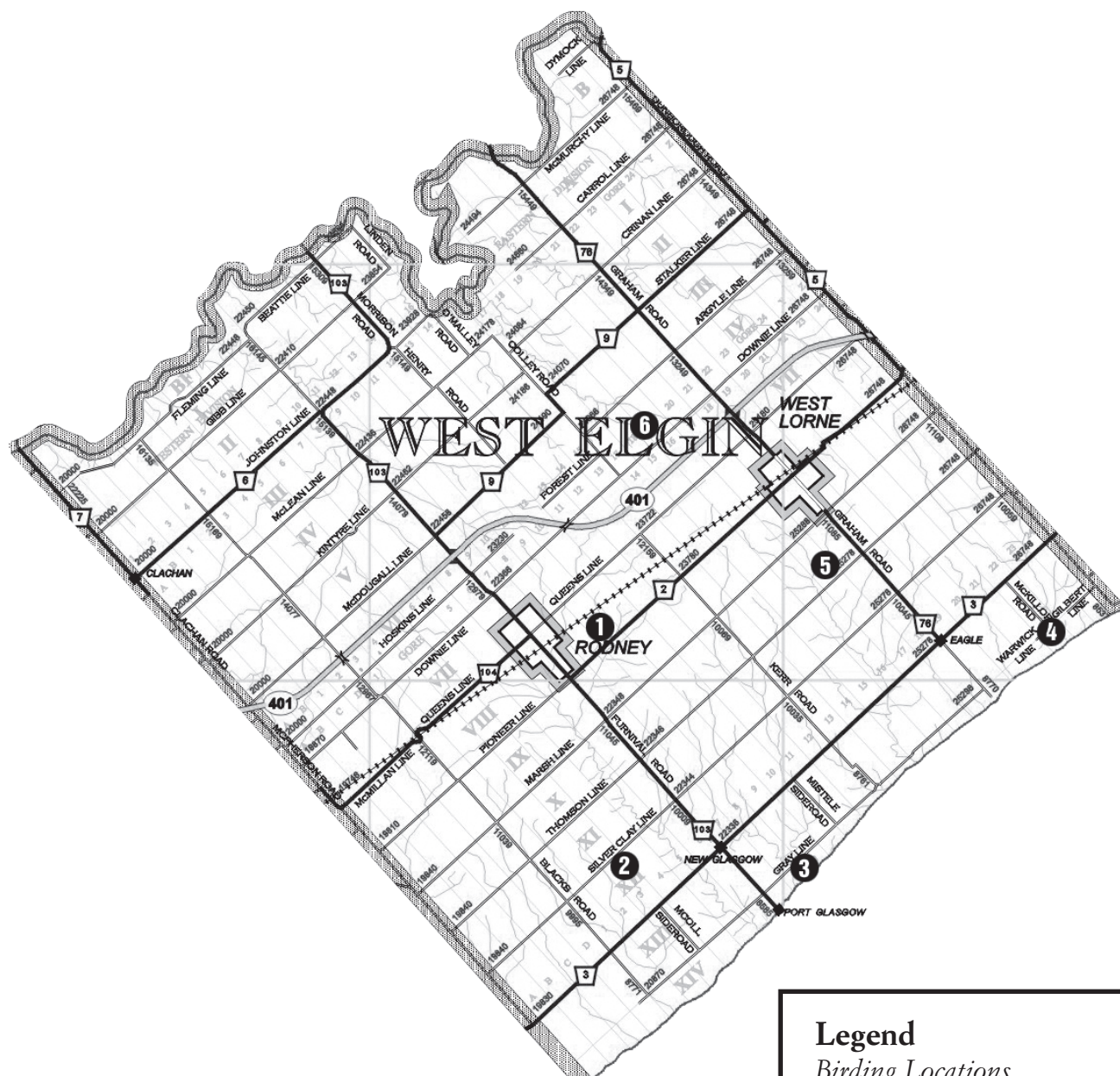


ELGIN COUNTY BIRDWATCHING LOCATIONS

Site Number	Name of Site	911 Address, Municipality
1	Rodney Lagoon	22590 Pioneer Line, West Elgin
2	Joe's Bush	21597 Silver-Clay Line, West Elgin
3	Gray Line Port Glasgow Marina Beattie Access Beach	West Elgin Havens Lake Road, West Elgin Havens Lake Road, West Elgin
4	Ernie Warwick Conservation Area	McKillop Road, West Elgin
5	West Lorne Lagoon	22050 Thomson Line, West Elgin
6	West Elgin Nature Reserve	24514 Downie Line, West Elgin
7	Wendy's Pond West Lorne Service Center-401 Hwy.	Highway 401 East - West Lorne Service Center Dutton-Dunwich
8	Buttermilk Bog	274 Currie Road, Dutton-Dunwich
9	Dutton Lagoon	301 Shackleton Road West, Dutton-Dunwich
10	Dutton-Dunwich Prairie	Coyne Road & CSX Railroad, Dutton-Dunwich
11	Trans-Canada Trail	Talbot Line to Lakeview Line, Dutton-Dunwich
12	Duttona Beach	Southern End of Coyne Road, Dutton-Dunwich
13	John E. Pearce Provincial Park	29550 Lakeview Line, Dutton-Dunwich
14	Fingal Wildlife Mgt Area – North Lot Fingal Wildlife Mgt Area – Prairie Site Fingal Wildlife Mgt Area – South Lot	North Lot – 34469 Fingal Line, Southwold Twp. 34764 Scotch Line, Southwold Twp. 35000 Scotch Line, Southwold Twp.
15	Port Stanley Lagoons	37375 & 37505 Scotch Line, Southwold Twp.
16	Port Stanley Harbour	Port Stanley at Kettle Creek, Central Elgin
17	Hawk Cliff	Along Hawk Cliff Road & Elgin County Road, 24 and Dexter Line, Central Elgin
18	Pinafore Park	89 Elm Street, St. Thomas
19	Paynes Mills Hiking Trail	38791 Talbot Line, Central Elgin
20	Waterworks Park	2 Edgeware Drive, St. Thomas
21	Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Properties Dan Paterson Conservation Area Dalewood Campground Dalewood Walking Trail Carr's Bridge	44015 Ferguson Line, Central Elgin Mapleton Line & Highbury Road, Central Elgin 10518 Dalewood Road, Central Elgin Dalewood Road at Kettle Creek, Central Elgin 10936 Dalewood Road, Central Elgin
22	Archie Coulter Conservation Area	46900 Brouwers Line, Central Elgin
23	Springwater Conservation Area	8080 Springwater Road, Central Elgin
24	Yarmouth Natural Heritage Site	47502 Sparta Line, Central Elgin
25	Port Bruce	Port Bruce, Malahide Twp.
26	Pede Road	Pede Road, Malahide Twp.
27	Port Burwell Provincial Park	Port Burwell, Bayham Twp.
28	Calton Swamp & Stewart's Swamp	Carter Road at John Wise Line, Malahide Twp.
29	Aylmer Wildlife Management Area	10594 Hacienda Road, Malahide Twp.
30	Aylmer Lagoons	9980 Rogers Road, Malahide Twp.
31	Howey Line	Bayham Township
32	Lamers Line	Bayham Township
33	Sandytown Road	Bayham Township
34	Mitchell Road	Bayham Township
35	Elgin County Road 45	Bayham Township

West Elgin (Aldborough)



Legend

Birding Locations

- ① Rodney Lagoon
- ② Joe's Bush
- ③ Gray Line
- ④ Ernie W. Warwick C.A.
- ⑤ West Lorne Lagoon
- ⑥ West Elgin Nature Reserve

ELGIN COUNTY BIRDWATCHING

West Elgin Area

1. RODNEY SEWAGE LAGOON

22590 Pioneer Line

The Rodney Sewage Lagoon is a single cell lagoon which affords very good viewing opportunities for swans, geese and ducks. Many of the swallow species can be sighted feeding in this area during cold weather in April and May. Very rare sightings that have been made at the lagoon included the Fulvous Whistling-Duck and American Avocet. Warblers, shorebird and Marsh Wren sightings are possible here.

Location: Found on the north side of Pioneer Line approximately 1 km east of Furnival Rd. Enter driveway that leads to the Water Treatment Plant, the lagoon is found immediately north of the plant.

Trails: There is a walking trail around the lagoon.

Facilities: A viewing stand is available

Manager: The Municipality of West Elgin

2. JOE'S BUSH

21597 Silver-Clay Line

This 20 ha parcel of land was donated to the municipality by the late Joseph E. Schmid in 1986. This tract is composed of deciduous woods and a coniferous plantation. Many Carolinian species of trees such as Tulip, Sassafras, Black Cherry and Flowering Dogwood are labelled. In early spring many woodland flowers bloom in abundance and can be viewed easily from the trails. Nesting birds that are found in the forest include Cooper's Hawk, Ovenbird, American Redstart and Canada Warbler. The trails are excellent for winter walks and cross country skiing.

Location: Joe's Bush is located on the south side of Silver-Clay Line. 1.5 km west of Furnival Road.

Trails: There are three excellent walking trails and each is approximately 0.8 km in length.

Managers: the Municipality of West Elgin

3. GRAY LINE—EAST OF BLACK'S ROAD TO GRAHAM ROAD.

Formerly known as the 14th Concession of Aldborough Twp.

This 11 km road runs parallel to and 0.5 km inland from the Lake Erie shoreline. Many stops can be made at excellent birding sites along this road, which is now

a section of the Trans-Canada Trail. At the extreme west end of this road, there is a walking trail that is .75 km in length. Many woodpecker species are found in this area during the nesting season. Locations between Black's Road and the McColl Sideboard provide good opportunities to view Orchard Orioles, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Kingbirds and listen to the Whip-poor-will during summer. Another stop is at Sixteen Mile Creek where the Eastern Phoebe nests under the bridge. Other birds to be spotted include the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swamp and Field Sparrows and Belted Kingfisher. Bald Eagles, which nest to the north, are often seen flying to the lake. Turn on to Havens Lake road and proceed to the Port Glasgow Marina and Yacht Club. Beattie Access provides entry to the beach and a short walking trail found along the creek. On the Victoria Day weekend flocks of Whimbrel are often observed along the beach. Make a stop at Ox Creek, located 0.5 km east of the Furnival Road. During the breeding season the Blue-winged Warbler, Baltimore Oriole and Common Yellowthroat may be seen and heard here. The forest and shrubbery found along the road allowance from Ox Creek to the Mistele Side road and further towards the Kerr Road provide the best opportunities for viewing many spring migrating birds. At least 30 species of warblers and vireos have been spotted on a good day. In autumn, the best location to view hawk migration is found on Gray Line. Between the Kerr Road and Graham Road make a stop at Brock's Creek where bluebirds are often seen. The Water Pumping Station at the end of the Graham Road gives a good view of Lake Erie where gulls, terns and ducks may be observed. The roadside is excellent to observe butterflies and wild flowers during the summer months.

Facilities: 5 trailer parks/campgrounds are found on Gray Line. The Old Boy's Park, located at the end of Furnival Road, has picnic tables and public washrooms.

4. ERNIE M. WARWICK CONSERVATION AREA

McKillop Rd.

This site on the Lake Erie shoreline, provides a fine view of the lake from atop some of the tallest bluffs along this stretch of the lake. The park is bordered on the east by a heavily treed, very deep ravine. A staircase, which allows for good views of an array of woodland wildflowers that include Large

flowered Bellwort, leads down to the bottom of the main ravine and along the bank of the McKay Creek to its mouth at the beach. The Orchard Oriole, a species restricted to Southern Ontario, can be found nesting here as well as other locations along the Lake Erie shoreline of Elgin County. It is also an excellent hawk viewing location, especially in September and October from the viewing stand overlooking the lake.

Location: From Eagle, drive east on Talbot Line, turn right on McKillop Road and drive 1.6 km to the entrance.

Facilities: Trail, parking, viewing stand, group camping by permission. No public washrooms.

Managers: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

5. WEST LORNE SEWAGE LAGOON

25030 Thomson Line

The West Lorne sewage lagoon has two cells and a viewing stand from which swans, geese ducks and shorebirds may be viewed during the spring and fall migration. Such rarities as the Northern Mockingbird, Ross's Goose and the Black-billed Magpie have been spotted at this lagoon. During summer, both the Great Blue Heron and Green Heron can be seen feeding in one cell or another. Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers nest in the boxes that have been erected

there. During May, the adjacent woodlot and shrubbery often host migrating warblers and other songbirds.

Location: Found on Thomson Line 1 km west of the Graham Rd. Enter the driveway that leads to the water treatment plant. Park at the gate. Make your way along the trail to the viewing stand.

Facilities: Parking lot, trail and viewing stand

Manager: The municipality of West Elgin

6. WEST ELGIN NATURE RESERVE

24514 Downie Line

Aldborough Memorial Forest

This 15 ha reserve is composed of woodlot and open meadow. The front portion was formerly a landfill site and it now is planted with memorial trees. The back of the property is primarily a mature Carolinian forest with very wide and well-maintained trails. This is a very good site in which to view labelled trees and a large variety of spring and summer wildflowers and ferns. Birds that may be seen or heard are Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Pileated Woodpecker.

Location: Downie Line 2 km west of Graham Rd. Enter through the walk-in turnstile.

Trails: A trail map is found on the property.

Facilities: Parking lot along the road.

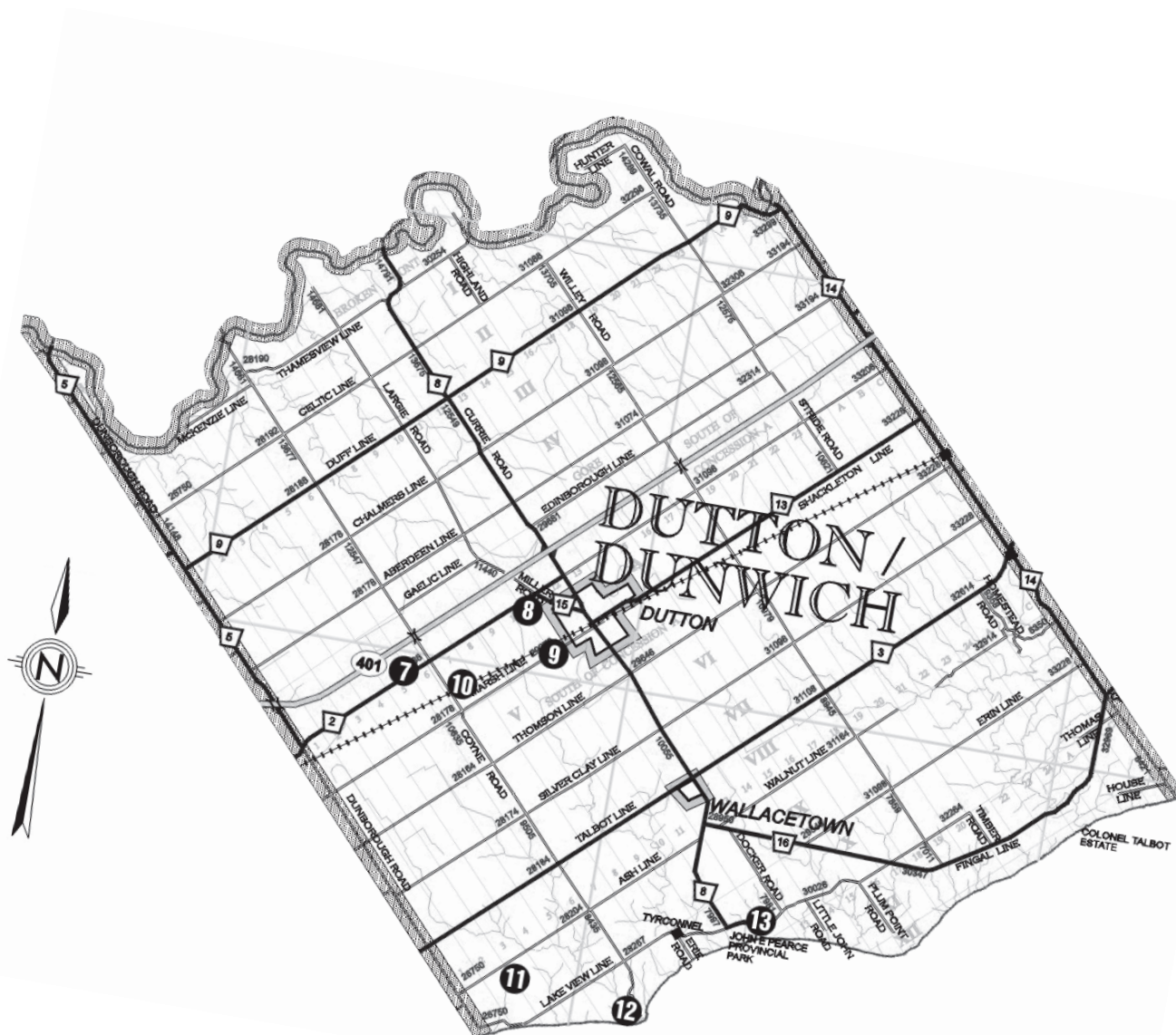
Manager: the West Elgin Nature Club.



Candy McManiman

Alder Flycatcher

Dutton/Dunwich



Legend

Birding Locations

- 7** Wendy's Pond - HWY 401
- 8** Buttermilk Bog
- 9** Dutton Lagoon
- 10** Dutton-Dunwich Prairie
- 11** Trans-Canada Trail
- 12** Duttona Beach
- 13** John E. Pearce P.P.

ELGIN COUNTY BIRDWATCHING

Dutton-Dunwich Area

7. EASTBOUND HWY #401 SERVICE CENTRE

West Lorne

There is a viewing stand in the picnic /park area located west of the Wendy's and Tim Horton restaurants. From the stand there is a good view of the pond to the south where swans and several species of puddle ducks may be observed. In late March to early April, flocks of several thousand Tundra Swans are regular visitors to the nearby fields. In summer, a few families of Canada Geese are residents. In fall, the pond can have Snow Geese as visitors.

Location: Enter the service center from the 401 hwy-eastbound and park in the restaurant area. During summer months the park is open and parking is available.

Facilities: The park has washrooms and picnic tables during the summer season. Service center restaurants are nearby.

Manager: Ministry of Transportation-Ontario.

8. BUTTERMILK BOG

274 Currie Road

The Bog and Arboretum is a 2 ha property. A short history of the site is found on a sign at the entrance to the arboretum. It was planted in the year 2000 and contains several species of rare and endangered Carolinian species. Also found in this area is the Prairie garden. At the back of the site, the bog is found. This small wet area contains spring woodland flowers, Eastern Cottonwood and Silver Maple trees. As the trees mature, more birds will find nesting sites here.

Location: Parking is located at the rear of the West Elgin Mutual Insurance office. Enter gate to the arboretum.

Facilities: Parking lot and trail. Trees and plants are labeled.

Manager: The Dutton-Dunwich Horticultural Society.

9. DUTTON SEWAGE LAGOON

301 Shackleton St. W.

This single cell lagoon has a large variety of waterfowl during the spring and fall migrations. There

is no viewing stand. The shrubbery located between the entrance road and the railroad tracks is good for viewing songbirds in spring and summer. There is a walking trail around the perimeter of the lagoon.

Location: Found southwest of the village of Dutton. Go to the end of Shackleton Street, enter driveway to the water treatment plant and proceed to the lagoon. Park at corner of lagoon or the water plant.

Facilities: Parking and trail only.

Manager: The Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich.

10. DUTTON-DUNWICH PRAIRIE

Coyne Road and CSX Railroad

This area is the largest remaining remnant for prairie plants in Elgin County and the second most significant site in Ontario. The entire trail is 3.6 km and part of an abandoned railroad right-of-way. Such plants as the Compass Plant, Pale Purple and Gray-headed Coneflower, Big Bluestem and Indian Grass are found east of the Coyne Road. The section west of the Coyne has more wet areas and such plants as the Ohio Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod and Dense Blazing Star are found here. Look for birds along the trail and on the adjacent Hydro power line. A rare Loggerhead Shrike was seen at this location.

Location: From Pioneer Line, turn south on the Coyne Road. Proceed to the railroad tracks and park on the trail off the road.

Facilities: Parking and trails.

Manager: the West Elgin Nature Club.

11. THE TRANS-CANADA TRAIL

Talbot Line to Lakeview Line

This walking section of the trail crosses two concessions of Dutton-Dunwich Township. Each section is about 2 km in length. It passes through diverse habitat such as protected valleys, watercourses and upland woods. It provides an opportunity to see birds and wildlife in a natural setting. An excellent birding trail.

Location: Enter trail at the Trans-Canada Trail markers on the Talbot Line, east of the Dunborough Road

Facilities: Walking Trail

Manager: Trans-Canada Trail

12. DUTTONA BEACH

Coyne Road at Lake Erie

Duttona Beach is an area of private cottages. A small footbridge provides public access to the beach where the road terminates at the lake. Good opportunities are here to view waterfowl in all four seasons and it is one of the better locations to see diving ducks like scaups and scoters in winter. At feeders near the bridge, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse are often seen.

Location: From Talbot Line, proceed south on Coyne Road to Lake Erie.

13. JOHN E. PEARCE PROVINCIAL PARK AND SPICER TRAIL

29550 Lakeview Line

Pearce Park is a favourite location to see a wonderful display of spring ephemerals that carpet the woodland floor from mid-April to late May. They include White and Red Trilliums in masses and others such as Dutchman's Breeches, Blue Cohosh, Spring Beauty, Cut-leaved Toothwort and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

This hardwood forest is home to the Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker and a declining population of Red-headed Woodpeckers. It also provided good opportunities to see spring migrants because of its proximity to the lake. The trail is short and leads to the lake where steep banks prevent access to the lakeshore. It is an excellent place to view waterfowl and a large colony of Bank Swallows. Winter walks often reveal nuthatches, Northern Cardinals, Eastern Towhee, and Blue Jays. Varied Thrush, Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills have been spotted here on occasion. On the north side of Lakeview Line, the Backus-Page House and Spicer Trail are located. Most of the characteristic trees of Elgin county are found along the trail and are marked for ease of identification.

Location: From Wallacetown, follow the Currie Road south to Lakeview Line. Turn left and drive 0.5 km to Pearce Park. Park at the entrance of the park on the south side of the road or in the parking lot at the Backus-Page House on the north side of the road.

Facilities: Washrooms are found in the park and at the Backus-Page House. Trails and picnic tables.

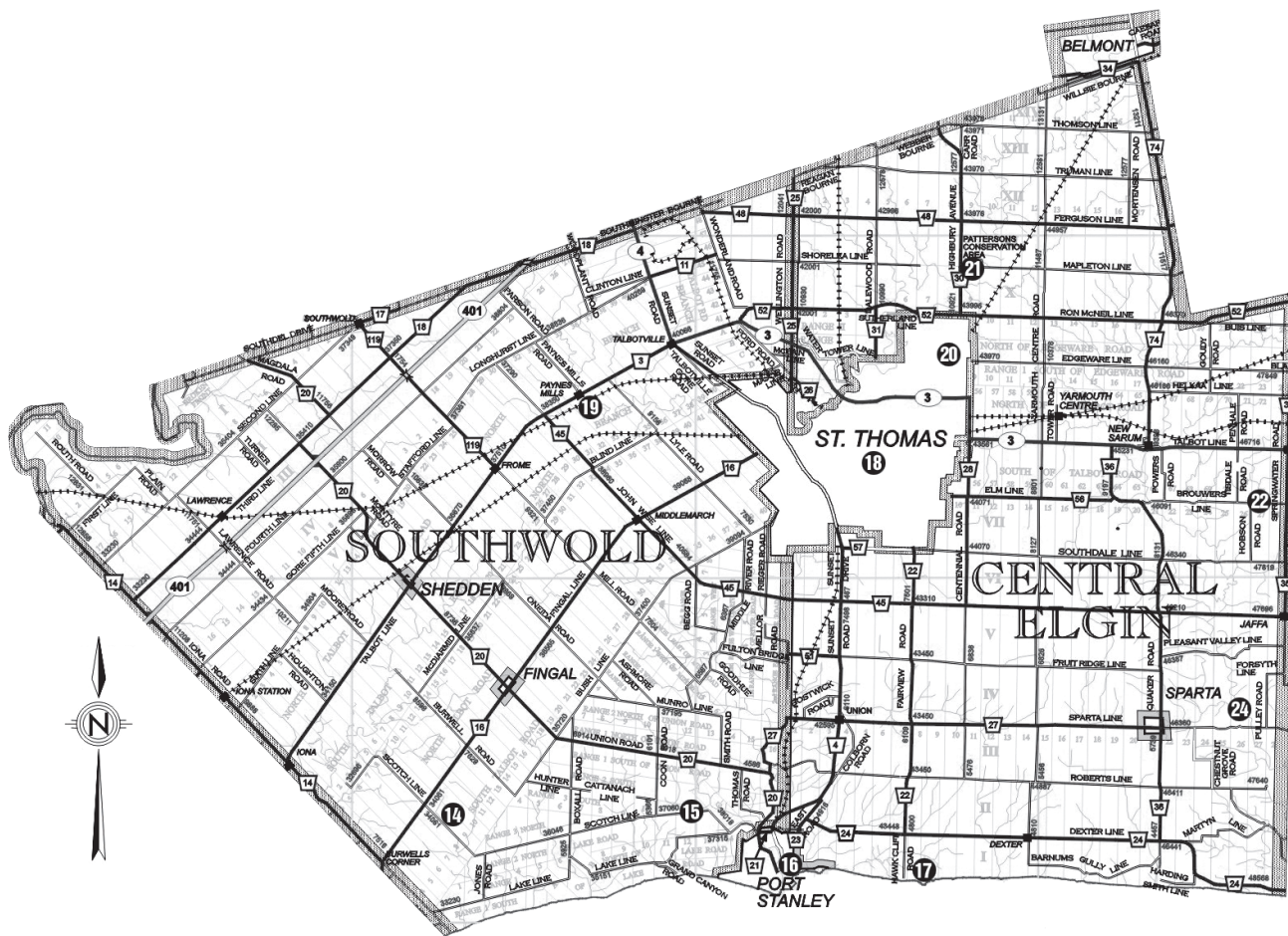
Managers: Ontario Parks, Tyrconnell Heritage Society and the St. Thomas Field Naturalists.



Candy McManiman

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Southwold and Central Elgin (Yarmouth)



Legend

Birding Locations

- 14** Fingal Wildlife Area
- 15** Port Stanley Lagoon
- 16** Port Stanley Harbour
- 17** Hawk Cliff
- 18** Pinafore Park
- 19** Paynes Mills Hiking Trail
- 20** Waterworks Park
- 21** Kettle Creek C.A.
- 22** Archie Coulter C.A.
- 24** Yarmouth Natural Heritage

ELGIN COUNTY BIRDWATCHING

Southwold and Central Elgin

14. FINGAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

34469 Fingal Line

This property was a WW II air force training base that is regenerating into natural habitat. Extensive planting of conifers and wildlife shrubs took place years ago. A tall grass prairie has been established in a former farm field. There are three main trails (War-of-Roses, Tall Grass Prairie, and South Woodlot) that give the visitor access to a diversity of habitats. The War-of-Roses Trail, with its extensive plantings of shrubs attracts Cedar Waxwings, Brown Thrashers, Field Sparrow, Yellow Warblers, and Gray Catbirds. White-eyed Vireos have also been known to nest here. The Tall Grass Prairie Trail showcases the many prairie plants that are at their best in late summer. This prairie provides habitat for Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, and Savannah Sparrow. A viewing stand allows the visitor a peek at a small pond and adjoining wetland with its Mallards, Great Blue Heron and migrating shorebirds. The South Woodlot Trail winds through a mature deciduous forest where trees are labelled. This trail, which can be wet in spring, is inspiring in its display of woodland plants, including a nice collection of ferns such as Rattlesnake and Christmas Fern. Birds likely to be seen here are the Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush and Veery.

Location: The main entrance is located at 34469 Fingal Line. The tall grass prairie and viewing stand are located at 34764 Scotch Line and the entrance to the South Woodlot Trail is at 35000 Scotch Line.

Facilities: Trails, Interpretive trail guides, picnic tables, viewing stand, parking lots and washrooms near the main entrance

Manager: Elgin Stewardship Council

15. PORT STANLEY SEWAGE LAGOONS

37375 & 37505 Scotch Line

Two viewing stands are situated strategically between the four cells of this lagoon, located about 1km north of the Lake Erie shoreline. This lagoon is productive in terms of viewing waterfowl and shorebirds. In spring migration, swans, geese and most species of duck can be found here. During the month of May and again in late summer, many shorebirds stop to feed in the cells with low water

levels. In fall 2001, over 24 species of shorebirds were seen at the Port Stanley Lagoon, including both the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits and all three species of the phalaropes. A stop at these stands is an excellent addition to a Hawk Cliff visit, being only 10 minutes from the Cliff itself. Most common gull species are also regular visitors to this area.

Location: From the Fingal Line (Elgin County Road 16), turn south on Scotch Line and proceed 9 km to the viewing stands on Scotch Line. Park along the road and please do not enter the lagoon property itself.

Facilities: Parking lot and two viewing stands

Managers: Southwold Township, Central Elgin Township, and the St. Thomas Field Naturalists

16. PORT STANLEY HARBOUR

Port Stanley at Kettle Creek

Port Stanley is a window to Lake Erie. Birdwatchers come to the Port and its beach throughout the year to check for loons, grebes, cormorants, ducks, geese, gulls, terns and shorebirds. Even in winter, the harbour can attract large numbers of gulls including the massive Great Black-backed Gull, and also some rarities such as the Glaucous and Iceland Gull. Elgin's only record for Black-legged Kittiwake and Black-headed Gull have been in the Port Stanley Harbour, and Elgin's first Sabine's and Little Gull (also the first in Canada) were also seen here. March is waterfowl month, April is Common Loon and Double-crested Cormorant month, and May is shorebird month. One of Port Stanley's greatest attractions for the natural history crowd is the annual pilgrimage to see the Whimbrel flight, which takes place between May 20th and May 30th each year. Birders positioned along the waterfront eagerly await flocks of dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of Whimbrel, a chicken-sized Arctic bound shorebird. In the fall, the passage of migrants is in reverse order with terns in late July and gulls in late November. Port Stanley Harbour is truly a birdwatching location for all seasons.

Location: The harbour is at the mouth of Kettle Creek and the beach stretches to the west down the Lake Erie shoreline.

Facilities: Parking along the waterfront with restaurants, washrooms, hotels and stores in Port Stanley itself

17. HAWK CLIFF

Hawk Cliff Road at Dexter Line

Hawk Cliff is one of the premier destinations for fall hawk watchers in eastern North America. Indeed, as a hawk watch, Hawk Cliff is known worldwide. Hawk migration was first noted here in the late 1800s. In recent year, crowds of people have come for the special weekends (usually in mid to late September) organized by the Hawk Cliff Foundation, the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station, and the St. Thomas Field Naturalists. The Hawk migration starts in late August and continues to mid-December some years. September has the largest number of hawks, with more than 20,000 Broad-winged Hawks recorded on a few days each year. October is the month with the great number of migrating hawk species (as many as 10 different kinds of hawks on a good migration day). Bald Eagles and Ospreys peak in late September, with Peregrine Falcons arriving in larger numbers in early October. Golden Eagles and Red-shouldered Hawks increase in numbers towards late October and early November. Flights of over 1,000 Red-tailed Hawks in early November are not unusual. The hawk migration is nicely complemented by impressive numbers of other migrants, such as Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in early September, Blue Jays in later September and early October, and American Crows in mid-October. In some years, thousands of Monarch butterflies and hundreds of dragonflies can pass by in a single day. The best days for hawk migration usually occur on or the day after a cold weather front has moved through the County producing deep blue skies and big, fluffy cumulus clouds. Even on the slowest days, there are hardy hawk watchers present to show newcomers where to look and how to identify the migrating hawks. As the migration progresses into late October and early November, depending on weather conditions, the flight pattern of the hawks moves northward. Birds may be spotted as far inland as the Sparta Line.

Location: From St. Thomas, drive south on Fairview Road to Dexter Line, continue south on the extension of Fairview Line, which is called Hawk Cliff Road. The land on either side of the road is private, so please stay on the road (or road allowance) or in areas clearly marked for public access.

Facilities: Park along the road allowance. Portable washrooms may be available in season. Port Stanley is located 6 km west of Hawk Cliff. Restaurants and other facilities are located here.

Managers: Central Elgin Township, the Hawk Cliff Foundation, and St. Thomas Field Naturalists

18. PINAFORE PARK

89 Elm Street, St. Thomas

This 32 hectare city park property has been well known for its flowerbeds, labeled memorial trees, picnic shelters and walking trails for over a century. The 2.5 hectare body of water known as Pinafore Lake was dammed to supply water to the New York Central Railroad for the steam-powered engines. The lake and the wildlife sanctuary (developed in the early 1950s) provide protection for large concentrations of Giant Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*), American Black Ducks and Mallards. From the early 1980s, Pinafore Park's waterfowl interests have been part of the Trumpeter Swan restoration program in Ontario. Bewick's Wren, Varied Thrush, Black Vulture and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron are all rarities that have been found in the park over the years. In 1981, the first House Finch for Elgin County was spotted at a feeder in the park and was found again in the following year. New attractions in the park are the 5 hectare woodlot for walking and bird watching, memorial gardens, tennis courts, and two pavilions.

Location: From Highway 4 (Sunset Drive), turn east on Elm Street and proceed approximately two blocks to the Pinafore Park sign on the south side of the road.

Facilities: Washrooms, picnic tables, playground, swimming pool and ample parking.

Manager: City of St. Thomas

19. PAYNES MILLS HIKING TRAIL

38791 Talbot Line

This well maintained hiking trail is 1.5 km long and follows Dodds Creek through mixed forest of predominantly beech and maple, with some planted coniferous trees. Bridges allow passage over creeks and wet areas. It is a good area to look for migrating spring warblers and other songbirds. Some nesting birds recorded during June and July have included Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler and Gray Catbird. A meadow near Lyle Road is a good spot for butterflies. There are also good possibilities of finding an American Woodcock or a Ruffed Grouse along the trail.

Location: The main entrance is located just off of Talbot Line just west of St. Thomas

Facilities: Trails only

Manager: St. Thomas-Elgin Hiking Club

20. WATERWORKS PARK

2 South Edgeware Drive, St. Thomas

This mainly coniferous treed park is located in the north section of the city and is part of the Kettle Creek flood plain. The trails are well maintained and short in distance. Waterfowl and Belted Kingfishers may be found in the creek that traverses the park. Birds that prefer conifers, such as Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper, are often found here. It can be particularly productive in winter months.

Location: Enter the park at the end of South Edgeware Drive

Facilities: Parking and trails only

Managers: City of St. Thomas

21. KETTLE CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PROPERTIES

Main Office - 44015 Ferguson Line

*Dalewood Campgrounds & Conservation Area -
10518 Dalewood Road*

*Dan Paterson Conservation Area -
Mapleton Line & Highbury Road*

These three Kettle Creek Conservation Authority parks are treated together because they are linked by a long, meandering trail that follows the Kettle Creek from Dan Paterson CA in the north to Dalewood CA in the south. The St. Thomas reservoir is the focal point of the 285 hectare Dalewood CA. A 6 km trail closely parallels the reservoir providing lookouts from time to time, which allow the visitor an opportunity to enjoy water birds and forest birds at the same time. Scattered throughout the parks are coniferous plantations, forested slopes, bottomland woods, and meadows.

Location: Just north of St. Thomas. The main entrance to Dan Paterson is on Mapleton Line just east of Highbury Road. Dalewood Campground is found on Dalewood Road. The Dalewood walking Trail can be accessed from Dalewood Road just south of the bridge that crosses Kettle Creek. The linking trail from Dalewood to Paterson can be accessed from Carr's Bridge at 10936 Dalewood Road, 0.1 km south of Ron McNeil Line (Elgin County Road 52) or across Highbury Road from Dan Paterson CA.

Facilities: Trails, washrooms (seasonal), picnic grounds, camping (seasonal). Note: Kettle Creek Conservation Authority properties require a permit before you can use the trails, parking lot and conservation areas. The permit may be purchased at the main office.

Manager: The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority

22. ARCHIE COULTER CONSERVATION AREA

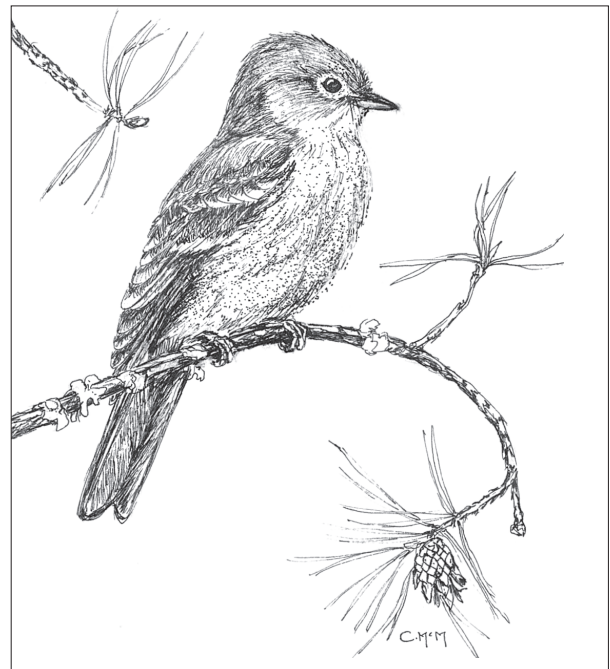
46900 Brouwers Line

Archie Coulter Conservation Area straddles the Catfish Creek valley providing a diversity of habitats including floodplain, slope forests, lots of pine plantations, and meadows regenerating into forest. Well-marked trails provide easy access throughout the year. A good cross-section of birds and butterflies can be encountered here over the course of several visits.

Location: From Talbot Line (Elgin County Road 3), drive south on Springwater Road at Orwell, turn right on Brouwers Line and go 2.2 km to the main parking lot.

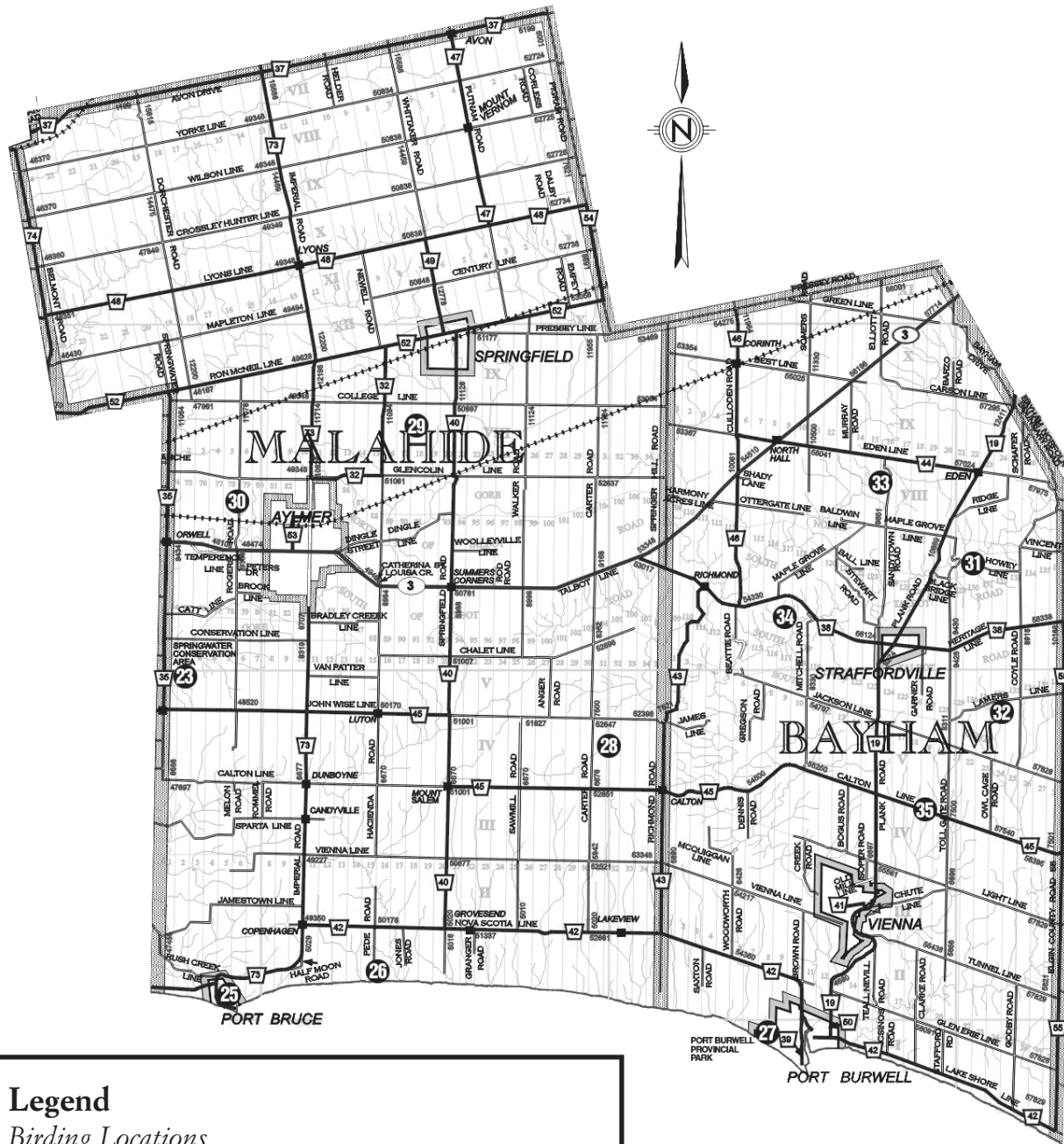
Facilities: Small parking lot and trails only

Manager: The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Malahide and Bayham



Legend

Birding Locations

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 23 Springwater C.A. | 30 Aylmer Lagoons |
| 25 Port Bruce | 31 Howey Line |
| 26 Pedde Road | 32 Lamers Line |
| 27 Port Burwell Provincial Park | 33 Sandytown Road |
| 28 Calton Swamp Wildlife Area | 34 Mitchell Road |
| 29 Aylmer Wildlife Area | 35 County Road 45 |

ELGIN COUNTY BIRDWATCHING

Malahide and Bayham Townships

23. SPRINGWATER CONSERVATION AREA

8080 Springwater Road

Springwater Forest is one of the best known forests in Southern Ontario because of its large trees and stunning display of spring flowers. It was the first known nesting location in Canada for the Hooded Warbler and the first Elgin County nesting location for the Prothonotary Warbler. Various trails lead the visitor through the few remaining “old growth” maple-beech woodlands and nature stands of Red and White Pine, which provide lookouts onto Springwater Pond, where Wood Ducks and Painted Turtles are highly visible. The Water Lily Trail, starting at the campground, follows Bradley Creek to a lookout over a millpond. During the breeding season, Scarlet Tanagers can be found around every bend in the woodland trail. Other breeding birds, which require a large forest such as the Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Wood Thrush, are sprinkled sporadically throughout the canopy of the tallest trees. Other woodland birds like Wood Thrush, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Ovenbird are also present in good numbers.

Location: South and west of Aylmer. From St. Thomas or Aylmer, drive on the Talbot Line (Elgin County Road 3) to Orwell and turn south on Springwater Road. The main entrance is on the left hand side of the road, just south of where Springwater Road crosses the Springwater Pond Dam.

Facilities: Trails, trail guides, washrooms, campgrounds. A \$2.00 donation is requested to pay for parking and maintaining the forest trails.

Managers: The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority

24. YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE SITE

47502 Sparta Line

The Yarmouth Natural Heritage Site is an 88 hectare area located along the Catfish Creek. This reclaimed county gravel pit is considered an excellent example of the Carolinian valley slopes, bottomland, and floodplain forests. Within this site, 86 bird species have been recorded, including 71 breeding birds. Notable species include American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, Winter Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, and Pine Warbler. Over 55 insects, 13 mammal and 10 amphibian species have been found to date, most notably, the Pickerel Frog.

Among the rare tree species that are found in this area are the American Chestnut and the Blue Ash. Some of the provincially significant plants are the Harbinger-of-Spring, Stiff Gentian, and Burning Bush.

Location: From the village of Sparta, proceed 2.5 km east on Sparta Line to the entrance of the natural area. Parking at entrance but do not block the gate.

Facilities: Parking and trail only

Manager: The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority

25. PORT BRUCE PROVINCIAL PARK

Port Bruce

Port Bruce harbour and beach provide an excellent lookout over Lake Erie for ducks, loons, cormorants, shorebirds, gulls and terns from mid-March through May and again in the fall from late July to November. The small beach attracts sandpipers such as the Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling in late May and August through September. In winter, it is not unusual to see one or more Bald Eagles flying over or perched on the ice in the lake.

Location: Port Bruce is on Lake Erie south of Aylmer and can be reached from Aylmer by Imperial road (Elgin County Road 73) or from Port Stanley via the Dexter Road.

Facilities: Snack bars, beach, parking, public washrooms (except in winter)

Manager: Ontario Parks, Malahide Township

26. PEDE ROAD

Nova Scotia Line to 4486 Pedde Road

This 2 km road is a dead end road from which to view the hawk migration during the autumn months. Watch to the east for one half hour so as to determine where the flight line is on that day, and stay at the dead end or move inland along the road accordingly. In mid-October, Pedde Road is a good spot to view the larger hawks moving along the lake. In late October to early November, Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks migrate in larger numbers and the Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk migration peaks. In spring migration, look for warblers in woodlots adjacent to the road.

Location: From Port Bruce take the Imperial Line (Elgin County Road 73) to Nova Scotia Line (Elgin County Road 42). Turn east. Pedde Road is the first crossroad along the Nova Scotia Line. Turn south. All

land along the Pede Road is private, so please stay on the road or road allowance.

27. PORT BURWELL PROVINCIAL PARK

Port Burwell

Port Burwell Provincial Park protects a great variety of habitats ranging from beach, dunes, interdunal wet meadows, marsh, shrub swamp, upland deciduous forest, pine plantations to extensively vegetated campgrounds, which are deserted outside of the May to Thanksgiving camping season. The deciduous woodlands produce a great display of spring flowers from late April to mid-May. Towards the end of May, shorebirds such as Whimbrel, Red Knot and Sanderling grace the beaches. In late summer, the dunes and wet meadows are filled with butterflies. Some years, migrating Monarch butterflies linger by the thousands in the dunes. In late September, the wet meadows are filled with gentians, Grass-of-Parnassus, and ladies-tresses. Fall is exciting with a flight of hawks almost rivaling Hawk Cliff.

Location: Situated on the west side of Big Otter Creek in Port Burwell.

Trails: The Ravine Trail (interpretative trail guide available) winds through pine plantations and natural forest. Outside the camping season, the park roads act as trails and provide access to most parts of the park and a good sample of the diverse habitats. In winters with snow, many people use these roads for cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing.

Facilities: Camping, washrooms, picnic tables and trails with interpretative guide pamphlets

Manager: Ontario Parks

28. CALTON SWAMP WILDLIFE AREA

Carter Road and John Wise Line

Calton Wildlife Area is one of the few accessible wetlands in Elgin County. Wetland habitat includes water, shrub thicket swamp, silver maple swamp and some stands of cattails. The surrounding forest is mostly mature Red Pine or wet woods with Yellow Birch and Eastern Hemlock. Visitors may find wildlife here in each season. In spring and fall, geese and ducks are here in abundance. Herons, grebes, rails and other water birds may be seen in the backwaters. During the birding season, the songs of Pine Warbler, Ovenbird and Veery are distinctively noticeable. On occasion, the resident Pleated Woodpecker makes its presence known by its laugh-like call or hammering on dead trees. In fall, hunting

is permitted on several days of the week but not on Sundays. The hunting schedule is posted on the bulletin board at the parking lot. The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority has property located across the road from the Calton Swamp parking lot, which is known as Stewart's Swamp. The trails are passable but may be wet at certain times of the year. One of the best areas for watching birds is along Carter Road, but watch for traffic.

Facilities: Parking lot and trail only

Manager: The Elgin Stewardship Council and The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

29. AYLMER WILDLIFE AREA

10594 Hacienda Road

The Aylmer Wildlife Management Area is the most accessible and reliable location in most of southwestern Ontario for viewing Tundra Swans during the spring migration, which usually extends from mid-March to early April. The viewing stands provide exhilarating close-ups of up to 3,000 swans at a time as they rest and feed before the next stage of their migration to their Arctic breeding grounds. Many other species of ducks and geese can be found in small to large numbers in spring. (March/April) and fall (September-November). As well, large numbers of over 20 species of sandpipers visit in both late spring (May) and early fall (July to early October). Because of the vast numbers of berry shrubs planted to rehabilitate the site, impressive numbers of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and an occasional Northern Mockingbird spend the winter here.

Location: From Aylmer, proceed north on Imperial Road and turn right on Glencolin Line Turn left on Hacienda Road and enter the wildlife area at the south end of the Police College.

Facilities: Trails and year round washroom. Four viewing stands are present - three are at the main parking lot and one is located at the east limits of the property overlooking the back pond. During the swan migration, the Aylmer Rotary Club operates a snack bar and there may be naturalists present to help with interpretation and identification.

Manager: The Elgin Stewardship Council

30. AYLMER SEWAGE LAGOONS

9980 Rogers Road

This lagoon has four cells and is posted. Permission must be obtained from the Aylmer Public Utilities Commission. This site is excellent for waterfowl such as swans, geese and many species of ducks during the spring and fall migration. Often, one

of the rear ponds has a low water level and is suited for shorebirds during the spring and fall migration.

Location: From Aylmer, proceed north on the Imperial Road (Elgin Cty. Rd. #73) to Glencolin Line (Elgin Cty. Rd. #32). Turn east and go to Rogers Road. Turn south and go to 9980 Rogers Road. From St. Thomas, go east on Talbot Line (Elgin Cty. Rd. #3) to Rogers Road. Turn left and to 9980 Rogers Road.

Manager: The Aylmer Public Utilities Commission

31,32,33,34 & 35.

THE BACKROADS OF BAYHAM TOWNSHIP

Bayham Township occupies the east end of Elgin County and includes the villages of Strathfordville, Vienna, Port Burwell and the hamlets of Richmond and Eden. This township has more forest than any other Elgin County township mainly because the deep and wide Big Otter and Little Otter creeks dissect it. The steep slopes, inaccessible valleys, and sandy soil all make farming less attractive than in other parts of the County. Although there are no publicly accessible parks or conservation areas other than Port Burwell Provincial Park, it is worth exploring the backroads of Bayham, especially during the bird breeding season. Driving the backroads bring you close to woodlands, ravines, hayfields, pastures and creek valleys. Some of the more interesting roads to explore are close to Strathfordville. These include Howey Line, Lamer Line, Sandytown Road, Mitchell Road and Cty. Rd. # 38 from Richmond to Calton and Beattie Road.

Because forest and pasture cover so much of Bayham, woodland and grassland breeding birds are the main targets. When a stretch of roadside woodland is encountered, find a safe place to park and walk along the road listening for forest birds such as the Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Along the forest edge, watch and listen for the Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler and Eastern Towhee. If the woods have been logged in the last few years,

you might even hear a Hooded Warbler. If the road is beside a deep ravine with Eastern Hemlock, watch for Black-throated Green Warbler in the hemlocks and listen for the songs of the Louisiana Waterthrush and Winter Wren in the cool, dark ravines. Look overhead for soaring Broad-winged Hawks or a Pileated Woodpecker flying from woodlot to woodlot.

If you find a stretch of road with pasture or hayfields stop, look, and listen for the Eastern Kingbird, Bobolink, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Meadowlark and up to four kinds of sparrows including Song, Savannah, Vesper and Grasshopper.

THE TRANS-CANADA TRAIL IN ELGIN COUNTY

This 150 km portion of the Trans-Canada Trail in Elgin County, created in 1999, starts in West Elgin at Black's Road and ends in Bayham Township on Howey Line and then proceeds to Oxford County. Many of the better birding sites in the County can be found as part of the Trans-Canada Trail – Gray Line in West Elgin (site #3), Ash Line to Lakeview Line in Dutton-Dunwich (site #11), Lakeview Line at John E. Pearce Provincial Park (site #13), Brouwers Line (site #23), Conservation Road (site # 24), Port Burwell Provincial Park (site #27), and Howey Line (site #31) are all located on the Trans-Canada Trail.

Other scenic roads along the Elgin County portion of the Trans-Canada Trail may provide good opportunities to see birds, wildflowers and butterflies, but are not listed as separate sites on the Elgin Birding Trail. Consult the maps contained in this book for exact locations of the Trans-Canada Trail in Elgin County. This trail is available for public access and does not require any permit for its use. A majority of the trail can be driven by automobile, while a small portion is only available to hikers. There is a 4.8 km portion of the trail through the city of St. Thomas where a pavilion can be found (Jonas Street adjacent to Ross Street). Feel free to buy a membership, which will entitle the donor to a name inscription on the plaques inside the pavilion.

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