



# Fall Warbler Challenge Series 2020

## ‘Fall Warbler Hotspots’

Tim Colborn, President, Ohio Ornithological Society

Buster Banish, Teacher, East Clark Elementary School "Bird Nerds"

Tim Jasinski, Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist, Lake Erie Nature &  
Science Center

Monday, September 14 at 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Visit [www.wcaudubon.org](http://www.wcaudubon.org)

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  - Live from Maumee Bay State Park, 1400 State Park Rd, Oregon, OH 43616
- **Fall Warbler Mid-Challenge Community Update**
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- **Fall Warbler Photography Evening** TBA
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# Finding Fall Warblers in Northeast Ohio

## Locations

Tim Colborn, President

Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS)





Photo courtesy of Tim Colborn.



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## WHEN TO LOOK

- **Heart of Migration:** September!
- **Early Birds:** A handful of warbler species begin their migration through N.E. Ohio in August (including Yellow, Black and White, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart)
- **The Season Rush:** Many others are on the move by early September (including Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Golden-winged, and Blue-winged warblers)
- **We'll Catch Up with You:** Some warblers are on the late end of the migration (including Palm, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped - the latter warbler sticking around in small numbers through the winter)
- **More Time to See Them:** Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Black-throated Green warblers are a few of the species that have a longer duration to their migration through N.E. Ohio

## MY FAVORITE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FALL WARBLER SPOTS

- **Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve**: Through the turnstile entrance, down a very short trail to the “Perimeter Trail” – the hillside and trees both to the east and west near the entrance trail can be productive in both spring and fall.
- **Wendy Park/Whiskey Island**: While there are quiet days in migration based on the relatively small size of the woodlot here, a strong weather front can drop a ton of migrants onto Whiskey Island and the compact nature of the habitat can make for thrilling birding.
- **Huntington Reservation**: The ridge above the beach there can be very good but try the wooded plateau directly north of the parking lot for the Wolf Picnic Area. The woods provided respite just inland from the lake and the ridge trail overlooking Porter Creek can give you looks into the canopy without the strains of looking directly overhead for hours at a time.
- **Rocky River Reservation**: Concentrations here won’t be like what you may find along the lake but one can bump into pockets of migrants throughout September into early October. On cool sunny mornings, you might wander up to the top of Fort Hill and work the perimeter, especially the steep slope adjacent to the Rocky River.

## MY OTHER FAVORITE NORTHEAST OHIO FALL WARBLER SPOTS

- **Sandy Ridge Metro Park (Lorain County)**: Nice mixed habitat including wet, deciduous woodlands and plenty of marsh. The northern side of the Marsh Loop trail can provide opportunities to see warblers feeding along the edge of those woodlands.
- **Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve (Lake County)**: Just east of state park, this nature preserve makes up the northeastern-most property in the larger Headlands Beach complex. With mixed woods and rehabilitated beach dunes, the habitat is outstanding. Warbler numbers can be impressive in Autumn and the trails and boardwalk provide convenient access throughout.
- **Erie Street Cemetery (Cuyahoga County)**: Though better known for spring birding, this downtown Cleveland green space can be a migrant trap in fall as well. While unlikely to produce the same numbers as the other location listed here, the Cemetery can occasionally be a productive stop between birding destinations. Check the trees along the walls (and the walls themselves) as well as the few remaining shrubs.



# Finding Fall Warblers in Northeast Ohio

## Tools & Locations

Buster Banish, Teacher

East Clark Elementary School "Bird Nerds"



# Tools To Find Migrating Fall Warblers



- Bird Migration Map (see radar and migration forecasts)
  - <https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>
- Google Earth (see aerial photos and look for oases)
  - <https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>
- eBird (GREAT data base for all things birds – highly adjustable to your needs!)
  - <https://ebird.org/region/US-OH-035/hotspots?yr=all&m=>

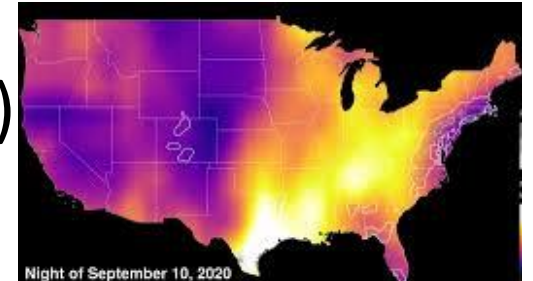


Photo: Kenn Kaufman

# Tools To Find Migrating Fall Warblers

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Through Google search (Conneaut, Ohio birding)

- <https://ohiobirds.org/birding-at-conneaut-harbor/#:~:text=The%20harbor%20of%20Conneaut%20is,spring%2C%20summer%20and%20early%20fall.>
- <https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/conneaut-harbor>



# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

## Lake County

- Headlands Beach State Park, 9601 Headlands Rd, Mentor, OH 44060
- Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, 9601 Headlands Rd, Mentor, OH 44060
- Mentor Lagoons State Nature Preserve & Marina, 8365 Harbor Dr, Mentor, OH 44060
- Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, 5185 Corduroy Rd, Mentor, OH 44060
- Wakerobin Boardwalk Trail, 16-D-111-Y-00-022, 0, Mentor, OH 44060
- Chagrin River Park, 3100 Reeves Rd, Willoughby, OH 44094
- Lake Erie Bluffs, Lake Erie Metropark, 2901 Clark Rd, Perry, OH 44081

Photo: Yellow-rumped Warbler - Fall September 29, 2013 Mentor OH by Tom Fishburn.



# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

## Geauga County

- LaDue Reservoir, near Ohio State Route 44 and U.S. Route 422 in Auburn and Troy Townships in Geauga County
- Frohring Meadows, 16780 Savage Rd, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
- Eldon Russell Park, Burton, OH 44021
- West Geauga Commons, 14070 Chillicothe Rd, Novelty, OH 44072 (WOW!)



# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

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## Ashtabula County

- Conneaut Sandspit, Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula County, 480 Lake Rd., Conneaut, OH 44030 (Bald Eagles/shorebirds!)

## Lorain County

- Lorain Impound/Lakeside Landing, 401 Lakeside Ave, Lorain, OH 44052
- Lorain County Metro Parks
  - Sandy Ridge Reservation, 6195 Otten Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039
  - Carlisle Reservation, 12882 Diagonal Rd, Lagrange, OH 44050

# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

- Wellington Reservoirs, Jones Rd., Wellington Ohio 44090
- Margaret Peak Nature Preserve, Butternut Ridge Rd, Grafton, OH 44044

# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

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## WEST

- Ottawa County
  - Magee Marsh, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, 14000 OH-2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449
- Erie County
  - Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, 2715 Cleveland Rd W, Huron, OH 44839
  - Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, F St, Sandusky, OH 44870



# Favorite Birding Areas In and Around Cleveland, Ohio

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## SOUTH

- Ashland County
  - Mohican State Park, 3116 OH-3, Loudonville, OH 44842

Bobolink Area Hotline – (Ashland, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Muskingum, Richland, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties)

- Phone: 574-642-1335



Above: Common Yellowthroat - Fall September 29, 2013  
Mentor OH by Tom Fishburn.





# Finding Fall Warblers in Northeast Ohio

## Bird Social Behavior, Locations & Field Marks

Tim Jasinski, Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*

# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*

# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- American Yellow Warbler  
(*Setophaga petechia*)

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*



# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*), top
- Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*), bottom

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*

# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Connecticut Warbler  
(*Oporornis agilis*), top
- Mourning Warbler  
(*Geothlypis philadelphia*),  
bottom

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*

# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Mourning Warbler  
(*Geothlypis philadelphia*)

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*



# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*



# Fall Warbler Field Marks

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- Northern Waterthrush  
(*Parkesia noveboracensis*),  
top
- Louisiana Waterthrush  
(*Parkesia motacilla*), bottom

*Photo courtesy of Tim Jasinski.*



# Thank You!

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