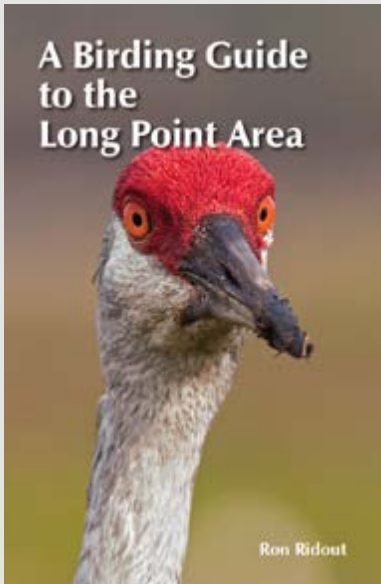


The 'Long Point Birding Area' in Norfolk County is one of Canada's richest birding locales. Close to 400 bird species have been observed here. Explore a wide variety of habitats, including extensive public forests and wetlands. The Long Point Birding Trail provides an overview of local birding hotspots, and has been designed to maximize the chances of seeing a good selection of birds. All of the Trail's 40 sites are publicly accessible.



The Trail is based on Ron Ridout's comprehensive *A Birding Guide to the Long Point Area*. Copies may be purchased at Bird Studies Canada's Port Rowan headquarters or Long Point Bird Observatory's Old Cut Research Station.



Photography by Ron Ridout



Rough-legged Hawk

Bird Studies Canada is Canada's leading national charitable organization dedicated to bird science and conservation. Our mission is to conserve wild birds of Canada through sound science, on-the-ground actions, innovative partnerships, public engagement, and strategic informed advocacy. www.birdscanada.org

Long Point Bird Observatory is a core program of Bird Studies Canada. We operate research, education, and training programs that focus on ornithology, conservation, and other aspects of natural history at Long Point. The Old Cut Research Station is open to the public seven days a week from 8 a.m. until noon in April and May, and from mid-August to early November. www.birdscanada.org/longpoint

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Long Point Birding Trail



Spring

Spring begins in early March with the arrival of many waterfowl species and the Tundra Swans. The exact timing of their presence varies, but good numbers are often seen in the middle two weeks of the month. Songbird migration begins in early April and builds steadily. Swallows and sparrows arrive first, followed by the hardier warblers. In May, the stream of migrants becomes a torrent on the first warm nights with southerly winds. Mid-May holds the greatest diversity, and daily totals of well over 100 species are easily attained. The best results are achieved at the lakeshore hotspots and wetlands, and on Long Point itself.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Summer

Close to 200 bird species breed in the Long Point area, in the heart of Carolinian Canada. The area's inland forests really shine in summer. Unusual species such as Hooded and Cerulean warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes can be regularly found. The wetlands along the lakeshore and on Long Point provide excellent habitat for rails, bitterns, and terns.



Great Blue Heron



Tundra Swans

Fall

The fall migration is spread over a longer period than the spring. Migration of warblers and flycatchers begins in early August and continues through September, while sparrows move right through October. Diversity is greatest in late September, when time spent at hotspots along the lakeshore and on Long Point can yield a day list of over 100 species. The lake's north shore is an excellent place to watch migrating birds of prey throughout the fall. Late in October, many waterfowl species can be seen in the coastal marshes and on Long Point's Inner Bay. Around the same time, Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes arrive in large numbers and stay until freeze-up.



Horned Larks

Winter

The arrival of the winter birding season usually coincides with the winter solstice. Depending on the severity of the weather, a few lingering migrants may survive into late December. By January, the remaining landbirds are usually reduced to hardy species adapted to the cold conditions. As the area's waters freeze, the last of the waterfowl, including the Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes, depart. February is the coldest and quietest time of year, although in some warmer winters, the first few migrants may return late in the month.

Long Point Bird Observatory's Old Cut Research Station

During spring and fall, this is the place to visit. More than 300 species have been tallied in this small area. On a good day, the woods are alive with small birds of every description. The view from the dyke provides a wide open vista to the east, and birds moving on and off the Point are readily visible. LPBO's migration monitoring program operates during spring and fall migration and is open to the public 8 a.m. to noon daily in season.

Big Creek National Wildlife Area

This expansive wetland is one of the largest in southern Ontario. A walk around the 2.5 km marsh trail will yield ducks, rails, herons, bitterns, and many more wetland species in late spring and early summer. The marsh is home to several pairs of Sandhill Cranes. In fall and early winter, thousands of waterfowl including many Tundra Swans roost in the marsh every evening.

Bird Studies Canada Headquarters

Bird Studies Canada's national headquarters sit on 32 acres on the edge of Long Point's Inner Bay. Walking trails throughout pass a wetland that is home to Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, Wood Duck, and many other species. A wheelchair-accessible path leads to a view of Long Point Bay. In spring and fall, waterfowl can be seen in incredible numbers and diversity.

Backus Woods

This large woodland is Canada's best example of Carolinian forest. A long walk among its towering trees is inspiring. It is home to more than 100 breeding bird species, including 11 at-risk species. Breeding birds of note include Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Hooded, Prothonotary, and Cerulean warblers. Late spring and summer are the best times to visit.

Birding Hotspots of the Long Point Area



Birding Localities

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 Old Cut Field Station | 22 Wilson Tract |
| 4 'New' Long Point P.P. | 23 Coppen's/Armstrong Tract |
| 5 'Old' Long Point P.P. | 24 Lake Erie Farms Property |
| 6 Crown Marsh | 25 Arthur Langford Forest |
| 7 Hastings Drive | 26 Deer Creek Valley |
| 8 Big Creek NWA | 27 Walsingham Flats |
| 9 Causeway | 28 Backus Woods |
| 10 BSC Headquarters Property | 29 Barrett-Sanderson Tract |
| 11a Port Rowan Overlooks | 30 St. Williams Conservation Reserve |
| 11b Port Rowan Wetland | 31 Pinegrove Forest |
| 12 Lakeshore Road Fields | 32 Monroe Landon Woods |
| 13 Port Royal | 33 Smith/Swick-King Tracts |
| 14 Lee Brown W.M.A. | 34 Turkey Point Marsh Overlook |
| 15 Hahn Marsh | 35 Turkey Point |
| 16 The Coves | 36 Turkey Point Conservation Reserve |
| 17 Jackson Gunn Forest | 37 Turkey Point P.P. |
| 18 A. Concession | 38 Normandale Fish Hatchery |
| 19 1st Concession | 39 Normandale Dock |
| 20 Rowan Mills C.A. | 41 Fisher's Glen |
| 21 Rowanwood Sanctuary | 42 Port Ryerse |
| | 43 Port Dover |

Site numbers match those in *A Birding Guide to the Long Point Area*. Look for the Long Point Birding Trail logo at each location.

Birding by Habitat



Carolinian Forest:
Sites 17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33

Birds of Note: Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Red-bellied and Pileated woodpeckers; Acadian Flycatcher; Yellow-throated Vireo; Cerulean, Hooded, and Prothonotary warblers; Louisiana and Northern waterthrushes.

Best time to visit: May - July

Marsh:
Sites 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 18, 34

Birds of Note: Pied-billed Grebe; American and Least bitterns; Northern Harrier; Bald Eagle; King and Virginia rails; Sora; Common Moorhen; Sandhill Crane; Black and Forster's terns; Sedge and Marsh wrens.

Best time to visit: May - July

Long Point Bay:
Sites 9, 10, 11a, 35, 39, 42, 43.

Birds of Note: Tundra Swan; Greater and Lesser scaup; Canvasback; Redhead; Ruddy Duck; Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Bald Eagle; American Coot; Bonaparte's and Little gulls; Caspian and Forster's terns.

Best time to visit: Whenever the bay is ice-free.

Floodplain:
Sites 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27

Birds of Note: Wood Duck; Hooded Merganser; Bald Eagle; Black and Yellow-billed cuckoos; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Tufted Titmouse; Carolina Wren; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Best time to visit: Year-round.

Open Fields:
Sites 12, 13, 14

Birds of Note: Tundra Swan; Cackling Goose; Snow Goose; Mallard; Black Duck; Northern Pintail; Northern Harrier; Sandhill Crane; Black-bellied Plover; American Golden Plover; Short-eared Owl; Lapland Longspur; Snow Bunting.

Best time to visit: February - May, September - December

Long Point:
Sites 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Birds of Note: All migrant species

Best time to visit: March - June, August - November



Belted Kingfisher



Indigo Bunting



Wilson's Snipe



Black-throated Green Warbler



Northern Shoveler



Orchard Oriole