

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2024 Huron Fringe Birding Festival!

Arrive 30 minutes before your first event to complete registration and pick up your Festival Pass package. Gather 15 minutes before each event for instructions. Events leave on time!

All Day events register and depart from the Camper's Beach Parking Lot. All other events start promptly at the Visitor Centre (some exceptions).

Symbols: ☆ shorter all-day event (end at 3:00 pm) 🚗 vehicle transportation required. ♿ mobility limited events.

At the Visitor Centre daily: Morning coffee & treats. BBQ lunch 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (Friends of MacGregor Point Park). Check out the By Donation table.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 24

All Day

A1 6:30 am **BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING - CAPE CROKER** – Miptoon & Jarmo Jalava
Anishinaabe culture and the rich ecosystems found in Neyaashiinigmiing will be featured. Birds will be singing, wildflowers will be blooming and the scenery is spectacular. (*moderate*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A2 7:00 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE** – Mike Kent
The Bruce is bursting with birds at this time of year - late migrants and early breeders on territory. Mike will introduce you to the wonders of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A3 7:30 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE WITH BENSETTE** – Jeremy Bensette
Jeremy held Ontario's Big Year record from 2017 to 2022 and is a popular tour guide. Join him in his quest for the abundant birds of the Bruce. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A4 6:30 am **SEX & THE SINGLE WARBLER** – Mark Wiercinski
Warblers have two priorities at this time of the year... migration and breeding. Mark is entertaining and informative and will lead us into the lives of warblers. (*moderate*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A5 6:45 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – James Turland
Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Pelee North" because of its often-spectacular fallouts of warblers. James is a popular local leader and this is one of his favourite birding areas. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A6 7:30 am **MAGICAL MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur
Tim's fieldwork with Birds Canada includes several sites within MacGregor Point. We'll wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for later migrants and birds already on territory. (*moderate*, 🚗) (limit 16)

Afternoon

A7 1:30 pm **BIRDING THE HURON FRINGE** – David Turner
Birdlife along the shoreline fringe is featured during this walk from the Visitor Centre. David is an avid birder and an enthusiastic leader. (*easy*) (limit 16)

A8 1:30 pm **MAGICAL MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur
Tim's fieldwork with Birds Canada includes several sites within MacGregor Point. We'll wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for migrants and birds already on territory. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A9 1:30 pm **FEN & FRINGE** – Doug Pedwell

This leisurely excursion will explore the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road within MacGregor Point. We will visit some of the unique ecosystems that exist within the Park.

(easy, 🚗) (limit 16)

Evening

A10 7:15 pm **BEAKS & BRUSHES** – Sarah McComb-Turbitt 📖

Discover the unseen lives of penguins at sea and how we can share stories through wildlife art. Learn about breaking research on penguins and how Sarah captures her adventures in paint from her studio in Owen Sound.

(indoor presentation)

A11 9:00 pm **AFTER DARK IN THE PARK WITH MARK** – Mark Wiercinski

Nocturnal adaptations are required to rule the night. From owls to crickets to fireflies, we'll learn how these creatures thrive when darkness descends. *(outdoors, easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

SATURDAY MAY 25

Free Event - sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – Alessandra Wilcox 📖

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This drop-by event is a great opportunity to see birds up close. Watch as Alessandra collects birds from mist nets, records data and explains the benefits of bird banding.

All Day (These events return at 3:30 pm, today only)

A12 6:45 am **BIRDS OF THE BRUCE** – Kiah Jasper

Kiah birded much of Ontario in 2022 and holds the record for most species seen in one year! He will take you on a tour of some of his favourite and most productive 'Big Year' birding hotspots on the Bruce.

(easy, 🚗, bring lunch) (limit 20)

A13 7:00 am **BIRDING THE MID PENINSULA** – Tim Arthur

Join Tim on a tour of the middle peninsula area for an always-eventful day of birding. This area is a Festival favourite and has offered some nice rarities over the years. You never know...!

(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch) (limit 20)

A14 7:15 am **LANDS & LAKES** – Mike Kent

We'll bird the rich riparian habitats of the inland lakes of the lower Bruce and cruise the surrounding lands for field and forest birds. Mike will share his enthusiasm for all things wild and wonderful.

(easy, 🚗, bring lunch) (limit 20)

Morning

A15 6:15 am **JOY OF BIRDING** – Mark Wiercinski

Mark's enthusiasm and his knowledge of bird habits and habitats are enhanced by his entertaining manner. From FOY joy to lifers, this bird biologist will show you that birds make everything better.

(moderate, 🚗) (limit 16)

A16 6:30 am **PELEE NORTH** – Jeremy Bensette

Local birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Pelee North" because of the frequent spectacular fallouts of warblers that occur there. Surrounding environs provide great birding too.

(easy, 🚗) (limit 20)

A17 7:00 am **THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR** – Dale Wenger

We'll take a ramble 'round MacGregor listening to songs in the air and looking for birds in the trees. Birds will be settling onto territory and proclaiming their domain in full song from the treetops.

(moderate) (limit 16)

A18 7:15 am **RURAL ROUTES** – James Turland

We'll discover bountiful birding opportunities with James as we explore forested trails and pasturelands along the byways and scope out the Lake Huron shoreline. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A19 7:30 am **BIRDING THE HURON FRINGE** – David Turner

Birdlife along the shoreline fringe is featured during this walk from the Visitor Centre. David is an avid birder and an enthusiastic leader. (*easy*) (limit 16)

A20 9:00 am **BIRDING 101** – Fred Jazvac, Stew Nutt & Alessandra Wilcox

We will introduce you to the basics of birding - using binoculars, bird ID and habitat, describing a bird's location and birding etiquette. Some binoculars will be available if you don't have any. (*easy*) (limit 16)

11:00 am **NATURE SHOWCASE** (Visitor Centre)

Check out the displays and equipment from Vortex and Penetangear. Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Plover Lovers, Explore the Bruce, Quest Nature Tours, Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation all have information to share or books to sell.

Afternoon (These events return at 3:30 pm, today only)

A21 1:00 pm **BIRDER MURDER MYSTERY TOUR** – Marshall Byle

Bring your binoculars and your sense of humour on this birding hike at Marwanda Estate that may include a few bird murder mysteries to solve. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A22 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – Kyle Horner

Join this consummate naturalist on a leisurely hike through the Park. Kyle will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A23 1:30 pm **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Erik Van Den Kieboom

The habitats in and around the edge of the Park provide lots of avian action. Erik's keen eyes and ears will help you add a nice range of birds to your Festival list. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A24 1:30 pm **NATURE SKETCHING** – Alessandra Wilcox

Join Alessandra in a field sketching workshop focusing on birds and wildlife. She will cover materials and techniques for working quickly in the field. Drawing materials supplied. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to experienced artists! (*\$20 extra per person for materials, easy*) (limit 12)

A25 1:30 pm **THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR** – Dale Wenger

We'll take a ramble 'round MacGregor listening to songs in the air and looking for birds in the trees. Birds will be settling onto territory and proclaiming their domain in full song from the treetops. (*easy*) (limit 16)

Evening

A26 5:00 pm **BIRDERS' BANQUET & KEYNOTE SPEAKER - PUNK ROCK BIG YEAR** – Paul Riss 🍴

When a punk is also a birder, they do a very different Big Year. Paul will speak about his journey as a birder and a punk, which was featured in a CBC documentary. *St. Joseph's Jubilee Hall, Port Elgin. \$70 per person. Cash Bar. Contact the Registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions.*

SUNDAY MAY 26

Free Event - sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – Alessandra Wilcox 🍴

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This drop-by event is a great opportunity to see birds up close. Watch as Alessandra collects birds from mist nets, records data, and explains the benefits of bird banding.

All Day

A27 6:00 am **A BIG DAY** – Kiah Jasper

This popular dawn-to-dark birding marathon on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula should give you a day's list of over 100 species! Kiah, an obsessed birder, will take you birding till you drop, or drop out!

(difficult, 🚗, bring lunch & walking supper, possible return after 9 pm) (limit 20)

A28 6:15 am **A DAY IN THE PARK** – Mark Wiercinski ★

Stump Dump, Pitcher Plant Marl, Seiche Pond, Ash Swamp, Turtle Pond, Cranberry Bog. Birds and botany abound in these rich nooks and niches of the Park. *(easy, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 16)

A29 7:00 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE** – Erik Van Den Kieboom

Join 'Boomer' on a birding tour of the lower Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. This region offers an abundance of birds in a range of diverse habitats. Erik knows them all. *(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

A30 6:30 am **BIRDING IN THE PARK** – Tim Arthur

Tim's fieldwork with Birds Canada includes several sites within MacGregor Point. We'll wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for late migrants and birds settled in on territory. *(easy)* (limit 16)

A31 6:45 am **GRASSLANDS, WOODLANDS & WETLANDS** – Mike Kent

Mike loves to share his keen interest in birds with one and all. Discover the avian specialties of these varied habitats outside the Park. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

A32 7:00 am **BIRDS & MORE** – Kyle Horner

Birds and other fauna and flora found along the Huron Fringe are featured during this walk in the Park. Kyle, a consummate naturalist, will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point. *(easy)* (limit 16)

A33 7:15 am **'POWER' BIRDING AT THE BRUCE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy has spent 10 breeding seasons conducting Marsh Monitoring surveys with Birds Canada including at the Bruce Power wetlands. Jeremy will have other enticing birding stops along the way.

(easy, 🚗) (limit 20)

A34 7:30 am **BIRDING ON THE FRINGE** – Paul Riss

The habitats in and around the edge of the Park provide lots of avian action. Paul will help you add a nice range of birds to your Festival list. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16)

A35 7:30 am **PELEE NORTH** – James Turland

Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Peele North" because of its frequent spectacular fallouts of warblers. James is a popular local leader, and this is one of his favourite birding areas. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

A36 7:45 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Dale Wenger

Woodland and wetland birds are featured as Dale leads us along the popular Tower Trail to the Ducks Unlimited wetlands. *(moderate, 🚗)* (limit 16)

11:00 am **NATURE SHOWCASE** (Visitor Centre)

Check out the displays. There will be information to share and books to buy.

Afternoon

A37 1:30 pm **SHRUB & TREE ID** – Kevin Predon

If a tree falls in the forest, can anybody identify it? Using leaf and twig identification keys we'll learn to identify coniferous and deciduous species. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16)

A38 1:30 pm **BIRD RAMBLE 'ROUND MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur
Join Tim on a ramble through MacGregor to discover what birds abound in open forest habitats and along the Lake Huron shore. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A39 1:30 pm **FEN & FRINGE** – Doug Pedwell
This leisurely excursion will follow Kempf's Trail to the Old Shore Road exploring the wild botany in the varied ecosystems along the way. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A40 1:30 pm **BIRDS & MORE** – Kyle Horner
Birds and other fauna and flora found along the Huron Fringe in the Park are featured during this walk in the Park. Kyle will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

Evening

A41 7:15 pm **DUNE ECOLOGY** – Jenna McGuire 🦜
Great Lakes dunes are globally rare habitat, and incredibly interesting ribbons of life along the shoreline. They have their own unique processes, species and geological origins. Join Jenna for a journey through the stories and ecology of the dunes of the Huron Fringe. (*indoor presentation*)

MONDAY MAY 27

All Day

A42 6:15 am **JARMO'S BIG BACKYARD** – Jarmo Jalava ★
Isaac Lake, Sky Lake and Red Bay areas host rich bird and botanical habitats. The outing will involve birding on foot as well as a little Big Sit on the deck of Jarmo's home, overlooking great views of some characteristic Saugenee Bruce Peninsula habitats. (*moderate*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 16)

A43 6:30 am **BIRDS & BOTANY FROM THE BOARDWALKS** – Jeremy Bensette
From the Park's boardwalks to boardwalks at the Oliphant Fen and Petrel Point we'll explore the rich flora and fauna of the Bruce. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A44 7:30 am **A BIG SIT AT MARWANDA ESTATE** – Marshall Byle ★ 🦜
Wide covered porches offer viewing in all directions. We'll check out the ponds and wander the groomed trails. Over 100 species of birds can be viewed here during May. Coffee & tea provided.
(*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch & lawn chairs*) (limit 20)

A45 8:30 am **ALVAR ADVENTURE** – Tyler Miller
Join Field Ecologist, Tyler, on a unique botany tour of the Lake Huron shoreline - conifer forest, swamp and globally endangered alvar. We will discover the amazing ecology of many rare plants, mosses and lichens. (*moderate*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A46 7:30 am **WHERE WOODS MEET WETLANDS** – Kyle Horner
Join Kyle on a trek through the songbird-rich Park woodlands to the wetlands of the Ducks Unlimited pond. This area of the Park has lots to offer. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A47 8:00 am **PHOTOGRAPHY: GOING BEYOND AUTOMATIC** – Arni Stinnissen
Learn secrets for improving your nature-themed photography using easy-to-understand techniques from an experienced photographer. Bring a camera that has manual controls. A tripod would be handy.
(*easy*, 🚗) (limit 12)

Afternoon

A48 1:30 pm **GEOLOGY ROCKS** – Beth Gilhespy

Beth will provide an overview of the local geology at MacGregor Point on a geological walk to see ancient coral reefs and post-glacial beaches. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

A49 1:30 pm **EXPLORING NATURE WITH A CAMERA** – Arni Stinnissen

Join an experienced photographer and explore photo opportunities walking a wetland habitat. Learn how to compose and make your images 'pop'. Bring a camera that has manual controls. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 12)

Evening

A50 7:15 pm **REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN WILDLIFE & WILD SPACE CONSERVATION** – Beth Gilhespy

Beth will take participants on a visual journey of her work over the past 20 years preserving wild spaces with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and endangered wildlife with the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy. *(indoor presentation)*

THURSDAY MAY 30

All Day

B1 7:30 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE** – Ian Shanahan

The Bruce is bursting with birds at this time of year - migrants and residents on territory. Ian will introduce you to the wonders of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. Enjoy a great birding experience with this world-class birder. *(easy, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B2 7:45 am **GREENOCK SWAMP NATURE RAMBLE** – Shannon Wood ☆

Explore southern Ontario's largest forested Class 1 wetland. We'll ramble 'round in this 20,000-acre complex. History, birds, and botany are featured. *(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B3 8:00 am **OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE** – Doug Pedwell

Located between Sky and Boat Lakes, this unique property is surrounded by a few thousand acres of protected lands. Botany and birds, and some local history will be our focus. Nearby Nature Reserves will also be explored. *(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B4 7:00 am **BIRDING THE BACKROADS OF BRUCE TOWNSHIP** – Marshall Byle

Enjoy late spring birding and participate in some Atlas information gathering, which is more fun than you may think. Learn the benefits and importance of Breeding Bird Atlassing. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B5 7:15 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Kiah Jasper

Kiah's sharp eyes and ears will impress you during this walk around the Ducks Unlimited trails and wetlands. This site always turns up late migrants and early nesters. If they're there Kiah will find them. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16)

B6 7:30 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Pete Read

Pete, a popular Quest leader, has spent his life inspiring awareness about the natural world. Enjoy birding the riches of MacGregor with this experienced birder. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16)

B7 8:30 am **CHANTRY ISLAND 1** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, protects egrets and several other colonial nesting species. Tour the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. Get a birds-eye view as you climb the lighthouse stairs.

(Go directly to the Southampton dock Tour Base. \$30 per person to be paid at the Tour Base. Must be >4' tall. Sturdy footwear (no flip-flops). Weather permitting, moderate, 🚗) (limit 9)


Afternoon

B8 12:30 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND 2** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton
Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, protects egrets and several other colonial nesting species. Tour the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. Get a birds-eye view as you climb the lighthouse stairs. *(Go directly to the Southampton dock Tour Base. \$30 per person to be paid at the Tour Base. Must be >4' tall. Sturdy footwear (no flip-flops). Weather permitting, moderate, 🚗)* (limit 9)

B9 1:00 pm **BLUEBIRD TRAIL** – Marshall Byle & Dennis Lewington
Marshall will give you a tour of his bluebird boxes and a variety of other nesting boxes. You'll learn about nesting bluebirds and discover several other species that also take advantage of the boxes. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B10 1:30 pm **BOTANY ALONG THE FRINGE** – Barbara Palmer
We will explore the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road within the Park looking for all the wild botany the Park has to offer. *(easy)* (limit 12)

Evening

B11 7:15 pm **NATURE BY CANOE & KAYAK** – Michael Runtz 
There are myriad birds and animals encountered from a canoe or kayak. This presentation is a visual extravaganza of many of the species of animals and plants encountered along lakes and rivers. *(indoor presentation)*

FRIDAY MAY 31

All Day

B12 7:30 am **WHAT MAKES A HOTSPOT?** – Kiah Jasper
Come birding with Kiah and explore a number of hotspots on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, including one of its most productive wetland complexes. Expect an assortment of open country bird species and marsh specialties. *(easy, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B13 8:15 am **FISHING ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO** – Bill Crins, Lynne Richardson, Michael Runtz
We'll bird and botanize our way to Evergreen Resort at Red Bay, have lunch at the lodge, then embark on an afternoon pontoon boat tour of the Fishing Islands. The islands are bursting with colonial birds! *(\$39 extra per person, payable at the Resort, includes lunch and boat, easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B14 8:30 am **STURGEON BAY FORESTS** – Esme Batten, with Jacob Kloeze & Justin Johnson
Join the Nature Conservancy of Canada team to explore this newly acquired 160-acre property on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. Located just northeast of Wiarton, this spectacular rolling escarpment forest supports a diversity of plants, birds and herptiles. *(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 15)

Morning

B15 7:00 am **FORESTS & FIELDS** – Justin Peter
Join Quest world tour leader Justin, accomplished birder and interpreter, to discover the bird-rich grasslands and countryside of beautiful Bruce County. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B16 7:15 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron
Look, listen and learn with Jean, an OFO Distinguished Ornithologist and well-known educational leader. Bird field, river, and riparian habitats throughout the morning. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B17 7:30 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Pete Read
Join Pete as we explore various habitats around the edge of the Park. These areas provide lots of avian action and an eclectic mix of birds. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B18 1:30 pm **WARBLERS & WILDFLOWERS** – Ian Shanahan

This outing will explore rich niche habitats along the Tower Trail. Enjoy the wonders of spring through the eyes of an experienced ecologist. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

B19 1:30 pm **THE DUNES OF INVERHURON** – Marshall Byle

Explore some of the little-known trails along the river and through the sand dunes of Inverhuron Provincial Park. Groves of tall pines, young woodlands and ancient cedars round out the diversity of this Park. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 16)

B20 1:30 pm **PIPING PLOVERS OF SAUBLE BEACH** – Stew Nutt & Don Kennedy

Join these entertaining plover enthusiasts and spend time with endearing and endangered beach-nesting birds. Learn about the plovers' unique behaviours and be prepared for cuteness overload.

(*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 20)

Evening

B21 7:15 pm **MEETING THE AMERICAN KESTREL** – John Reaume 

This photo essay will highlight the life history of the kestrel with intimate views of their nesting behaviour. We will see the differing behaviours of the male and female parents as well as what avian neighbours think of having a pair of nesting kestrels in their territories! (*indoor presentation*)

B22 9:15 pm **STARRY STARRY NIGHT** – Bluewater Astronomical Society 

Following an indoor introduction to binocular astronomy, members of the Bluewater Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the dark sky down near the water. BYOB (binoculars).

(*indoor & outdoor presentation*) (limit 30)

SATURDAY JUNE 1

Free Event - sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – Alessandra Wilcox 

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This drop-by event is a great opportunity to see birds up close. Watch as Alessandra collects birds from mist nets, records data, and explains the benefits of bird banding.

All Day

B23 6:45 am **BOUNTIFUL BRUCE PENINSULA** – Justin Peter

India, Galapagos, Bruce County! Justin is a Quest global tour leader. This tour will take you through the bountiful, bird-rich habitats of the Bruce and add a range of species to your Festival bird list.

(*easy, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B24 7:00 am **CLICK ON NATURE** – Doug Pedwell

Join Doug, past president of the Saugeen Shores Camera Club, for this photo outing on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. There will be a cornucopia of nature image opportunities including landscapes, orchids and birds. (*moderate, 🚗, bring lunch & snacks, possible return after 4:30 pm*) (limit 12)

B25 7:30 am **KINGHURST FOREST NATURE RESERVE** – Nikki May 

This majestic old growth forest with its century trees is a rare example in southern Ontario of lightly touched woodlands. History, woodland birds and botany will be featured.

(*moderate, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 16)

Morning

B26 7:00 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Michael Runtz

The mixed habitat niches around the edge of the Park provide abundant avian action and an eclectic mix of birds for the list. Michael is wildly enthusiastic, entertaining, and knowledgeable.

(*moderate*, 🚗) (limit 20)

B27 7:15 am **THE JI LINE WITH JI** – Jean Iron

We'll cover the JI Line grasslands and other rural habitats with Jean, an OFO Distinguished Ornithologist and well-known educational leader. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

B28 7:30 am **BIRDING BY EAR** – Ian Shanahan

"Look for birds with your ears" is a terrific guiding principle, especially during the breeding season. Ian will focus on characterizing bird songs, sifting through the sounds, identifying the key players in the rich tapestry of spring song. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

B29 8:00 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Abby Collins

A morning walk around the Ducks Unlimited wetland always turns up late migrants and early nesters. An Ontario Master Naturalist, Abby loves to share her keen interest in birds. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

B30 9:00 am **IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY** – Willy Waterton 📱

'The best camera is the one with you'. iPhone cameras are more powerful than people realize. We will explore the camera's various functions and attachments to expand your photographic horizons.

(*easy*) (limit 10)

11:00 am **NATURE SHOWCASE** (Visitor Centre)

Check out the displays. There will be information to share and books to buy.

Afternoon

B31 1:30 pm **WETLANDS WALK** – John Reaume

Discover flora and fauna that make their home in swamps, marshes and ponds - from carnivorous plants to insects, spiders, frogs, snakes and turtles, and of course the birds that specialize in these wetlands.

(*easy*) (limit 16)

B32 1:30 pm **SEDGES HAVE EDGES** – Bill Crins

Sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses are hollow right up from the ground. Bill will open your eyes to the fascinating flora on the forest floor, including the world of sedges, his specialty.

(*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

B33 1:30 pm **CAPTURING NATURE THROUGH ART** – Sue Allison 📱

Join Sue for a special time of observation through sketching and applying colour which will lead to journaling nature. Drawing/painting materials supplied. Everyone is welcome, from beginner to experienced artists! (*\$20 extra per person for materials, easy*) (limit 12)

Evening

B34 7:15 pm **EVENING CONCERT & SING-ALONG** – Margaret Wysman 📱

Come and enjoy the evening with original songs and well-known cover tunes performed by an acclaimed local singer-songwriter. Margaret weaves wisdom and humour into her heartfelt performances.

(*Free event but Registration is requested, outdoors - weather permitting, or indoors*)

B35 9:00 pm **DENIZENS OF THE DARK** – Michael Runtz

As dusk descends over the Park the denizens of the dark awaken. Michael will help us discover this nocturnal nightlife in his usual entertaining and informative style. (*outdoors, easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

SUNDAY JUNE 2

Free Event - sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – Alessandra Wilcox 

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This drop-by event is a great opportunity to see birds up close. Watch as Alessandra collects birds from mist nets, records data, and explains the benefits of bird banding.


Morning

B36 7:15 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Justin Peter

This popular trail always produces a good mix of species. Justin's superb birding skills will ensure we spot everything that's to be found along the trail and from the observation tower overlooking the wetland.

(*easy*, ) (limit 16)

B37 7:30 am **NATURE RAMBLE 'ROUND THE PARK** – Ian Shanahan

Birds are nesting, wildflowers are blooming, butterflies are alight, and trees are in full leaf. It's a great time to be in the Park with a passionate interpretive naturalist, who will help us see the natural phenomena unfolding in this thrilling season of natural bounty. (*easy*, ) (limit 16)

B38 7:45 am **BOTANY, BIRDS & BUGS** – Bill Crins

Bill has an incredible background in botany, birds and bugs. The abundant flora and fauna of the Lake Huron shoreline, fen and edge habitats are featured during this walk from the Visitor Centre.

(*easy*) (limit 16)


B39 8:00 am **COUNTRYSIDE BIRDING** – Abby Collins

Abby loves to share her keen interest in birds. Explore grasslands and other rural habitats outside the Park with this Ontario Master Naturalist. (*easy*, ) (limit 20)


11:00 am to 1:00 pm **MIX & MINGLE BBQ FINALE**

Grab lunch before you hit the road. Join some of our leaders and Festival Committee members while you relax and reminisce about your Festival experiences.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

- **Sturdy footwear** and **drinking water** are required for all outings.
- **Black-legged Ticks** carrying Lyme Disease are in Bruce County. Be tick aware.
- Bring **walkie-talkies** if you have them, for vehicle  events.

DIFFICULTY LEVELS

Mobility Limited  – Intended for those who have difficulty walking.

Easy – Participants should be able to walk and stand up to 3 hours without any difficulty.

Moderate – Participants should be able to walk and stand between 3 - 5 hours without any difficulty.

Difficult – Participants should be able to walk where there may be unsure footing, steepness or where obstacles need to be negotiated.

REGISTRATION

The Festival program has been posted for viewing.

Registration opens March 15, 2024

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

FESTIVAL FEES

PACKAGE RATES

Adult:	8 Day Festival \$192	4 Day Weekend \$144
	1 st Saturday & Sunday \$90	2 nd Saturday & Sunday \$70
* Youth:	8 Day Festival \$96	4 Day Weekend \$72
	1 st Saturday & Sunday \$45	2 nd Saturday & Sunday \$35

*Youth - 10 to 21 (under 13 must be accompanied by a registered chaperone)

SINGLE EVENT RATES

(Note: Single Event fees only apply until the total reaches that of a package. Package rates will be applied automatically.)

Morning or Afternoon Event:	Adult \$24	Youth \$12
All Day Event:	Adult \$48	Youth \$24
Evening Event:	Adult \$12	Youth \$6

Festival fees include Park entrance fee. Additional fees may apply on certain events.
Refund information is available on the website.

**The Huron Fringe Birding Festival uses online registration and payment at:
www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca**

The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is presented by the Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee, Friends of MacGregor Point Park and MacGregor Point Provincial Park. The Festival supports the preservation of the Park's natural legacy.

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS & DONORS

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Holiday Inn & Suites, Port Elgin
Nature Conservancy of Canada
OSIM Interactive, Harriston
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Travelodge by Wyndham, Port Elgin

Festival headquarters are at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, located approximately five kilometres south of Port Elgin, Ontario on the shore of Lake Huron.
MacGregor Point Provincial Park, 1593 Bruce Road 33, Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada N0H 2C5