

# BIRDING THE LAKEFRONT

**Guided Van Trip**

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



*Wilson's Phalarope*



**Biggest  
Week**   
in American Birding  
Birds Unite Us

# FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

## About

One of the most exciting parts of spring along the Lake Erie shores is that you never know what you'll find! This field trip covers several of the top hotspots along the lakefront. Designed with diverse habitats and birds in mind, this trip covers beaches, woodlands, open habitats, and marshes. These sites are essential for migrant and breeding species. This trip will target an array of warblers, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns, waders, and much more! This field trip starts at the home base of The Biggest Week in American Birding, Maumee Bay State Park. The trip will then visit Mallard Club Wildlife Area, Howard Marsh Metropark, and Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area. Each of these sites provides excellent marsh habitat that is managed differently and is sure to diversify the species total for the day.



*Marsh Wren*

## Accessibility

The levels of physical accessibility on this trip vary from site to site. The stop at Maumee Bay State Park includes walking through loose sand along the beaches, flat paved trails near the "Big Hill," a flat boardwalk made of recycled boards, and grassy trails near the end of the cabin road. Mallard Club has raised grass trails along the levees. The grass may be tall enough to visually obstruct the location of holes created by groundhogs. Because of this, **please use caution when birding here and look where you are about to step.** In both the eastern and western sections of the park, Howard Marsh Metropark has hard-packed crushed stone trails and a wooden boardwalk. Metzger Marsh has a paved parking area, narrow, well-packed dirt trails, and a grass and gravel trail across the dike. Flush, accessible stalls are available inside the Maumee Bay Lodge in the state park and at Howard Marsh (East). Standard-sized portable restrooms are available at Maumee Bay State Park, Howard Marsh (West), and Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area.



*Yellow-headed  
Blackbird*

## 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. All of the sites on this trip are close to one another, maximizing the time spent out of the vehicle birding. The trip will return to Maumee Bay State Park Lodge at 2:00 p.m.

# BIRDING INFORMATION

## Target Species

This field trip covers many habitats, including beaches, woodlands, open areas, and marshes. This can result in an extensive species list for the morning. The beaches at Maumee Bay can provide several gull, tern, and shorebird species. Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone are only found in a few locations during the festival except for here. The wooded area can have up to 36 species of warblers this time of year, along with many other migrant species. Mallard Club is worth listening for secretive marsh birds such as Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Sora, and Virginia Rail. Depending on water levels at both Mallard Club and Howard Marsh, several migrant shorebird species may be turned up on the exposed mudflats. Metzger Marsh and Howard Marsh are great locations to look for resident and migrant waterfowl species and waders. Check for deeper-water marsh species such as Pied-billed Grebes, Common Gallinule, and American White Pelican at these locations. This route can be full of surprises, and you never know what could turn up at any of these lakefront migration hotspots.



*Blackburnian Warbler*

## eBird Protocol

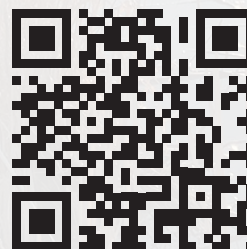
Your field trip leaders are responsible for eBirding all of The Biggest Week In American Birding field trips. They will be keeping lists during the day for all sites visited. These will become available for participants to add to their eBird accounts. Please be patient as our dedicated festival volunteers 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.



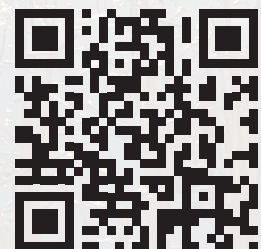
Maumee Bay SP  
eBird Page



Mallard Club WA  
eBird Page



Howard Marsh  
eBird Page



Metzger Marsh  
eBird Page

*All images by Tyler Ficker*