

South Florida: Specialties, Exotics and Winter Rarities

January 6-12, 2025

Itinerary

Day 1 (Monday, January 6) Travel to Miami

Please plan to arrive in Miami this morning, when we can check into our nearby hotel. If we arrive early enough we can try for parrots/parakeets at some of the evening roost sites.

Night in Miami

Days 2 -3 (Tuesday January 7 & Wednesday, Jan 8) Greater Miami Area

We will spend 2 days in the Greater Miami area searching for a number of specialties. We'll make stops at wetlands for species like Swampen, Egyptian Goose, Mottled Duck, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, waders, Anhinga, etc. Burrowing Owl is regular in the area. And we have a number of introduced species to search for like – Common Mynas, Scaly-breasted Munia, Spot-breasted Oriole, and Red-whiskered Bulbul. Plus as of 11/24 there were 2 chaseable rarities in the area – Yellow-headed Caracara, and Bananaquit. Evenings will feature stops at parrot roosts. *Night in Miami.*

Day 4 (Thursday, January 9) Central Florida

Today will be a full day as we leave the coastal area and explore the pineland savannahs and agricultural areas of Central Florida looking for Snail Kite and Crested Caracara. Shiny Cowbirds are reliable at a nearby grain elevator as of 11/24. *Night in Homestead*

Day 5 (Friday, January 10) Everglades National Park

The Everglades are a wetland of huge importance for the wildlife of southern Florida. Wetland stops will feature numerous waders including Great White Heron and Limpkin, shorebirds, and possible American Flamingos. On our walks thorough mangroves we'll search for White-crowned Pigeon, Yellow (Golden) Warbler and possibly Mangrove Cuckoo. Possible landbird targets include Short-tailed Hawk and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. *Night in Homestead*

Day 6 (Saturday, January 11) Keys and Key West

Nobody can visit South Florida without visiting the Keys. Our targets will be Great White Heron, White-crowned Pigeon, and Magnificent Frigatebird. We'll bird the parks along the way which often harbor landbird rarities in winter. And a trip to the Keys would not be complete without searches for the Key Deer, an endangered subspecies of the White-tailed Deer. *Night in Key West*

Day 7 (Sunday, January 12) Leave Miami

Fly out of Miami on afternoon flights.