

DIRECTIONS TO THE TOP BIRDING SPOTS IN THE COUNTY

1 Sandbanks Provincial Park:

From late June to Labor Day Weekend, the park offers a variety of programs on various aspects of the park's natural and cultural history. For more information on these programs please contact the park at 613-393-3319. Please note that regular fees for admission to the park apply.

From Picton's west end, follow Lake Street (eventually becomes County Road 10) for 5 km to County Road 11, then 9 km to the Sandbanks Provincial Park entrance at the 4-way Stop. To reach the Park's famed West Point, follow County Road 12 from the Park to the four-way Stop, then follow

Lakeshore Lodge Road to the parking area at the closed gate, just past the fenced picnic area.

Birding Sandbanks during migration can be a rewarding experience.

Migrants are either concentrated at West Point or funneled up the two sandbars as they make their way around East and West Lakes. The bushes are along the dune edge by Dunes Beach or the scrub around the Sandbanks Beach parking lot also provide excellent viewing opportunities. Lake Ontario often supports late Buffleheads, Long-tailed Ducks, Grebes and Scoters.

In the fall, shorebirds can be seen either in the panne areas beside the Sandbanks Beach day-use area or feeding at the mouth of the Outlet River. At this time the Outlet River Beach is frequently used by Little and Bonaparte's Gulls. Once again the sandbars act as corridors for songbirds making their way around East and West Lakes.

2 Beaver Meadow Wildlife

Management Area: From Picton's west end, follow Lake Street (eventually becomes County Road 10) for 5 km to County Road 11, then 1 km to the Beaver Meadow entrance.

3 Salmon Point: From Picton's west end, follow Lake Street (eventually becomes County Road 10) for 13 km to Cherry Valley. At the Stop sign in Cherry Valley, continue straight on County Road 11 for 10 km to the Salmon Point Road. (Private property.)

4 Point Petre: From Picton's west end, follow Lake Street (eventually becomes County Road 10) for 13 km to Cherry Valley. At the Stop sign in Cherry Valley, continue following County Road 10 for 2 km, then turn right onto County Road 24 and follow for 9 km to Point Petre.

5 Prince Edward Point Bird

Observatory: The observatory is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that raises money each year through donations, fundraising and membership to continue its research. Please visit www.peptbo.ca to find out more.

6 Prince Edward Point: From Picton's east end, take Bridge Street to the bottom of the hill and turn right onto Union Street. Follow Union Street out of Picton (eventually becomes County Road 8) for 2.5 km, and take County Road 16 at the junction for 6.5 km. Turn left and follow County Road 16 for 1 km to the Stop sign at County Road 13. Turn right onto County Road 13, and follow past the Black River Cheese Company and continue on #13 for 23 km to Prince Edward Point. The Point is located along the eastern tip of Prince Edward County about 30 minutes southeast of Picton in a National Wildlife Area.

The banding site is significant due to the tremendous number of migratory birds that pass through the area. The location is a focal point for passerines, waterfowl and raptors with yearly reports of rare and unusual species. In 1998 the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada designated Prince Edward Point as a Globally

Important Birding Area (IBA). In 1999, it became part of a nationwide collaborative program of Bird Studies Canada called the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.

The main objective of PEPTBO is to monitor migratory bird populations in the spring and fall through observations, a daily census and banding practices. The information collected year to year indicates population densities, longevity and migratory routes of various bird species. To date nearly 95,000 birds have been banded.

6 Little Bluff Conservation Area:

From Picton's west end, follow Lake Street (eventually becomes Cty Rd 10) for 13 km to Cherry Valley. At the Stop sign in Cherry Valley, turn left and follow County Road 10 for 6 km to Milford. Turn right at the Milford post office and continue on County Road 10 for another 5 km to the Stop sign at the Mariner's Museum at County Road 13. Turn right and follow County Road 13 for 8 km to Little Bluff.

7 Macaulay Mountain

Conservation Area and Birdhouse City: From Picton's east end, take Bridge Street to the bottom of the hill and turn right onto Union Street. Follow Union Street out of Picton (eventually becomes County Road 8) and watch for the conservation area sign and Birdhouse City on the right just outside the town limits.

8 Prinyer's Cove: From Picton's east end, take Bridge Street to the bottom of the hill and follow out of town (Bridge Street becomes Highway 33) for 10 km to Glenora. Turn right and follow County Road 7 to Lake-on-the-Mountain. Prinyer's Cove is about 17 km from Lake-on-the-Mountain, but there are good opportunities for bird-watching along the entire route, as County Road 7 becomes County Road 8 and begins to follow the peninsula's south shore west to Waupoos.

