

Point Pelee National Park

Birdwatching Best Bets & Map Legend

Although birding anywhere in the park can be rewarding, the following locations have proven to be among the best. Refer to the "Seasonal Status of Birds", available for purchase at the Visitor Centre, for the best possible time of year to find the species you wish to observe. Footpaths are subject to change.

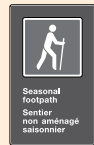
Please note: Ticks are a part of our environment and a small percentage of the park's black-legged tick population carries the Lyme Disease bacterium. Information about precautions is available at the Visitor Centre.

Birding from the Road

- Provides open view of sky
- Parking lots at Visitor Centre and DeLaurier Homestead are excellent for hawk watching
- Visitor Centre to Tip often very productive, only shuttle traffic permitted from April through October

Seasonal Birding Footpaths

Each spring a special network of approximately 5 km of seasonal birding footpaths provides access to and through known 'best bet' areas. Marked with flagging tape and signs, these footpaths are open mid-April until migration has slowed. By early June, these footpaths are difficult to navigate as the vegetation regenerates. Poison ivy and ticks can be present.



- Seasonal footpath signs mark trail heads
- Orange flagging tape identifies seasonal footpaths
- Minimally cleared, not groomed, often has deadfall, overhangs and wet soil
- Narrow, not suitable for larger groups

Year-round Footpaths

Open year-round and providing access to a diversity of park habitats, this 5 km network of footpaths is well established. These footpaths are unsurfaced and may have uneven and wet areas with obstacles such as downed trees.

Park Trails

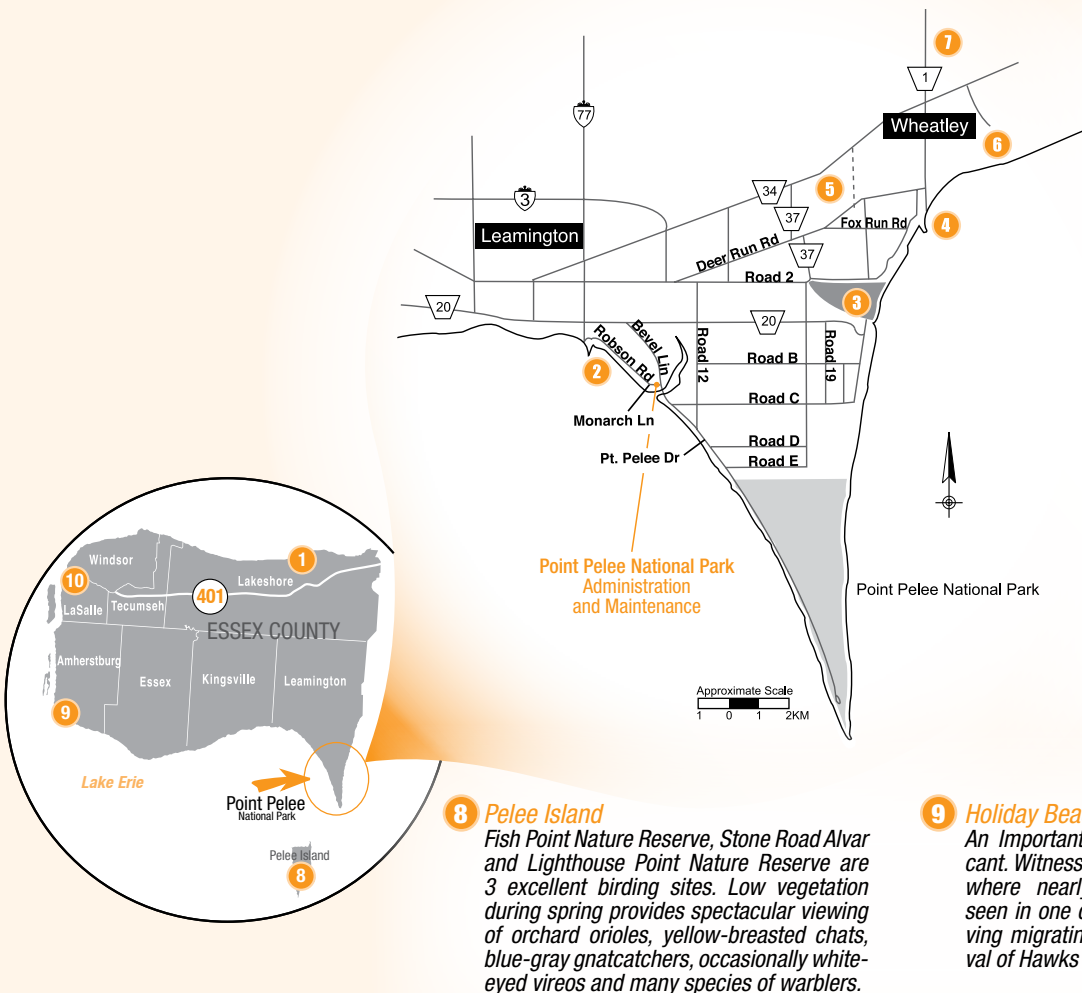
Popular birding areas

Over 12 km of 1.5 m wide trails, surfaced with crushed gravel and boardwalks, are maintained year round and provide access to all five of the major habitat types found in the park.

- A DeLaurier Homestead**
Open grassy areas are good for eastern bluebirds, yellow-breasted chats, savannah sparrows and provide open vistas to view raptors. Scan the shrubby marsh edge for green herons, wood ducks, willow flycatchers and other migrants. Can access Anders Footpath from DeLaurier Trail. View the eagle nesting platform from the observation tower.
- B Tip Area**
Large concentrations of ducks, gulls and raptors are attracted to the Tip. Wooded areas are often alive with vireos, warblers, thrushes, kinglets and flycatchers. Search open areas along the west beach and Sparrow Field for indigo buntings and less common species of sparrow in spring and northern saw-whet owls in late fall.
- C Sanctuary Pond Lookout & Marsh Boardwalk**
Provides access to a cattail marsh where one may find common yellow-throat, marsh wren, black tern, rails and swamp sparrow. Also excellent for shorebirds during times of low water levels.
- D Woodland Nature Trail**
The wide varieties of habitats along this trail often produce an excellent array of migrants. Carolina wrens are permanent residents.
- E Tilden Woods Trail**
The mature forest attracts an excellent variety of migrant woodland birds. Scan for waterthrushes and other warblers along the edge of water-filled sloughs.

The Region is Rich with Flights of Fancy!

Birds know no boundaries, flock out into the Essex-Kent County region for other birding experiences.



8 Pelee Island
Fish Point Nature Reserve, Stone Road Alvar and Lighthouse Point Nature Reserve are 3 excellent birding sites. Low vegetation during spring provides spectacular viewing of orchard orioles, yellow-breasted chats, blue-gray gnatcatchers, occasionally white-eyed vireos and many species of warblers.

9 Holiday Beach Conservation Area
An Important Bird Area of global significance. Witness the fall migration spectacle where nearly 100,000 hawks have been seen in one day! Also excellent for observing migrating monarch butterflies. Festival of Hawks in September.

10 Ojibway Prairie Complex
A total of 214 species have been recorded in the Ojibway Prairie complex on the southwest corner of Windsor. This is the largest protected tallgrass prairie and oak savannah in Ontario. The park attracts tufted titmouse, red-bellied woodpeckers, indigo buntings and many migrating warblers.

