

Birds seen in central Florida, 17 July - 6 Aug 2012

Names and systematic order as per IWC list v2.6

Site codes :

- BP Brinson Park
- DWP Disney wilderness preserve
- ELT East Lake Tohopekaliga
- FDS Fort De Soto Park
- LLSP Lake Louisa State Park
- LM Lake Marian
- MI Merritt Island NWR
- OWP Orlando Wetlands park
- SRT Sunset Ranch Trail
- TL Three Lakes Wildlife Management area
- VW Viera wetlands

			MJG world tick	Florida speciality	Goodie from a world listing perspective	Comments
1	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern Bobwhite	w			Easy at TL, also seen at DWP
2	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey				1 at SRT, flock of 5 at LLSP
3	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	w	f		20+ at OWP, 3 at VW
4	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	Muscovy Duck	w	f		Easy around ELT
5	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard				Few presumed feral birds around ELT
6	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	Mottled Duck	w	f	*	Pair with young at ELT, Another pair at BP, Flock of 16 on a lake by SR429, common and easy at VW
7	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe				Few at VW
8	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	w	f	*	Singles seen at many sites, largest numbers at VW
9	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	American White Ibis				Common and widespread, scavenging around skips by malls
10	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis				Common at MI, OWP and VW
11	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	Roseate Spoonbill			*	Common at MI and VW

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12:	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron				Family near toilet block, Black Point Wildlife drive, MI. Singles seen elsewhere on MI and at VW
13:	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Western Cattle Egret				Large flocks with cattle
14:	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron				Widely seen
15:	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret				Very common, one sharing the stage with the Orcas at Seaworld
16:	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Reddish Egret			*	Not common, coastal, seen at MI and FDS
17:	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored Heron				Very common
18:	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron				Common
19:	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret				Common
20:	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican				Fairly common at MI and FDS
21:	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Magnificent Frigatebird		f		10+ around a lake on the right just before the bridge to FDS
22:	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant				Fairly common at MI
23:	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	Anhinga				Common
24:	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture				Very common
25:	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Black Vulture				Very common, less frequently seen than turkey vulture but forms bigger flocks on the ground
26:	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Western Osprey				A common bird
27:	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Swallow-tailed Kite		f		Only seen in flight, 5 birds seen, best were three near Legoland/Cypress gardens
28:	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	Snail Kite		f		A male seen on every visit to ELT
29:	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle				Fairly common
30:	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk				One presumed female chasing roosting grackles late evening at ELT
31:	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk				The commonest hawk at TL
32:	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk				Fairly common and widespread
33:	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	Northern Crested Caracara				Two adults at VW

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34:	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	Purple Gallinule				Just one bird seen, an adult at OWP
35:	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	Common Gallinule				Widespread
36:	<i>Fulica americana</i>	American Coot				Fairly common
37:	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane				Too plastic for me, cranes are supposed to be wary of man not walking around at the side of busy roads. Tame pairs a common sight.
38:	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	Limpkin		f		One of the birds of the trip. Very easy at Lake Marion, few at OWP, easiest at ELT, birds closest to the car park very tame, birds more wary further away from the car park.
39:	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Black-necked Stilt				Seen at most wetlands
40:	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	American Avocet				4 adults at MI
41:	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover				A few on shoreline at Bio Lab road, MI and FDS
42:	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Semipalmated Plover				Common at MI and FDS
43:	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson's Plover	w	f	*	Star bird at FDS, 5+ birds on shore at east beach
44:	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer				Few seen
45:	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Short-billed Dowitcher				Very common along Bio Lab road shoreline, MI on 18 July, but none seen in early August. Common at FDS east beach
46:	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Marbled Godwit				Few at MI and FDS
47:	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel				One at FDS
48:	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Greater Yellowlegs				Common along Bio Lab road
49:	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Lesser Yellowlegs				Common along Bio Lab road
50:	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Solitary Sandpiper				One at VW
51:	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Willet				Common on beaches
52:	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Spotted Sandpiper				A few at MI
53:	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone				Fairly common

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54:	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling				Few at FDS and MI
55:	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Semipalmated Sandpiper				A common shoreline bird
56:	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Western Sandpiper				Fairly common, on 18 July many birds showing bright rufous mantle feathers, by early August most birds moulted and trickier to separate from semi-P
57:	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Least Sandpiper				Very common
58:	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper				A few at Bio Lab road on 18 July, struck by the dark breast patch of breeding adults, nothing like the juveniles seen in the UK.
59:	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Stilt Sandpiper				One at MI, one at VW
60:	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Wilson's Phalarope				Few at MI and FDS
61:	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black Skimmer				20+ at FDS
62:	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	Laughing Gull				The only gull positively identified, very common on shorelines
63:	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern				A few at MI
64:	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Royal Tern				A few on Playalinda beach and a few elsewhere on MI
65:	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern				A few on Playalinda beach, MI
66:	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Least Tern	w			Fairly common at MI and FDS
67:	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Forster's Tern				Fairly common at MI and FDS
68:	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common Pigeon				Few seen
69:	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove				Few seen
70:	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	Mourning Dove				Very common everywhere
71:	<i>Zenaidura asiatica</i>	White-winged Dove	w			Just one bird seen; in flight over Wet'n'Wild
72:	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common Ground Dove				Fairly common at DWP and TL
73:	<i>Nandayus nenday</i>	Nanday Parakeet	w	f	*	A pair on wires whilst driving back from FDS; bonus bird!
74:	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk				Common at dusk at TL and LLSP, constantly calling, 9 birds in the air together at LLSP

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75:	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift				Small flock chittering overhead at dusk at ELT
76:	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher				Few seen
77:	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker				A pair at DWP
78:	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker				Commonest woody by far
79:	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker				Seen at TL and DWP
80:	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	w	f	*	Star bird, very hard work to track down. Finally saw 2+ birds very well at DWP
81:	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker				One at TL
82:	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker				Two birds in the oak hammock trail, MI
83:	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird				Few at MI
84:	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher				Several birds seen
85:	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike				Few seen
86:	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	White-eyed Vireo		f		Few seen at LLSP, TL, SRT and DWP
87:	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay				Few seen
88:	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida Scrub Jay	w	f	*	Two adults and two young, both of which actually landed briefly on my head, scrub jay trail, MI. This and Kea in New Zealand are the only world ticks to have made physical contact whilst ticking!
89:	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	Fish Crow				Small flocks seen, no care taken to check for American.
90:	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow				Few
91:	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren				A common and vocal species at TL
92:	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher				Surprisingly common at TL
93:	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	Brown-headed Nuthatch	w	f	*	Hard work. Got a family party at DWP
94:	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird				Common
95:	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling				Small flocks near VW
96:	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird	w			Family parties seen at DWP

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97:	<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula				Singles at LLSP and SRT
98:	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	Yellow-throated Warbler	w	f	*	A fairly common bird, seen well at TL, SRT and LLSP
99:	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler		f		Seen at SRT
100:	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler				At least 4 singles in hammocks
101:	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat				A few singing along road 10, TL
102:	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird				Very common though local.
103:	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle				Seen at the visitor centre, MI only
104:	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	Boat-tailed Grackle		f		A very common bird, 2000+ roosting at ELT
105:	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark				Common along road 10, TL
106:	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	w	f		A singing male, early morning, just north of road 9, 400m east of the junction with road 10, TL. Lucky to see this bird singing in late July, the Florida race is by far the rarest bird seen on the trip.
107:	<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	w	f		A common bird at TL and DWP. Males singing morning and dusk.
108:	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee				Common
109:	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal				The most widespread woodland species, their contact call is the commonest sound of hammocks.
110:	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Painted Bunting	w		*	Lucky to see an early juvenile on the feeder at the visitor centre, MI, 2nd Aug.

Target species not seen:

Least Bittern, becoming a bogey bird, particularly galling to see them on a video shown on the space centre bus tour!

Short-tailed hawk, not showing when I drove along the Walk-in-the-water road, as per Pranty

Summer Tanager, maybe a little too late?

King and Clapper rail: just too difficult to see, not heard either.