



# BIRD SANCTUARIES

## CRITICAL BIRD HABITAT

### RESTING, FEEDING, BREEDING

Water birds and shorebirds of many species feed and rest on Lake Ontario shore areas. Frequent disturbance by people and their pets causes these birds to waste energy and may reduce their chances of survival. Please help these birds by leaving them a space where they can rest and refuel for the long migration journey.



Birds concentrate along the shoreline during migration and replenish their energy on their long journey to and from the Southern Hemisphere.

#### MIGRATION ROUTES

#### DIVING

Diving ducks, loons, and grebes dive from the water surface to feed. Caspian and Common Terns make a graceful plunge dive from high above the water when they spot a swimming fish.

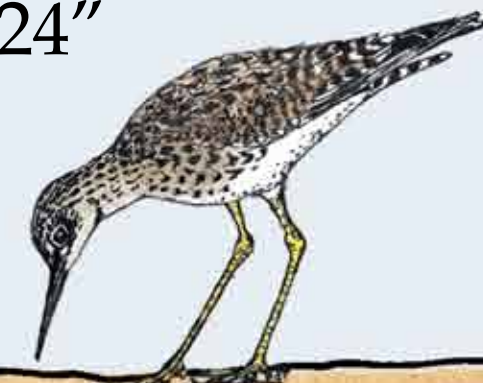
Common Loon  
WS 46"



Semipalmated Sandpiper  
WS 14"



Lesser Yellowlegs  
WS 24"



Semipalmated Plover  
WS 19"



Caspian Tern  
WS 50"



#### RESTING

Shorebirds rest in groups on the beach when not feeding. Energy conservation is important since food is not always plentiful. Safety in numbers gives grouped birds the advantage of detecting predators early while providing protection for grooming and bathing.

#### PROBING

The bill shape and length varies among shorebird species. Sandpipers and plovers feed by probing into sand or mud for small invertebrate prey. Yellowlegs probe several inches deep, while small sandpipers feed near or on the surface of the sand.



#### SURFACE FEEDING

Gulls and shorebirds feed on the surface of land or water. They take advantage of almost any available food item. Food is consumed as rapidly as possible to prevent other birds from stealing a tasty morsel.

Ring-billed Gull  
Wing Span (WS) 48"



Great Black-backed Gull  
WS 65"

### EL DORADO NATURE PRESERVE BIRD SANCTUARY

This Nature Conservancy sanctuary is important to migrating shorebirds from mid-May through September. Sanctuary shoreline is closed to visitors but birds may be viewed from a distance. Please refer to sanctuary rules.

#### BEACH AND DUNE

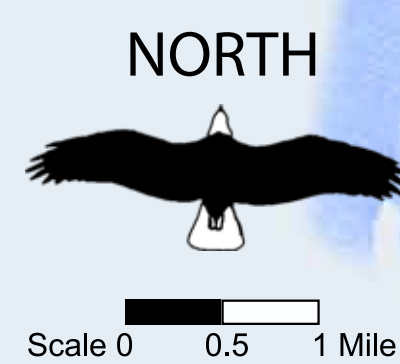
Unique and fragile, this Great Lakes beach and dune system provides necessary habitat for migrating birds.

### SANDY POND OUTLET BIRD SANCTUARY

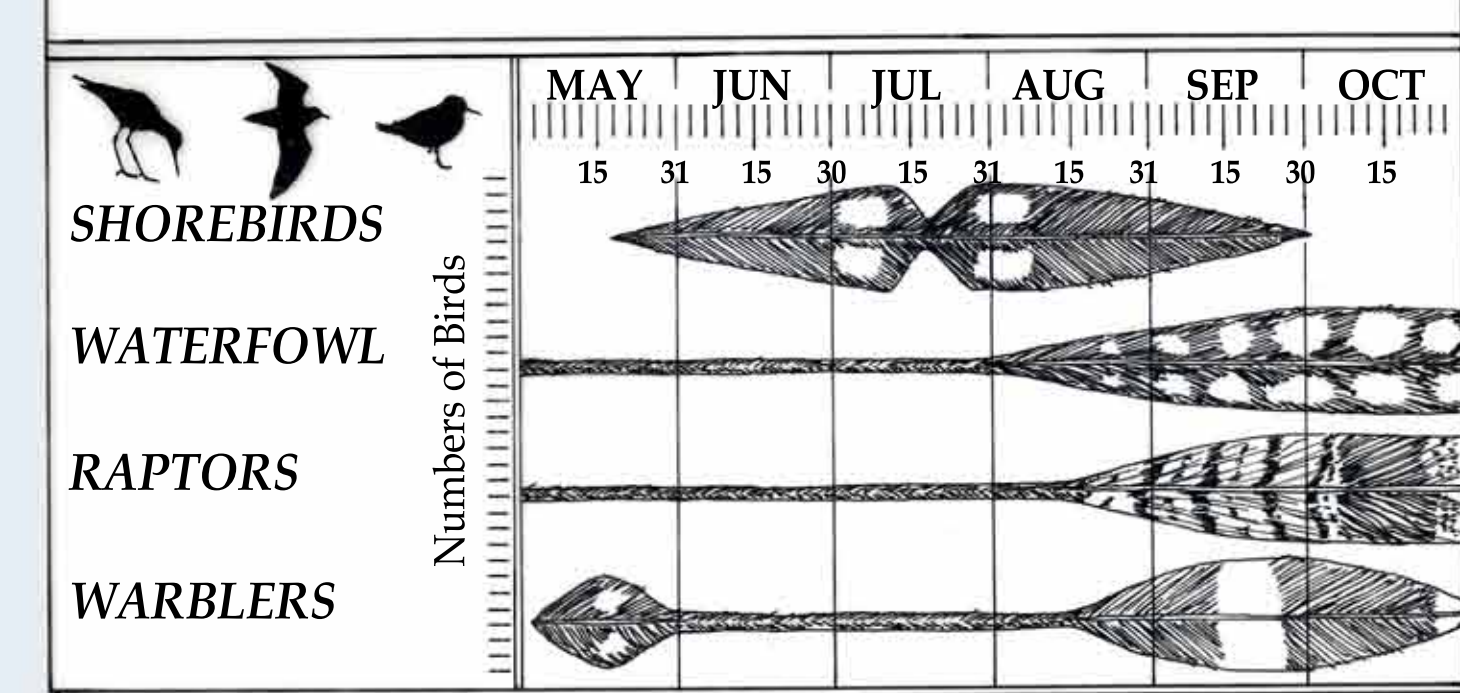
This New York State Department of Environmental Conservation preserve has long been known as a prime area for shorebirds and water birds. Please do not disturb the resting and feeding birds in this bird sanctuary.

#### WETLAND COMPLEXES

The extensive cattail marshes and other wetlands behind the dunes harbor declining breeding birds such as American and Least Bitterns as well as a wide variety of other marsh dwellers. During non-breeding seasons these habitats abound with waterfowl, water birds, and roosting shorebirds.



### BIRDER'S CALENDAR



#### UPLAND FOREST AND AGRICULTURE

The edge between the wetlands and uplands provides habitat for breeding and migrating land birds. In summer, species such as Yellow Warbler, Eastern Kingbird and Brown Thrasher are present. During spring and fall migration these and nearby wooded areas may abound with a wide variety of migrants.



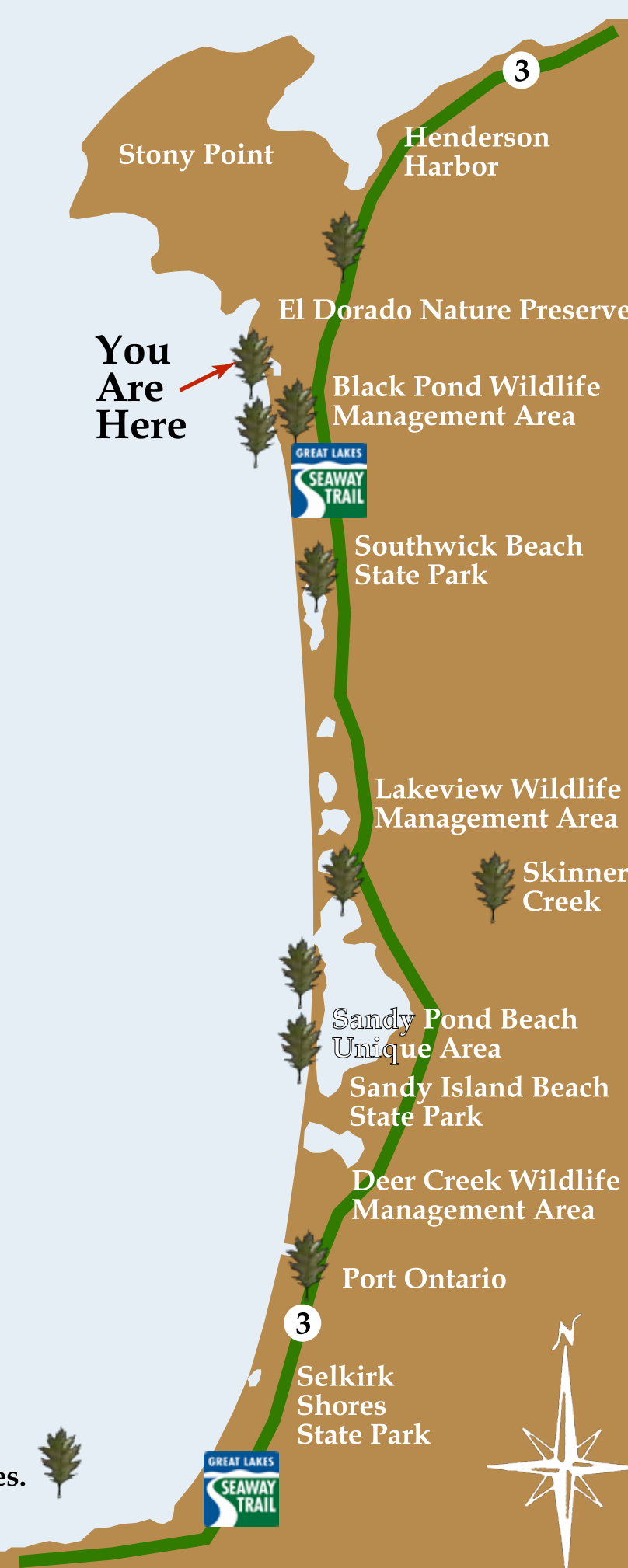
American Redstart  
WS 7.75"



Pileated Woodpecker  
WS 29"



Least Bittern  
WS 42"



Other Interpretive Panels in this Series.

*Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes, Wetlands, Creeks and Ponds*