

**Warbler Capital of the World at Magee Marsh, Ohio  
Migration at Tawas Point, Michigan  
Breeding Kirtland's Warblers, Michigan**

**MAY 11-17, 2019**

**Max 10 People**

**Join Tour Operator and Birding Guide Glenn Olson, and GCBO's Executive Director Martin Hagne, for this great spring trip chasing warblers and so much more!**

Magee Marsh, a prime migrant trap for North American warblers and songbirds during spring migration, is located in north-west Ohio on the southern shore of Lake Erie, the fourth largest of the Great Lakes of North America. Standing on the boardwalk surrounded by large numbers of warblers, grosbeaks, thrushes, orioles, and other songbirds preparing to migrate across Lake Erie to their breeding grounds in the north is an unforgettable experience not to be missed. Seeing a tiny jewel of a warbler so close that you do not even need binoculars is a rare and breath taking encounter. With 29 species of warblers possible and many close encounters with these jewels; it is these experiences that warrant Magee Marsh's claim as the "warbler capital of the world". We will spend most of our time looking for warblers and songbirds at Magee Marsh, but some time looking for shorebirds, sparrows, and other birds. We will visit Magee Marsh, Ottawa National Refuge, Fields, Pastures, and Roadsides in the surrounding area.



Tawas Point in Michigan is another migrant stopover site for warblers and song birds as they continue to move north into breeding territory in Canada. Tawas Point projecting into Lake Huron (whose northern boundary is Canada) is a protected state park that rivals McGee Marsh for birding but is less well known. In addition to warblers and songbirds this is also an excellent location for shorebirds, gulls, and grassland birds in the nearby farms and fields. Here we will



prowl the trails of the park searching for Warblers like Golden-winged, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Canada, and the rare Connecticut Warbler. We will scan the lake searching for Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, American Black Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser and Long-tailed Duck. If time permits, we will explore local farmlands and fields for species that are less common or do not occur in Texas including Ruffed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, American Woodcock, and Veery

A short drive from Tawas is an extensive area of jack pine at the right age to create the proper breeding territory for the Kirtland's Warbler. This species faced extinction 50 years ago but through the efforts of conservation groups and government agencies this beautiful warbler has recovered. However, it is still an endangered species with fewer than six thousand individuals in the world. Almost all individuals of this species breed in a small area of Michigan where the jack pine habitat is managed specifically to maintain proper breeding range for this species. We hope to see and get good photographs of this rare and beautiful Warbler. Naturally, migration is influenced by the weather and some days have fewer migrants songbirds and warblers arriving but if that happens we will switch to enjoying the migration of other birds and the many resident birds wherever we are.



#### **TOUR OUTLINE:**

- May 11 - Fly into Detroit, MI, drive to OH, possible birding in the afternoon
- May 11-13 - McGee Marsh area, and nights in OH
- May 14-15 - Tawas Point, and Kirtland's, and nights in Tawas, MI
- May 16 - Morning birding, and night near Detroit, MI airport
- May 17 - Return flight from Detroit, MI

#### **PRICING FOR TOUR:**

For 6 nights and 7 days. Max 10 people.

\$1,445.00 double occupancy

\$1,575.00 single occupancy

#### **INCLUDED:**

Includes: ground transportation, gas, entrance fees, breakfast at the hotel, guide services and other necessary costs for the tour.

Does Not Include: airfare, alcohol, meals (other than breakfast at the hotel), personal items, tips, medical services or expenses if needed, lost or damaged optics, cameras or other gear or equipment.

#### **TRIP LOGISTICS:**

Meeting location and time, packing instructions, bird list, and other details of the tour will be provided to registered participants closer to time.

This trip will be focused on birding, but Glenn is a wonderful naturalist and will also look at all that nature has to offer. There will be early mornings with quick breakfast so as to get to birding sites early, and some days will be long. We will maximize our time to be able to bird as much as possible, and have to stay on schedule to visit all the sites.

The walking will be fairly easy on level ground, often on trails or wooden boardwalks. We will have times when we are away from the van for prolonged times, and walking good distances. There will be two days with extensive traveling in the van of 3 to 4 hour drives.

Our hotels will be modern and nice facilities. We will eat most meals in local restaurants, with a few meals on the go. Breakfast will be mostly in the hotels.

Weather is generally mild with cool evenings and mornings. Rain is possible.

**GLENN OLSON:**

Glenn Olson has had a passionate interest in nature since early childhood. In addition to bird identification, he has a special interest in the relationships of plants, birds, butterflies, and other insects. Glenn leads professional birding and nature tours for groups and individuals with recent trips to Big Bend, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Amazon Rain Forest and The Galapagos Islands. Glenn also teaches Bird Identification and Nature Related classes at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and is an instructor for Audubon's Birding classes. He served as State President and Houston Chapter president. of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Glenn is a certified Texas Master Naturalist. He leads field trips and gives presentations at festivals such as Galveston FeatherFest and the Rockport/Fulton Hummingbird Festival among others.