

# OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK

YOU DRIVE / WE LEAD

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Blue-winged Warbler*



# Location 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

The You Drive / We Lead trip to Oak Openings involves a walk down Tornado Alley on a paved trail that is about one and a half miles round trip. The leaders may choose to bird the beginnings of several of the trails that branch off from the main Tornado Alley path. These trails are primarily flat but may have short areas with inclines. Trails off the main path are dirt or short grass. The guides may also choose to visit the sand dunes at the intersection of Girdham and Reed Roads at the end of the trip. This is a flat, paved area. The meeting site for this field trip will have restrooms available at the Oak Openings Preserve Metropark Lodge that are open to the public.



*Orchard Oriole*



*Lark Sparrow*

## You Drive / We Lead Information

This is a meet-on-site field trip. You will meet your guide in the parking lot of the Oak Openings Preserve Metropark Lodge. You can search for this in Google Maps and see the lodge labeled on the map. GPS coordinates and a QR code to scan for directions are listed here as well. This is the intersection of Oak Openings Pkwy and Wilkins Road (108). 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.



41.5440, -83.8397

**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR DIRECTIONS**



# 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. 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. 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 Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Wild Turkey, and much more! This trip will focus on the Tornado Alley area of Oak Openings, an area that provides excellent habitats for migrant songbirds as well as many specialty species. This is a great location to look for different species of warblers, flycatchers, and vireos that are migrating through the area this time of year.



*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](http://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.



Oak Openings  
eBird Page

*All images by Tyler Ficker*

# Oak Openings Hotspot Map



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