



Field Trips

Please read carefully. Trips will operate rain or shine. Remember to bring lunch, drinks, proper clothing, footwear, sunscreen & insect repellent. For all trips, if you have questions, contact Dave Milsom at milsomdave@hotmail.com or 705-874-8531. OFO encourages car pooling on all field trips. Participants are reminded that it is the responsibility of every participant on an OFO field trip to comply with the OFO Birding Code of Ethics, and to minimize the risk of injury and/or damages that may result from unsafe or inappropriate behaviour (especially driving, or roadside birding where passing traffic presents a hazard).

Young Birders

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 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, contact Lynne Freeman at lynnef.to@gmail.com or 416-671-0325 (email is better).

Trips may be added or changed so please check the field trips on the OFO web site prior to the trip.

2017-08-26 Palgrave, Tottenham Sod Farms, Schomberg Lagoons

Dave Szymr

Meet 8:00 a.m. at Patterson Sideroad and Hwy. 50 in the village of Palgrave. Fall migrants - warblers, flycatchers, shorebirds. Possible plovers, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpipers.

2017-08-27 Rock Point Provincial Park and Eastern Lake Erie Shore

Marcie Jacklin

Meet 8:00 a.m. at entrance to Rock Point Provincial Park, near entry kiosk. Park entrance fee. Directions: From the west on Hwy. 3, go into Dunnville. Where Hwy. 3 curves left, continue straight on Main Street, staying along the river. On reaching the bridge that crosses the river, do not cross the bridge but continue straight onto County Road 3 eastbound. Go via Stromness, turning right onto Rymer Road., about 8 km from the bridge in Dunnville. Take first left onto Downy Road. At next intersection, go right. Park entrance is on your left. From the east on Hwy. 3, drive into Dunnville, turn left onto Inman Road. Go right onto Mumby Road. Follow this to County Road 3, then turn left. Follow directions from bridge in Dunnville above. Shorebirds, waterbirds, early fall migrants.

2017-09-02 Toronto Islands

Gavin Platt

From Harbourfront in Toronto, catch 7:15 a.m. Ferry to Ward's Island. You will need \$7.50 in coins (\$5.00 seniors and students). Early Fall migrants. The trip involves a lot of walking all day long. Please bring a lunch if you plan to stay all day (some food is also available to purchase on the island).

2017-09-07 Moosonee (5-day trip)

Martin Parker, Kathy Parker

Sorry, trip full. May be offered again in 2018.

2017-09-09 Colonel Sam Smith Park and Western Lake Ontario

Garth Riley

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the southernmost parking lot where road ends. Take Kipling Avenue south from Q.E.W. and follow it south of Lakeshore Blvd. to the end. Fall migrants: warblers, sparrows, shorebirds, waterfowl. Other locations we may bird include Lakefront Promenade, Jack Darling Park, Rattray Marsh, Shell Park.



Field Trips

2017-09-09 Young Birders. Fall Migration at Ruthven Banding Station

Caleb Scholtens, Peter Scholtens

Meet at 8:00 am at the Ruthven Banding Station, 243 Haldimand County Hwy 54, Cayuga. Learn about banding and fall migration. Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks.

2017-09-10 Ottawa (all day to 5 pm)

Jeff Skevington

Meet 7:30 a.m. along Cassels Road, outside the gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant. Experience the diversity of Ottawa's avifauna during the peak of Fall migration. Expect to see warblers, sparrows, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and others. Study the subtle differences between similar species as we explore the Ottawa River from different vantage points. We start at Britannia, and move slowly west, visiting some of Eastern Ontario's best migratory staging areas. Bring a lunch.

2017-09-10 Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Ian Shanahan

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse parking lot. Park entrance fee. Fall migrants, shorebirds, hawks.

2017-09-10 Young Birders. Fall Migration at Tommy Thompson Park; A joint event with the TOC

Isabel Apkarian, Caroline Biel

7:30 am at the entrance to Tommy Thompson Park, foot of Leslie St., south of Lakeshore Ave. Fall migration at Tommy Thompson Park. Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors. Chance of shorebirds. Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Stinging red ants are still possible.

2017-09-16 Kettle Point and inland lagoons

Alfred Raab, James Turland

Meet 8.00 a.m. in parking lot at junction of Highway 21 and Lakeshore Road (County Road 7) on the way into Kettle Point. Look for gulls, terns, shorebirds, jaegers, at Kettle Point. Then inland to nearby sewage lagoons: search for waterfowl, shorebirds. Bring lunch; rubber boots for wet areas.

2017-09-16 Young Birders. Explore Springwater Provincial Park; An event with the Brereton Field Naturalists

Brian Gibbon (705-726-8969), Lynne Gibbon

8:45 am - 1:00 pm. Meet at the entrance of Springwater Provincial Park. Explore nature trails looking for fall migrants and hangers on, fall flowers and ferns. Entrance fee required. Dress for the season and bring drinks and snacks.

2017-09-17 Point Pelee National Park

Brian Hobbs

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor Centre in the Park. Birding around the Visitor Centre, at the Tip, and in the surrounding area including the onion fields. Fall migrants, raptors, seabirds, shorebirds, Monarch butterflies.

2017-09-23 Hamilton, Burlington and Vicinity

Len Manning

Meet 8:00 a.m. in Hutch's Restaurant parking lot at Van Wagners Beach on Lake Ontario in Hamilton. From Niagara on QEW, exit at Centennial Parkway, go left onto North Service Road and follow to Van Wagners Beach Road to the restaurant. From Toronto on QEW, exit at Woodward Avenue, turn right at lights, then right at next lights, go under bridge, turn right onto Van Wagners Beach Road to the restaurant. Jaegers, gulls, shorebirds, fall migrants.

2017-09-30 Young Birders. Raptor Migration and Point Pelee in the Fall

Jeremy Hatt

Meet at 8:00 am at the Holiday Beach Hawk Tower, Amherstburg (near Windsor). Observe migrating raptors and passerines. Entrance fee at Holiday Beach. Bring drinks and lunch.



Field Trips

2017-10-01 Young Birders. Raptor Migration and Point Pelee in the Fall

Jeremy Hatt, Sarah Rupert

Meet at 7:30 at the Point Pelee National Park Visitors Centre. Entrance fee is not required. Enjoy what many birders consider the best time for birding at Point Pelee National Park. Bring drinks and lunch.

2017-10-07 North Shore Lake superior between Marathon and Thunder Bay (2-day trip)

Nick Escott

Exact location(s) to be determined. Possible pre- and post- trips Oct 6 and Oct 9. If interested, please contact leader Nick Escott ngescott@shaw.ca well in advance so he knows how many people may be coming from southern Ontario. There may be a limit on how many birders we can accommodate, since overnight accommodations will be required. This trip is in memory of Alan Wormington, who loved the north shore of Superior, and organized the only OFO field trip that has ever been offered in Thunder Bay District, In October 1988.

2017-10-08 Westmeath Provincial Park and Lac Dore

Mark Gawn

Situated on the Ottawa River near Pembroke, Westmeath Park is a noted migration stopover for Nelson's Sparrow and occasionally Le Conte's Sparrow. Lac Dore, a fish-filled lake, regularly attracts many small gulls, grebes, and loons along with the occasional rarity. Meet 8:00 a.m. in Cobden at the Civitan Park on the north side of highway 17.

2017-10-14 Young Birders. Raptor Migration at Hawk Cliff; A joint event with the Thames Talbot Land Trust

Rebecca Launchbury (TTLT)

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. Tour Hawk Cliff woods and learn about the restoration projects in this magnificent forest. Enjoy fall raptor migration. Dress for the weather and bring lunch, drinks and snacks.

2017-10-14 Barrie

Jim Coey

Meet at the City of Barrie Dock Road Municipal Parking lot at 204 Dock Road, south-east corner of Dock Road and Plunkett Ct. We'll look for migrants in the parks and waterfowl on the lake. Lake Simcoe has had some surprising birds over the years. Who knows what will turn up? Easy walking, bring snack and water.

2017-10-15 Durham Waterfront

Geoff Carpentier

Meet 8 am at Lynde Shores Conservation Area parking lot on Victoria Street, Whitby. Exit Highway 401 at Brock Street (Exit 410). Turn left (south) onto Brock Street. Turn right (west) onto Victoria. Go about 2.5 km to Lynde Shores on south side. Visits to Cranberry Marsh Hawk watch, Oshawa Second Marsh, Corner Marsh and Frenchman's Bay, depending on conditions and water levels. Late fall migrants, raptors, shorebirds and ducks.

2017-10-15 Amherst Island Spring

Mike Burrell

Meet at 7:50 am at carpool lot south of 401 at exit 593 (Camden East Road). We'll check Amherst Island (ferry fee) and some other Kingston area hotspots for late migrants including sparrows, waterfowl, gulls and other waterbirds. Trip ends mid-afternoon. Bring cash for the ferry, a lunch although we will pass a Tim Horton's on the way to Wolfe Island Ferry, and be prepared for some moderate walking.

2017-10-21 Ottawa River

Tony Beck

Birding from 1 p.m. to dusk along the Ottawa River. Meet 1 p.m. at Andrew Haydon Park, east parking lot (Ottawa Beach). Possible ducks, geese, shorebirds, gulls. Near sunset, 1000's of birds fly into Lac Des Chenes to roost. Rarities possible such as Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snow Geese, Red Phalarope, Greater White-fronted Geese, Cackling Geese.



Field Trips

2017-10-22 Point Pelee National Park

Ellen Smout

Entry free to Park. Meet at Park Visitor Centre at 8:30 a.m. Birding Point Pelee Tip, woods, marsh, nearby onion fields. Fall migrants.

2017-10-22 Grand Bend, Pinery PP, Kettle Point

Donald Pye

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at GB Sobey's parking lot on north side of Huron County Rd. 81, east of traffic lights at Hwy 21. From Hwy 402 take exit 81 Centre Road and proceed north on Middlesex County 81 via Parkhill, after jogging left at Middlesex County Rd.7. Continue on Middlesex, then Huron County Rd. 81 to Grand Bend (+/- 3 hrs. from Toronto). Late fall/ early winter migrants, waterfowl, gulls, jaegers, eagles and resident titmice.

2017-10-29 Hawk Cliff and Area, South-west of London

Dave Brown

Meet 9:30 a.m. at Hawk Cliff. From Hwy. 401 Exit 177, take Hwy. 4 south through western St. Thomas until it becomes Sunset Drive. Continue about 8 km to Union. Go east on County Road 27, Sparta Line Road. Go east one road (about 3 km) to County Road 22 (Fairview Road). Head south. The 2nd road south is County Road 24 (Dexter Line) and you will meet a stop sign. Looking south, you will see the sign for Hawk Cliff. Go south on the dirt road to the lake. Park along road allowance. Raptors, waterfowl, gulls and late migrants, especially Golden Eagle.

2017-11-05 Cobourg Harbour, Presqu'île Provincial Park

Ian Shanahan

Meet Cobourg Harbour parking area at 8.30 am. Rare gulls, loons, grebes and shorebirds possible. Then drive to Presqu'île Prov. Pk. for late migrants, including Purple Sandpipers.

2017-11-25 Young Birders. Hamilton Waterfowl

Caleb Scholtens, Peter Scholtens

8:30 am start. Hamilton and surrounding area. Meet at Plains Road beside Wedgewood Golf Centre near where the 403 and highway 6 meet. Hamilton is a waterfowl haven. Learn the finer points of waterfowl identification. Dress warmly and bring drinks, lunch and snacks.

2017-12-03 Niagara River Gull Watch

Josh Vandermeulen, Jeremy Bensette, Marcie Jacklin

Meet 9:00 a.m. at Sir Adam Beck Generating Station overlook on Niagara River Parkway south of Queenston-Lewiston Bridge to USA. From QEW take Hwy 405 towards USA and exit at Stanley Avenue. YOU MUST EXIT HWY 405 AT STANLEY AVENUE. Turn left, crossing over Hwy 405, then immediately right onto Portage Road which parallels Hwy 405 for 3 km. At Brock Monument traffic circle take first right exit, Niagara Parkway, signed "The Falls". Follow for 1.8 km to Sir Adam Beck overlook on left

2017-12-09 Barrie Lakeshore

Jim Coey

Meet at 9:00 am at the City of Barrie Dock Road Municipal Parking lot at 204 Dock Road, south-east corner of Dock Road and Plunkett Ct. We will explore the Barrie lake front and parks for gulls, waterfowl and other lingering migrants car pool and easy walking. This can be a very cold outing. Gulls, waterfowl and winter finches.

2017-12-10 Toronto Lakeshore

John Schmelefske

Meet 9:00 a.m. at Humber Bay Park East parking lot. Off the QEW, coming from the west, take the exit to Park Lawn. Go south. Cross Lakeshore Road, then turn right to the parking area. Off the QEW, coming from the east, exit at Lakeshore Road. Turn right onto Lakeshore Road, then left at the lights into Humber Bay Park East. Winter species: ducks, gulls, waterbirds, finches, raptors.



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2017-12-10 Young Birders. Deep Winter Birding; A joint event with the TOC

Isabel Apkarian, Caroline Biel

Meet at 8:00 am at the entrance to Tommy Thompson Park, foot of Leslie St., south of Lakeshore Ave. Search for wintering songbirds and waterfowl. Owls are a possibility. Dress warmly and bring warm clothes, drinks and snacks. The park is usually colder and windier than the rest of the city.