



# Ontario Field Ornithologists

## 2017 Young Birders Field Trips

OFO Young Birders field trips and workshops are for birders age 9 -19. The only prerequisites are enthusiasm and curiosity about birds. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend events except where otherwise indicated.

Trips will operate rain or shine. Remember to bring lunch, drinks, proper clothing, footwear, sunscreen & insect repellent as appropriate. Carpooling is encouraged for driving trips.

If you have questions or want to be added to the event notification list, contact Lynne Freeman at [lynnef.to@gmail.com](mailto:lynnef.to@gmail.com) or 416-671-0325 (email is better).

Trips may be added or changed so please email Lynne at [lynnef.to@gmail.com](mailto:lynnef.to@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list or check the field trips on the OFO web site at [www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca) prior to the trip.

### January

<b>Title</b>	<b>A Day at the ROM - FULL</b>
<b>Date</b>	Saturday, January 21 <sup>st</sup> (14-19) <i>or</i> Sunday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup> (10-13)
<b>Time</b>	Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sunday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
<b>Meeting Place</b>	Meet at 10: 00 am sharp at the south staff entrance of the museum. ROM security will not be able to admit latecomers.
<b>Leaders</b>	Mark Peck (ROM) and Emily Rondel (BSC)
<b>Description</b>	This popular annual event is a unique behind-the-scenes experience. Explore the ornithology collection and test your knowledge of bird anatomy, feathers and bones.
<b>Instructions</b>	<b>Pre-Registration required.</b> Each session is limited to 10 young birders. Parents / guardians are not expected to attend. Bring a lunch and snack or purchase your lunch from the ROM cafeteria.

### February

<b>Title</b>	<b>Minesing Raptors and Wintering Birds</b> <b>A joint event with the Brereton Field Naturalists</b>
<b>Date</b>	Saturday, February 4th
<b>Time</b>	8:30 am – 12:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	Minesing area
<b>Meeting Place</b>	Little Lake Parking Lot (LLPL at the end of Little Lake Drive). With the reconstruction of the Duckwork/Highway 400 interchange, Little Lake Drive is now accessed via J.C. Massie Way north off of Cundles just west of Duckworth.
<b>Leader</b>	Brian Gibbon

Phone: 705-721-4599

**Description**

Travel the flats around Minesing looking for Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrike, other raptors and flocks of Snow Buntings.

**Instructions**

Driving trip. Carpooling from the start location is encouraged. Bring warm clothes, drinks and snacks.

**Title**

**Winter Birds of Peterborough and the Surrounding Area**

**Date**

Sunday, February 12th

**Time**

8:00 am start

**Location**

Peterborough and local hotspots

**Meeting Place**

Peterborough Zoo parking lot on Water Street

**Leader**

David Milsom

Phone: (705) 874-8531

**Description**

Learn about the many birds which thrive in Ontario's coldest months. Gulls, owls and winter waterfowl and a few surprises.

**Instructions**

Driving trip. Carpooling from the start location is encouraged. Bring warm clothes, drinks and snacks.

## March

**Title**

**Early Spring at Presqu'ile Provincial Park**

**Date**

Saturday, March 25th

**Time**

9:30 am

**Location**

Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Brighton, Ontario

**Meeting Place**

Meet at Doug McRae's property at 240 Presqu'ile Parkway, Brighton, ON. This is a small yellow building about 350 feet from the park entrance just before the road curves towards the park. We can carpool from here.

**Leaders**

Doug McRae and Bill Gilmour

**Description**

Duck migration, winter birds, very early migrants – anything is possible at this time of year. The morning will finish with a pizza party at Doug McRae's.

**Instructions**

Park entrance fee. Dress warmly and bring layers.

## April

**Title**

**Raptor and Songbird Migration at Beamer Hawk Watch and surrounding area**

**Date**

**Sunday, April 23**

**Time**

8:00 am start

**Location**

Beamer Hawk Watch and surrounding area

**Meeting Place**

Beamer Hawk Watch, Grimsby. Directions are available on the Niagara Hawkwatch website at: <http://www.niagarapeninsulahawkwatch.org/MoreAboutBeamer.php>

**Leader**

Mark Field

**Description**

Enjoy the spring hawk watch at Beamer Conservation Area and search for early migrants along the escarpment.

**Instructions**

Travel to different locations will be by car with carpooling encouraged. Bring a lunch and sturdy walking shoes. At this time of year the ground can be muddy and wet.

**Title** **Spring Migration at Rondeau Provincial Park**  
**A joint event with Nature London**

**Date** Saturday, April 29

**Time** 8:00 am start

**Location** Rondeau Provincial Park

**Meeting Place** Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Rondeau Park Visitor Centre.

**Leaders** Cathy McRae, Gary McNeil and Paul Nicholson

**Description** Explore Rondeau in search of spring migrants. Get to know the park and its hotspots.

**Instructions** Park entrance fee. Travel to different locations will be by car with carpooling encouraged. Bring a lunch and sturdy walking shoes. At this time of year the ground can be muddy and wet.

## May

**Title** **Visit to the Innis Point Bird Observatory**  
**A joint event with the Innis Point Bird Observatory**

**Date** Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time** 7:00 am – 12:30 pm (arrive a few minutes early)

**Location** Innis Point Bird Observatory, Ottawa

**Meeting Place** Directions: From Ottawa: Take the 417 west to Eagleson Rd/ March Rd exit and head north on March Rd to Dunrobin Road. Turn right at the lights to Dunrobin Rd and then take the second right to turn onto Riddell Drive. Drive down Riddell about 5km to where it swings sharp left and becomes the 6thLine. There is a flashing amber light here and a driveway on the right leading to the locked DND gates. Pull in here and wait at the gate. Someone will meet us at the gate at 7:00 am so please arrive a few minutes before that to be sure not to be locked out.

**Leaders** Celia Bodnar and Innis Point Bird Observatory Staff

**Description** The Innis Point Bird Observatory was founded in 1982 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of birds and natural history. You will have the opportunity to learn about the important research and monitoring activities occurring there and to observe bird banding when migration is at a peak.

**Instructions** The site is on the Ottawa River and is wet and rocky in places. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Bring drinks and snacks.

**Title** **Explore Skunk's Misery**  
**A joint event with the Thames Talbot Land Trust**

**Date** Saturday, May 20

**Time** 8:00 am start

**Location** Skunk's Misery – Newport Forest

**Meeting Place** Newport Forest: 22130 Fleming Line, West Elgin

**Leaders** Rebecca Launchbury (TTLT) and Isabel Apkarian

**Description** Enjoy the height of the spring songbird migration and learn about the Thames Talbot Land Trust restoration and conservation projects.

**Instructions** Dress for the weather and bring sun screen and bug spray. Bring drinks, lunch and snacks.

## June

<b>Title</b>	<b>Breeding Birds at Tommy Thompson Park</b> <b>A joint event with the TOC</b>
<b>Date</b>	Sunday, June 4th
<b>Time</b>	7:00 am to 12:00 pm. May go later if the birds are abundant.
<b>Location</b>	Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto
<b>Meeting Place</b>	Entrance of Tommy Thompson Park, foot of Leslie St.
<b>Leaders</b>	Lynne Freeman and Isabel Apkarian
<b>Description</b>	Explore the urban wilderness at Tommy Thompson Park and learn how to find and identify nests. Late-migrants and breeding residents.
<b>Instructions</b>	Bring drinks and snacks. Wear good shoes, long socks and long pants to avoid the stinging red ants.

## September

<b>Title</b>	<b>Fall Migration at Ruthven Banding Station</b>
<b>Date</b>	Saturday, September 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Time</b>	8:00 am start
<b>Location</b>	Ruthven Banding Station, 243 Haldimand Hwy. #54, Cayuga
<b>Leader</b>	Caleb and Peter Scholtens
<b>Description</b>	Learn about banding and fall migration.
<b>Instructions</b>	Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Fall Migration at Tommy Thompson Park</b> <b>A joint event with the TOC</b>
<b>Date</b>	Sunday, Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Time</b>	7:30 am start
<b>Location</b>	Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto
<b>Meeting Place</b>	Entrance of Tommy Thompson Park, foot of Leslie St.
<b>Leaders</b>	Isabel Apkarian and Caroline Biel
<b>Description</b>	Fall migration at Tommy Thompson Park. Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors. Chance of shorebirds.
<b>Instructions</b>	Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Stinging red ants are still possible.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Explore Springwater Provincial Park</b> <b>A joint event with the Brereton Field Naturalists</b>
<b>Date</b>	Saturday, September 16
<b>Time</b>	8:45 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	Springwater Provincial Park
<b>Meeting Place</b>	Springwater Provincial Park entrance. Entrance fee required.
<b>Leaders</b>	Lynne and Brian Gibbon Phone: 705-721-4599

**Description** Explore nature trails looking for fall migrants and hangers on, fall flowers and ferns.  
**Instructions** Dress for the season and bring drinks and snacks.

**Title** **OFO Convention**  
**Dates** Friday, September 22 - Sunday, September 24  
**Location** Port Dover and Long Point  
**Description** Explore the spit and learn how to find and identify nests. Late-migrants and breeding residents.  
**Instructions** Details will be provided in the OFO Convention Registration Package.

**Title** **Raptor Migration and Point Pelee in the Fall**  
**Date** Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 1st  
**Time** 8:00 am Saturday and 7:30 am Sunday  
**Location** Holiday Beach, Amherstburg (Saturday), Point Pelee National Park (Sunday)  
**Meeting Place** Saturday: Holiday Beach Hawk Tower  
Sunday: Point Pelee National Park Visitors Centre  
**Leaders** Jeremy Hatt (Saturday) and Jeremy Hatt and Sarah Rupert (Sunday)  
**Description** Spend Saturday observing migrating raptors and passerines at Holiday Beach in Amherstburg. On Sunday, enjoy what many birders consider the best time for birding at Point Pelee National Park.  
**Instructions** Entrance fee at Holiday Beach. Bring drinks and lunch. (both days)

## October

**Title** **Raptor Migration at Hawk Cliff**  
**A joint event with the Thames Talbot Land Trust**  
**Date** Saturday, October 14  
**Time** 8:30 am start  
**Location** Hawk Cliff Woods and area  
**Meeting Place** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area on Hawk Cliff Rd. Take Hwy 24 (Dexter Line) east from Port Stanley then south on Hawk Cliff Rd, or follow Fairview Ave south from St. Thomas.  
**Leader** Rebecca Launchbury (TTLT)  
**Description** Tour Hawk Cliff woods and learn about the restoration projects in this magnificent forest. Enjoy fall raptor migration.  
**Instructions** Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks.

## November

**Title** **Hamilton Waterfowl**  
**Date** Saturday, November 25  
**Time** 8:30 am start  
**Location** Hamilton and surrounding area

**Meeting Place** Meet at Plains Road beside Wedgewood Golf Centre near where the 403 and highway 6 meet.  
**Leaders** Caleb and Peter Scholtens  
**Description** Hamilton is a waterfowl haven. Learn the finer points of waterfowl identification.  
**Instructions** Dress warmly and bring drinks, lunch and snacks.

## **December**

**Title** **Deep Winter Birding**  
**A joint event with the TOC**

**Date** Sunday, December 10th  
**Time** 8:00 am start  
**Location** Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto, Ontario  
**Meeting Place** Entrance of Tommy Thompson Park, foot of Leslie St.  
**Leaders** Caroline Biel and Isabel Apkarian  
**Description** Search for wintering songbirds and waterfowl. Owls are a possibility.  
**Instructions** Dress warmly and bring warm clothes, drinks and snacks. The park is usually colder and windier than the rest of the city.