

[Wings Over Florida Bird Program](#)

Thanks for subscribing to receive Wings Over Florida bulletins from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Each quarter, you will receive a seasonal highlight bulletin, which we hope will inform and encourage you to head outdoors, find birds that you can add to your Florida life list and earn your next Wings Over Florida certificate.

Summer breeders

In spite of the heat, summer is a very rewarding season for birders in Florida. Nesting is in full swing and if you visit the right trail sites and habitats you can add several key species to your list. Warblers like Swainson's, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Hooded can be found as well as tropical specialties such as White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo and Black-whiskered Vireo.

Be sure to click on the trail site links and once there click on the latest eBird sightings button for each site. This resource will help you find the species you need for your list.

Southern warbler hotspots

The Panhandle is the best section to visit to find all of the southern warblers Florida has to offer as well as songbirds that can be difficult to find nesting in the peninsula.

[Lake Talquin State Forest: Bear Creek](#)

The entrance trail to this family-friendly site is a paved interpretive trail, which then connects to the 2.5-mile Ravine Trail and the 3.0-mile Bear Creek Trail. The former hugs the creek ravine, and its hardwood forest is good for Hooded, Kentucky and Prothonotary Warbler.

Chipola River Greenway: [Butler Tract](#) and [Hinson Recreation Area](#)

Floodplain forest is the dominant habitat type at these two sites located on the beautiful Chipola River; look and listen for Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher and Kentucky, Hooded and Swainson's Warbler as you wander along the trails.

[Upper Chipola Water Management Area](#)

For the more intrepid explorer, this rustic river makes for a nice day of paddling and birding. As you drift downstream look and listen for all of the southern warblers; Hooded, Prothonotary, Swainson's and Kentucky. Louisiana Waterthrush is also possible. Wood Thrush and Acadian Flycatcher are quite common as well. If you prefer to bird on foot head to the Bellamy Bridge trail, which can be accessed from CR-162/Jacob Rd.

Tropical specialties

Head to the Everglades and the Florida Keys for the absolute best chance to add White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo and Black-whiskered Vireo to your list.

Everglades National Park: [Main Entrance](#) and [Gulf Coast Visitor Center](#)

All three species can be seen within this famous park. In 2017, birders have been seeing Mangrove Cuckoos at West Lake, Flamingo and Ten Thousand Islands. White-crowned Pigeons have been spotted at Gulf Coast Visitor's Center, Mahogany Hammock, West Lake, Flamingo and Coastal Prairie Tail. And, Black-whiskered Vireos have been sighted at Mahogany Hammock and in the Flamingo area.

[Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park](#)

A short paved walking/biking trail takes you into the main public part of the habitat, where you can find breeding populations of Black-whiskered Vireos, Mangrove Cuckoos and White-crowned Pigeons.

[Long Key State Park](#)

The Golden Orb Trail passes through mangrove swamps where Mangrove Cuckoos can be heard (difficult to see), and hammocks which provide foraging areas for White-crowned Pigeons. Check the trees around the restrooms for nesting Black-whiskered Vireos.

Good Luck!

We hope you venture out onto the trail this summer and have a great time looking for the species mentioned in this bulletin. Remember, take plenty of water and plan your trip out early morning when the temperatures are a little more forgiving!

Happy Birding!

Wings Over Florida is a free bird and butterfly listing recognition program that rewards people for their Florida life list and big year list achievements. Certificates are awarded to participants when they reach one or multiple listing milestones. We offer 6 birding life list certificates, 1 big year birding certificate and 6 butterfly life list certificates. You can apply for your certificates online or by mail. Click on Wings Over Florida birds and/or butterflies to apply online. To apply by mail you will need to [order a Checklist](#) of Florida's Birds and/or Butterflies. Fill out the application in the back of the checklist and mail it to – Wings Over Florida, P.O. Box 6181, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-6181

Visit our [Learn](#) page for resources that can help you achieve your listing goals and visit our [Flickr site](#) for help with some of Florida's difficult to identify birds. You may also be interested in participating in a Wings Over Florida workshop and/or field trip; Visit our [Events](#) page for more details. For assistance or more information about Wings Over Florida please [contact us](#)