

Tips for reporting bird sightings at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area to eBird

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area attracts birders from all over the world. There are a number of Hot Spots set up in eBird to receive your bird checklists when you visit. Magee Marsh is one of those locations in Ohio where a county line runs right through the middle of the area! Thus, there is no “general” hot spot for all of Magee Marsh. There are eBird Hot Spots for each county. The south portion of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (near Route 2) is in Ottawa County. The north portion of the wildlife area (near Lake Erie) is in Lucas County.

Most birders want to get to the Boardwalk and most of the checklists at Magee are reported here:

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area--Boardwalk

You may use this Hot Spot to report birds you see on the Boardwalk itself or along the wood edge on the south side of the parking lot adjacent to the Boardwalk.

As you enter Magee Marsh from Route 2 there are several Hot Spots along the route:

Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Trails

This is the area around the Black Swamp Bird Observatory office and visitor center, including feeders and the trails that connect with Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Magee Marsh--Migratory Bird Center & Hawk Tower

There are feeders at the Bird Center and trails into the marsh.

Magee Marsh--Causeway Marshes (Ottawa Co.)

The county line crosses the Causeway near the second pull off south of Lake Erie. Most of the Causeway is in Ottawa County.

Magee Marsh--Causeway Marshes (Lucas Co.)

This is a short section of the Causeway nearest Lake Erie. The birds, of course, do not care about the county line and freely cross it. Some eBirders carefully keep their personal lists by county.

There are three Hot Spots associated with the beach:

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area--Beach East

The parking area for this beach is at the end of the Causeway where the road turns left toward the Boardwalk.

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area--Beach West

This is the beach of the former Crane Creek State Park.

Ottawa NWR--Crane Creek Estuary Trail

This partnership trail was opened in 2012 and offers additional warbler habitat as well as excellent access to the Crane Creek Estuary. Most of the trail is in Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

You can help make the data in eBird most helpful if you can avoid three types of checklists:

- **No trip lists.** eBird protocols are not set up to accept checklists that represent a “day” or “trip” checklist of all the birds you have seen on a given day. Your sightings from an entire day of birding should be broken up into checklists representing the locations you visited. The only exception is when you have spent the entire time at a single discrete location (Big Sit, walk along the Boardwalk all day).
- **No county wide or multi-county checklists.** eBird reviewers will not be able to validate such checklists as part of the research database which is built from data submitted to eBird.
- **No multi-party listings.** If you split up, and bird separately (effort is no longer coordinated), that is a separate effort and so do not add sightings into one conglomerate checklist. If you bird loosely together in one coordinated effort that it still one checklist. Have one eBirder submit the list for a group and then share it with you and others in the group. You can then adjust your copy of the checklist list to reflect what you yourself observed.



Tips for reporting bird sightings at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to eBird

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge spans two counties. The northern part of the refuge is in Lucas County and the southern part is in Ottawa County.

Lucas County

Ottawa NWR (Lucas Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Crane Creek Estuary (Lucas Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Crane Creek Estuary Trail
 Ottawa NWR--Veler Rd.
 Ottawa NWR--Wildlife Drive (Lucas Co.)



Ottawa County

Ottawa NWR (Ottawa Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Visitor Center and Boardwalk
 Ottawa NWR--Entrance Pool
 Ottawa NWR--Show Pool
 Ottawa NWR--Walking Trail Pools
 Ottawa NWR--Walking Trail Woodland
 Ottawa NWR--Wildlife Drive (Ottawa Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Crane Creek Estuary (Ottawa Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Adam Grimm Prairie
 Ottawa NWR--Boss Unit
 Ottawa NWR--Stange Rd. @ Krause Rd. and
 Observation Tower
 Ottawa-Lucas Co. Rd. (Ottawa Co.)
 Ottawa NWR--Kontz Unit (OH-2 @ Bodi Rd.)
 Magee Marsh Wildlife Area--Black Swamp Bird
 Observatory & Trails

Reporting Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive Bird Checklists on eBird

If you wish to report your bird sightings to eBird from the Wildlife Drive at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, there are two eBird Hot Spots to receive your reports:

Ottawa NWR—Wildlife Drive (Ottawa Co.)
 Ottawa NWR—Wildlife Drive (Lucas Co.)

The south portion of the Wildlife Drive is in Ottawa County, the north portion is in Lucas Co. You are on the county line when the Wildlife Drive turns right (east) on Ottawa-Lucas Rd.

Please keep two checklists of birds you see, one for each portion of the Wildlife Drive. The section in Ottawa County is about 2.4 miles; the section in Lucas County is 3 miles. eBird recommends a “traveling” count to five miles or less and sorts your bird sightings by county, thus two “hot spots” to report your sightings. Sometimes the route of the Wildlife Drive varies, so you might want to set your odometer to record the actual miles you cover for each section.

eBird web site: <http://ebird.org/>

Ohio eBird Hot Spot web site:

<http://ohioebirdhotspots.wikispaces.com>



*In Northwest Ohio,
 the Warbler Capital of the World!*