

HOWARD MARSH METROPARK

YOU DRIVE / WE LEAD

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Dunlin flock

Location Information

About

Howard Marsh Metropark opened in Spring 2018 and immediately had a special place in the hearts of birders. This amazing restoration took a farm field and transformed it into an oasis for migrant waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and more! The park also became a breeding ground for sought-after species such as Sora, Virginia Rail, King Rail, Least Bittern, Marsh Wren, and much more. What likely brought the most fame to the site were the Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Black-necked Stilts that have returned to nest each year. In some years, the water level is drawn down creating great habitat for migrant shorebirds. In the Fall of 2022, the beloved park became even better as "Phase II" opened up on the opposite side of Howard Rd. This increase in habitat has continued to provide great birding.



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Accessibility

This You Drive/We Lead trip will spend the duration of the time outside and away from the vehicles. Howard Marsh has flat hard-packed crushed stone trails and a wooden boardwalk. There is no cover from the elements so be sure to have wind/rain gear handy in case of unfavorable weather. Sunscreen is highly recommended as well due to little shade. The pace of the trip will move slowly and involve taking time to use a spotting scope to enjoy some of the wonderful marsh birds Howard Marsh has to offer. However, benches are scarce along the route.



Black-necked Stilt

You Drive / We Lead Information

This is a meet-on-site field trip. You will meet your guide in the parking lot of Howard Marsh Metropark. GPS coordinates and a QR code to scan for directions are listed here. You will meet in the parking lot for the part of the Metropark located on the East side of Howard Rd. This is just north of the intersection of Howard Rd. and Route 2. Once you arrive in the parking lot, look for the Biggest Week in American Birding "Event Site" sign. Field trip leaders will be wearing golden guide caps.



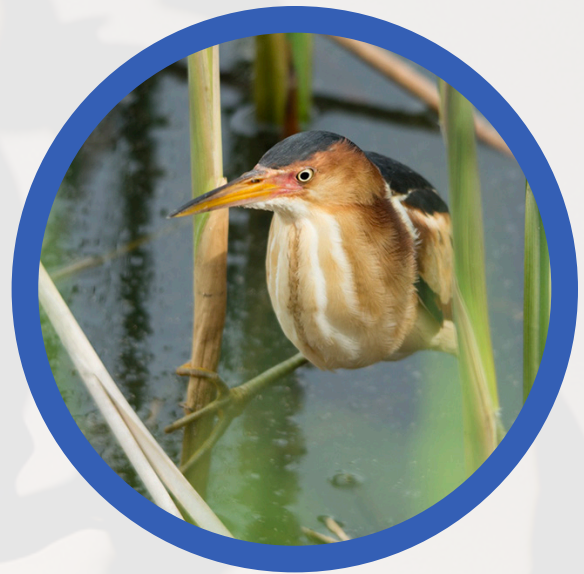
41.6451, -83.2633

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR DIRECTIONS**

Birding Information

Target Species

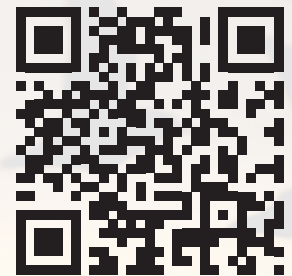
Depending on the water levels at this site, some cells may be low enough to draw in a good diversity of shorebirds. Despite water levels, Dunlin are typically present in large numbers here, but really anything can drop in to feed if there's an exposed mudflat. Cells with deeper water levels provide habitat for American White Pelicans, Trumpeter Swans, and a variety of duck species. Black-necked Stilts and Yellow-headed Blackbirds are some of the most popular breeding species here at the park. More uncommon or secretive breeders here include Sora, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, Black Tern, and Wilson's Phalarope. The large Common Tern colony on the north side of the park also draws in Forster's and Caspian Terns, making for a great place to study tern ID!



Least Bittern

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 "*Festival Schedule*" 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.



Howard Marsh
eBird Page

All images by Tyler Ficker

Howard Marsh Metropark Map



41.6451, -83.2633

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR DIRECTIONS**



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**