

POINTE MOUILLEE STATE GAME AREA

Guided Van Trip

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



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Black Tern

Field Trip Information

About

Pointe Mouillee State Game Area is one of the largest freshwater wetland restoration projects in the world. At over 4,000 acres, this site is one of the prime locations for migratory and breeding waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds. In the winter, this site is home to a large number and diversity of waterfowl. This is the only out-of-state field trip currently offered at The Biggest Week In American Birding. This location is open to the public for walking and biking the miles of dike road trails. However, The Biggest Week In American Birding has special permission to take our vans into this incredible birding location!

Accessibility

The Pointe Mouillee State Game Area van trip visits three main birding sites: Erie Marsh Preserve (formerly Erie Gun Club), Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, and the WWJ NewsRadio "Antenna Farm" just west of Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Erie Marsh Preserve gives participants a chance to bird outside the van and explore the grounds. The main birding is in the parking lot and along the entrance road, both of which are well-packed crushed stone. The stop at the Antenna Farm involves getting in and out of the van but not much walking. While birding Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, there will likely be a lot of getting in and out of the van to set up scopes on different cells in the marsh, but very little walking away from the vehicle. The exception to this would be if the group decides to bird the wooded area behind the Pointe Mouillee Headquarters building. If so, the trails here are a mixture of mown grass and well-packed crushed stone. The round-trip length is roughly a quarter mile.



Yellow-headed Blackbird



Sora

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. This trip is split into multiple locations to help break up the drive and bird some of Michigan's birding sites along the western side of Lake Erie. The first birding site, Erie Marsh Preserve, is a 30-minute drive from Maumee Bay State Park. After leaving this location, the group will stop at the Michigan Welcome Center located 15 minutes north of Erie Marsh Preserve. Restrooms will be available at this location. The entrance to Pointe Mouillee SGA is 25 minutes north of the Michigan Welcome Center. Once past the gate at Pointe Mouillee, the next restroom break will be available at the park office depending on portable restrooms being available. This stop is timed based on the birding and the group's needs.

Birding Information

Target Species

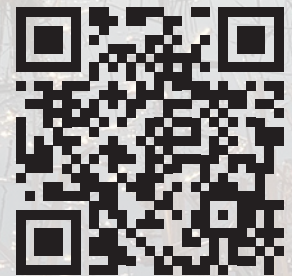
This field trip heavily focuses on marsh birding. Due to the size and management of these birding sites, the list of possible species for this trip is quite large! Erie Marsh Preserve is a great way to get out of the van and enjoy some of the more common marsh birds including Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, various waterfowl species, and American White Pelicans. Wooded areas provide great opportunities to look for migrant songbirds including warblers, orioles, tanagers, vireos, and flycatchers. Most years, the Antenna Farms located just west of Point Mouillee are a great place to see groups of male Bobolinks singing and displaying along the fences surrounding the radio towers. Other species to look for here include Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, and more. Varying water levels can provide wetland cells at Pointe Mouillee with higher water levels, making them great for holding late migrant or nesting species of waterfowl. This tour typically hosts duck species that may be otherwise difficult during the festival including Redhead, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and more! The deep cells at Point Mouillee as well as the open water of Lake Erie are great places to search for these. Lower water levels may provide mudflats for shorebirds. A wide variety of species can be found here. The large expanse of marsh is a great stopover site for larger shorebirds including Whimbrel, Willets, and Marbled Godwit.



Bobolink

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.



Pointe Mouillee
eBird Page