

Conneaut Marsh Field Trip, 8am, Saturday, March 18, 2023

Larry Towse and Mal Hays will lead this all-day birding field trip to Conneaut Marsh at Custards, Conneaut Lake, Pymatuning Reservoir, and points in between. You can join the group for just one stop or as many stops as you like. Everyone is welcome, including families with children. Mal and Larry and our other experienced members are always happy to show others the amazing birds along the way. Besides great birding, it's a fun time with other nature lovers. Just be sure to dress for March weather and bring water and snacks.

This field trip is popular for observing numerous songbirds, lots of waterfowl and marsh birds, Bald Eagles, and even Sandhill Cranes. Conneaut Marsh is preserved as State Game Lands 213 and is designated as an Important Bird Area.

The day begins at 8 am at the spillway on Conneaut Marsh at Custards to observe waterfowl, eagles, and other species. At about 9 a.m. the group will caravan to other promising birding spots. There will be a mid-morning snack and bathroom stop. Around noon we will meet in Conneaut Lake at Fireman's Beach Park on North Second Avenue off of route 322 (Water St.) There we'll have a lunch break and observe the waterfowl on the lake. You can bring a packed lunch or purchase lunch in the little town of Conneaut Lake. There are local restaurants for take-out or sit in, Subway, and Sheetz. If it's warm enough, we can picnic at Fireman's Beach Park. After Conneaut Lake, there will likely be 2 more stops. The field trip will be done around 3 pm.

Directions from Clarion to the first stop at the spillway bridge near Custards: Take I-80 west to I-79 north. Continue on I-79 north. Take Exit 141, Rt. 285 east, toward Cochran. Drive about 1 mile on Route 285 east. Turn left onto Mercer Pike (watch for a red barn on the right) and go about 1/2 mile to the parking near the bridge. An alternate route is Rt. 322 west through Franklin. Either way, the drive is about 1 ¼-1 ½ hours from Clarion.

Big Sit 2023 (by Carole Winslow) Thursday, May 4. Rain date on Saturday, May 6

Bring your binoculars and a chair and join us for our annual spring Big Sit, a relaxing day of birding and fellowship! We will be counting all birds heard and/or seen from a central location at Carole Winslow's Maple Glen Farm near Sligo. This will be a day to hopefully see many spring migrants in a beautiful setting, while enjoying the company of other folks who love to watch and learn about birds. Indoor bathrooms, coffee, tea, water and a few light snacks are provided, feel free to bring something else to share if you like, but that is not required. Just bring your eyes, ears and enthusiasm to share! The birding starts as early as sunrise and guests are welcome to stay as long as they like into the afternoon.

To reach the farm, follow Rt 68 west (towards Sligo) from Clarion at I-80 approx 3 miles to Reidsburg and turn L at the Zion Baptist Church onto S. Reidsburg Rd. Follow approx 2.5 miles to Tintown and turn R at the sign for Curllsville. After approx 1.5 miles turn left onto Moggey Rd, follow for one mile and the farm is on the right, marked at the end of the driveway with a carved squirrel and sign.

Oil Creek State Park Warbler Walk, 8 am, Saturday, May 13, 2023

Join us for this walk led by Mal Hays and Larry Towse to see wonderful warblers. At this time of year, warblers will be returning to our area to breed while others will be migrating through the area. All are welcome to this family-friendly walk. Expect to be birding for about 2 – 2 ½ hours, but you can leave earlier.

Meet at 8 am at the Blood Farm area at Oil Creek State Park. After turning into Oil Creek State Park from Route 8, follow the park road just ½ mile and turn right at the entrance to the Blood Farm area. Watch for an Audubon Event sign marking the turn as it's easily missed. There is a restroom at this area.

We'll observe birds in this area from 8-8:30 am before starting a leisurely loop walk on trails. Be prepared for damp or soggy areas if it's been a wet spring. As of now, the bridge near the ranger's station is closed. This eliminates a drive into the park for further birding which has been enjoyed in previous years.