

# SHELDON MARSH STATE NATURE PRESERVE

**YOU DRIVE / WE LEAD**

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Red-headed Woodpecker*



# Location Information

## About

Located on the shore of Lake Erie, Sheldon Marsh can be one of the most active sites for migrant songbirds. The dense canopy consists of trees that should be blooming and hosting plenty of insects for migrants to feed on. Sheldon Marsh also provides nesting habitats for many species of songbirds and marsh birds. The dense, wet, wooded areas at this site can provide opportunities for many of the more difficult or highly sought-after species in the area. There are several vantage points to see into the ponds and marshes that can host waders, marsh birds, and waterfowl as well!

## Accessibility

The vast majority of the main trail at Sheldon Marsh is flat and paved. The route that this You Drive / We Lead tour takes consists of trails that are flat and asphalt for the majority of the route. At the end of the main trail, the trails at the beach are made of loose sand. The full route at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve is also a little over 1.5 miles. However, due to the timing of the trip, there may not be time to hike the entire trail. Sheldon Marsh has few benches that may be up to a half mile apart. Stretches of the trail provide very little protection from the wind, sun, or rain. Bug spray is worth having here due to the marshes and wet forest habitat.



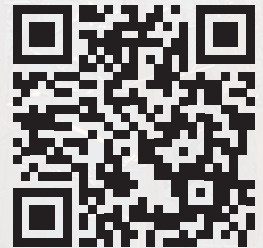
*Prothonotary Warbler*



*Eastern Kingbird*

## You Drive / We Lead Information

This is a meet-on-site field trip. You will meet your guide in the parking lot of Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve. GPS coordinates and a QR code to scan for directions are listed here. You will meet in the parking lot located on OH-6 / Grand Army of the Republic Hwy. Vegetation can sometimes make the entrance to the parking lot hard to see from a distance. 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.



41.4084, -82.6023

**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR DIRECTIONS**



# Birding Information

## Target Species

Due to the size, location, habitat, and general layout of this location, you never know what could show up at Sheldon Marsh! The initial stretch of the trail is open and can be a good site for Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee, flycatchers, and any migrant warblers that are feeding in the edge habitat. This park also has a mature forest and is home to breeding species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Green Heron, and more! The vast canopy provides ample feeding grounds for migrant warblers, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, orioles, flycatchers, and more. The ponds and wetland habitat can hold lingering migrants as well as breeding waterfowl species. In the earlier part of migration, Rusty Blackbirds can sometimes be found rummaging through leaves on the wet forest floor. The end of the trail provides access to a barrier beach along Lake Erie that can be a good vantage point for migrant gulls, terns, ducks, and American White Pelicans.



*Eastern Bluebird*

## 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.



Sheldon Marsh  
eBird Page

*All images by Tyler Ficker*

# Sheldon Marsh Hotspot Map

