PIPE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

YOU DRIVE / WE LEAD

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Least Bittern

Location Information

About

Pipe Creek is often considered to be one of Ohio's top-tier spring migration sites along Lake Erie. This little peninsula of woodlands and marsh units extends into the Sandusky Bay and can attract a lot of migrant birds. The parking lot area and initial stretch of trail are dense with tall trees and understory, providing a great feeding location for many migrant warblers, tanagers, vireos, thrushes, and more! As the trail opens up to marshland, many sought-after breeding and migrant species are possible.

Accessibility

This You Drive/We Lead trip will spend the duration of the time outside and away from the vehicles. Pipe Creek Wildlife Area consists of flat trails that are typically patches of hard-packed crushed stone, dirt, or mown grass. The grass trails in the marsh can be uneven or wet at times or have small holes. Grass may obstruct small dips, holes, or uneven changes in



Mourning Warbler

the terrain. The typical round-trip route at Pipe Creek is a little over 1.5 miles. Bug spray is recommended. The wooded section of the park provides shade. Once in the marshes, there is little cover. Depending on the weather, have sun or wind protection available. Portable restrooms are available in the parking lot. If they have not been serviced recently, the McDonald's 0.3 miles away has clean restrooms.



You Drive / We Lead Information

This is a meet-on-site field trip. You will meet your guide in the parking lot of Pipe Creek Wildlife Area. GPS coordinates and a QR code to scan for directions are listed here. You will meet in the parking lot located on F St. in Sandusky to

the southeast of the entrance road to Cedar Point. Google Maps lists the parking lot as "Sandusky Bay Rowing Association" as well as Pipe Creek. Once you arrive in the parking lot, look for the Biggest Week in American Birding "Event Site" sign. Field trip leaders will be wearing golden guide caps.



41.4485, -82.6705 SCAN QR CODE FOR DIRECTIONS

Canada Warbler

Birding Information

Target Species

Due to the size, location, habitat, and general layout of these locations, you never know what could show up here! In some years, Pipe Creek is known for having one of the highest densities of warblers, having high diversity, and being an excellent site for rarities to show up. The habitat there can be good for some of the more difficult and highly sought-after species such as Canada Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and more. In some years, more southern-breeding warblers that overshoot and arrive at the lake will drop in here. This includes species such as Yellow-throated Warbler and Cerulean Warbler. The marsh units are often a good spot for Marsh Wren, Least Bittern, Common Gallinule, Swamp Sparrow, and Bobolink. If the units are drawn down, there can be shorebird habitat as well.



Yellow-throated Vireo

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 *"Festival Schedule"* 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.



Pipe Creek eBird Page

All images by Tyler Ficker

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Pipe Creek Wildlife Area Hotspot Map

