

# OFF THE BEATEN PATH WOOD/SANDUSKY COUNTIES

**Guided Van Trip**

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



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Eastern Kingbird*

# Field Trip Information

## ABOUT

As the name suggests, this trip covers many of the best Wood and Sandusky County parks. While birders often think of the lakefront hotspots this time of year, there are wonderful and well-maintained parks inland that most do not visit. The habitat is perfect for many migrant and resident species. This trip visits Creek Bend Farm, Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area, and White Star Park, all in the Sandusky County Park District. Cedar Creeks Preserve and Nature Trails Park are part of the Wood County Park District. This field trip quickly became a favorite for both participants and leaders. With excellent quality parks, well-maintained habitats, and a great time of year, this trip will surely make for a great day!



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*

## Accessibility

This van trip covers several different hotspots. Creek Bend Farm provides indoor viewing of feeders with well-maintained flushing restrooms. The trails here are short grass that is regularly mowed. The entire loop is just over a mile in length. Ringneck Ridge has another set of grass trails that are not always mowed as frequently as Creek Bend. There are no restrooms at this site. The following location, White Star Park, has a standard-sized portable restroom at the horse trails parking lot and flush restrooms at the Quarry, which are closed in the winter and may not yet be open by the start of the Biggest Week. The trails here are mowed grass. Cedar Creeks Preserve has a flush and accessible restroom facility, and the trails consist of hard-packed crushed stone and two flat wooden boardwalks. Nature Trails Park has a portable, accessible restroom in the parking lot and flat, wide, hard-packed crushed stone trails. At each site there are, at most, just over a mile of trails to cover, so trips may spend 1-1.5 hours away from the van.



*Indigo Bunting*

## Van Trip Information

This field trip departs from Maumee Bay State Park Lodge promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 3:00 p.m. The first stop, Creek Bend Farm, is roughly 35 minutes from Maumee Bay. Ringneck Ridge is 10 minutes from the farm, followed by another 10 minutes to White Star Park. Cedar Creeks Preserve is 30 minutes from White Star Park. Nature Trails Park is a short 5 minutes down the road. The drive to Maumee Bay is roughly 20 minutes from Nature Trails Park.

# Birding Information

## Target Species

The route for this field trip is designed to hit several areas that diversify habitats, allowing for an extensive list of migrant and breeding species. This trip will focus on the diversity of migrant songbirds such as warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, and more, visiting these less-often birded sites. The birding in these well-maintained parks will surely make for a great day!

## 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 "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.



*Orchard Oriole*



*Scarlet Tanager*



*Blue-winged Warbler*