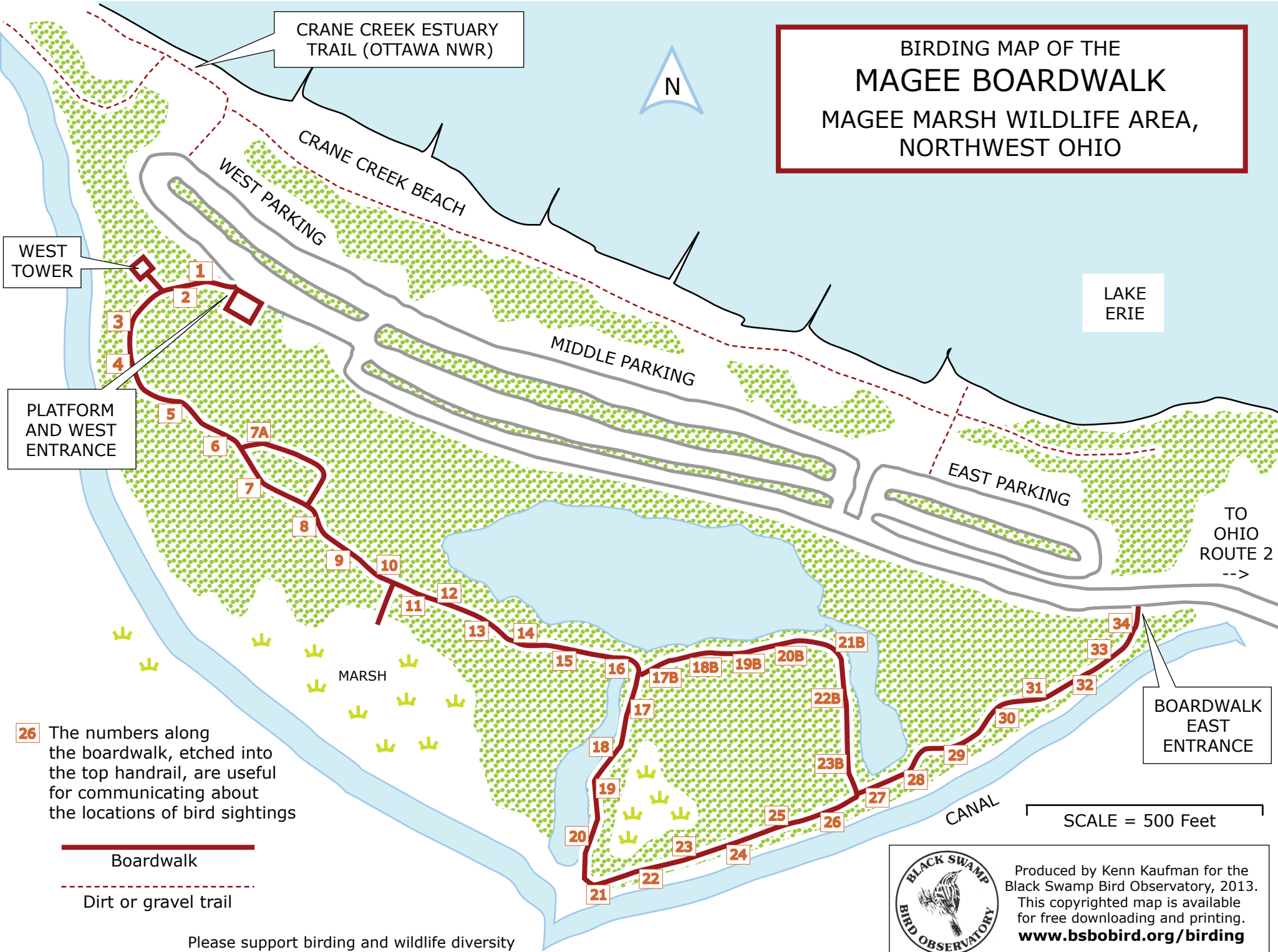


BIRDING MAP OF THE MAGEE BOARDWALK

MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA,
NORTHWEST OHIO



CRANE CREEK ESTUARY TRAIL (OTTAWA NWR)



WEST TOWER

PLATFORM AND WEST ENTRANCE

LAKE ERIE

TO OHIO ROUTE 2
-->

BOARDWALK EAST ENTRANCE

26 The numbers along the boardwalk, etched into the top handrail, are useful for communicating about the locations of bird sightings

Boardwalk
Dirt or gravel trail

Please support birding and wildlife diversity
Purchase the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp



Produced by Kenn Kaufman for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 2013. This copyrighted map is available for free downloading and printing. www.bsbobird.org/birding

Birding the Boardwalk at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ohio

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

Notes by Kenn Kaufman, updated August 2013

One of the most famous birding sites in North America. The boardwalk that provides spectacular views of warblers during migration is located on the **Magee Marsh Wildlife Area**, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife. The area immediately to the west is part of **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge**, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. **Black Swamp Bird Observatory** is an independent nonprofit organization supported by its members.

Notes on specific sites on and near the boardwalk:

Although this area offers fine birding most of the year, most visitors come here in spring, so these notes focus on the birding possibilities in April and May.

Numbers along the boardwalk, etched into the handrail, are very useful for keeping track of your location and communicating about sightings with other birders. Approximate locations of the numbers are shown on our map. Here are notes about some specific points along the boardwalk:

Platform at west entrance: A good vantage point for a variety of species working along the edge.

2-3: Often a good area for warblers feeding low, just inside the forest. The wet area just east of this can have waterthrushes and other swamp-associated birds.

West tower: A raised platform surrounded by willows. Waves of birds move through, so it may be very active or very quiet.

5: Migrant Whip-poor-wills are sometimes seen roosting in the daytime near here.

7A loop: Very good for treetop warblers in general and often a good spot to see cuckoos in May. The wet area just to the north is good for waterthrushes and other skulkers.

10: The open woods near here are good for thrushes and for skulking warblers like Connecticuts. The spur to the south here goes into an open area, good for marsh birds, or for scanning treetops for Olive-sided Flycatchers and other high perchers.

16: This corner is often a concentration point for various warblers. The brushpiles just northwest of this number may have Mourning Warbler in late May.

18-20: Good area for Willow and Alder Flycatchers in late May.

22-33: With a narrow strip of land along both sides of the boardwalk, it's wise to proceed quietly; you may get close looks at Ovenbird, thrushes, wrens, and others on the ground. The dogwood fruits attract thrushes, vireos, etc. in early fall.

22B: One of the best areas for Rusty Blackbird in early spring.

19B: The pond to the north often has ducks and other water birds, while the swampy area to the south is good for Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and others.

North edge of woods (south edge of parking lots): Sometimes the best birding is here, especially early in the morning while things are quiet inside the woods, and especially with south winds. Good for peering into the woods to see thrushes, Ovenbirds, sparrows, etc., on the forest floor. Photography (especially for those using large lenses and tripods) is much easier out here than on the confined space of the boardwalk.

Beach: Always worth checking for shorebirds, terns, gulls resting on the short breakwaters, or flocks of ducks offshore. The scattered large cottonwoods, especially at the east end, often have some migrants. Please stay on the established trails here, to allow the intervening habitat to continue to recover.

Crane Creek Estuary Trail: From the northwest corner of the parking lot, this trail runs west onto Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. The half-mile loop touches the east side of the Crane Creek estuary, where shorebirds may congregate when the water is low. A spotting scope is necessary for good views of the more distant birds. Songbird migrants are often common along the trail, on both the inland and beach sides.