

Birds seen on a family holiday in Florida two weeks spent at Saint Pete's Beach, Saint Petersburg from 4th April till 18th April 2001. Most birding was done at Fort De Soto County Park, an offshore island that can be reached by driving a number of causeways and is about 10 miles away. This is an ideal place to see migrant warblers moving along the golf coast, when weather conditions are right large flocks of hungry migrants can occur. However during our stay the weather was hot and sunny so birding was slow with only a small numbers of migrants around.

Author Derek C Marsh.

Pied-billed Grebe	1, seen on the pools on Pinellas Bay 6/4, the odd bird to be seen Myakka River State Park 7/4.
Brown Pelican	Common seen daily around St. Pete Beach and Fort De Soto County Park.
Double-crested Cormorant	Very common in St. Pete Beach area, with up to 20 birds seen on a small lake on a nearby golf course most days, and also common offshore around Fort De Soto County Park.
Anhinga	1, seen on route to our hotel 4/4, 1, seen very well Myakka River State Park 7/4, odd bird seen in flight when driving around.
Magnificent Frigatebird	1, Fort De Soto County Park 5/4, and odd birds seen offshore there most days and 3 together 12/4.
Great Blue Heron	Common seen in suitable habitat throughout the holiday.
Great Egret	Common seen in suitable habitat throughout the holiday.
Snowy Egret	Very common seen almost anywhere.
Little Blue Heron	Fairly common around Fort De Soto County Park and seen in suitable habitat throughout the holiday.
Tricolored Heron	Usually single birds seen around Fort De Soto County Park most days also seen at Myakka River State Park 7/4, and Honeymoon Island 13/4.
Reddish Egret	1, Fort De Soto County Park 5/4, and probably the same bird seen there on a number of occasions and a white morph bird there in full breeding plumage 12/4.
Cattle Egret	Seen most days around Fort De Soto County Park and seen frequently along grassy roadside verges, and anywhere around livestock.
Green Heron	3, birds seen in the gardens of the Island Grand Hotel St. Pete Beach 14/4, and 1, seen in the Hippo enclosure Bush Gardens 16/4.
Black-crowned Night Heron	2, birds flushed from Mangroves Fort De Soto County Park 5/4.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1, Fort De Soto County Park 6/4, and 3 there 11/4.
White Ibis	Very common seen almost anywhere in suitable habitat.
Glossy Ibis	Only one bird seen on the last day of the holiday at Spring Hammock Preserve near Sanford Airport, 18/4.
Roseate Spoonbill	Up to 8 birds present daily on a golf course pool at the junction to Pinellas Bayway.
Wood Stork	1, over Pinellas Bayway 10/4, 1, Fort De Soto County Park, 11/4, fairly common around Bush Gardens with free flying birds attracted to the animal enclosures, 16/4, 1, on route to the airport 18/4.
Mute Swan	2, birds on a lake along Pinellas Bayway, 8/4.
Canada Goose	8, south St Pete Beach, 16/4

Mottled Duck	Common seen in suitable habitat throughout the holiday.
Mallard	2, over Orlando on route to St Petersburg, 4/4, and a few others seen .
Northern Shoveler	A drake bird present on the pools along Pinellas Bayway, 5/4
American Wigeon	A pair present on the pools along Pinellas Bayway, 5/4
Redhead	1, Pinellas Bayway, 6/4.
Lesser Scaup	4, present on the pools along Pinellas Bayway, 5/4, and at least 2 birds in the area throughout our stay.
Red-breasted Merganser	1, offshore Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, and the odd bird seen there on a number of days.
Black Vulture	Common inland with good numbers seen around Myakka River State Park 7/4.
Turkey Vulture	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, common inland with good numbers seen around Myakka River State Park 7/4.
Osprey	Very common seen anywhere around water and counted 11 nests in a row along highway 75 on top of pylons
Swallow-tailed Kite	1, near Lake Manatee, 7/4
Northern Harrier	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4
Coopers Hawk	1, Bonner Park a small city park in the north west of St Petersburg, 14/4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1, Clay Gully Rd, near Myakka River State Park 7/4, 1, Bonner Park 14/4, 2, Spring Hammock Preserve near Sanford Airport, 18/4
Red-tailed Hawk	1, On the outskirts of Tampa, 4/4.
American Kestrel	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4 and 1 there 11/4
Peregrine Falcon	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 17/4
Northern Bobwhite	1, very vocal bird Clay Gully Road, 7/4.
Sora Rail	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 10/4
American Purple Gallinule	2, Spring Hammock Preserve, 18/4.
Moorhen	Common on most lakes and ponds and seen most days.
American Coot	1, Pinellas Bayway, 6/4, but quite scarce odd bird seen in most wetland habitats throughout the holiday.
Sandhill Crane	4, Clay Gully Road, 7/4 and the odd birds seen when driving inland throughout the holiday.
Black-bellied Plover	Fairly common on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen most days.
Snowy Plover	2, off north beach Fort De Soto Park 12/4
Wilson's Plover	8, Fort De Soto Park 5/4, and small numbers seen most days.
Semipalmated Plover	One of the most common shorebirds, 30, Fort De Soto Park 5/4 and 50 there 6/4, and seen most days.
Piping Plover	1 off a small spit of land off north beach Fort De Soto County Park 6/4, and 8 there 12/4
Killdeer	2, Clay Gully Road, 7/4, and the odd bird seen occasionally around Fort De Soto County Park throughout the holiday
American Oystercatcher	1, Fort De Soto County Park 6/4 and up to 2 birds often present there.
Black-necked Stilt	1, Ellenton 7/4, 1, Fort De Soto County Park 12/4
Greater Yellowlegs	1, Fort De Soto County Park 12/4
Willet	Common around Fort De Soto County Park seen on all visits.
Spotted Sandpiper	2, Fort De Soto County Park, 13/4 and 1 there 14/4.
Whimbrel	Only 1 seen on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park 5/4
Long-billed Curlew	1 on a small island off north beach, Fort De Soto County Park 11/4.

Marbled Godwit	40+ off a small spit of land off north beach Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, and good numbers seen there on most visits.
Ruddy Turnstone	Fairly common on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen most days.
Sanderling	Common on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen most days.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1, Fort De Soto County Park 6/4
Western Sandpiper	2, Fort De Soto County Park 6/4
Least Sandpiper	Very common on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits.
Dunlin	Very common on the east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits
Short-billed Dowitcher	Always present in good numbers east beach Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits
Laughing Gull	Extremely common at all coastal locations.
Heermann's Gull	This was the surprise bird of the holiday this west coast gull has been at Fort De Soto County Park for a number of months and was being fed a daily ration of popcorn by local birders, first seen on the 6/4 and present throughout our holiday.
Ringed-billed Gull	Odd birds seen at coastal locations most days.
American Herring Gull	Odd birds seen at coastal locations most days no adults seen.
Caspian Tern	1, Fort De Soto County Park 5/4
Royal Tern	Common offshore and on the beaches Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits
Sandwich Tern	Common offshore and on the beaches Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits
Forster's Tern	Fairly common offshore and on the beaches Fort De Soto County Park and seen on most visits
Least Tern	Common offshore and on the beaches Fort De Soto County Park and seen on all visits
Black Skimmer	1, Pinellas Bayway, 8/4, 30+, roosting off the causeway to Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Common and Widespread.
Ringed Turtle-Dove	1, seen off 5 th Ave Saint Petersburg, 16/4, also a number of Collared / Ringed hybrids seed in the area.
Collared Dove	Very common around Saint Petersburg and urban area seen most days.
Mourning Dove	Common seen almost everywhere.
Common Ground-Dove	Small numbers seen at Fort De Soto County Park on all visits, 8 seen Honeymoon Island 13/4.
Monk Parakeet	1, on route to Honeymoon Island 13/4, 3, Bonner Park, 14/4, 5, near St Pete's Beach 15/4, very common Bush Gardens, 16/4.
Black-hooded Parakeet	1, Pinellas Bayway, 5/4, 3, Fort De Soto County Park 8/4, and seen there most days with a maximum count of, 25, 10/4.
Great Horned Owl	2, roosting in Australian Pines Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 10/4, 2, seen very well there 17/4.
Belted Kingfisher	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, 1, 10/4, 1, 11/4 and 1,14/4 all possible the same bird.

Red-bellied Woodpecker	Most common woodpecker seen in gardens and in suitable habitat throughout the holiday.
Yellow bellied Sapsucker	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, 2, 9/4, and 1, 11/4.
Downy Woodpecker	2, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, and 1 there 15/4.
Northern Flicker	1, Clay Gully Road, 7/4.
Pileated Woodpecker	1, Clay Gully Road, 7/4, 2, Myakka River State Park 7/4.
Great-crested Flycatcher	1, Clay Gully Road, 7/4, 1, Fort De Soto County Park, 9/4
Eastern Kingbird	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4
Purple Martin	2, along 46 th street off St Pete's Beach, 15/4, 8+, 2, Spring Hammock Preserve, 18/4.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2, Bonner Park, 14/4, 4, Spring Hammock Preserve, 18/4.
Barn Swallow	!0+, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, and small numbers seen most days including an orange bellied bird, 5/4, and 1, 17/4.
Blue Jay	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, Myakka River State Park 7/4, 3, Bonner Park, 14/4, and seemed to be fairly common in gardens along 46 th street off St Pete's Beach, 15/4.
American Crow	Common and widespread inland and good numbers seen Clay Gully Road, 7/4, and Myakka River State Park 7/4.
Fish Crow	Common around Fort De Soto County Park and seen on most visits.
Tufted Titmouse	1, Spring Hammock Preserve, 18/4.
Carolina Wren	1, Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
House Wren	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, 1, 8/4 and 1 12/4.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, and 2 there 8/4.
Eastern Bluebird	2, Clay Gully Road, 7/4.
Gray Catbird	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, and small numbers seen on most visits there, also seen at Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Northern Mockingbird	Very common seen daily.
Brown Thrasher	2, Clay Gully Road, 7/4.
Cedar Waxwing	10, feeding on mulberry berries Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4 and up to 50 present there throughout our stay in Florida, not seen outside the park.
Loggerhead Shrike	At least 2 bird Present most days Fort De Soto County Park first seen 6/4
European Starling	Common everywhere.
White-eyed Vireo	5, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, and seen on most visits but numbers declining by the day.
Red-eyed Vireo	Surprisingly only 1 seen Fort De Soto County Park, 17/4.
Tennessee Warbler	1, Privet Trail, East Beach Woods, Fort De Soto County Park, 17/4 after a very small fall of Warblers on that day.
Northern Parula	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, then one or two seen most visits with some in full song.
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1, at the Mulberry trees Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4 and probably the same bird present for about a week, another bird seen up the north of the Island, and 2 there 13/4.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2, at the Mulberry trees Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, 4, 9/4, and small numbers then seen most days.

Yellow-throated Warbler	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4, and 1 more of this beautiful little bird seen at the Mulberry trees, 11/4
Prairie Warbler	The second most encounter warbler first seen Fort De Soto County Park 6/4, and then seen on all visits there with maxim counts of, 20+, also common at Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Palm Warbler	The most common warbler around Fort De Soto County Park, 50+, 5/4 and seen there on all visits with 100+, seen, 9/4, after that number started to decrease.
Blackpool Warbler	1, Arrowhead Family Picnic Area, Fort De Soto County Park, 16/4
Cerulean Warbler	1, East Beach Woods, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, and probably the same bird there the next day.
Black and White Warbler	2, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4 and then one or two seen on most visits to the park.
American Redstart	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 12/4, 1, 17/4, and 2, Bonner Park, 14/4
Prothonotary Warbler	1, North beach Woods, Fort De Soto County Park, 17/4.
Worm-eating Warbler	1, Privet Trail, East Beach Woods, Fort De Soto County Park, 17/4.
Northern Waterthrush	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, 1, 9/4, 3, 12/4 and 2, Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Kentucky Warbler	1, at the Mulberry Trees Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4
Common Yellowthroat	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, 1, 9/4, 2, 11/4, 1, 12/4, also 1, Honeymoon Island, 13/4 and Bonner Park, 14/4, 1, Spring Hammock Preserve, 18/4.
Hooded Warbler	1, Privet trail, East Beach Woods, Fort De Soto County Park, 6/4
Wilson's Warbler	1, Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Northern Cardinal	2, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4, fairly common and seen on all visits to the park.
Indigo Bunting	1, Fort De Soto County Park, 8/4, a brighter bird there the next day, and 2 seen there 17/4.
Eastern Towhee	3, Honeymoon Island, 13/4.
Savannah Sparrow	A few seen at Fort De Soto County Park, 2, 5/4, 7, 10/4, and 5, 11/4.
Red-winged Blackbird	Common around Fort De Soto County Park and seen on most visits and seen almost anywhere around water.
Eastern Meadowlark	8, Clay Gully Road, 7/4 and 1, Fort De Soto County Park, 11/4
Boat-tailed Grackle	Very common seen everywhere especially around water.
Common Grackle	Very common around our hotel at St Pete's Beach, and seen in most areas.
Brown-headed Cowbird	Common at Fort De Soto County Park 8 there 5/4, and seen on most visits to the park.
Orchard Oriole	1, stunning male the Mulberry Trees, Fort De Soto County Park, 5/4.
House Sparrow	Common seen in urban areas.

Total number of species seen 140.