

Friday, Oct 18, 2024

Fri-HI Honeymoon Island

Meet your leaders in Honeymoon Island State Park, #1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, at the South Beach Café.

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Limited to 25 participants

No tolls. State Park Fee \$8 per vehicle up to 8 persons, or \$4 single occupant. Trip fee \$25.

Leaders: Dan Larremore 727-469-4205, David Simpson 321/720-5516

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. The 2022 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, you can enjoy it after the walk 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 leaders.

