

BIG DAY

Guided Van Trip

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



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Prothonotary Warbler

Field Trip Information

About

Our Big Day Vans are a great way to enjoy the thrill of spring migration. With so much diversity in species and habitats in the region, these field trips allow you to experience as much as possible. Leaders will work to provide participants with the greatest number of species possible while also working to ensure that participants can enjoy the birds at a comfortable pace. A suggested route is provided to all leaders for the day. However, leaders have the opportunity to modify this route based on knowledge of the region and what sites are the most productive at the time.

Accessibility

Due to the nature of the big day trips, there will be a lot of entering and exiting the vans. Some stops may involve being away from the van for longer periods of time (potentially 1-1.5 hours), while others may be quick stops to get out and scan marshes or mudflats before getting back in again. Birders are always welcome to stay in the van at any stops if they wish to. Some sites may involve walking distances of 0.5-1.5 miles.

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. The trip visits multiple locations throughout the region to cover diverse habitats, resulting in a greater species total. Leaders will be given a list of sites and a suggested route that will not only include birding information, but also a list of locations along the route that have restrooms available throughout the day. While the specific itinerary is up to the leader's decision, the route will generally cover areas that provide the participants with opportunities for woodland, field, and marsh birding. Guides will be following recent bird sightings in the area and will use that information to help decide where to visit on this trip.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Philadelphia Vireo

Although the route can be edited by the leader, here are some of the most commonly visited sites on the big day:



Oak Openings



Pearson Metropark



Howard Marsh
Metropark



Maumee Bay
State Park

Birding Information

Target species

One of the most exciting parts of a big day is that the diversity of habitats visited and the expertise of the leaders results in opportunities for a great list of birds. The trip will focus on many of the regional specialties and the migrants that are passing through these sites. One example is visiting Howard Marsh Metropark to see highlights such as Yellow-headed Blackbird and Black-necked Stilt and adding all of the other widespread marsh species at that stop. The guides will pick locations based on species that are localized and allow the more common species to fall into place at these sites. Participants can expect to try for migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, shorebirds, waterfowl, and more while also searching for many of the resident species.



Black-necked Stilt



Red-headed 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.

All photos provided by Tyler Ficker