



Day 1

Venture into Osceola County, south of Orlando, and discover a wealth of wildlife diversity including Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Crested Caracara, Snail Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Limpkin, Whooping Crane, Sherman's Fox Squirrel, White-tailed Deer, Gopher Tortoise, and many species of butterflies.

139 Joe Overstreet Landing

As you turn onto Joe Overstreet Landing Road, look for Sherman's Fox Squirrels on the north side of the road. This is also an excellent place to see Osceola Wild Turkey, especially in the morning and evening. Drive slowly, scanning the fields on both sides of the road. You may spot Burrowing Owl (rare), Eastern Meadowlark, Loggerhead Shrike, and Whooping Crane. Crested Caracaras are often spotted from their typical perches in Cabbage Palms or on fence posts. The road ends at a fish camp on scenic Lake Kissimmee. Both Snail Kite and Limpkin are regularly seen here and several pairs of Bald Eagles nest in the area.

Physical address: 4800 Joe Overstreet Rd., Kenansville, 34739
Coordinates: 27.937251° N, -81.225497° W



140 Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

Head south-east for approximately five miles and turn right into the hunt camp, which is visible from the road. The campground is a reliable site for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Gopher Tortoises. Head back out onto State Road 523 and turn right, heading southeast for about a mile to a right turn onto Prairie Lakes Road. A five-mile driving loop through the wildlife management area starts here. Pull into the small parking lot on your right as you turn onto Prairie Lakes Road and check for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Along the more remote sections of the driving loop, you may see Short-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite and White-tailed Deer. Pay particular attention to the dry prairie areas along road 5B where White-tailed Kites often hunt. Butterfly watching is popular in the spring and summer look for the Palmetto Skipper and Zebra Swallowtail.

Physical address: 1231 Prairie Lakes Rd., Kenansville, 34739
Coordinates: 28.709612° N, -81.462801° W (main entrance)
27.904205° N, -81.097905° W (Sunset Ranch entrance)
27.778381° N, -81.126428° W (south entrance)



Day 2

Just an hour away from Orlando, Florida's Space Coast offers premiere birding and wildlife viewing experiences. Expect to add Florida Scrub-Jay, Bald Eagle, Crested Caracara, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Wood Stork, Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, Mottled Duck, American Alligator and West Indian Manatee to your species list.

103 Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

A wealth of resources including a refuge map will help you plan for viewing birds and wildlife at many different sites within this refuge. Make a stop at the visitor center and check the latest sightings log and activity at the bird feeders, which attract rainbow-hued Painted Buntings during the winter months. After exploring the visitor center area, head over to Blackpoint Wildlife Drive, which is a seven-mile, one-way tour, providing excellent views of the refuge impoundments. Roseate Spoonbills are common sights, as are Reddish Egrets and Clapper Rails. Up to 15 species of duck are possible during the winter. Along the Scrub Ridge and Pine Flatwoods trails, look for Florida Scrub-Jays and Gopher Tortoises. During the spring and fall migration, check the Hammock Trails for migrating songbirds. For good views of shorebirds and ducks, drive along Biolab Road (see the refuge map). To see West Indian Manatees, head to the Manatee Observation Deck. Wildlife is abundant throughout the refuge and includes 65 species of amphibians and reptiles; such as, the American Alligator.

Physical address: SR 402, 3.5 miles east of Titusville, 32796
Coordinates: 28.628406° N, -80.787720° W (main entrance)
28.643578° N, -80.736770° W (visitor center)



141 Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera (Viera Wetlands)

The entrance, on the right, is approximately two miles from the Lake Andrew Drive intersection. Drive the impoundment dikes for glimpses of Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Mottled Duck and Crested Caracara. During migration, the wetlands attract shorebirds such as American Golden Plover. Rarities such as Masked Duck and Great Cormorant have been recorded in recent years. The wetlands are also excellent for viewing dragonflies, butterflies and wild flowers. American Alligators are present in large numbers!

Physical address: 10001 Wickham Rd., Melbourne, 32940
Coordinates: 28.229476° N, -80.754998° W





75 *Wekiwa Springs State Park*

Don't miss a visit to this popular state park, with its sparkling freshwater springs and 13.5 miles of hiking trails through pine flatwoods and hardwood hammocks. Wekiwa Springs is home to an abundance of wildlife including Bachman's Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, Yellow-throated Vireo (summer), Gopher Tortoise, Sherman's Fox Squirrel and White-tailed Deer. Butterflies are abundant in the warmer months.

Physical address: 1800 Wekiwa Cir., Apopka, 32712
Coordinates: 28.709612° N, -81.462801° W



88 *Orlando Wetlands Park*

Birding and wildlife viewing opportunities abound at this park, which is open between February 1 and November 14 each year. Over 1600 acres of marshes, lakes and hardwood hammocks host Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Wood Stork, Crested Caracara, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Loggerhead Shrike and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Butterfly watching is also popular and 63 species have been observed including eight species of swallowtail, Great Purple Hairstreak, Tawny Emperor and Zebra Heliconian. American Alligators are abundant and White-tailed Deer and Virginia Opossum are regularly encountered along trails.

Physical address: 25155 Wheeler Rd., Christmas, 32709
Coordinates: 28.569447° N, -80.996641° W



107 *Gatorland*

This is an excellent spot for photography, for learning your wading bird identification or for just marveling at the sheer number of birds. A three-story observation tower (the second level is handicapped accessible) provides a great birds' eye view of the rookery. Nesting season runs from January to August, with the peak between April and June.

Physical address: 14501 S. Orange Blossom Tr., Orlando, 32837
Coordinates: 28.355737° N, -81.404207° W



Tom Dunkerton

River Otter



Tom Dunkerton

Florida Scrub-Jay

110 *The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve*

Seven miles of trails await visitors at this family friendly, 12,000-acre educational site, open year-round, Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm. Watch for Wild Turkeys and Sandhill Cranes on the drive into the preserve. Along the trails, keep an eye out for raptor and songbird species such as Swallow-tailed Kite and Bachman's Sparrow. Northern Bobwhite are common. Check the lake for Wood Stork and King Rail. Quality habitats here support Sherman's Fox Squirrels, Gopher Tortoises and Florida Scrub-Jays, often spotted near the preserve entrance.

Physical address: 2700 Scrub Jay Tr., Kissimmee, 34759
Coordinates: 28.138813° N, -81.447470° W



92 *Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park*

This park is a well-kept secret, ideally situated for birders and wildlife enthusiasts staying in Orlando. Abundant wildlife sightings include Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Gopher Tortoise and the rare Indigo Snake. The preserve is also renowned for its diverse plant life. From the well-maintained multi-use trails, visitors can admire orchids, bromeliads and pitcher plants. Be sure to visit the preserve during spring and fall migration when up to 20 species of wood-warbler can be seen.

Physical address: 5150 Dallas Blvd., Orlando, 32833
Coordinates: 28.486124° N, -81.095095° W

