

BIRDING THE MAUMEE RIVER

Guided Van Trip

6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Red-eyed Vireo

Field Trip Information

About

The Maumee River was originally known as the Miami of the Lakes. But the pronunciation of "Miami" devolved into "Maumee," which was allowed to stand to prevent confusion with the Miami River in southern Ohio. Early settlers described the river's color as coppery and clear. The river is lined with parks, and fishing access sites provide stopover habitat for many migrant species. This field trip covers many sites that are not birded as often, allowing the group to find good birds off the beaten path. Many of these riverside sites are covered in mature Cottonwood trees, which are great at attracting insect-eating birds. Several species of egrets and herons use the rivers for hunting and nesting.



Northern Parula

Accessibility

This trip visits a few small parks along the Maumee River.

Most of these sites have flat trails with well-packed crushed stone or pavement. Several parks have steep trails with one having between 60-70 steps with no handrail to get to the water level; these parts of the trail are often where the warblers can be. Some sites are quick stops to bird around a parking lot and check the river access areas. Locations such as Side Cut Metropark, Otsego Park, Providence Metropark, and Bend View Metropark have trails that involve about a mile of walking each way.



Prothonotary Warbler

Van Trip Information

This van trip departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 2:00 p.m. The drive time from the lodge to the first birding site is roughly 45 minutes. Each subsequent stop should be between 10 and 15 minutes apart throughout the day. The drive time from the final stop back to the lodge is also 45 minutes. The trip will return to Maumee Bay State Park Lodge at 2:00 p.m.

Birding Information

Target Species

The dominant tree in the forest along the river is the Eastern Cottonwood, a large tree with flowers that draw in many insects and insect-eating songbirds. These forests provide excellent habitat for warblers, tanagers, orioles, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, and more as they pass through on their journey north or set up nesting territories. Species such as Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and Spotted Sandpiper often feed along the river's edges. The forests can allow for nesting species such as Pileated Woodpeckers.

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.



Indigo Bunting



Scarlet Tanager



Great Blue Heron