a local breeder in the summer months in South Florida. We saw a couple at Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (6)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (1) (6)—common in all urbanized or disturbed areas

White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* (1)—about a half-dozen seen in Kendall on our first morning, including both juveniles and adults. These tropical pigeons are obligate frugivores, finding the lush plantings and fruiting trees of suburban Kendall to their liking and often nesting in people's yards.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (1) (6)—recorded at nearly every single site we visited in South Florida; first introduced in the Bahamas in 1974, where it spread to cover nearly all of North America and the West Indies from Alaska to Costa Rica

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* (2)—a couple of these diminutive doves at Three Lakes WMA, where we had nice views of a male. We also saw them along Loop Road near Big Cypress while having a rest stop!

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (2)—small numbers in suburban Kendall and at Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach; this species seems to be increasing in South Florida

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (6)—recorded daily in a variety of habitats throughout Florida, including both urban and natural ones

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* (1)—stunning views of a responsive pair in the mature mangrove forest that spans the coast from Coral Gables to Coconut Grove in Miami, providing the group with a memorable experience

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars (1)

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (2)—many seen in the agricultural field west of Miami on our first evening together, flying all around us and giving us quite the show

Apodidae: Swifts (1)

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (1)—seen overhead in a suburb of Miami while looking for White-crowned Pigeon

Rallidae: Rails, Coots, and Allies (4)

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* (3)—common in ponds and canals around suburban Miami, where we also got to see some very young chicks; very numerous at Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands

American Coot *Fulica americana* (1)—a couple at Green Cay Wetlands either represent localized breeding birds or lingering individuals from the past winter

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (1)—several of these pretty, multicolored birds at Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Gray-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephala* (1)—several birds seen at close range at Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach. Originally from India and Southeast Asia, they were discovered in South Florida in 1996 via unintended releases from nearby private collections. They have been steadily spreading and increasing in number ever since

Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin *Aramus garauna* (2)—we walked right up to our first birds on the canal at Village of Kings Creek, where we also got to admire the many empty apple snails left behind by these very unique birds; very common along Tamiami Trail on our way to Big Cypress.

Gruidae: Cranes (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* (1)—about a half-dozen of these graceful birds seen on our way into and out of Three Lakes WMA. We stopped and admired a pair on the side of the road.

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (3)—a few of these dapper birds in suburban Miami and Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach County. Many at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp

Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (1)—a pair at Snook Islands Natural Area, likely the southernmost breeding pair on the east coast of the United States!

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (2)

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (1)—quite a few birds in full breeding plumage at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp, singing and chasing each other around on the mudflats

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (2)—common in fields and parking lots in Miami

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (6)

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (1)—one bird in full breeding plumage at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp was a real treat, and we really got to appreciate the heavily barred underparts

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (1)—nice concentration at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp, where we got to see them feeding side by side with Semipalmated Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (1)—excellent studies of several dozen birds feeding alongside Least Sandpiper at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp, these birds are a much colder gray color overall with black legs vs the very brown plumage and yellow legs of Least Sandpiper

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (2)—singles at Flamingo at Everglades National Park and Green Cay Wetlands

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (1)—a few individuals feeding at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp alongside Lesser Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (1)—about a dozen at the Lake Florence Boat Ramp; much smaller and more dainty than Greater Yellowlegs

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (4)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (3)—small numbers (some sporting entirely black heads) at Flamingo, Snook Islands Natural Area and Key Biscayne

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (2)—quite a few at Lake Florence Boat Ramp gave excellent views, including a pair exchanging a fish meal

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (1)—two flying near the docks at the Rotary Park during one of our picnic lunches

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (1)—one subadult bird flying around and feeding in Florida Bay while looking for shorebirds in Flamingo (Everglades NP)

Ciconiidae: Storks (1)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (2)—large numbers nesting at Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach (so close, they are within one's reach!). A small concentration also seen along the road near Three Lakes WMA

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (2)—two seen in flight on Key Biscayne near Miami and another over Spanish River Park on our final morning

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (3)—this quintessential South Florida bird was very common at all wetland sites and even suburban ponds in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Metro area. We also saw many nesting at Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (5)—common and widespread at all freshwater and coastal marine sites

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (2)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (2)—many individuals seen on the far shore of Florida Bay and Lake Florence but always quite distant

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (3)—small numbers seen commuting overhead at Crandon Park near Miami, Florida Bay in Everglades NP, and Spanish River Park in Palm Beach

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (1)—two individuals at the edge of a reedbed at Green Cay Wetlands were quite a treat to see! Beautiful bird

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (4)—common and widespread at all wetland sites; we also had excellent scope views of the '**Great White Heron**' *Ardea herodias occidentalis* at Flamingo in Everglades National Park, an endemic breeding resident in Florida Bay

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (4)—common and conspicuous throughout South Florida

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (2)—common and conspicuous in flight, showing off their golden feet – nice feeding congregation in the distance at Flamingo in Everglades NP

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (2)—not as numerous as the other diurnal herons and egrets, but we did see both stunning adults in deep blue breeding plumage (R. Hardy Matheson Reserve) as well as 'calico' immature birds (Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress)

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (3)—these lanky and graceful herons were very common. We saw quite a few at close range at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, where they had just finished nesting with many gawky immature birds milling around

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (6)—common and conspicuous, often on the side of the road! Good numbers nesting at Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (2)—an adaptable little heron, nesting and foraging in a variety of habitats in South Florida as long as water is nearby – a ‘garden bird’ in Miami and Palm Beach. An immature bird posed nicely for us at Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (1)—a stoic juvenile bird posed for us at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (2)—one juvenile bird on the edge of the mangroves at R. Hardy Matheson and an adult flyby at Spanish River Park; these birds use their heavy bills to feed on crustaceans such as crabs and regularly nest within the city limits of Miami in tall mature trees

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (5)—abundant and conspicuous in South Florida, where they are often seen walking around suburban parks as well as wetlands

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (1)—small numbers of these lithe, bronzy ibis at Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands, where we saw both adults and immature birds at close range

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (1)—we were fortunate that a small flock of these birds came in for a landing at one of the tree islands at Wakodahatchee Wetlands; they literally glow in the afternoon light – **voted as one of the favorite birds of the trip!**

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (6)—very common overhead throughout South Florida

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (3)—very common overhead throughout South Florida

Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4)—observed almost daily, perhaps South Florida’s most numerous raptor; fewer active nests at Flamingo in Everglades NP than usual

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites and Eagles (5)

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (2)—we saw our first individuals soaring overhead at Flamingo in Everglades National Park, followed by several more in Central Florida near Three Lakes WMA. One of the world’s most elegant and graceful raptors

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (1)—multiples seen well at close range along Tamiami Trail, offering spectacular views as they flew to within a few meters of us. One of the world’s most specialized raptors

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (1)—two beautiful adults and their recently fledged offspring posed majestically for us on our way to Three Lakes WMA

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (3)—many wonderful views of these colorful and vocal raptors throughout South Florida, here represented by the distinctively pale and endemic Florida race, ssp. *extimus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (1)—one bird soaring high overhead on our way out of Everglades NP – quite an uncommon resident in South Florida, which surprises most birders!

Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (1)—one flying in the distance as we were enjoying the Common Nighthawks after our introductory dinner. Always a special bird

Strigidae: Owls (2)

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* (1)—five birds seen before our first introductory dinner, posing right in front of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue at Miami Executive Airport

Barred Owl *Strix varia* (1)—two adults and their two recently fledged young seen well at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve, looking at us with great curiosity as we looked at them – **voted as one of the top birds of the tour!**

Picidae: Woodpeckers (5)

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* (5)—recorded daily; common and adaptable woodpecker of all wooded habitats in South Florida

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* (1)—nice views of one individual at Sweetwater Strand

Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis* (1)—two at Three Lakes WMA, where we saw them working over a tree by flaking the bark; these woodpeckers are unusual in that they have a cooperative breeding system and live in a family group that cluster around a cavity tree. Threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* (3)—great views of this spectacularly large woodpecker at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Three Lakes WMA, and Spanish River Park! Great luck with this species this year

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* (1)—a single bird at Flamingo in Everglades NP offered great views

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* (1)—one seen along the road on our way to Three Lakes WMA; the birds in Florida are part of a relict population from the last glacial period, separated from the main population about 12,000 years ago

Psittacidae: Parrots (2)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (I) (1)—formerly more common, we saw these cute little parakeets flying by in West Kendall. This is the only parrot species in the world that builds stick nests (all others are cavity nesters)

White-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus* (I) (1)—we started the trip with a visit to Ocean Bank just south of Miami International Airport, where we saw two distant birds in flight

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (2)

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (3)—the common flycatcher of wooded habitats in South Florida; really nice views at Flamingo in Everglades NP and Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve

Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* (1)—the common flycatcher of urbanized areas and parking lots of Miami; our best views were in a Panera Bread parking lot in West Kendall on our first afternoon

Laniidae: Shrikes (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* (2)—relatively common in South Florida, even in suburban areas; we saw them at Miami Executive Airport and along the wires on our way to Three Lakes WMA

Vireonidae: Vireos (3)

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (3)—seen well at Flamingo in Everglades NP and Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress; a common breeding resident in South Florida

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1)—a pair at Sweetwater Strand in Everglades NP, representing the southern terminus of their entire breeding range

Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus* (1)—we saw this Florida specialty nicely at Crandon Park – everyone even got to see the trademark whiskers!

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (4)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* (6)—common and conspicuous in all wooded habitats

Florida Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens* (1)—a delightful family group entertained us at Helen and Allen Cruickshank Sanctuary, Florida's only true endemic bird species; this species is an ice age relict, separated from all other scrub-jays at the end of the last ice age

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (3)—family groups of American Crow were commonplace along the roadside in Everglades National Park and Three Lakes WMA (note: none in urban areas in Miami!)

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (5)—numerous and conspicuous throughout the Miami-Fort Lauderdale and the Palm Beaches, where they are constantly patrolling overhead for feeding opportunities such as unattended nests

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (3)

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (2)—nice views overhead at Snapper Creek and Wakodahatchee Wetlands, where they have a nice set of martin houses

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (2)—single migrating birds overhead at Loop Road and Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (1)—seen at an active colony under a bridge in West Kendall, here represented by the more richly colored Caribbean race, ssp. *fulva*

Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (1)

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* (1)—a few at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve; the birds at Sweetwater Strand are at the southernmost limit of their distribution

Sittidae: Nuthatches (1)

Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla* (1)—small parties of these toy-like nuthatches seen at Three Lakes WMA; this species is endemic to pine forests of the southeastern USA

Troglodytidae: Wrens (1)

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (2)—seen well at Sweetwater Strand, where one posed perfectly on a mossy branch overhanging the water and began to sing; also heard at Three Lakes WMA

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea* (1)—seen at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls (1)

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (1) (1)—a pair of birds at King’s Creek Village in Miami, where they had us playing a game of Marco Polo; introduced into the area in the 1960s from southern Asia

Turdidae: Thrushes (1)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* (1)—several at Three Lakes WMA, including one carrying food to a nest. This species is a pineland specialist in this part of its range

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (3)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (2)—usually an early migrant, we saw a straggler at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* (1)—one singing away at the top of a tree at Spanish River Park on our final morning was the last new bird of the trip

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* (5)—Florida’s state bird seemed to be everywhere we went

Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas (2)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (1) (6)—unfortunately, very widespread and numerous

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (1) (2)—great views in the Miami Metro area, specializing in parking lots with busy restaurants

Passerellidae: New World Sparrows (3)

Bachman’s Sparrow *Peucaea aestivalis* (1)—nice views of a silent bird at Three Lakes WMA, with several more singing in the distance; this pineland specialist is endemic to the southeastern USA

Seaside Sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus* (HO) (1)—*heard in the distance but remained unseen this year, here represented by the ‘Cape Sable’ race (ssp. mirabilis); this endangered sparrow is highly dependent on correctly fluctuating water levels, and its sensitivity to environmental conditions have earned it the nickname “Goldilocks bird” because it needs conditions to be ‘just right’*

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (2)—several birds at Three Lakes WMA; birds in Central and South Florida belong to the endemic subspecies *alleni*

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds and Orioles (6)

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (1)—a single bird calling and flying overhead on our first afternoon together in West Kendall

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (1)—seen very well in the campground of Three Lakes WMA, singing within feet of the group. Wow!

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (3)—common, widespread and conspicuous

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (1)—small numbers at Flamingo in Everglades NP

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* (5)—common, widespread and conspicuous – tends to use more wooded habitats

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major* (6)—common, widespread and conspicuous – tends to use open wetlands and urbanized habitats

Parulidae: New World Warblers (10)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* (HO) (1)—*a single bird calling at Green Cay Wetlands refused to show itself*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (1)—a common migrant, we saw a couple at Sweetwater Strand at Big Cypress National Preserve

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (1)—stunning views at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress, where they reach the southern limit of their summer breeding range

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (2)—common as a breeding resident at wetland sites from Everglades NP to Central Florida, where we often heard the ‘witchety-witchety’ song and occasionally saw a territorial male pop up

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (2)—common migrant, with our best views at Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress National Preserve

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* (1)—a trio of birds feasting on a strangler fig at Flamingo; this feisty Caribbean warbler often defends a fruiting tree from all other birds when on migration

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* (2)—we heard and saw several territorial, breeding males at Sweetwater Strand at Big Cypress and Three Lakes WMA

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* (1)—brief views of a female at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne. Undertakes an extraordinarily long migration from its wintering grounds in the Amazon Basin

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* (2)—small numbers recorded on the Guy Bradley Trail in Everglades NP and Sweetwater Strand in Big Cypress, including a couple bright males

Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus* (1)—small numbers seen and heard at Three Lakes WMA, where they were feeding in association with nuthatches, bluebirds, and woodpeckers

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* (1)—about a half-dozen at Flamingo in Everglades NP; the birds singing in the red mangroves at Flamingo are the endemic ‘Florida’ race, ssp. *paludicola*

Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Allies (5)

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (5)—present in all wooded habitats throughout South Florida; a beautiful bird nonetheless with a pleasant song

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (1)—a female-type bird posed at the top of a live oak tree, offering everyone great views of this uncommon spring migrant

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (1)—a scruffy and wet female gave her presence away by calling after a rainstorm at Flamingo, offering views for a few in the group

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (1)—a drab female-type bird at Spanish River Park in Palm Beach offered only brief glimpses

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (1)—a lingering female was still visiting the feeders at Green Cay Wetlands; a regular visitor to seed feeders in South Florida in the winter months

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1) (4)—common but limited to parking lots and highly urbanized areas

MAMMALS (6 species recorded):

Virginia Opossum *Didelphis virginianus* (1)—one rummaging in the leaf litter at the Country Inn and Suites on the first afternoon!

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* (3)—the most common mammal in South Florida

Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger* (1)—a few of these very pretty squirrels on our way to Three Lakes WMA

Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris* (2)—small numbers at Wakodahatchee Wetlands and Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach County

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* (1)—several frolicking together at the Flamingo Marina was surely a trip highlight!

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* (1)—one at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne, descending down a strangler fig tree heavy with fruit

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (10 species recorded):

Florida Softshell *Apalone ferox* (2)—we saw this cool turtle along the road in Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve

Florida Cooter *Pseudemys nelsoni* (1)—several of these turtles at Green Cay Wetlands

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* (2)—our first ones were at close range at Anhinga Trail in Everglades NP – a spectacular introduction to this huge reptile!

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* (1)—great views of a medium-sized individual near a nest at Flamingo in Everglades National Park

Cuban Brown Anole *Anolis sagrei* (1) (2)—the common small lizard of South Florida

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* (1) (4)—very common, including some very large individuals, near water in urbanized South Florida

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus* (1) (1)—several individuals at Kings Creek Village and R. Hardy Matheson Preserve in Miami

Black Spinytail Iguana *Ctenosaura similis* (1) (1)—seen in a traffic median in Coral Gables

Northern Curlytailed Lizard *Leiocephalus carinatus* (1) (2)—a few sightings at Spanish River Park on our final morning

Banded Watersnake *Nerodia fasciata* (1)—one in a lush ditch at Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary