

TOLEDO METROPARKS

Guided Van Trip

6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Yellow-throated Warbler

Field Trip Information

About

The Metroparks Toledo system is one of the most impressive city-funded park systems around. The Biggest Week In American Birding is excited to partner with this great team and visit these sites. Many of the field trips visit one of their properties. This field trip in particular focuses on two of the larger, yet lesser-birded properties by visitors to the area: Secor and Wildwood Preserve Metroparks. Additionally, this trip visits both parts of the popular Pearson Metropark. The habitat preserved in these parks allows the group to try for certain species that are otherwise rare or absent in the rest of the festival's region such as Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded and Yellow-throated Warblers, and Barred Owl.



Cerulean Warbler

Accessibility

All of the parks covered on this trip have a variety of different surfaces that the group will be birding on. Some trails are flat, wide, asphalt trails. Others may be grass, dirt, or gravel with low, exposed roots crossing the trail. Please use caution and watch your footing on these trails. Wildwood Metropark supports the habitat of Yellow-throated Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush, but finding them often requires traversing through ravine-heavy terrain along trails with sections of steep inclines. Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve has a boardwalk that, due to age, may have some loose, broken, or uneven boards with no rails on the sides. This is another site that we recommend using caution and watching your step as you bird, and leaders will help bring holes, roots, or uneven terrain to your attention.



Indigo Bunting

Van Trip Information

This van trip departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 2:00 p.m. The first stop, Secor Metropark, is a 40-minute drive from Maumee Bay. From Secor, Irwin Prairie is a quick 5 minutes down the road. Wildwood, the 3rd stop of the day, is a 15-minute drive east of Secor. There is a 30-minute drive from Secor to Pearson Metropark. The final drive from Pearson to Maumee Bay is about 10 minutes.

Birding Information

Target Species

The parks visited on this field trip provide excellent habitat for migrant and breeding warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, orioles, and thrushes. Some particular species that you will want to be on the lookout for are those that breed in mature upland forests. These include Yellow-throated Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Barred Owl. Irwin Prairie tends to hold great diversity of migrant and breeding sparrows. Virginia Rails, Sora, and Wilson's Snipe are three secretive marsh species that can be found here. Sedge Wrens have become regular at this site and are not found in many other areas within the festival's reach. The wetland habitat at Pearson Metropark provides a chance to see shorebirds, rails, waders, and waterfowl that may not otherwise be encountered on this route. During spring migration, there's always the chance to find something exciting anywhere you go!



Pileated Woodpecker



Louisiana Waterthrush

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.