

Friday, Oct 13, 2023

Fri-HI Honeymoon Island

Honeymoon Island, #1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Limited to 20 participants

No tolls. State Park Fee \$8 per vehicle up to 8 persons, or \$4 single occupant

Leaders: Dan Larremore 727-469-4205, Bill Kaempfer

Meet at the South Beach Café.

You will be walking the beach, so wear appropriate shoes. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen. A spotting scope if you want to carry it will be useful observing shorebirds.

Honeymoon Island State Park is well known for the migrants it attracts and the many shorebirds that use its beaches. Last year's trip found a **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** AND A **WHITE CROWNED SPARROW** in the wrack lines on the beach! Your leader is the Environmental Specialist for the park, and shorebirds are his specialty, so this should be a great walk! Besides all the plovers and sandpipers, godwits and willets, reddish egrets and oystercatchers along the beaches, Merlins patrol the edges looking for an unwary breakfast, Great Horned Owls nest in the pine forest on the island and the Osprey Trail is well named. This trip will focus on shorebirds, how to distinguish them in their winter drab and by their shapes and postures. The back lagoon will probably have the waders who prefer quieter waters. If you bring lunch after the walk you can enjoy it on the beach or at the picnic tables near Osprey Trail at the north end of the park road.

Directions from Tampa: Go West on Hillsborough Ave/Rt 92. (Note, this is a main street through town, but mostly 3 or 4 lanes wide and usually moves fairly well.)

After Oldsmar, bear Left onto Curlew Rd/Rt 586, continue ~7.5 miles to entrance to Honeymoon Island SP. After paying entrance toll, continue to second road on left. Turn left, at parking lot go left again and park near the South Beach Café to meet your leader.

