



Meadowbrook Marsh is a public nature preserve owned and operated by The Danbury Township Board of Trustees

BIRDING MAP OF  
**MEADOWBROOK  
MARSH, OHIO**

----- PAVED TRAIL  
 ..... GRASS OR DIRT TRAIL  
 SCALE = 100 YARDS

Produced by Kenn Kaufman for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 2012. This copyrighted map is available for free downloading and printing.  
[www.bsbo.org/birding](http://www.bsbo.org/birding)

# Overview of birding at Meadowbrook Marsh, Danbury Township, Ohio

## Notes to accompany the birding map provided by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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The history of Meadowbrook is an inspiring story of dedication by those who believe in the value of natural areas. Areas where birds and wildlife (and the opportunity to view them) are seen as an important part of a community's quality of life. In 2000, the Township Trustees made an unprecedented purchase of 33 acres of forest and wetland area. Township residents Tim Nash and his late wife, Sylvia, graciously offered this property to the township at well below market value. Through many grants, the area was expanded to 113 acres. In January 2013, Black Swamp Conservancy acquired an additional 80-acre tract to donate to the preserve, expanding the total area to more than 190 acres.

**Directions:** Meadowbrook Marsh is located along East Bayshore Road (County Road 135) in Ottawa County. **From downtown Port Clinton**, go east on State Route 163 (East Harbor Road) for about 8 miles to Englebeck Road. Turn south on Englebeck for 1.5 miles to E. Bayshore Road / CR 135. Turn left, and the entrance to Meadowbrook will be on the left in about half a mile. **From the main entrance to Lakeside**, go west on SR 163 (East Harbor Road) for about half a mile. Take the first major left and go south on S. Quarry Road; after about 0.8 mile this turns into Hartshorn Road, and in another 0.6 mile it joins E. Bayshore Road / CR 135. After another mile (as the road continues south and then curves to the west), the entrance to Meadowbrook will be on the right.

**Address for GPS:** 8577 E Bayshore Rd, Marblehead, OH 43440

**Facilities:** More than a mile of paved trails and a raised observation platform, all ADA accessible. Unpaved trails extend more than an additional half mile. There are no permanent restroom facilities on the site, but there is usually a port-a-potty at the parking lot. Horses and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails. Dogs are permitted, but must be kept on a leash.

**Habitats:** The area features a combination of open water and marsh, woodland, and open meadow, hosting a wide variety of birdlife at all seasons.

Water levels in the wetland may vary. Usually there is much open water, supporting a good variety of ducks, especially in early spring and late fall. When water levels are lower, exposed mudflats may attract many migratory shorebirds. Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets may be common here during the warmer months. The observation platform provides good viewing of the wetland area, but birds are often distant, so a spotting scope is very helpful here. For viewing the south end of the wetland, it is possible to park in a small gravel lot along Bayshore Road west of the entrance.

Because of Meadowbrook's location near the lake shore, large concentrations of migratory songbirds may occur here during spring and fall, featuring a good variety of warblers and other long-distance migrants in May and September. In early spring and late fall, Fox Sparrows and other native sparrows may be common in the thickets, especially toward the north side of the property. Migrants may be encountered anywhere in the woods, but on windy days they are often concentrated in sheltered spots away from the windward edges. At other times, the best areas are along the edges, at points where the trails have woods on one side and open meadow or marsh on the other.

Migrating swifts and swallows often feed over the wetlands. Raptors may be seen here in surprising numbers at times, either moving along the lakeshore in spring, or coming south via the Lake Erie islands in fall.

Notes by Kenn Kaufman, August 2013

Opening Meadowbrook to the public was made possible by funding from Danbury Township and grants from the following entities:  
ODNR Coastal Management in conjunction with NOAA  
ODNR Land and Water Conservation  
ODNR Natureworks  
Ohio Public Works Clean Ohio  
Ottawa County Community Foundation

Funds collected through a carbon offset program at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium were directed to the 2013 expansion of the preserve.