



Shores of Lake Erie Spring Birding Trip

May 22 - 24, 2026
3 days | 2 nights



Situated on the southwestern coast of Lake Erie are many wetlands, forests, prairies, ponds. Each of these are a stopover point for migrating birds, with thousands of waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, and songbirds every spring and fall--spring migration has had more than 300 species of birds recorded in the area! Many hotspots have accessible boardwalks throughout the ecosystems, offering some of the best birdwatching opportunities in the Midwest.

Day 1

Travel to Northwest Ohio

We'll spend the first half of our day traveling, with a 3.5 hour drive to northwest Ohio. We plan to arrive around noon and will have a sack lunch before heading out to bird in that region for the afternoon.

We will travel to Maumee Bay State Park campground for dinner and set up camp.



Day 2

Exploring Hotspots

Our second day will include birding at a variety of local hotspots based on recent birding data.

Day 3

Birding and Return to Holland

After some final hotspot stops, we will have a group lunch to close out our trip and head back to Holland, MI.

We will arrive back at the Outdoor Discovery Center in early evening.

Hotspots

Places we may go birding:

- Magee Marsh Wildlife Area
- Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge
- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
- Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area
- Howard Marsh Metropark
- Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area
- Stange Prairie
- Maumee Bay State Park
- Pearson Metropark
- Crane Creek State Park



Accommodations

Maumee Bay State Park Campground



Travel with us in a van and tent camp (tent not provided)



Drive separately and bring your trailer

Each group will have their own campsite with all campsites being located near each other.

Resources

We will provide spotting scopes and field guides for group use, as well as binoculars for anyone who needs them.



Meet Your Guides



Caitlin
Strikwerda

Role at ODC

I am a Naturalist on the Programming team!

When did you start birding?

I spent a lot of time outdoors as a child and was familiar with many of the common birds. I didn't get into birding until college through a research project in our nature center and a class in India studying human-wildlife conflict.

Spark Bird

Tufted Titmouse



Maya
Klanderman

Role at ODC

I am the Sustainability Specialist on the Conservation team!

When did you start birding?

My parents were birders, so I grew up looking for birds anytime I was outside. I have enjoyed birding in all areas of the United States and greatly enjoy discovering new hotspots in the West Michigan area.

Nemesis Bird

Black Rail (ask me about this later if you want to learn more!)



TRIP COSTS

Trip cost includes all taxes, park & guide fees, lodging, meals & ground transportation. It does NOT include personal camping gear, personal items/souvenirs, or alcoholic beverages.

ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS are welcome!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

\$210 deposit due at registration

\$195 due on April 15

Total Fee \$405 per person

Please note there is a 4% surcharge for credit card payments

CANCELLATIONS:

To cancel a trip reservation, please reach out to us as soon as you can. A full refund is available if cancelled by April 8 and a 50% refund if cancelled by April 31st. Both refunds will be less ODC's administrative costs and any non-refundable expenses incurred.

If ODC Network must cancel a trip, we will issue a full refund of the amounts paid to us for the trip.

QUESTIONS:

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*Itinerary subject to change