

---

January 1981

## A Birder's Guide to Florida

Florida Field Naturalist

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn>

---

### Recommended Citation

Florida Field Naturalist (1981) "A Birder's Guide to Florida," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 9 : Iss. 4 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol9/iss4/12>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Field Naturalist by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

To me, the most important and impressive documentation this book provides is not of the rich avifauna or the simple evidence of change in population and distribution over time, but rather of the terrible destruction of the environment and the birds that has occurred in Brevard County since World War II. For dozens of species something like the following is said: "Until the early 1950's a common breeding bird and migrant. Now a rare migrant or accidental. No longer breeds in the county." Thus the suburbanization and other development of Brevard County has taken a heavy toll, a toll marked last year by the apparent extinction of an entire form, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, and by, in the two decades before, the loss within Brevard of many species still fortunate enough to have sustaining populations elsewhere. Though it is not their fundamental purpose, books such as this one tell us of the most serious of all problems for future ornithologists and birdwatchers—the loss of the very things we enjoy studying and seeing.

This book should be used by concerned citizens as a tool to convince developers and legislators alike that something must be done to stem the tide.—  
JOHN WILLIAM HARDY.

A birder's guide to Florida.—James A. Lane. 1981. L. & P. Press, P.O. Box 21604, Denver Colorado 80221. 160 pp., 57 maps. \$7.00.—Jim Lane's guide is useful to visiting birders as well as to Florida's resident birders. Many of the areas to which he carefully and accurately guides the reader are places with which Florida birders are familiar but have difficulty finding. The book is a tremendous asset to the out-of-state birder unfamiliar with our good birding areas and is especially useful for finding these locations efficiently. Lane has almost eliminated the need for a roadmap!

To write this almost flawless guide, Lane spent at least 3 years in Florida traveling throughout the state and talking with local birders. The accuracy of his book is due not only to extensive research but also to the fact that he sent the manuscript to many of the state's knowledgeable birders and had them proof-read it—a procedure that too many field guide authors fail to follow!

In addition to information about birds, Lane also includes interesting facts about the other wildlife, vegetation and the historical significance of the particular location. Though somewhat less than in his previous guides, he injects his great sense of humor throughout the book, thereby making it enjoyable to read even if not really needed as a guide. When reading the book while traveling a particular route, one has the feeling that the author is accompanying the reader on a personal tour. As his friends and many others who have actually been on a tour with him know, a trip with Jim Lane is a delightful experience!—LYN ATHERTON.