



The Wilds

14000 International Road
Cumberland, OH 43732
740.638.5030
www.thewilds.org

Directions & Map

From the South (via Marietta, OH)

- Take I-77 N to Belle Valley (Exit 28)
- Turn right off the exit onto SR 821 North
- Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto SR 340
- Drive 7 miles to Cumberland
- Turn left onto SR 146 West
- Proceed 5 miles to Zion Ridge Road
- Turn left onto Zion Ridge Road
- Drive 3.5 miles and turn left onto SR 284
- Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto International Road
- Proceed 1/2 mile to the Wilds' entrance

From the West (via Columbus, OH)

- Take I-70 E to Zanesville (Exit 155)
- Turn right off the exit onto SR 146
- At 4th traffic signal, turn left staying on SR 146
- Follow SR 146 E to Zion Ridge Road (~16 miles)
- Turn right onto Zion Ridge Road
- Proceed to SR 284 (~3.5 miles)
- Turn left onto SR 284
- Drive to International Road (~1 mile)
- Turn left onto International Road
- Proceed to Wilds' entrance (~1/2 mile)

From the North (via Cleveland, OH)

- Take I-77 S to I-70 at Cambridge
- Take exit to I-70 West
- Follow I-70 to SR 83 (exit 169)
- Turn left onto SR 83 South
- Go 12 miles on SR 83 to Cumberland
- Turn right onto SR 146 West
- Proceed 5 miles to Zion Ridge Road
- Drive 3.5 miles and turn left onto SR 284
- Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto International Road
- Proceed 1/2 mile to the Wilds' entrance

From the East (via Wheeling, WV)

- Take I-70 W to Exit 169 / SR 83 (New Concord, OH)
- Turn left onto SR 83 S
- Proceed 12 miles to Cumberland
- Turn right onto SR 146 West
- Proceed 5 miles to Zion Ridge Road
- Turn left onto Zion Ridge Road
- Drive 3.5 miles and turn left onto SR 284
- Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto International Road
- Proceed 1/2 mile to the Wilds' entrance

Birding Site Descriptions

The map on the following page has eight sites marked and numbered 1 through 8.

Each group is to head as directly as possible to the number that corresponds with their group and begin their site rotations.

- Each of the eight marked sites is traditionally a productive birding area.
- After finishing at the first site, please then proceed from site to site in numerical order.
- For instance, if your group began at 3, then head to 4, or if you began at 8, then head to 1, etc.

Hopefully each group can get to each site, but if not, you now have the materials and knowledge to return and bird the Wilds on your own.

Below is a brief description of each site.

1) Administration Building Overlook

This is the building located above the rendezvous parking lot off International Road. Proceed to the last building, and good views can be had from this promontory. The Golden Eagles are frequently observed here.

2) Birding Station at Jeffrey Point

This wooden observation platform offers a spectacular vista of surrounding grasslands, and many raptors should be visible from here. Short-eared Owls are frequently seen here in the late afternoon.

3) Zion Ridge Road, midpoint

Vehicles can pull off along the road in the midst of the surrounding giant grasslands and near the large pond on the east. If any open water is present interesting waterfowl are sometimes seen here. There is a record of Long-tailed Duck here, for instance. Raptors are also good at this spot.

After birding this spot, bird your way north on Zion Ridge Rd. to its intersection with State Route 146 and turn around at that point.

Watch carefully for Northern Shrike near Route 146 as more sightings have been made in this area than anywhere else.

4) High Hill Road

Park along the road at the south end of the large stand of Austrian Pine on the east side of High Hill Road. Eastern Meadowlark and other passerines are possible, as are raptors.

5) Long Pond/State Route 340

Pull off along the road near the pond. If any open water is present there should be some waterfowl. Raptors are nearly always good here. This was ground zero for the Prairie Falcon for the two years that it was present.

6) Coal Hill Lookout

This large gravelly area just south of Ruraldale Rd. and near "Coal Hill", as marked on the map, offers a big vista of barren grasslands.

Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Harriers are usually hunting here.

Watch the gravel parking area carefully as Horned Larks and Snow Buntings have been seen here.

7) Knox Cemetery

This small cemetery sits high atop the hill at the end of the road that proceeds south from Site 6.

As you drive back towards the cemetery, keep a watchful eye for raptors in the grasslands.

This road is also a good place to observe Horned Larks, and possibly Snow Buntings.

In 2007 massive numbers of American Robins streamed by this area on their way to a nearby roost late in the day.

The view from the cemetery is spectacular and a good hawk-watching site.

Bad road conditions may eliminate travel to this site, though, as this is one of the worst areas to travel if there is snow or excessive rain.

8) Coal Haul Roads Junction

This is the intersection of Prouty Rd., which comes off State Route 340 just north of Site 5, and the first gravel road to the east of 340.

All species of expected raptors can be seen here, and it is a good area to look for wintering Eastern Meadowlarks.











More Prairie Falcon sightings were made here the two winters it was present than any other area.

Merlin is also a possibility in this area.

Birding Areas around *the Wilds*

Stay on public roadways and trails.

Check out www.thewilds.org
or call 740-638-5030
for information on birding
events and tours!

-  Mountain Bike Trail Parking Area
-  The Birding Station at Jeffrey Point
-  Butterfly Habitat (Public Trails)
-  The Wilds Main Parking Lot
-  The Johnson Visitor Center
-  Paved Roads
-  Gravel Roads
-  Haul Roads - Travel at Own Risk
-  Grassland Areas
-  **Lookout Points**

