

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.



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"

MIGRATION ROUTES

Common Tern
WS 30"

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.

Semipalmated Sandpiper
WS 14"

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.

This New York City sanctuary is important to migratory birds from mid-May through September. Shoreline is closed to visitors and viewed from a distance. Please read the rules.

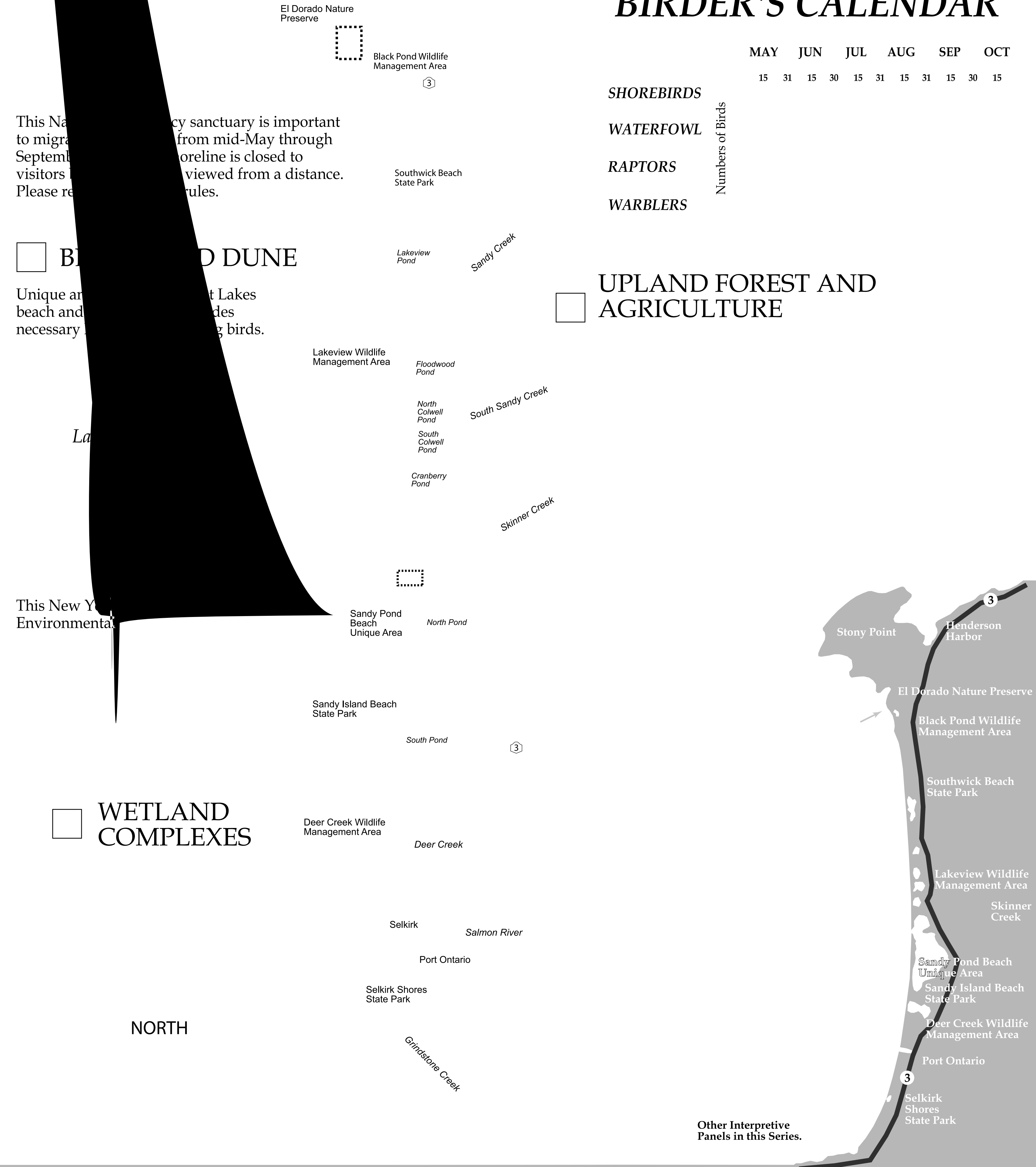
BEACH AND DUNE

Unique areas at Lakes beach and dunes provides necessary habitat for birds.

This New York Environmental

WETLAND COMPLEXES

NORTH



Other Interpretive Panels in this Series.

This panel was developed through a partnership with New York Sea Grant, Great Lakes Seaway Trail, The Nature Conservancy and Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District. New York State Environmental Protection Funding provided by the Department of State in partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Tug Hill Commission.