

WILDS OF ERIE COUNTY

Guided Van Trip

6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Mourning Warbler

Field Trip Information

About

The Wilds of Erie County trip covers two of the best birding sites in the county: Pipe Creek Wildlife Area and Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve. Both sites can be excellent migration sites and can yield a long, diverse list of birds! The marsh units at Pipe Creek and the woodland area at Sheldon Marsh also provide nesting habitats for many species of songbirds and marshbirds. The dense, wet, wooded areas at both sites can provide opportunities for many of the more difficult or highly sought-after species in the area.

Accessibility

This trip visits two locations: Pipe Creek Wildlife Area and Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve. Pipe Creek Wildlife Area consists of flat trails that are typically patches of hard-packed crushed stone, dirt, or mown grass. The grass trails in the marsh can be uneven or wet at times or have small holes. Grass may obstruct small dips, holes, or uneven changes in the terrain. The typical round-trip route at Pipe Creek is a little over 1.5 miles.

At Sheldon Marsh, the trails are flat and asphalt for the majority of the route. The trails at the beach are made of loose sand. The full route at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve is also a little over 1.5 miles. However, due to the timing of the trip, there may not be time to hike the entire trail.



Least Bittern



Canada Warbler

Van Trip Information

This van trip departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 3:00 p.m. Please note that this trip has a Port Clinton pickup stop as well. Participants taking advantage of this service are to arrive at the parking lot for the Ottawa County Municipal Court at 6:30 a.m., and vans will arrive shortly after. For information regarding Port Clinton Pickup, please see the page in this document with directions and instructions, and scan the QR code here for maps. The trip will return to the Port Clinton pickup site around 2:20 - 2:30 p.m. for an on-time arrival at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge at 3:00 p.m.



41.5133, -82.9112

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR DIRECTIONS**

Birding Information

Target Species

Both of these properties can be excellent sites for migration. Due to the size, location, habitat, and general layout of these locations, you never know what could show up here! In some years, Pipe Creek is known for having one of the highest densities of warblers, having high diversity, and being an excellent site for rarities to show up. The habitat there can be good for some of the more difficult and highly sought-after species such as Canada and Mourning Warblers, Black-billed Cuckoo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and more. In some years, more southern-breeding warblers that overshoot and arrive at the lake will drop in here. This includes species such as Yellow-throated Warbler and Cerulean Warbler. Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve has a more mature forest structure and is home to breeding species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Green Heron, and more! The vast canopy provides ample feeding grounds for migrants as well. These two sites paired together can yield an impressive species total for the field trip.



Gray-cheeked Thrush

eBird Protocol

Your field trip leaders are responsible for eBirding all of The Biggest Week In American Birding field trips. They will be keeping lists during the day for all sites visited. These will become available for participants to add to their eBird accounts. Please be patient as our dedicated festival volunteers sort the checklists that are being submitted and upload them to The Biggest Week In American Birding website. Please allow a few days for this process to take place. You can check the status of your eBird lists by visiting biggestweekinamericanbirding.com and clicking "Area Info" in the top menu and selecting "Field Trips" and then "eBird Checklists" from the dropdown menu. Select the day of your field trip from our menu and look for the trip you attended. There you will find all of the links to the different eBird lists submitted by your field trip leader.



Pipe Creek
eBird Page



Sheldon Marsh
eBird Page

Port Clinton Pickup Information

The Port Clinton Pickup for The Biggest Week In American Birding is located in the parking lot for the Ottawa County Municipal Court. When mapping to the GPS pin provided or scanning the QR code, as you turn off of 163 towards the Ottawa County Municipal Court, watch for the Biggest Week Port Clinton Pickup Signs that will be along the road and in the parking lot.

