

Conneaut Marsh Field Trip, 8am, Saturday, March 16, 2024

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.

If the weather is exceptionally horrible, this outing might be postponed until March 23. Watch for a changed date on our Facebook page, website, or call Mal Hays at 814-764-5645.