

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

Sat-FD Ft DeSoto Extreme Birding

7:30 am - 1:00 pm

Limited to 30 participants, tolls \$2.50 plus \$5 park entry fee.

Leaders: David Goodwin, Jim Eager (423)593-0059

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent, sun screen. This will be flat, easy walking. You will drive short distances to various locations in the park, depending on recent bird reports.

Fort De Soto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders, and will be offered on both Saturday and Sunday. You will meet at the flagpole, then drive or walk to the hotspots of the day. Short easy walking at all times. If you care to bring your spotting scope, it will be handy for studying the shorebirds along the beach. If there's a passerine fallout you'll be in the wooded areas finding warblers, thrushes and buntings. There's never a bad day birding at Ft D!

NOTE PARKING FEE CHANGE: Once you enter the park, you must find a parking meter, enter your car license plate and pay the parking fee. As you move to various parking lots your car license will be checked electronically. The park toll booth is no longer manned to take fees.

From Brandon/East Tampa: take I-75 South to Exit 228, to I-275 North.

Continue on I-275 North over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. TOLL \$1.50 per car.

Take Exit 17 to 54th St South, and go West. TOLL \$.50 per car.

At light turn Left/South onto Rt. 679/Pinellas Bayway South. TOLL \$.50 per car.

Continue into park, past camping area, cross bridge ahead and proceed to T in road.

At T turn left, then quick right into the Welcome Center parking lot. Converge at the big flagpole.

OR, Other Option: (this is NOT recommended during rush hours!)

Take I-275 South to exit 17 for 54th St South, and go West. TOLL \$.50 per car.

At second light turn Left/South onto Rt. 679/Pinellas Bayway South. TOLL \$.50 per car.

Follow above directions into park.

