



BIRD WATCHING

BY PAT KERR



Bird watching is one of the best kept secrets in Bruce Mines and the surrounding area.

The area is considered geographically as “northern” while bird watchers view it as “southern Ontario.” Adding to this, the area was once farmed but many acres were allowed to convert to mixed deciduous/coniferous forest. This has created rich habitats with farm fields and tall grass prairie landscaping on the shallow rocks, beside lush, forests full of tree cavities. There is also the big water of Lake Huron and many small inland lakes for shore birds and ducks.

This immense diversity of habitats creates unique viewing opportunities. Ravens can be noted beside crows, grey jays feed beside blue jay and boreal chickadees call from the trunks of the white spruce while their cousins feed on the branches. It is also a paradise for owling. Within minutes you can observe hawk, barred and many others while the boreal forest owls move into the region during the winter months.

You will find all the expected feeder birds found in southern Ontario. Plus the grouse, and other ground nesters that feed on acorns, are still thriving here as the wild turkey hasn't expanded its range to this point....yet.

There is a full range of woodpeckers from the well loved downy to sap suckers with hundreds of flickers at road sides during migrations periods.

Bruce Mines is your one stop to complete your bird life list.

Bobbers and the Sportsmen Grill on highway 17 in Bruce Mines are open for breakfast and coffee at 7.00am. For a quick coffee the Shell and Esso gas stations open at 6:00am.

If you wish to stay in the area there is a choice from an Inn in the center of the hamlet, to cottages or a lighthouse with terrific viewing for both forest and shore birds. For more details visit [accommodations](#).

Camping is also available at the Town Campground or Bruce Bay Cottages both of which are forested areas.

