

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 (few exceptions).

Symbols: ★ Shorter All Day events end at 3:00 pm. ⚡ Mobility limited events. 🚗 Vehicle transportation required (carpooling encouraged).

At the Visitor Centre daily: Redstart Café morning coffee & treats. BBQ lunch 11:00 am to 1:00 pm hosted by Friends of MacGregor Point Park. Mix & mingle at 'The Nest' picnic area over lunch. Check out the 'By Donation' table in the VC.

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 22

All Day

A01 6:00 am **BIRDING THE GEORGIAN BAY COAST** – Kiah Jasper

Kiah birded much of Ontario in 2022 and holds the record for most species seen in one year! We'll spend the day birding the east coast of the peninsula, enjoying the gorgeous scenery of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay. (*easy, 🚗, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A02 6:30 am **BIRDING BOGNOR** – Mark Wiercinski ★

Mark will lead us to this extensive escarpment-framed marsh 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)

A03 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

A04 6:30 am **A WALK IN THE PARK** – Henrique Pacheco

Birdlife along the shoreline fringe and through the heart of the park is featured on this walk from the Visitor Centre. Henrique is an expert birder and leader. (*moderate*) (limit 16)

A05 6:45 am **WAVES OF WARBLERS** – Tim Arthur

Tim's fieldwork with Birds Canada includes several sites within MacGregor Point. Wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for later migrants and birds already on territory. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 16)

A06 7:15 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)

A07 7:30 am **COAST TO CANOPY ESCAPADE** – Alessandra Kite

Join Alessandra for a morning of birding along the shores, dunes and forests of Inverhuron Provincial Park. This location boasts coniferous woods breeding birds and has turned up a number of rarities in its various other habitats. (*moderate, 🚗*) (limit 16)

Afternoon

A08 1:15 pm **SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur

We'll wander some of MacGregor's birdiest niches looking and listening for migrants and birds already on territory. Tim will give you tips on deciphering and describing bird songs to enhance your birding by ear skills. (*easy, 🚗*) (limit 16)

A09 1:15 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 top hotspot birding area. (easy, 🚗) (limit 20)

A10 1:30 pm **SAUNTER NATURE** – Jeannine Kralt

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 7:00 pm **THE HUMBLE CHICKADEE** – Scott Taylor ♂

You never know what you might discover about the humble chickadee! Scott’s backyard is the Mountain Research Station near Boulder, Colorado; but he grew up just down the shoreline in Inverhuron and once worked as a naturalist at MacGregor Point! (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 23

Free Events

6:15 am - 10:15 am **BIRD BANDING** – Alessandra Kite ♂

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.

Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

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, ROM publications and others. All have information to share or books and products to sell.

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

A13 6:00 am **BIRDING HOTSPOTS** – 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, 🚗, lunch break at Visitor Centre) (limit 20)

A14 6:15 am **A DAY IN THE PARK** – Scott Taylor

Join Scott to explore classic Park sites from the Stump Dump to Pitcher Plant Marl and Seiche Pond. We’ll wander through Ash Swamp, past Turtle Pond, and Cranberry Bog taking note of spring arrivals. Birds and botany abound in these rich nooks and niches of the Park.

(easy, 🚗, lunch break at Visitor Centre) (limit 20)

A15 6:45 am **BIRDING 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...!

(easy, 🚗, bring lunch) (limit 20)

A16 7:00 am **LANDS & LAKES** – Dale Wenger

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. Dale will share his abundant enthusiasm for all things wild and wonderful.

(easy, 🚗, bring lunch) (limit 20)

Morning

A17 6:15 am **UP WITH THE BIRDS** – Marshall Byle

The early birder gets the sightings! We’ll ramble ‘round MacGregor looking for birds and listening for their spring songs. (moderate, 🚗) (limit 20)

A18 6:15 am – A SONG IN THE AIR – Emily Rondel

Although it's called bird 'watching', it's as much about listening as looking! We'll ramble round MacGregor tuning up our ears as well as our eyes. Birds will be in full song and displaying their beautiful breeding colours. **(moderate)** (limit 16)

A19 6:30 am KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH – Jeremy Bensette

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

(easy, car) (limit 20)

A20 7:00 am AVIAN ADVENTURES – Henrique Pacheco

We'll check out the birds along the shoreline fringe - Sunset Point which often captures overnight migrants, Seiche Pond, Pitcher Plant Marl and points north. Birds and botany abound in these rich nooks and niches of the Park. **(easy, car)** (limit 16)

A21 7:15 am BIRDING ON THE EDGE – Paul Riss

The habitat in the Park and around its edges 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, car) (limit 20)

A22 7:45 am JOY OF BIRDING – Mark Wiercinski

Mark's knowledge of bird behaviour and habitats is enhanced by his entertaining style. From FOY joy to lifers, this bird biologist will show you how birds make everything better. **(moderate, car)** (limit 16)

A23 9:00 am BEGINNER BIRDER BASICS – Ashley Hegmans 

Get ready for your first, or next, birding outing. Ashley will introduce you to using binoculars, bird ID, habitat, describing a bird's location, birding etiquette and more. Binoculars are available to borrow if needed.

(easy) (limit 10)

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

A24 1:00 pm THE TOWER TRAIL – Henrique Pacheco

This trail is a birder's favourite. We'll walk through the woods to the Ducks Unlimited pond viewing tower for a mix of wetland and woodland finds. **(easy, car)** (limit 16)

A25 1:00 pm ON THE FRINGE – David Turner

Land and lake 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 1:00 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, car) (limit 20)

A27 1:00 pm BIRDS & BIRD HABITATS – Alessandra Kite

We'll bird many secluded niches of the Park to discover some gems of the Park's habitats.

(easy) (limit 16)

A28 1:15 pm GRASSLANDS, WOODLANDS, & WETLANDS – Marshal Byle

Without travelling far, Marshall will take us on his favorite backroads and byways to see the birds of the countryside. There will be some stunning views of Lake Huron while birding. **(easy, car)** (limit 20)

A29 1:15 pm ESSENTIALS OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY – Ankur Khurana 

Come away with a toolkit of skills and ideas you can apply in your bird photography. Wildlife photographer Ankur will discuss the elements of a good bird photo. He'll show you how to choose settings, make the most of light and background, touch on composition, and ways to adapt techniques to different field conditions.

(easy) (limit 12)

Evening

A30 5:00 pm **BIRDERS' BANQUET & KEYNOTE SPEAKER** – Mark Peck 

Fruit of the Loon: The Value of Citizen Science - Mark explores the fascinating lives of the Common Loon through the breeding season to their migration preparations. Learn all about loons and how citizen scientist programs contribute to conserving this iconic species.

St. Joseph's Jubilee Hall, Port Elgin. \$70 per person. Cash Bar.

*** Contact the Registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions.*

SUNDAY MAY 24

Free Events

6:15 am - 10:15 am **MORNING MOTHING IN MacGREGOR** – Alan Macnaughton 

This is a drop-in-anytime event. MacGregor is a great place to be an aspiring 'moth'er' or just someone who appreciates their amazing diversity. Alan will identify what he finds in his moth traps, and he will explain why he especially likes the moths of MacGregor. **Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club**

All Day

A31 6:00 am **A BIG DAY** – Kiah Jasper & Alessandra Kite

This popular dawn-to-dark birding marathon will cover sites on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula from MacGregor to Dyer's Bay and everywhere in between. This should give you an incredible day list of over 100 species!

Collect your pin! *(difficult, , bring lunch & supper, possible return after 9 pm)* (limit 20)

A32 6:15 am **BIRDING LANDS & LAKES** – James Turland

Isaac Lake, Sky Lake and Red Bay areas host rich bird habitats. After birding these areas, we'll enjoy lunch and inland birding on a little Big Sit at Berford Lake, which offers great views of some characteristic and birdy Bruce habitats. *(easy, , bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A33 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)

A34 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 enjoyable hike to identify bird and wildlife signs. You'll also learn about plants used for traditional food, tools, medicine, and ceremonies. *(moderate, , bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

A35 6:45 am **A HURON FRINGE BIRD RAMBLE** – Mark Peck

Mark is the President of OFO, a Distinguished Ornithologist and a Citizen Scientist specialist. While taking in MacGregor's bountiful avian action he'll show us how easily you can contribute to various important bird conservation programs. *(easy, )* (limit 16)

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 and viewing tower. This is a favourite park trail. *(moderate, )* (limit 16)

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

Tim has spent many 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 20)

A39 7:45 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – Henrique Pacheco

Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Pelee North" because of its frequent spectacular fallouts of warblers. The lagoons are one of the top local birding areas.

(easy, ) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A40 1:15 pm **ANCIENT DUNE ECOLOGY** – Bruce Mackenzie

Parallel to the Lake Huron shore, this natural area contains a great example of sand dunes laid down after the glaciers left. We'll follow a ridge along one of the dunes and explore the forest ecology of this rare ecosystem. Spring botany will reward our visit. (moderate, ) (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 wild botany, and wild birds, in the varied ecosystems along the way. (easy, ) (limit 16)

Evening

A43 7:00 pm **WAKE UP AND SAVE THE BIRDS** – Paul Riss 

Your morning coffee habits have some serious effects on our birds that winter in the neotropics. Paul will take us through some of the ins and outs of bird-friendly coffee production, and some less bird-friendly coffee as well. (indoor presentation)

MONDAY MAY 25

Free Event

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

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.

Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

All Day

A44 7:15 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE WITH BENSETTE** – Jeremy Bensette

Join Jeremy in his quest for the abundant birds of the beautiful Saugeen Bruce. This just might be a 100 species day! Jeremy is a very popular birding guide, and he will take you to his favourite spots.

(easy, , bring lunch) (limit 20)

A45 7:30 am **A BIG SIT AT MARWANDA ESTATE** – Marshall Byle  

Wide covered porches offer viewing in all directions. We'll also wander the trails through pine plantations, check out bluebird nest boxes, and the ponds for lurking waders and waterbirds.

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

A46 8:00 am **THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS** – Willy Waterton

Join Willy in a quest to rediscover Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula, based on his landmark 1952 book "The Bruce Beckons". We'll spend the day exploring Fox's Bruce to see what still exists after 74 years.

(easy, , bring lunch) (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 **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka PELEE NORTH** – Dustin Young

Bruce County birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Pelee North" because of its frequent spectacular fallouts of warblers. The wide trails throughout make for great group viewing. It could be like birding in a Pelee fallout, but without the people. (easy, ) (limit 20)

A49 7:45 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)

A50 8:00 am LAND AND 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. (easy) (limit 16)

A51 8:30 am GEOLOGY ROCKS! – Beth Gilhespy & Bob Geddes

Beth and Bob will introduce you to geology, then take you on a fun and fascinating walk through time along the shores of the Park. You'll see coral reefs, glacial hitchhikers, and more. It will be very gneiss! (moderate,  (limit 20)

Afternoon

A52 1:15 pm GEOLOGY ROCKS! – Beth Gilhespy & Bob Geddes

Beth and Bob will introduce you to geology, then take you on a fun and fascinating walk through time along the shores of the Park. You'll see coral reefs, glacial hitchhikers, and more. It will be very gneiss! (moderate,  (limit 20)

A53 1:30 pm BIRDING THE HURON FRINGE – James Turland

The habitats in and around the Park provide lots of avian action. James will help you add a nice range of birds to your Festival list. Here's your last chance before you leave this weekend to top up your bird list to 100 species and collect your pin! (easy,  (limit 20)

A54 1:30 pm ANCIENT DUNE ECOLOGY – Bruce Mackenzie

Parallel to the Lake Huron shore, this natural area contains a great example of sand dunes laid down shortly after the glaciers left. We'll follow a ridge along one of the dunes and explore the forest ecology of this rare ecosystem. Spring botany will reward our visit. (moderate,  (limit 20)

Evening

A55 7:00 pm BALD-HEADED BLUEJAYS – Alessandra Kite 

All birds replace their feathers each season through the magic of moult. Birds have many moult strategies such as moult migrations and eclipse plumages. Alessandra will dive into how paying attention to moult can help with identifying birds! This is fascinating stuff! (indoor presentation)

THURSDAY MAY 28

All Day

B01 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)

B02 7:45 am NURTURED & NATURES' GARDENS – Shannon Wood *

This event features a guided tour of spectacular nursery gardens highlighting native species, as well as a visit to the largest forested wetland in southern Ontario - the Greenock Swamp. Flora, fauna and historical tales abound. (moderate, , bring lunch) (limit 20)

Morning

B03 7:00 am FLORA & FAUNA – David Turner

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

B04 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 trail always turns up late migrants and early nesters. If they're there, Kiah will find them. (easy,  (limit 16)

B05 7:30 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)

B06 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.
(\$40 per person. Must be >4' tall. Sturdy footwear (e.g. no flip-flops). Weather permitting. Moderate,  (limit 9)

Afternoon

B07 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.
(\$40 per person. Must be >4' tall. Sturdy footwear (e.g. no flip-flops). Weather permitting. Moderate,  (limit 9)

B08 1:15 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)

B09 1:30 pm **BOTANY ALONG THE FRINGE** – Mindy Buckton

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

Evening

B10 7:00 pm **THE DANGEROUS LIFE OF A NATURALIST** – Michael Runtz 

Michael will take us on a journey through his life as a naturalist, highlighted by some harrowing tales of storms on Lake Superior, a rescue on the tundra, charging moose, and his most dangerous encounter of them all...!
(indoor presentation)

FRIDAY MAY 29

Free Event

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

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.

Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

All Day

B11 7:00 am **BIRDING THE HURON COAST** – Kiah Jasper

Join Kiah for a day 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. (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)

Morning

B13 6:45 am **THE TOWER TRAIL** – David Turner

This trail is a Festival favourite. We'll walk through the mixed woods habitats to the Ducks Unlimited pond viewing tower for a mix of wetland and woodland finds. (easy,  (limit 16)

B14 7:00 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron

Look, listen and learn with Jean, an OFO Distinguished Ornithologist and well-known, popular educational leader. Bird field, river, and riparian habitats throughout the morning. (easy,  (limit 20)

B15 7:00 am **A GUIDED DRAWING EXPERIENCE** – Jenna McGuire 

Jenna, a professional science illustrator, will lead you through the elements of drawing birds. Bring your own watercolour paints or drawing materials; supplies will be available for purchase. (easy) (limit 12)

B16 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)

Afternoon

B17 1:15 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 ancient pines, young woodlands and big cedars round out the diversity of this Park.

(moderate,  (limit 16)

B18 1:15 pm WARBLERS & WILDFLOWERS – James Turland

Check out the trails of MacGregor Park and enjoy the spring botany (featuring the globally rare Dwarf Lake Iris), while keeping our eyes and ears out for the birds. James is a favourite local leader.

(easy,  (limit 16)

B19 1:30 pm SAUNTER NATURE – Jeannine Kraft

We'll saunter along Old Shore Road along the Lake Huron shoreline in the Park looking for wild and wonderful botany along the way. (easy) (limit 16)

B20 1:30 pm BIRDS & BIRD HABITATS – Alessandra Kite

We'll bird many secluded niches of the Park to discover some gems of the Park's habitats. Alessandra is a keen and knowledgeable birder and leader. (easy) (limit 16)

Evening

B21 7:00 pm THE MYSTERIES OF MOLLUSCS – Jenna McGuire 

Invertebrates are very understudied and yet so important to the ecosystem. Expert ecologist Jenna will regale us about the strange lives of the molluscs that lurk along the Huron coast!
(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 30

Free Events

6:15 am - 10:15 am BIRD BANDING – Alessandra Kite 

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.

Sponsored by Southampton Rotary Club

8:00 am – 12:30 pm SWAROVSKI DROP-BY EVENT – Jeremy Bensette

Swarovski rep Jeremy will be on site throughout the morning with samples of the latest Swarovski optics, There'll be digiscoping demos and general information.

All Day

B23 6:30 am COAST TO COAST BIRDING – Kiah Jasper

Join Kiah for a day of birding along the spectacular shorelines of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. We'll visit the east and west coasts, working our way through a variety of habitats. Expect shorebirds, egrets, songbirds and more! (easy, , bring lunch) (limit 20)

B24 7:15 am BOGS & SWAMPS – Marshall Byle

Bird some backroads with stops in the gorgeous Greenock Swamp and glamorous Glammis Bog. If we're lucky we'll catch a glimpse of the elusive Cerulean Warbler. (easy, , bring lunch) (limit 20)

B25 7:30 am KINGHURST FOREST NATURE RESERVE – Doug Lonsdale 

This majestic old growth forest with its century trees is a rare example in southern Ontario of barely touched woodlands. The tour will feature a mixture of history, botany, and interior forest 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. (easy,  (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 a well-known and popular leader. (easy,  (limit 20)

B29 8:30 am **SPIDERMAN** – John Reaume

Spiders lead fascinating lives! We'll find a few jumpers, wolfs, crabs, fishing and orb weavers and learn about their fascinating life history, feeding techniques and mating rituals. Bring binoculars, cameras and a keen eye as "Spiderman" introduces you to the amazing world of arachnids. (easy) (limit 20)

Afternoon

B30 1:00 pm **STONEY ISLAND'S HIDDEN GEMS** – Susan Greco

Susan will share her passion for the wonderful world of wildflowers in this Conservation Area. As we meander along we'll identify a new spring collection and learn about some of the healing properties of plants.

(easy,  (limit 16)

B31 1:15 pm **MONARCH FRIENDLY HABITAT** – Audrey Armstrong 

Join Audrey and learn how to create nature friendly habitat in your backyard. Discover how easy it is to help out the Monarch Butterfly. We'll check the Pollinator Garden at the Visitor Centre. Free native seeds and resources will be provided for your own pollinator garden. (easy, *indoor/outdoor*)

B32 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – Alessandra Kite

Walk with Alessandra on a leisurely hike through the Park. She'll help you enjoy the birds, bird habitats 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)

B34 1:30 pm **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Jeremy Bensette

The habitat in the Park and around its edges offers up some good birding during the last blast of migration and the beginning of the breeding season. Jeremy will help you enjoy the richness of MacGregor Point Park.

(easy,  (limit 20)

Evening

B35 7:00 pm **BLACK & WHITE: BEAR ENCOUNTERS** – Willy Waterton 

Photojournalist Willy will take us along on his encounters with polar bears in the Arctic and Hudson Bay, and the endangered, genetically unique black bears of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula.

(*indoor presentation*)

B36 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 MAY 31

Free Event

8:00 am – 12:30 pm **SWAROVSKI DROP-BY EVENT** – Jeremy Bensette

Swarovski rep Jeremy will be on site throughout the morning with samples of the latest Swarovski optics, There'll be digiscoping demos and general information.

Morning

B37 6:30 am **BIRDING THE GREAT GREENOCK SWAMP** – Kiah Jasper

Join Kiah for a morning of birding in this legendary wetland, the largest forested swamp in southern Ontario!

There's a chance for a sighting of the elusive Cerulean Warbler. (**easy, 🚗**) (limit 20)

B38 7:30 am **NATURE RAMBLE 'ROUND THE PARK** – James Turland

Birds are nesting, wildflowers are blooming, and butterflies are alight. It's a great time to be in the Park, looking for the bounty that unfolds in this season. (**moderate, 🚗**) (limit 16)

B39 8:00 am **THE WONDERS OF WETLANDS** – 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 birds that specialize in these wetlands.

(**easy**) (limit 16)

B40 8:15 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)

B41 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.
- Be tick aware. **Black-legged Ticks** are in Bruce & Grey counties.
- 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

Registration opens March 13, 2026

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

FESTIVAL FEES			
Event Options	Adult	Young Adult (18-21)	Youth (10-17)
SINGLE EVENTS			
All Day	\$50	\$38	\$26
Morning/Afternoon	\$25	\$19	\$13
Evening	\$15	\$11	\$8
Single Event fees only apply until the total reaches that of a package. Package rates are applied automatically.			
PACKAGES			
8 Day Festival	\$205	\$155	\$107
4 Day - 1st Weekend	\$155	\$117	\$81
3 1/2 Day - 2nd Weekend	\$140	\$105	\$73
Saturday & Sunday 1st Weekend	\$95	\$73	\$50
Saturday & Sunday Morning 2nd Weekend	\$75	\$57	\$39
<p>Festival fees include Park entrance fee.</p> <p>Additional fees may apply on certain events.</p> <p>Youth under 13 must be accompanied by a registered chaperone.</p> <p>Children under 10 are not allowed on Festival events.</p> <p>Refund information is available on the website.</p>			
<p>The Huron Fringe Birding Festival uses online registration and payment at www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca</p>			

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.

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS & DONORS

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Grey Sauble Conservation, Owen Sound
Handy Andy Services, Southampton
Mildmay Tent Rentals, Mildmay
Swarovski Optik
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