

OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK

Guided Van Trip

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



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Summer Tanager

Field Trip Information

About

Oak Openings Preserve Metropark is the crown jewel of the Metroparks Toledo system. The preserve is the largest of the Metroparks Toledo system at 5,000 acres. Oak Openings Preserve Metropark is known for its oak savannas and ancient sand dunes, making for a very special habitat for breeding and migrant songbirds. On this tour, The Biggest Week In American Birding guides will help you find an assortment of migrating warblers as well as locally rare breeders. Many of the species found here are difficult to find in the lakefront birding hotspots.

Accessibility

Due to this park's large size, the group will drive between multiple locations throughout the day. Some of the locations involve walks on flat, mostly paved, trails up to 1.5-2 miles at a time. Trails that are not paved are flat, hard-packed dirt trails. The trail around Mallard Lake is mostly flat, with some dips and rises and one short section with a 10% decline down to the lake.



Orchard Oriole



Lark Sparrow

Van Trip Information

This van trip departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns to the lodge at 2:00 p.m. Oak Openings Preserve Metropark is just under an hour's drive from Maumee Bay State Park. It is located southwest of Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport on the west side of Toledo. Upon arrival, the guides will make a stop at one of the two bathroom locations located at either the lodge or Window on Wildlife depending on their preferred birding route. After a morning of birding, the group will have lunch (bring your own lunch or pick up your purchased boxed lunch from Maumee Bay State Park). Following lunch, the group will resume birding until it is time to leave for Maumee Bay. The trip will have multiple times in and out of the van during the day if you wish to leave anything there. Some of the birding sites do involve moderate to long walks on flat trails and, bird-dependent, may involve longer times away from the vehicle.

Birding Information

Target Species

With specialty habitat comes specialty birds! The Oak Openings region is home to quite a few species that are considered to be locally rare in the region. The bird that has made the Oak Openings region the most famous has been the population of Lark Sparrows that breed in the sand dunes in that park. In some years, Blue Grosbeak nests in different areas of the park. While Summer Tanager can be found at lakefront migrant traps on occasion, the breeding populations here at Oak Openings provide a much more reliable chance to see this striking bird. Depending on the height of some of the fields, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows are a possibility as well. Other species that are possible in the Oak Openings that are more difficult at the lakeshore migrant traps include Pine and Hooded Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, Barred Owl, and much more! There are many sites throughout the park that the tour will visit that provide excellent habitats for migrant songbirds. Many species of warblers, flycatchers, and vireos can be found in these locations.



Pileated Woodpecker

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.



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