



BIRDING MAP OF
**MAGEE MARSH
 WILDLIFE AREA,
 NORTHWEST OHIO**

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Produced by Kenn Kaufman for the
 Black Swamp Bird Observatory.
 Updated August 2013.
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TO
 TOLEDO
 18 miles

OHIO STATE ROUTE 2

TO
 PORT CLINTON
 16 miles

Birding Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ohio

Notes by Kenn Kaufman, updated August 2013

To accompany the "birding map" provided by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

The boardwalk that provides spectacular views of migrating warblers is located on Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, administered by the Division of Wildlife. The adjacent beach was formerly included in Crane Creek State Park (and that creek runs through the adjacent Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Black Swamp Bird Observatory, a nonprofit organization supported by its members, has a good working relationship with the state and federal agencies that own the land here.

Directions to Magee Marsh: The entrance road leads north from Ohio State Route 2 about 18 miles east of Toledo and 16 miles west of Port Clinton, or 1.5 miles east of S.R 590, 1.5 miles west of S.R. 19.

Access: There is no entry fee. During waterfowl hunting season in late fall, the road is closed beyond the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center except on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

Notes on sites along the road:

Black Swamp Bird Observatory Nature Center: Hours vary by season. Open most days during peak migration. Educational programs and displays, nature shop, window on wildlife, local information.

Gallagher Memorial Trail: Named for the late John F. Gallagher of Springfield, Ohio. The trail leads through woodland edge, scrub-shrub habitat, and meadow.

Magee-Ottawa Partnership Trail: Going west, the trail connects with extensive walking trails on Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. The eastern extension, called Woodies Roost Trail, enters another section of the refuge and goes around an impoundment that may produce many marsh birds and migrants.

Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center: Has fine educational displays and small nature shop. Open weekdays all year and on weekends during spring and summer.

Hawkwatch Tower (Observation Tower): Near the east end of the parking lot for the Sportsmen's Center. A good vantage point for seeing migrating raptors on spring days with southwest winds.

Magee Walking Trail: This trail loops through the woods and past marsh and ponds. This trail may be closed in spring to protect a nest site for Bald Eagles.

Magee Causeway: Runs straight north across the marsh. Three gravel pullouts on the east side of the road for parking. The causeway often provides views of waterfowl and marsh birds. Northern Shrike and Short-eared Owl are sometimes here in winter. For county listers, the Lucas / Ottawa county line is shown.

Wildlife Beach Trail: From the small parking lot north of the bend in the road, a trail leads to the east beach. This is a good place to see waterfowl, gulls, and terns on Lake Erie. Thickets and woods along the edge of the beach often have big concentrations of migrating songbirds.

Magee Boardwalk: The best-known birding location in northwest Ohio. The woods here, along the beach ridge between Lake Erie and the marsh, host major concentrations of migrant birds throughout the spring and fall. During late April and May, this is one of the best places in North America to get superb views of migrating warblers and other songbirds.

Note: Black Swamp Bird Observatory also produces a detail map of the boardwalk itself, also available free from our website: www.bsbobird.org/birding

Crane Creek Estuary Trail: From the northwest corner of the boardwalk parking lot, this half-mile loop leads to the estuary, where shorebirds may be seen when water levels are low (a scope is very helpful here). Songbird migrants are sometimes common along the loop.