

**Junior First Place – Emma H., Manatee County*

A Bird's Florida Vacation

In Florida's winter, no snow is found,
And people and birds to us flock.
Cranes trumpet calls as they circle around
As black crows in trees jeer and mock.

Little cardinals cheep and chatter,
Coming to my doorstep with glee.
Woodpeckers peck with quite a clatter
As blue jays caution in the tree.

Large birds also do migrate down,
While others are quite hard to see,
An osprey, flying in the clouds,
Soars wild and so utterly free.

One emerges from the river,
In his talons, a piece of meat.
Fish flops around with a quiver,
What a tasty, silvery treat.

But most numerous of all
Are the fowl without wing.
They drive south in the fall
And back north in the spring.

Florida! a home of the many,
Where birds joyfully tweet and sing.
They stay warm and cozy in winter
Then bid us farewell in the spring.

**Junior Second Place – Margaret T., Pinellas County*

Mangrove Wonderland

Mangroves, mangroves, oh how they grow.
There are many types you can get to know.
There's black and red and even white.
The mighty branches are a beautiful sight.

The roots are strong and deep,
They reach down where the waters seep.
And deep the water may go
but it likely will not show.

They protect us from the frightening winds
with the strength of their long limbs.
They protect their wildlife from within,
everything from crab to fin.

**Junior Third Place – Amelia Z., Hillsborough County*

The Boring Beetle

Boring beetle in the pine.
Making tunnels, oh so fine.
Signaling friends, come and dine.
Fungus, expedites decline.
Oh, so long, farewell old pine.
Ambrosia or turpentine?
Beetle is a southern pine!

**Junior Honorable Mention – Eden W., Sumter County*

Beautiful Butterfly

