

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the Huron Fringe Birding Festival!

Events leave on time! 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.

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 events (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). Mix & mingle at 'The Nest' over lunch. Check out the 'By Donation' Table.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 23

All Day

A1 6:30 am **BOGNOR MARSH BIRDING** – Mark Wiercinski ★

Mark will lead us to this Escarpment-framed extensive marsh complex located in Grey County. A network of boardwalk and hiking trails introduce you to vibrant ecosystems that are home to wetland and forest birds. (*difficult*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A2 6:45 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE** – Mike Kent

The Bruce is busting 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

Join Jeremy in his quest for the abundant birds of the beautiful Bruce. Jeremy held Ontario's Big Year record from 2017 to 2021 and is a very popular birding guide. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A4 6:30 am **UP WITH THE BIRDS** – 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)

A5 6:45 am **WAVES OF WARBLERS** – 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)

A6 7:15 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – James Turland

Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Peelee 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)

A7 7:30 am **COAST TO CANOPY ESCAPE** – Alessandra Wilcox

Join Alessandra for a morning of birding along the shores of Inverhuron Provincial Park. This location boasts breeding birds that prefer a coniferous habitat and has also turned up a number of rarities.

(*moderate*, 🚗) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A8 1:30 pm **MAGICAL MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur

We'll wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for migrants and birds already on territory. Tim will take us to some of MacGregor's birdiest niches. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

A9 1:30 pm **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – David Turner
Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as “Pelee North” because of its often-spectacular fallouts of warblers. This is a favourite local spring birding area. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 20)

A10 1:30 pm **FEN & FRINGE** – Doug Pedwell
This leisurely excursion will explore the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road, visiting the unique ecosystems that exist within MacGregor Point. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

Evening

A11 7:15 pm **STORM BIRDING** – Kiah Jasper
Kiah’s unique photos will illustrate his talk about storm patterns and rare birds. Most people know that weather and good birding go hand in hand. If you dive deeper into it, you can find ties between certain weather patterns and specific birds showing up, and use this knowledge to plan future birding trips.
(*indoor presentation*)

A12 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 24

Free Event - Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – David Brewer 🦋
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 Master Bander David 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)

A13 6:15 am **HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE LOWER BRUCE** – Doug Pedwell
We’ll explore botanically rich nature reserves as we cross the lower Bruce Peninsula from Lake Huron to Georgian Bay. The dolostone of Bruce and Grey contributes to the presence of provincially rare ferns, wildflowers and other wild botanicals. (*moderate, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A14 6:30 am **SOUTH BRUCE BIRDING** – 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.
(*easy, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A15 6:45 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE PENINSULA** – Tim Arthur
Join Tim on a tour for an always-eventful day of birding on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. This area is a Festival favourite and has offered some nice rarities over the years. You never know...!
(*moderate, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A16 7:00 am **LANDS & LAKES** – Mike Kent
We’ll bird the rich riparian habitats of the inland lakes of the lower peninsula and cruise the surrounding lands for field and forest birds. Mike will share his abundant enthusiasm for all things wild and wonderful.
(*easy, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A17 6:15 am **JOY OF BIRDING** – Mark Wiercinski
Mark’s knowledge of bird behaviour and habitats are enhanced by his entertaining manner. From FOY joy to lifers, this bird biologist will show you how birds make everything better. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 16)

A18 6:30 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka 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)

A19 6:45 am **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)

A20 7:00 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)

A21 7:15 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Paul Riss
The habitat in the Park and around its fringes offers up some good birding during the last blast of migration and the beginning of the breeding season. Paul will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point Park. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16).

A22 7:45 am **COAST TO CANOPY BIRDING** – Alessandra Wilcox
Join Alessandra for a morning of birding along the shores of Inverhuron Provincial Park. This location boasts breeding birds that prefer a coniferous habitat and has also turned up a number of rarities.
(easy, 🚗) (limit 20)

A23 9:00 am **BIRDING & BINOCULAR BASICS** – Ashley Hegmans
Get ready for your next, or first, birding outing! Ashley will introduce you to the basics of birding - using binoculars, bird ID and habitat, describing a bird's location, birding etiquette and more. Binoculars available. *(easy)* (limit 16)


11:00 am -1:30 pm **NATURE SHOWCASE** (Visitor Centre)
Check out the displays and equipment from Vortex, Penetangear, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Explore the Bruce, Quest Nature Tours, Bruce Power, Ontario Power Generation and others. All have information to share or books to sell.

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

A24 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)

A25 1:30 pm **ON THE FRINGE** – David Turner
Land and water 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)

A26 1:30 pm **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Paul Riss
The habitat in the Park and around its fringes offers up some good birding during the last blast of migration and the beginning of the breeding season. Paul will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point Park. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

A27 1:30 pm **SKETCHING NATURE** – Alessandra Wilcox 
Join Alessandra in a field-sketching workshop, with MacGregor's scenery as your backdrop. All are welcome - beginners to experienced artists!
(Bring your own materials, see website for more details, easy) (limit 12)

A28 1:30 pm **LAND & SEA** – Dale Wenger

We'll walk along the Lake Huron (aka an inland sea!) shore scoping for seabirds and shorebirds and looking and listening for songbirds along Huron's fringe woods. Dale will bring his scope to ensure everyone gets great views. (*moderate*) (limit 16)

Evening

A29 5:00 pm **BIRDERS' BANQUET & KEYNOTE SPEAKER** – Julia Zarankin 

Birding has a great deal to teach us about how to live a good life and how to be a better human being. Julia will show us how birding helps us see the world with wonder, nuance and empathy. *St. Joseph's Jubilee Hall, Port Elgin. \$70 per person. Cash Bar. Contact the Registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions.*

SUNDAY MAY 25

Free Event - Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – David Brewer 

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 Master Bander David collects birds from mist nets, records data, and explains the benefits of bird banding.

All Day

A30 6:00 am **A BIG DAY** – Kiah Jasper & Alessandra Wilcox

This popular dawn-to-dark birding marathon on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula should give you a day's list of over 100 species! Kiah and Alessandra are both obsessed birders and will take you birding till you drop or drop out! (*difficult, 🚗, bring lunch & walking supper, possible return after 9 pm*) (limit 20)

A31 6:15 am **JARMO'S BIG BACKYARD** – Jarmo Jalava 

Isaac Lake, Sky Lake and Red Bay areas host rich bird and botanical habitats. After birding these areas, we'll enjoy lunch and inland birding on a little Big Sit on Jarmo's deck, which offers great views of some characteristic and birdy Saugeen Bruce Peninsula habitats. (*moderate, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 16)

A32 6:45 am **AVIAN ADVENTURES** – Jeremy Bensette

Join Jeremy in his quest for the abundant birds of the beautiful Bruce. Jeremy is a very popular birding guide, and he will take you to his favourite spots. (*easy, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A33 7:00 am **AT HOME ON THE LAND** – Caley Doran

The Anishinabek people have a deep connection to and knowledge of the natural world. Join Anishinaabe Interpretive Guide Caley on this hike to enjoy the amazing views from the 100-ft high bluffs, identify bird and wildlife signs, and take in a landscape shaped during the last ice age. You'll also learn about plants used for traditional food, tools, medicine, and ceremonies. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 20)

Morning

A34 6:30 am **IN THE PARK WITH MARK** – 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. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 20)

A35 6:45 am **GRASSLANDS, WOODLANDS & WETLANDS** – Mike Kent

Mike loves to share his keen interest in birds. Discover the avian specialties of these rich rural habitats outside the Park. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 20)

A36 7:00 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)

A37 7:15 am **'POWER' BIRDING AT THE BRUCE** – Tim Arthur

Tim has spent many breeding seasons conducting Marsh Monitoring surveys with Birds Canada at the Bruce Power wetlands. He will have other enticing birding stops along the way. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A38 7:30 am **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)

A39 7:45 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – James Turland

Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as “Pelee 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)

Afternoon

A40 1:30 pm **FRENCHMAN'S BAY BEACH DUNE ECOLOGY** – Bruce Mackenzie

Frenchman's Bay Beach is a pristine and hidden gem. We'll look at dune ecology at a prime flowering time. Three creeks run out of the coniferous swamps which add their own story. We'll be on the lookout for migrating shorebirds and Merlins. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A41 1:30 pm **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)

A42 1:30 pm **FLORA & FAUNA** – David Turner

This leisurely excursion will follow Kempf's Trail to the Old Shore Road looking for birds and some wild botany in the varied ecosystems along the way. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

Evening

A43 7:15 pm **ORNITHOLOGY 101** – Jenna McGuire 🏠

Join Jenna, wildlife biologist, to take a deep dive into the world of bird biology, ecology, and evolutionary history through a local lens. (*indoor presentation*)

MONDAY MAY 26

All Day

A44 6:45 am **BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING - CAPE CROKER** – Miptoon & Jarmo Jalava

Anishinaabe culture and the rich ecosystems found in Neyaashiinigiing will be featured. Birds will be singing, wildflowers will be blooming, and the scenery is spectacular. (*moderate*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A45 7:15 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE WITH BENSETTE** – Jeremy Bensette

Join Jeremy in his quest for the abundant birds of the beautiful Bruce. Jeremy is a very popular birding guide, and he will take you to his favourite spots. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A46 7:30 am **A BIG SIT AT MARWANDA ESTATE** – Marshall Byle ★🏠

Wide covered porches offer viewing in all directions. We'll wander the groomed trails and check out the ponds. Over 100 species of birds can be viewed here during May.

(*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch & lawn chairs. Coffee & tea provided*) (limit 20)

Morning

A47 7:15 am **MacGREGOR'S NORTH SIDE** – James Turland

We'll check out the Lake Huron shoreline, then search for grassland and other open-country species in active and abandoned farmland along the Park's northern border. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A48 7:30 am **WHERE WOODS MEET WETLANDS** – Tim Arthur
Join Tim 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)

A49 8:00 am **EXPLORING NATURE WITH A CAMERA** – Arni Stinnissen
Join an experienced photographer and explore photo opportunities while walking a wetland habitat. Learn how to compose and make your images 'pop'. A camera that has manual controls and a tripod would be helpful. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 12)

A50 8:30 am **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 glacial hitchhikers. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A51 1:30 pm **EXPLORING NATURE WITH A CAMERA** – Arni Stinnissen
Join an experienced photographer and explore photo opportunities while walking a wetland habitat. Learn how to compose and make your images 'pop'. A camera that has manual controls and a tripod would be helpful. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 12)

A52 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 glacial hitchhikers. (*easy*, 🚗) (limit 20)

A53 1:30 pm **PORT ELGIN ANCIENT DUNE ECOLOGY** – Bruce Mackenzie
Parallel to the Lake Huron shore, this natural area contains a great example of sand dunes that were laid down shortly after the glaciers left. We will follow a ridge along one of the dunes and explore the forest ecology of this rare ecosystem. Spring wildflowers and migrating birds will reward our visit.
(*easy*, 🚗) (limit 16)

Evening

A54 7:15 pm **THE TWO BAYS PACK: THE COYOTES OF INVERHURON** – David Rankine 🏠
David will take you through his 4-year adventure following the coyote pack of Inverhuron. What started as a curious investigation became a study into the behaviour patterns of these magnificent creatures. And...there is a love story. (*indoor presentation*)

THURSDAY MAY 29

All Day

B1 7:30 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE** – Pete Read
The Bruce is bursting with birds at this time of year - migrants, and residents on territory. Pete will introduce you to the wonders of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. Enjoy a great birding experience with this world class leader. (*easy*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B2 7:45 am **NURTURED & NATURES' GARDENS** – Shannon Wood ★
This tour features Bruce County's largest nursery and garden centre, as well as a visit to the single largest forested wetland in southern Ontario, the Greenock Swamp. Flora, fauna, history, and stories abound. (*moderate*, 🚗, *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

B3 7:00 am **SAUBLE DUNES NATURE RESERVE** – Doug Pedwell
This outing highlights the botany and unique features of the shores of Lake Huron north of the Sauble River, as well as a ramble through an Ontario Nature nature reserve to see forested dunes and wetlands.
(*moderate*, 🚗) (limit 20)

B4 7:15 am **THE TOWER TRAIL** – Kiah Jasper

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

B5 7:30 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – James Turland

James likes to start the day with a look at the lake for ducks and shorebirds. Then we'll explore some of MacGregor's many birdy trails through forest and fen habitat. *(easy, 🚶)* (limit 16)

B6 8:30 am **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, protects egrets and 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

B7 12:30 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, protects egrets and 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)

B8 1:30 pm **HAPPY TRAILS** – Marshall Byle

Marshall will lead you on an interactive tour of his Bluebird Trail, peeking in boxes and recording data. You'll see nesting bluebirds and several other species that take advantage of the boxes.

(easy, 🚶) (limit 20)

B9 1:30 pm **BOTANY ALONG THE FRINGE** – Barbara Palmer

We'll explore the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road in the Park looking for all the wild and wonderful botany along the way. *(easy)* (limit 12)

Evening

B10 7:15 pm **FROM EGG TO BEG: THE PARENTAL LIFE OF BIRDS** – Michael Runtz 

When it comes to producing young, birds show a fascinating - and oft-times surprising - diversity of nesting and young-raising strategies. Michael provides an intimate and highly visual visit to this most important aspect of bird life. *(indoor presentation)*

FRIDAY MAY 30

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

B11 6:30 am **BIRDING HOTSPOTS** – Kiah Jasper

Come birding with Kiah and explore a number of hotspots in southern Bruce County, including one of its most productive wetland complexes. Expect an assortment of open country species and marsh specialties. *(easy, 🚶, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B12 8:15 am **FISHING ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO** – 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 birds!
(\$51 extra per person, payable at the Resort, includes lunch and boat, easy, 🚗) (limit 20)

B13 8:30 am **FOCUS ON FERNS** – Tyler Miller
Field Ecologist Tyler Miller will lead a fern-focused botany tour of the rich and magical Niagara Escarpment talus near The Glen Conservation Area. We'll learn about fern ID, ecology, and the ecology of this habitat. *(moderate, 🚗, bring lunch)* (limit 20)


Morning

B14 7:00 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron
Look, listen and learn with Jean, an OFO Distinguished Ornithologist and well-known and popular educational leader. Bird field, river, and riparian habitats throughout the morning. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

B15 7:15 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)

B16 7:30 am **A BOG & SWAMP TOUR** – Marshall Byle
Bird some backroads with stops in the gorgeous Greenock Swamp and Glammis Bog. You might catch a glimpse of the elusive Cerulean Warbler. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 20)

Afternoon


B17 1:30 pm **SKETCHING NATURE** – Alessandra Wilcox 
Join Alessandra in a field-sketching workshop, with MacGregor's scenery as your backdrop. All are welcome - beginners to experienced artists!
(Bring your own materials, see website for more details, easy) (limit 12)


B18 1:30 pm **WARBLERS & WILDFLOWERS** – James Turland
Come check out the trails of MacGregor Park and enjoy the many wildflowers, while keeping an eye and ear out for the birds. *(easy, 🚗)* (limit 16)

B19 1:30 pm **BOTANY ALONG THE FRINGE** – Barbara Palmer
We'll explore the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road in the Park looking for all the wild and wonderful botany along the way. *(easy)* (limit 12)

B20 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)


Evening

B21 7:15 pm **WHERE PRAIRIE MEETS THE SKY** – Jean Iron 
Jean's presentation features highlights of her birding trip to the vast prairie grasslands of Saskatchewan and Alberta. She'll showcase specialty birds on breeding territory in this awesome wilderness, several iconic prairie mammals, plus other fascinating wildlife. *(indoor presentation)*

B22 9:15 pm **STARRY STARRY NIGHT** – Bluewater Astronomical Society 
Following a presentation that introduces you to the wonders of the night sky, members of the Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the dark sky.
(indoor/outdoor presentation) (limit 30)


SATURDAY MAY 31

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 6:30 am **COAST TO COAST BIRDING** – Kiah Jasper

Join Kiah for a day of birding along the gorgeous shorelines of the Bruce Peninsula. We will visit both the east and west coast, working our way through a variety of habitats. Expect shorebirds, herons, songbirds and more! (*easy*, , *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

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


We'll explore botanically rich nature reserves as we cross the lower Bruce Peninsula from Lake Huron to Georgian Bay. The dolostone of Bruce and Grey contributes to the presence of provincially rare ferns, wildflowers, and other wild botanicals. (*moderate*, , *bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B25 7:30 am **KINGHURST FOREST NATURE RESERVE** – Jerry Asling 


This majestic old growth forest with its century trees is a rare example in southern Ontario of lightly touched woodlands. The tour will feature history, botany, and, of course, woodland birds. (*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 **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Pete Read

This popular trail always produces a good mix of species. Pete'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)

B28 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 and popular leader. (*easy*, ) (limit 20)

B29 7:30 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – John Reaume

A morning walk around the Ducks Unlimited wetland always turns up late migrants and early nesters. John's interpretive and birding skills always amaze! (*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)

Afternoon

B31 1:30 pm **MONARCH FRIENDLY HABITAT** – Audrey Armstrong

Join Audrey for this illustrated talk and hands on workshop to learn how to create nature friendly habitat in your own backyards. Discover how easy it is to make positive changes for the natural world. Free seeds and resources will be provided for your own pollinator garden. (*easy*, *indoor/outdoor*) (limit 20)

B32 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – Alessandra Wilcox
Walk with Alessandra on a leisurely hike through the Park. She'll help you enjoy the natural bird and botanical bounty of MacGregor Point. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

B33 1:30 pm **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)

Evening

B34 7:15 pm **NATURAL HISTORY OF THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD** – John Reaume 📷
The fate of the Eastern Bluebird was tied to human activities but is currently considered a conservation success story. You'll be treated to intimate views of their family life with images from a Bluebird nest-box cam. (*indoor presentation*)

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 1

Morning

B36 7:00 am **BIRDING THE SHORELINE FRINGE** – Kiah Jasper
Join Kiah for a morning of birding along the western shoreline of the peninsula, focusing on Sauble Beach and Oliphant. Shorebirds, gulls, terns and breeding songbirds will be our targets. This is one of Kiah's favourite areas on the peninsula, and there are always interesting things to see! (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 20)

B37 7:30 am **NATURE RAMBLE 'ROUND THE PARK** – James Turland
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, looking for the bounty that unfolds in this season. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

B38 8:00 am **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)


B39 8:45 am **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 trees and shrubs. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

11:00 am to 1:00 pm **MIX & MINGLE BBQ**
Grab lunch from the Friends BBQ tent 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 14, 2025

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

FESTIVAL FEES

PACKAGE RATES

Adult:	8 Day Festival \$192	4 Day Weekend \$144	Saturday & Sunday \$90
*Youth:	8 Day Festival \$96	4 Day Weekend \$72	Saturday & Sunday \$45

*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 apply on some 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 Friends of MacGregor Point Park and MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Proceeds from the Festival enhance the interpretive facilities and programming found within MacGregor Point Provincial Park.