



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Program Descriptions

Unless otherwise stated, programs begin at the visitor center.

*Programs marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

BLUE GOOSE BUS TOUR

Join a ranger for behind the scenes access to closed areas of the refuge complex. Destinations vary depending on wildlife use and activity.

EAGLE TOUR

Enjoy our national bird on this bus tour of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. See a few nests and discover why so many eagles call the marsh home.

OWL PROWL

Experience the refuge at night! Explore the world of owls and learn about their amazing adaptations on this guided hike through the forest.

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS

Join a refuge volunteer and become a citizen scientist the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.
Meet at the trailhead parking area.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP

Join other youth in conservation and submit a piece of art to this annual art contest. Entries are due March 1. Visit our website for more information.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Join others for this 115 year old tradition! It may be cold outside, but the company is warm, and the birds love the attention! Bring your binoculars!
Meet at the trailhead parking area.

SELF-GUIDED AUTO TOUR

Enjoy the refuge from the comfort of your car! The 7 mile route departs from the visitor center parking lot. Gates open at 8:00 am and close at 4:00 pm.

NATURE TOTS

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult for nature crafts, stories, and outdoor fun! Be sure to dress for the weather.

SWAMPERS

Children ages 6-12 are invited to hike with a ranger and explore the refuge. Discover the wonder of nature and plan for a swampin' good time! Be sure to dress for the weather.

NURTURE NATURE DAYS

Get dirty and give back! Learn about the refuge while lending a hand to improve it. Stewardship projects change throughout the year. Dress for the weather.

STORIES OF THE SWAMP

Discover the stories of the swamp! Stop by the visitor center and enjoy exhibits and a video that highlight the natural and cultural history of the Great Black Swamp. Open daily 9:00 am—4:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

Be a scientist and explore the refuge to see how many birds are braving the cold winter. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather!



Members Only Events:

Saturday, February 28

9am-12pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, March 28

12-4pm— Schoonover Waterfowl Production Area Tour*

Membership information is available at the visitor center information desk.



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Calendar of Events

January—March, 2015

*Programs marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day: Visitor Center Closed

Saturday, January 3

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, January 4

8:00am— Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 10

9:30am-12pm— Nurture Nature Days

Saturday, January 17

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

9:00am-1pm— Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Sunday, January 18

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Monday, January 19

Federal Holiday: Visitor Center Closed

Wednesday, January 21

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Saturday, January 24

1pm-3:30pm— Nurture Nature Days

Saturday, January 31

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Sunday, February 1

8:00am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, February 7

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, February 8

1-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, February 14

9:30am-12pm— Nurture Nature Days

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Monday, February 16

Federal Holiday: Visitor Center Closed

Wednesday, February 18

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Saturday, February 21

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, February 22

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Saturday, February 28

9am-12pm— Members Only Event*

1pm-3:30pm— Nurture Nature Days

Sunday, March 1

8:00am— Monthly Bird Survey

Junior Duck Stamp entry deadline

Saturday, March 7

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Friday, March 13

7-9pm— Owl Prowl*

Saturday, March 14

9:30am-12pm— Nurture Nature Days

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Wednesday, March 18

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Saturday, March 21

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

9am-12pm— Eagle Tour*

12:30pm-3:30pm— Eagle Tour*

Sunday, March 22

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Friday, March 27

7-9pm— Owl Prowl*

Saturday, March 28

1pm-3:30pm— Nurture Nature Days

12-4pm— Members Only Event*