

# Ohio: Biggest Week Species List | May 13 – 20, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with local guide Dan Donaldson. Our group included Sandy, Bob, Maureen, Vince, Judith, Rebecca, Diane, Susan, Lynn, Miriam, and Joan**

This week showcased the remarkable diversity of northern Ohio, from the forested river valleys of Cuyahoga Valley National Park to the world-famous migration hotspots along the western shore of Lake Erie. Along the way, we explored urban nature preserves, restored marshes, remnant prairies and oak savannas, historic canal corridors, Great Lakes islands, and ancient glacial landscapes while learning about the region's geology, ecology, conservation history, and cultural heritage. Visits to banding stations, migration research projects, educational programs, and the Biggest Week in American Birding festival added another layer to the experience and gave us a much better understanding of the science and conservation behind one of North America's greatest wildlife spectacles.

One of the biggest takeaways from the week was just how dynamic spring migration really is. Every day brought changing weather, fresh arrivals, and new surprises, and no two days of birding felt the same. We also had the chance to meet local experts, researchers, and birders from around the world, making the experience about much more than just finding birds. Whether sharing sightings on the boardwalk, watching visible migration at sunrise, exploring a new habitat, or wrapping up each evening with our daily checklist, the week combined outstanding birding, fascinating natural history, and plenty of unforgettable experiences across the Great Lakes region.

## **BIRDS (146):**

During the trip, 146 species were recorded of which one was heard only and three were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 146 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Ohio: Biggest Week | May 13-20, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

### **MAMMALS (6):**

**Eastern Chipmunk** *Tamias striatus* – common along wooded trails and forest edges throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park and other wooded areas visited during the trip

**Eastern Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – seen in wooded sections of Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Eastern Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger* – observed in more open woodland and developed edge habitat within Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis* – both gray and black color morphs observed around feeders and forest edges at Rocky River Reservation and other wooded sites

**Common Raccoon** *Procyon lotor* – two "teenage" individuals observed on Kelleys Island

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* – one crossed the road near Rocky River Reservation and another observed at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

### **BUTTERFLIES (3):**

**Cabbage White** *Pieris rapae* – observed around open marsh edge habitat near Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** *Papilio glaucus* – several seen cruising woodland edges and flowering areas

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* – observed basking and flying along trails at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):**

**American Bullfrog** *Lithobates catesbeianus* – heard calling around wetlands in the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area area

**Northern Dusky Salamander** *Desmognathus fuscus* – observed near rocky seepages and wet streamside habitat in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Eastern Red-backed Salamander** *Plethodon cinereus* – found beneath logs and moist forest cover in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Painted Turtle** *Chrysemys picta* – multiple individuals observed basking in wetlands and marshes around Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and at Beaver Marsh

**Blanding's Turtle** *Emydoidea blandingii* – observed from the boardwalk at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area