



# OOS 'Rally for Rails' — Saturday Field Trip Descriptions

**Saturday Oct. 1, 2016 – Lake Erie Wetlands and much more.**

We offer trips to accommodate all levels of energy and expertise.

Select one (1) Trip from the list.

**Trip #1 ..... Winous Point King Rail Study ..... Andy Jones / Auriel Fournier**

Additional  
\$20.00 fee

Winous point is the oldest continuously operating hunt club in the United States. It is also the home of the Winous Marsh Conservancy and an on-going King Rail study. Join us for a behind the scenes tour of the facility and the King Rail study. The additional \$20.00 fee for this tour will be designated strictly for rail research.

**Level: Moderate**— a faster moving trip!

**Distance: Up to 1 mile**

**Limit: 20**

**Trip #2 ..... Winous Point King Rail Study ..... Larry Rosche / Judy Semroc**

Additional  
\$20.00 fee

Winous point is the oldest continuously operating Hunt Club in the United States. This extra fee trips takes you up close and person to the largest on-going King Rail study in America. The extra fee will all go towards Rail conservation. The Winous Point Conservation

**Level: Moderate**

**Distance: Up to 1 mile**

**Limit: 20**

**Trip #3 ..... Sheldon Marsh..... \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_**

A quick hike out to the marsh is good for fall waterfowl and wetlands specialists: herons, egrets and other cat-tail skulkers are possibilities. We'll continue to Lake Erie to see the only undisturbed barrier beach remaining in the Sandusky bay. Interesting species include both migratory shorebirds and the last of the season's warblers. The endangered Blanding's Turtles are also possible species.

**Level: Moderate/ Fast Walking**

**Distance: 3-4 miles**

**Limit: 20**

**Trip #4 ..... East Harbor State Park..... Jim McCormac**

The diversity of habitats at East Harbor State Park makes for lots of bird diversity. Busy days see blizzards of songbirds of many species refueling in lakeside woods and thickets, having just crossed Lake Erie. The open waters of the lake can produce lots of water birds, and one never knows what might be found on the park's beaches. Sheltered marshes and harbors often host lots of waterfowl. There should be plenty of migrant birds around to spice things up.

**Level:** Moderate

**Distance:** 2.5 miles

**Limit:** 20

**Trip #5 ..... Meadowbrook Marsh & Lakeside Daisy Preserve..... Jason Larson**

Get the full sense of Marblehead, as this trip will visit both wet and dry areas of the peninsula. Meadowbrook Marsh is a very important inland estuary with aquatic emergent vegetation (like American Lotus), an abundance of food for migrating birds and tons of fall color. Stands of gray and silky dogwood, Virginia creeper and wild grape attract large numbers of migrating warblers, vireos and thrushes, in the fall and we should see many of these, as well as herons, egrets, eagles, Marsh Wrens and, if we are lucky, some rails and bitterns. It also features a prairie and woodland with interesting limestone-loving flora, including Great Blue Lobelia, Fragrant Sumac and Wafer-ash. In addition, we will visit the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve, which is a unique alvar habitat featuring several of Ohio's botanical rarities and many remnant prairie species of the historic Marblehead Prairie, including Great Plains Ladies'-tresses, Stiff Goldenrod and Spiked Blazing Star.

**Level:** Easy to Moderate

**Distance:** 2.5 miles

**Limit:** 20

**Trip #6 ..... Birding & Botany..... Tanner Morris**

**This trip will be on the move.** Your expert guides will be making it up on the fly to get you to the best spots for birds and botany. It may be a trip to the beach, or a slog next to wetlands. Likely to be fast paced and far afield, we will cover some ground looking for fall migrants, shorebirds, the favorite year-rounders. Be prepared to move fast for an excellent field experience in the best locations in the Lake Erie Region!

**Level:** Moderate

**Distance:** Short Walks

**Limit:** 20

**Trip #7 ..... East Harbor State Park with BSBO ..... Lester Peyton/ Kate Zimmerman**

Explore the varied habitats within East Harbor State Park with Kate and Lester (Black Swamp Bird Observatory). The shores of Lake Erie often produce interesting migrants, including rare gulls and terns. The dogwood scrub and thickets are a favorite of warblers during fall migration. There was a rare fall sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler in the park in mid-September 2009. Join us while we search high and low for anything that flies!

**Level:** Moderate                      **Distance:** Short walks at several sites; some on uneven ground      **Limit:** 20

**Trip #8 ..... Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge ..... Fish & Wildlife Staff Justin Wolpert**

If you have not visited Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge, this is a must see trip. You will get the full tour by **bus or tram**, as well as some time to explore the grounds and Visitor Center. Our system of Wildlife Refuges plays a critical role in protecting and conserving wildlife, both game and non-game species alike. Home to Bald Eagles and countless waterfowl, Ottawa NWR provides federal protection to the largest wetlands remaining in Ohio.

**Skill Level:** Easy                      **Distance:** Walk as little or much as your like.    **Limit:** 20

**Trip #9 ..... Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge ..... Fish & Wildlife Staff Justin Wolpert**

If you have not visited Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge, this is a must see trip. You will get the full tour by **bus or tram**, as well as some time to explore the grounds and Visitor Center. Our system of Wildlife Refuges plays a critical role in protecting and conserving wildlife, both game and non-game species alike. Home to Bald Eagles and countless waterfowl, Ottawa NWR provides federal protection to the largest wetlands remaining in Ohio.

**Level:** Easy                      **Distance:** Walk as little or much as your like.    **Limit:** 20

**Trip #10 ...Further Afield - Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge ..... Dan and Becky Donaldson**

Join Dan and Becky on the boardwalks and dikes of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. This is mostly a walking tour where we can spend a little time understanding fall migrants, including waterfowl. It is peak season for sora and Virginia rail, so we will be listening and watching for them. Ottawa offers several types of habitat and an incredible variety of birds.

**Level:** Moderate – hiking involved

**Distance:** 2-3 miles.

**Limit:** 20