

2/26/09

Anne,

One of the places I've seen a lot of birds is a small pond in a little park just a half mile from our high rise on Sand Key, just south of Clearwater Beach. Another is Fort DeSoto State Park, an island in the Gulf at the mouth of Tampa Bay. Also Philippe Park on north Tampa Bay, Lake Seminole Park, and Boca Ciega Millenium Park. And yesterday we ran into some birders who directed us to Wall Springs, a county park on the Gulf just south of Tarpon Springs. It used to be a private spa created around a big fresh water spring, with lodging for tourists. Now the county has taken it over and has attempted to restore the natural vegetation. The spring flows into a series of ponds and eventually into the Gulf. The Gulf there is shallow, and there is no sandy beach - just mangrove trees - but there are viewing platforms. We were told it's a great place to go when the tide is out. We plan to stop there on the way home Saturday morning.

Steve