

BYWAYS to FLYWAYS

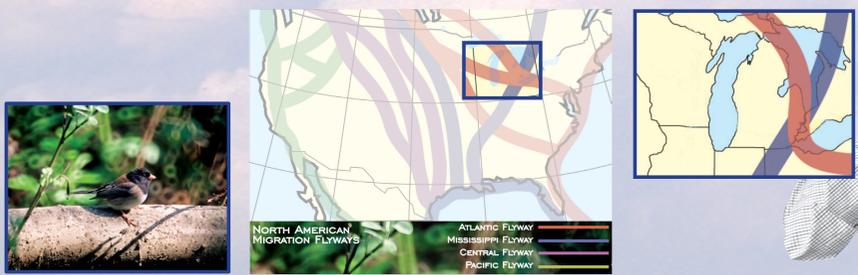
A DRIVING TOUR OF FEATURED BIRDING LOCATIONS IN THE WINDSOR-DETROIT METROPOLITAN REGION



"No sadder sound salutes than the clear wild laughter of the loon." Celia Thaxter, Seaward, Poems
 "Imagine if birds were tickled by feathers. You'd see a flock of birds come by, laughing hysterically!" Steven Wright, Comedian
 "... ornithologists are tall, slender, and bearded so that they can stand motionless for hours, imitating kindly trees, as they watch for birds." Gore Vidal, Armageddon
 "The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft; And gathering swallows twitter in the skies." John Keats, to Autumn
 "Cheer-up, cheerily, cheerily, cheer-up." American Robin, overheard on a sunny summer afternoon
 "I only know of one bird - the parrot - that talks; and it can't fly very high." Wilbur Wright, declining to make a speech in 1908
 "Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever remains to them?" Rose Kennedy
 "A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song." Chinese Proverb
 "I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs." Joseph Addison, The Spectator, 1712
 "For most birdwatchers the coming of the warblers has the same effect as spring on a cat." Aline Thomas in Audubon's Birds
 "The buzz-huzz-buzz." Golden-winged Warbler overheard while perched up high on a branch.

EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS BIRDING RIGHT IN OUR BACKYARD!

BIRDS MIGRATE FROM AFAR AND DELIGHT US WITH THEIR PRESENCE YEAR-ROUND!



seasonal highlights of exceptional birding opportunities

THIS HANDY CHART TELLS YOU WHAT BIRDS YOU MAY FIND AT OUR FEATURED LOCATIONS IN THE SPRING, SUMMER, FALL & WINTER

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT EACH OF THE BIRD CATEGORIES

WATERFOWL & WATER BIRDS Waterfowl are ducks, geese and swans. Other birds such as gulls, terns, herons, rails, and similar species are closely associated with water and wetland habitat and are included for the purposes of this publication. The Detroit River and Lake Erie are critical areas for these birds for nesting, migration staging, and wintering. A thriving nesting colony of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets can be observed on Stony Island in the Detroit River, visible from Grosse Ile's East River Road. During severe winters, huge numbers of waterfowl can be found in ice-free areas of the Detroit River or offshore on Lake Erie. Common wintering species include Canvasback and Common Merganser.

SHOREBIRDS Many shorebirds are sandpipers, but not all shorebirds are associated with sandy beaches or shorelines at all! Killdeer are the most familiar shorebird and are found in all kinds of open habitats, including ball fields and parking lots. American Woodcocks are short-legged, long-billed shorebirds found in damp wooded areas with nearby open spots where males perform their remarkable aerial displays at dawn and dusk in early spring. Most other shorebirds are found along coastal locations. The Lake Erie shoreline comprises some of the only shorebird habitat in the Midwest designated by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Southbound migration begins as early as July. Places to view shorebirds include Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Sterling State Park, Erie Marsh, Holiday Beach Conservation Area and Hillman Marsh Conservation Area.

RAPTORS Raptors are sharp-taloned, hook-billed birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, kites, and falcons - owls and vultures are also in this group. Around two dozen species of raptors visit our area annually. During autumn migration, diurnal raptors (those active during the day) concentrate near the mouth of the Detroit River. Two of the best places in eastern North America to see this often spectacular event are Holiday Beach Conservation Area in Ontario and Lake Erie Metropark in Michigan. The biggest variety occurs in October, but September can have show-stopping numbers of birds, with tens of thousands of Broad-winged Hawks heading south. It's a must-see!

SONGBIRDS Although songbirds are technically members of a large suborder of birds known for their vocal ability, this publication includes birds such as woodpeckers and hummingbirds in this category. Songbirds include American Robins, Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees, as well as warblers, flycatchers, orioles, and sparrows. Songbirds are so diverse they may be found in nearly every habitat. Warblers and thrushes are most often found in forest and edge habitats; sparrows inhabit grasslands and old fields. Many species adapted to urban environments and appear in backyards and at bird feeders, such as the Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Arguably, one of the continent's finest locations to observe spring migration is at Point Pelee National Park in Ontario. In May, the park is awash in songbirds concentrated into a fairly small area where they are often easy to see, wearing their finest spring plumage. Check out the Natural Area at the University of Michigan-Dearborn - on peak days there is just as much variety, but fewer people.

	WATERFOWL & WATER BIRDS	SHOREBIRDS	RAPTORS	SONGBIRDS
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AMERICAN ROBIN				
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH				
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BYWAYS to FLYWAYS

WELCOME TO THE FEATURED BIRDING DESTINATIONS



BELLE ISLE
Dinault Recreation Department
East Jefferson Avenue and
East Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48207 USA
p 313 852-4056

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Nature Zoo, Lighthouse, Boothouse, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Grand Slide, 200-Acre Woodlands, Fishing Piers and Bulkheads, Bicycle and Nature Trails, Handball/Racquetball/Basketball, 9-Hole Golf Course, Nine Baseball Diamonds, Ten Lighted Tennis Courts, Under Running Trail, Half-Mile Swimming Beach, Picnic Shelters, Kids Kingdom Playground, Ice Skating and Sledding, Restrooms

Directions: Belle Isle is located 2.5 miles east of downtown Detroit. The entrance is at the MacArthur Bridge and can be accessed from East Jefferson Avenue at East Grand Boulevard. From I-75, exit on the right for East Jefferson Avenue. Follow East Jefferson Avenue for two miles and turn south onto the MacArthur Bridge.

Highlights: Belle Isle is situated between two major well-known staging areas for waterfowl – Detroit River / Western Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Large numbers of migrating waterfowl flock to the area to feed on aquatic vegetation and invertebrates, such as wild celery, mollusks and insect larvae. Numerous species of waterfowl can be seen including occasional shorebirds, Snow Geese, loons, and grebes. Belle Isle provides a unique opportunity for world-class birding with views of Detroit, Windsor and the Ambassador Bridge.

CEDEAR CREEK CONSERVATION AREA
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6 Canada
p 519 774-5209

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Canoe/Kayak Launch, Fishing, Restrooms

Directions: From Highway 3, take County Road 23 (Amer Town Line) south to County Road 20.

Highlights: Cedar Creek is a terrific spot to view shorebirds and waterfowl. The best way to view these birds is to bring a canoe or kayak and enjoy the one hour paddle downstream to Cedar Beach Conservation Area on Lake Erie.

CROSSWINDS MARSH WETLANDS INTERPRETIVE PRESERVE
Wayne County Division of Parks
27600 Hogarty Road
New Boston, Michigan 48164 USA
p 734 654-1220

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Hiking Trails, Horseback Riding Trails, Picnic Facilities, Fishing Area, Interpretive Programs, Canoe Rental

Directions: From I-75, take Will Carthon Road west, past where Will Carthon Road becomes Oakville Wetz Road. Turn north onto Hogarty Road and proceed 0.6 miles to the parking area on the left.

Highlights: Crosswinds Marsh boasts over 230 species of waterfowl, upland birds and raptors, including resident nesting Bald Eagles. Spring and fall migration are best for shorebirds, waterfowl, and sometimes shorebirds. In summer, unusual species nest here including Yellow-breasted Chats and Orchard Orioles; locally abundant are species such as Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and Willow Flycatcher. Winter is a good time for rare gulls such as Iceland Gull, Thayer's Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. An overwintering Northern Shrike has been seen in recent years.

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE & HUMBUG MARSH
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5437 West Jefferson Avenue
Trenton, Michigan 48183 USA
p 734 692-7608

Hours: Times Vary
Fee: No

Amenities: Wildlife Refuge, Fishing, Walking and Biking Trails

Directions: From I-75 take West River Road east to Allen Road. Proceed south to Van Horn Road and turn east to Jefferson Avenue, then turn south. Proceed to Humbug Marsh (east side of street).

Highlights: The Detroit River at Humbug Marsh is excellent for waterfowl, especially in the fall and winter. Watch the skies in fall for migrating hawks. The brushier areas harbor a good variety of songbirds, including high densities of Yellow Warblers and Warbling Vireos, in spring and summer. Wooded areas are worth checking for migrant songbirds in spring and fall.

DINGELL PARK
City of Ecorse
4453 West Jefferson Avenue
Ecorse, Michigan 48229 USA
p 313 386-2410

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Boardwalk, Picnic Area, Walking Trail, Play Structure, Bicycling Path, Restrooms

Directions: From I-75, take Southfield Road (exit 41) south to the "T" intersection at West Jefferson Avenue. Parking is directly ahead.

Highlights: Overlooking undeveloped Mud Island, the park provides a comfortable vantage point to view birds of the Detroit River. Tundra Swans use the river as a staging area in fall before heading to Chesapeake Bay and North Carolina. Numerous species of waterfowl can be seen. The banks of the Detroit River are becoming more recognized as places to easily observe migrant songbirds. Bald Eagles, terns, and swallows can also be seen along this riverfront path.

HILLMAN MARSH CONSERVATION AREA
Essex Region Conservation Authority
1826 Concession 2
Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4 Canada
p 519 776-5209

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Nature Trails, Nature Centre - open seasonally, Sandy Beach, Picnic Areas, Shelters, Restrooms open from April - November

Directions: From Windsor, take Highway 3 east. Turn south onto Highway 77 (it becomes Erie Street). Turn east on Oak Street (it becomes Road 2) approximately 4 miles to the entrance.

Highlights: The diverse habitats of Hillman Marsh attract marsh, shore, and field birds such as herons, egrets, terns, songbirds, ducks, and a nesting pair of Bald Eagles. Hillman Marsh is a migration stopover, drawing birds including sandpipers, ducks, warblers, and frequently spotted annual rarities such as the Yellow-headed Blackbird, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Eurasian Wigeon, Glossy Ibis, and Eastern Kingbird. Shorebirds can be seen from April through June visiting the managed habitat area.

HOLIDAY BEACH CONSERVATION AREA
Essex Region Conservation Authority
6952 County Road 50
Amherstburg, Ontario Canada
p 519 776-5209

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Composites, Showers, Picnic Areas, Playground, Beach, Observation Tower, Trout Pond, Nature Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Windsor take Howard Avenue (County Road 9) south to its end. Turn west onto County Road 20 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn south onto County Road 50, proceed 1.25 miles to the entrance on the south side of the street.

Highlights: Holiday Beach is one of the premier sites in North America to observe the fall migration of raptors. Raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl concentrate in numbers up to 750,000 annually. From September through November assisted by volunteers of the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, park visitors have the opportunity to learn raptor identification and see banded raptors and songbirds up close. Fall sightings include Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles. It is also known to provide habitat for a breeding population of the Pottowattamie Warbler (considered endangered in Canada).

LAKE ERIE METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
32481 West Jefferson Avenue
Brownstown, Michigan 48183 USA
p 800 477-3189

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Marshlands Museum, Boat Launch, Golf, Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Wave Pool, Marina, Nature Center, Children's Play Area, Restrooms

Directions: From I-75, exit at Gibraltar Road. Continue east on Gibraltar Road to West Jefferson Avenue. Proceed south on West Jefferson Avenue to the entrance between Gibraltar Road and Huron River Drive in Brownstown.

Highlights: One of the premier hawk watching sites in North America, Lake Erie Metropark is best to migrate waterfowl in the spring and fall, and birds of prey in the fall. Hawkfest, an annual birding festival celebrating the migration of birds of prey, is held in September. Over three miles of hiking trails traverse various habitats and offer observation of songbirds during migration.

LAKEVIEW PARK MARINA / PECHE ISLAND
City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: Open 24 Hours
Fee: No

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

Highlights: Lakeview Park Marina offers views of Pêche Island and the Detroit River. Despite its urban surroundings, Pêche Island provides a surprising nesting spot for Bald Eagles. Viewing waterfowl in the Detroit River and along the Pêche Island shoreline is especially good if Lake St. Clair is frozen in late winter with openings in the ice along the Pêche Island shoreline.

LOWER HURON METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
17845 Snopce Road
Belle Isle, Michigan 48111 USA
p 800 477-3182

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Trails, Ice Skating Ponds, Par 3 Golf Course, Swimming Pool, Camping, Canoeing, Court Games, Cross-Country Skiing, Picnic Areas, Basketball, Tennis and Volleyball Courts, Biking, Fishing, Restrooms

Directions: From I-94, exit at Hogarty Road south, drive straight into park.

Highlights: Lower Huron Metropark has approximately 1,250 acres along the Huron River. Spring offers an excellent opportunity to bird on the park's two beach trails. Bobolinks fly approximately one mile through swamp, while Pottowattamie Trail offers nearly 0.75 miles through low-lying floodplain. Three miles of paths outside of the park connects Lower Huron to Willow Metropark, offering additional birding opportunities.

LUNA PIER JETTY
City of Luna Pier
Luna Pier, Michigan 48157 USA

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Snack Bar, Beach, Seasonal Restrooms

Directions: From I-75, go to Luna Pier (exit 6). Proceed east 0.4 miles to the parking lot.

Highlights: This jetty offers access to Lake Erie extending beyond the shoreline. Many ducks can be seen and heard in large numbers during spring and fall migration. Tundra swans are found including scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, loons, and grebes during migration and throughout winter. During low water levels, shorebirds such as Sanderlings and yellowlegs can also be seen.

OAKWOODS METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
32901 Willow Road
New Boston, Michigan 48164 USA
p 734 782-3956

Hours: 8am to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Nature Center, Nature Trails, Picnic Areas, Fishing, Canoeing, Hiking Trails, Horseback Riding, Biking, Restrooms

Directions: From Telegraph Road go west on Van Horn Road. Continue straight onto Huron River Drive. Turn south onto Willow Road. Enter the Park from Willow Road.

Highlights: Oakwoods Metropark has over 1,700 acres situated along the banks of the Huron River. The two mile Longback Nature Trail allows for excellent chances to view waterfowl, while Biggame and Sky-Dome-Down Trails are rich with songbirds. Raptors and upland birds are often spotted in the open field areas along the bike path and roadways. Many species of owls can also be observed and heard throughout the year.

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA
Ontario Parks
407 Monarch Lane, RR 1
Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4 Canada
p 519 322-2365

Hours: Times Vary
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Visitor Center, Walking and Biking Trails, Observation Towers, Shuttle to Tip of Canada, Bike and Canoe Rental, Beaches, Picnic Tables, Shelters, Heritage Presentation Programs, Restrooms

Directions: From Highway 401, take Highway 77 south through Leamington, turn east onto Seacofie Drive, west south onto County Road 33 (Bevel Line) and follow it over the bridge up to the park entrance.

Highlights: Rated as one of the top 15 birding locations in North America by Birders' World Magazine, more than 380 species have been recorded in this "Important Bird Area". Dubbed "the Warbler Capital of Canada", 42 out of 50 warbler species have been recorded, and 36 are seen here each spring during the Festival of Birds. In the fall, the triangle-shaped peninsula acts as a migration funnel and provides excellent habitat for viewing fall warblers, birds of prey, roosting monarch butterflies and bats.

ST. CLAIR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA
The Canadian Wildlife Service
5633 Belmont Line
Paincourt, Ontario N0P 1Z0 Canada
p 519 354-1418

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Walking Trail

Directions: From Windsor, go east on Highway 401 to the second Tilbury exit. Turn east onto Highway 2. Turn north onto Kent Road 7. Pass through Prairie Riding and turn right at the Yield sign and follow the road to the Prairie Riding Bridge. Cross bridge to the first intersection, turn left onto Pain Court Line or County Road 35. Proceed west to Twinline Road, turn right, enter Wildlife Area on the left.

Highlights: The St. Clair NWR and International Bird Area provides essential habitat for migrant and nesting waterfowl, as well as other bird species. Waterfowl include migrating Tundra Swans from mid to late March, and ducks from early March to mid April. In the summer, nesting waterfowl include Redhead, Canvasback, Least Bittern, American Coot, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Forster's Tern. Ducks may be observed from early October to December and geese from late October into the winter. If conditions allow for open water, geese and ducks will be numerous in the area, sometimes attracting predators such as Snowy Owl and other raptors.

WILLOW METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
South Huron Road
New Boston, Michigan 48164 USA
p 734 697-9181

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Trails, Golf Course, Swimming Pool, Skate Park, Disc Golf, Playground, Paddocks, Court Games, Concessions, Fishing, Picnic Areas, Sledding Hill, Tubagey Area, Basketball Court, Hiking, Biking

Directions: From I-75, take South Huron River Road (exit 11A). Turn west to park entrance.

Highlights: Willow Metropark has over 1,500 acres of land along the banks of the Huron River. Wildlife Pond offers great viewing of migratory waterfowl. A three mile path connects Willow Metropark to Lower Huron Metropark and provides access to unique birding opportunities.

WINDSOR METROPARK
City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

Highlights: Lakeview Park Marina offers views of Pêche Island and the Detroit River. Despite its urban surroundings, Pêche Island provides a surprising nesting spot for Bald Eagles. Viewing waterfowl in the Detroit River and along the Pêche Island shoreline is especially good if Lake St. Clair is frozen in late winter with openings in the ice along the Pêche Island shoreline.

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City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

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Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

Highlights: Lakeview Park Marina offers views of Pêche Island and the Detroit River. Despite its urban surroundings, Pêche Island provides a surprising nesting spot for Bald Eagles. Viewing waterfowl in the Detroit River and along the Pêche Island shoreline is especially good if Lake St. Clair is frozen in late winter with openings in the ice along the Pêche Island shoreline.

WINDSOR METROPARK
City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

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Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
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Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
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City of Windsor
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Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
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EAST RIVER ROAD
St. Anne Chapel
21500 East River Road
Grosse Ile, Michigan 48138 USA

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Observation Deck, Central Business District of Grosse Ile

Directions: East River Road is located on the eastern shoreline of Grosse Ile and is accessed from West Jefferson Avenue via Bridge Road (rail bridge) or Grosse Ile Parkway (free bridge). From Bridge Road, turn south onto Meridian Road and east onto Church Road. Follow this to the east end of the island where it dead-ends at East River Road and use the parking area in front of St. Anne Chapel on the riverside of East River Road. (Please do not cross Grosse Ile Parkway from 8:30 - 9:30 am when chapel is in use or during crowded times.)

From Grosse Ile Parkway, turn north onto Meridian Road. Follow this for 1.75 miles to Church Road. Continue as if from Bridge Road.

A second viewing area is located 1.5 miles south along East River Road at Macomb Road in the central business district. Park along Macomb Road and walk to the platform.

Highlights: The parking area at Church Road overlooks a wide portion of the Detroit River that often holds thousands of waterfowl in the spring, fall, and winter. The elevated vantage point of the central business district observation deck offers eye-level views of Common and Forster's Terns, Bald Eagles, and hawks in flight. The platform allows an extensive view of the Detroit River and Story Island. In the fall, tens of thousands of migrating loons and eagles fly along the north shore of Lake Erie in one of the largest hawk migration corridors in the Western Hemisphere. In winter the entire length of Grosse Ile offers remarkably close views of waterfowl in migration for those without scopes.

LAKE ERIE METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
32481 West Jefferson Avenue
Brownstown, Michigan 48183 USA
p 800 477-3189

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Marshlands Museum, Boat Launch, Golf, Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Wave Pool, Marina, Nature Center, Children's Play Area, Restrooms

Directions: From I-75, exit at Gibraltar Road. Continue east on Gibraltar Road to West Jefferson Avenue. Proceed south on West Jefferson Avenue to the entrance between Gibraltar Road and Huron River Drive in Brownstown.

Highlights: One of the premier hawk watching sites in North America, Lake Erie Metropark is best to migrate waterfowl in the spring and fall, and birds of prey in the fall. Hawkfest, an annual birding festival celebrating the migration of birds of prey, is held in September. Over three miles of hiking trails traverse various habitats and offer observation of songbirds during migration.

LAKEVIEW PARK MARINA / PECHE ISLAND
City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: Open 24 Hours
Fee: No

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

Highlights: Lakeview Park Marina offers views of Pêche Island and the Detroit River. Despite its urban surroundings, Pêche Island provides a surprising nesting spot for Bald Eagles. Viewing waterfowl in the Detroit River and along the Pêche Island shoreline is especially good if Lake St. Clair is frozen in late winter with openings in the ice along the Pêche Island shoreline.

LOWER HURON METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
17845 Snopce Road
Belle Isle, Michigan 48111 USA
p 800 477-3182

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Trails, Ice Skating Ponds, Par 3 Golf Course, Swimming Pool, Camping, Canoeing, Court Games, Cross-Country Skiing, Picnic Areas, Basketball, Tennis and Volleyball Courts, Biking, Fishing, Restrooms

Directions: From I-94, exit at Hogarty Road south, drive straight into park.

Highlights: Lower Huron Metropark has approximately 1,250 acres along the Huron River. Spring offers an excellent opportunity to bird on the park's two beach trails. Bobolinks fly approximately one mile through swamp, while Pottowattamie Trail offers nearly 0.75 miles through low-lying floodplain. Three miles of paths outside of the park connects Lower Huron to Willow Metropark, offering additional birding opportunities.

LUNA PIER JETTY
City of Luna Pier
Luna Pier, Michigan 48157 USA

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Snack Bar, Beach, Seasonal Restrooms

Directions: From I-75, go to Luna Pier (exit 6). Proceed east 0.4 miles to the parking lot.

Highlights: This jetty offers access to Lake Erie extending beyond the shoreline. Many ducks can be seen and heard in large numbers during spring and fall migration. Tundra swans are found including scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, loons, and grebes during migration and throughout winter. During low water levels, shorebirds such as Sanderlings and yellowlegs can also be seen.

OAKWOODS METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
32901 Willow Road
New Boston, Michigan 48164 USA
p 734 782-3956

Hours: 8am to Dusk
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Nature Center, Nature Trails, Picnic Areas, Fishing, Canoeing, Hiking Trails, Horseback Riding, Biking, Restrooms

Directions: From Telegraph Road go west on Van Horn Road. Continue straight onto Huron River Drive. Turn south onto Willow Road. Enter the Park from Willow Road.

Highlights: Oakwoods Metropark has over 1,700 acres situated along the banks of the Huron River. The two mile Longback Nature Trail allows for excellent chances to view waterfowl, while Biggame and Sky-Dome-Down Trails are rich with songbirds. Raptors and upland birds are often spotted in the open field areas along the bike path and roadways. Many species of owls can also be observed and heard throughout the year.

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA
Ontario Parks
407 Monarch Lane, RR 1
Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4 Canada
p 519 322-2365

Hours: Times Vary
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Visitor Center, Walking and Biking Trails, Observation Towers, Shuttle to Tip of Canada, Bike and Canoe Rental, Beaches, Picnic Tables, Shelters, Heritage Presentation Programs, Restrooms

Directions: From Highway 401, take Highway 77 south through Leamington, turn east onto Seacofie Drive, west south onto County Road 33 (Bevel Line) and follow it over the bridge up to the park entrance.

Highlights: Rated as one of the top 15 birding locations in North America by Birders' World Magazine, more than 380 species have been recorded in this "Important Bird Area". Dubbed "the Warbler Capital of Canada", 42 out of 50 warbler species have been recorded, and 36 are seen here each spring during the Festival of Birds. In the fall, the triangle-shaped peninsula acts as a migration funnel and provides excellent habitat for viewing fall warblers, birds of prey, roosting monarch butterflies and bats.

ST. CLAIR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA
The Canadian Wildlife Service
5633 Belmont Line
Paincourt, Ontario N0P 1Z0 Canada
p 519 354-1418

Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Fee: No

Amenities: Walking Trail

Directions: From Windsor, go east on Highway 401 to the second Tilbury exit. Turn east onto Highway 2. Turn north onto Kent Road 7. Pass through Prairie Riding and turn right at the Yield sign and follow the road to the Prairie Riding Bridge. Cross bridge to the first intersection, turn left onto Pain Court Line or County Road 35. Proceed west to Twinline Road, turn right, enter Wildlife Area on the left.

Highlights: The St. Clair NWR and International Bird Area provides essential habitat for migrant and nesting waterfowl, as well as other bird species. Waterfowl include migrating Tundra Swans from mid to late March, and ducks from early March to mid April. In the summer, nesting waterfowl include Redhead, Canvasback, Least Bittern, American Coot, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Forster's Tern. Ducks may be observed from early October to December and geese from late October into the winter. If conditions allow for open water, geese and ducks will be numerous in the area, sometimes attracting predators such as Snowy Owl and other raptors.

WILLOW METROPARK
Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority
South Huron Road
New Boston, Michigan 48164 USA
p 734 697-9181

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Trails, Golf Course, Swimming Pool, Skate Park, Disc Golf, Playground, Paddocks, Court Games, Concessions, Fishing, Picnic Areas, Sledding Hill, Tubagey Area, Basketball Court, Hiking, Biking

Directions: From I-75, take South Huron River Road (exit 11A). Turn west to park entrance.

Highlights: Willow Metropark has over 1,500 acres of land along the banks of the Huron River. Wildlife Pond offers great viewing of migratory waterfowl. A three mile path connects Willow Metropark to Lower Huron Metropark and provides access to unique birding opportunities.

WINDSOR METROPARK
City of Windsor
9700 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1H1 Canada
p 519 948-3383

Hours: 6am - 10pm
Fee: Yes

Amenities: Picnic Areas, Docking Facilities, Public Access, Kayaking, Canoeing, Beaches, Trails, Restrooms

Directions: From Downtown Windsor take Wyandotte east to Rossini Boulevard north. Turn east onto Riverside Drive East and continue 3 miles to entrance. Pêche Island lies 350 yards off the Detroit River shoreline and is accessible by watercraft only.

Highlights: Lakeview Park Marina offers views of Pêche Island and the Detroit River. Despite its urban surroundings, Pêche Island provides a surprising nesting spot for Bald Eagles. Viewing waterfowl in the Detroit River and along the Pêche Island shoreline is especially good if Lake St. Clair is frozen in late winter with openings in the ice along the Pêche Island shoreline.

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