

LEADER'S CHOICE

Guided Van Trip

6:00 - 10:00 a.m. / 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Field Trip Information

About

As the name suggests, our Leader's Choice Van Trips allow the guides to pick where they want to go! Guides may choose to visit a park that they know well and want to share their knowledge of the location or pick their location based on recent reports or birding trends throughout the festival. This is a great trip to catch all of the hottest birding trends during The Biggest Week In American Birding. If one site has been particularly good for shorebird diversity, leaders may choose to visit there. If there have been consistently good migrant flocks at another location, they may choose to visit that site.

Accessibility

The physical accessibility of sites is difficult to predict on this trip because the specific itinerary is up to the leaders. The most commonly visited sites do tend to have flat trails that are paved, hard-packed, crushed stone, gravel, or dirt. Restrooms are available at several of the most commonly visited sites. Your guides will inform you of the availability as the van leaves Maumee Bay. Some sites have little to no shade, and some have benches, shelters, and feeder setups. Due to the length of the trip, the itineraries often only include one or two locations. This means that there may be longer periods of time away from the vehicles. If visiting a location with multiple birding spots at one site, there may be multiple instances of getting in and out of the 15-passenger vans.



Canada Warbler



Eastern Kingbird

Van Trip Information

This van trip has two different sessions that participants can sign up for. The first departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 10:00 a.m. The second departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge at 11:00 a.m. and returns at 3:00 p.m. The route for the trip is up to the leader's decision and can cover anywhere that they'd like. Leaders will also be provided with a list of commonly visited locations for this trip. Leaders will likely be watching reports and basing their decision on that, meaning the location for this trip may not be determined until the evening before or the morning of the scheduled departure.

Birding Information

Target Species

The target species for this trip will vary highly based on the site that the leaders have chosen to visit. Since the leaders can make the call on where to go right up until it is time to depart, the selections will all be chosen with the best birding possible in mind. Leaders may choose to visit an active shorebird migration hotspot and enjoy marsh birding. Some may choose to visit areas that have consistently turned up big songbird diversity. The possibilities for spring migration are endless, and your leaders will take you to their favorite sites!

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.



Black-necked Stilt



Hooded Warbler



Northern Parula