



Birding Adventures

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****TIPS FOR SUCCESS** SPRING MIGRATION-FEAST OR FAMINE-BIRDING AT IT'S FRUSTRATING BEST**

Spring migration is a long anticipated event where you will have numerous opportunities to see songbirds in their breeding best. 1. Look for movement in the tree canopy, but don't forget half of the warblers are found on or near the ground. 2. Warblers with wing bars will be in the tree canopy (Cape May, Blackburnian). Those without wing bars will be on the ground or near it (Kentucky, Hooded, Wilson's). Difficulties include warbler neck and locating of movement of warblers and songbirds in the tree canopy; and the warblers on the ground are extremely camouflaged and have secretive behavior. 3. Check all fruiting and flowering trees for movement. Strangler Figs, Red Mulberry & Live Oak are especially good in that they provide good cover; fruits to eat and the rotting fruit attract insects. For ground dwelling warblers and thrushes look in leaf-covered open areas and listen for rustling leaves. 4. It's feast or famine Warblers and Songbirds tend to move in mixed flocks where you will be looking frantically or waiting in quiet. Keep walking until you find the flock. 5. Weather plays a major role in fallouts of warblers. Go out after and just before an incoming front and west wind.

FUTURE ADVENTURES FL. SPECIES TO DATE-212 ADVENTURES YOU MISSED APRIL 2009

APRIL 18-BIRCH S.P. & EVERGREEN CEMETERY 8 am-12 noon

Search for warblers and songbirds at the peak of migration in these hot spots. Meet at beach parking lot at 8 am in Birch State Park to look for a variety of warblers, vireos & more. Then onto Evergreen Cemetery where Tanagers and Orioles may await us. Cost \$15

MAY 2 A.D BARNES & OLD CUTLER WETLANDS 7:00 am-1:00 p.m. *DATE CHANGE******

Look for songbirds, warblers, White-crowned Pigeon and rare shorebirds such as White-rumped and Baird Sandpipers. \$25.



AUGUST 8 or 15, 2009?? DUDA FARMS, EAA, HOLEY LANDS 6:15 am-5:00 p

One of the best trips of the year and one of the only times to see Gull-billed & Black Terns, Pectoral & Upland Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, Flamingoes? Will look for White-tailed Kite & lots of shorebirds sp. **Meet at Sheridan Tri-rail. Bring lunch \$25.**

SPACE COAST BIRDING FEST. BIRDING BY EAR 1/24, 25-94 species

With so many habitats to visit you are bound to get a great list of birds. Barred Owls and Whippoorwill were seen close by at dawn. Hermit Thrush & Black-thr. Green warbler at Oak Hammock trail. On the Wildlife Drive Eurasian Widgeon, Ross & Snow Goose and incredible views of Clapper Rail and American Bittern. Scrub Jays were found along the road as well as Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk. Good time had by all.

LONG KEY NATURE CENTER 2/14-56 sp.

Nesting is underway on the island at Long Key. Great Egret, Little Blue, Tri-colored and Green Herons were in all stages of eggs to young. Also nesting were Anhinga and Dbl. breasted Cormorant.



EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK-3/14-81 species

Starting at Lucky Hammock we had brief looks at the rare Bell's Vireo and Brown-crested Flycatcher which were life birds for most people. Swallow-tailed Kites made an aerial display over the road. At Flamingo many Ospreys were in large nests and a Prairie Warbler sang in lovely rising notes. On the mud flat were loads of Black Skimmers and White Pelicans. A stop at Roberts is Here for tropical milkshakes cooled off a busy day of great birding adventures.

PANAMA Canopy Tower & Canopy Lodge 09 312 species

Like kids in a candy shop we were all very excited to be traveling to one of the top ten birding places in the world. Fork-tailed Flycatchers became common place, but not the Pearl Kite that was seen on the wires on the way up to the cool foothills of El Valle. Upon crossing the stone bridge into the Canopy Lodge we were greeted with brilliant flashes of yellow and indigo of the Thick-billed Euphonia, neon green with a black mask of the Green Honeycreeper and the burnt rust of the Rufous Motmot, regulars at the feeders. The beautiful surrounding gardens produced a Rufous-crested Coquette with it's shocking orange feathered crest on it's head, along with a large collection of Tanagers. The La Mesa road did not disappoint with scope views of the Blue-throated Toucanet.

We also lucked into a mixed flock where we frantically tried to point out and identify for many 25 life birds at one time including-Barred Antshrike, Spot-crowned Plain Antvireo, Slaty Antwren, Chestnut-Capped Brush-Finch and a surprise Canada Warbler.

Up in the higher mountains on a clear day we could see forever but it was hard work to find Orange-bellied Trogon, and Black-chested Jay. Flying over an open field was the amazing Long-tailed Tyrant and with some coaxing an "Outrageous" otherwise know as an Ochraceous Wren came out of the bromeliad, moss canopy branches for a great view by all. But waiting at sunset was a rare bird indeed a Tody Motmot along a beautiful river.

The Canopy Tower is incredible in that all the bird spots are within a 15 min. drive. Pipeline Road had 3 species of Trogons, Pied Puffbird, Great Jacamar, and what we came for an ant swarm with Bicolor and the rare Ocellated Antbird. Ammo Ponds was alive with Greater Ani, Wattled Jacana and the elusive White-th.



Crake. Summit Ponds-Ringed, Green and Amazon Kingbirds. Waiting at the end of Gamboa Road was a Spectacle Owl. A night tour was crawling with Sloths, Anteaters, & Woolly Opossums. One of the most spectacular sights of all was the early morning lift offs of up to 300 Mississippi Kites seen from the observation deck and Toucans So, So much more. Stay tuned for a full write up on the web site www.birdadventure.com

WHAT A LIFE

Jean Trebbi, Phyllis Brady, Dave & Sue Hagen new tropical birders added more than 275 species of birds on the trip. Experienced birders Chris Latt, Dave Simpson, Roy Book, & Ralph Bird worked hard helping to spot more than 300 birds. Paddy added 17 life & 102 Panama birds. THANKS CARLOS!!