



MAGEE BOARDWALK  
(see detailed map at BSBO website)

OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

LAKE ERIE



PARKING

WILDLIFE BEACH TRAIL

MAGEE CAUSEWAY

OPEN MARSH

OBSERVATION TOWER (HAWKWATCH)

SPORTSMEN'S MIGRATORY BIRD CENTER

MAGEE WALKING TRAIL

Produced by Kenn Kaufman for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO).  
Updated March 2009.  
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[www.bsbo.org/birding](http://www.bsbo.org/birding)

BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY NATURE CENTER

GALLAGHER MEMORIAL TRAIL

ENTRANCE SIGN FOR MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

TO TOLEDO  
18 miles

OHIO STATE ROUTE 2

TO PORT CLINTON  
16 miles

# **Birding Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Crane Creek beach ridge, Ohio**

Updated March 2009

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

This is one of the most famous birding sites in the upper Midwest, although there is widespread confusion about the name of the locale. The boardwalk that provides spectacular views of warblers during migration is located on the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, administered by the Division of Wildlife. The adjacent beach, about half of the parking lot, and a section near the beginning of the entrance road were formerly included in Crane Creek State Park, and were ceded to the Division of Wildlife in May 2008; many birders still use the term "Crane Creek" (and that creek does run through the adjacent Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Black Swamp Bird Observatory is a private nonprofit organization supported by its members, but we have 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, starting at the entrance and working north:**

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

**Gallagher Memorial Trail:** Named for the late John F. Gallagher of Springfield, Ohio, who led the effort to save Ohio's Cedar Bog from destruction in the 1960s. The walking trail leads through woodland edge, second growth woods, and meadow.

### **Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center:**

Currently this is the center for the Division of Wildlife's wetland research programs, but the center is also open to the public and has fine educational displays. 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. BSBO conducts a count of spring migrating raptors here, early March to early May. The tower belongs to the Division of Wildlife and visitors are always welcome.

**Magee Walking Trail:** This trail loops through the woods and past marsh and ponds. On some days there are more migrants here than along the boardwalk.

**Magee Causeway:** Runs straight north across the marsh. Three gravel pullouts on the east side of the road offer easy parking. The Magee Marsh Wildlife Area extends a short distance west and far to the east of here. The causeway offers opportunities to see waterfowl and marsh birds.

**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 songbirds during migration season.

**Magee Boardwalk:** The single 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.