

SUMMER TRIPS

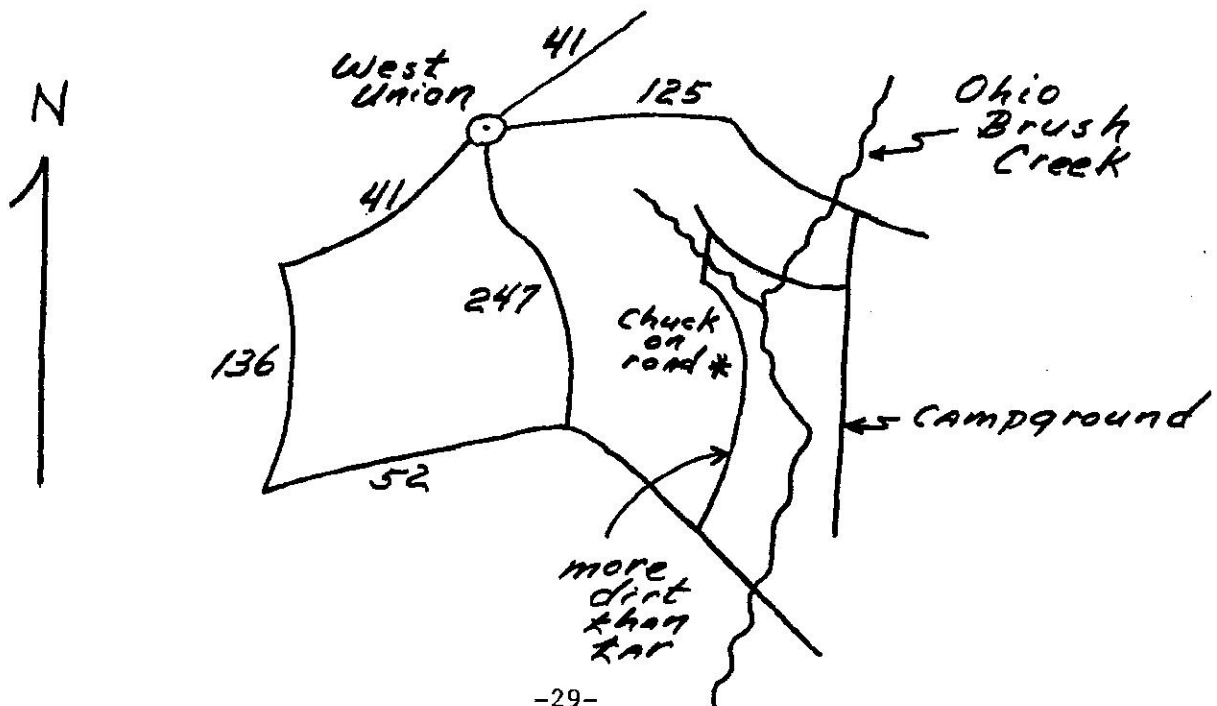
Southern Ohio

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So you want to "experience" a Chuck-Will's Widow? It is possible to hear them on Ohio Brush Creek Road approximately three miles north of U.S. Route 52. Bruce Peterjohn and I (Larry Rosche) heard one near a large white farmhouse which had purple martin houses in the yard. However, I do not recommend that you get up your hopes to see them.

While in the area, though, there are many possibilities: Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Loggerhead Shrike, Louisiana Waterthrush, hundreds of Prairie Warblers, many Chats, White-Eyed Vireo, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. We had a total of 13 species of warblers on June 7.

We drove south out of West Union, Ohio on Ohio Route 247 a few miles and at a fork where the road took a sharp left over a bridge we continued driving straight onto a road which lead to Bentonville. We made many stops to listen. We found a Blue Grosbeak in an area on this road with a "For Sale" sign. Several Grasshopper Sparrows were here also. We continued slowly through Bentonville and found an obscure county road which led us to a Lark Sparrow. We back-tracked to Bentonville and went southwest on Ohio 41 about one mile. Here we turned left near a church. We immediately came upon a field with three singing Henslow's Sparrows. There was also one adult Orchard Oriole in a large tree by the church. We followed this road for some time. Near a golf course we found two Loggerhead Shrikes. We followed this road until it intersected with U.S. Route 52 and then drove to Shawnee State Park where we found woodland warblers and a Summer Tanager. You can wander and really won't get lost on this trip as you always return to 41, 247, 125 or 52. The main thing is to stay south of West Union.



On June 21 and 22, my wife, Paula and I (Tom Bartlett) made this trip to Adams County with Don Tumblin and Bruce Peterjohn. We followed a similar route and saw Henslow's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Black Vultures, Loggerhead Shrikes, a Carolina Wren and a pair of Bewick's Wrens with young. Saturday night I drove a dirt road north from U.S. Route 52 and saw in my headlights, sitting in the road, a Chuck-Will's Widow. This road is the first road west of Ohio Brush Creek on U.S. Route 52. Sunday morning we were awakened by at least three Chucks and many Whips. We found a camp ground on the East side of Ohio Brush Creek. The Bewick's Wren was in a farm field in the town of Fizzleville. The warblers were not singing due to the lateness in June so we saw few of them.

### Northern Ohio

#### Irwin Prairie

Irwin Prairie is a wet prairie in Lucas County, Ohio under the protection of the Nature Conservancy.

It's been "hot" this year for birds: King Rail (TK), Yellow Rail (TK), American Bittern (TB et al), LeConte's Sparrow (TK), were present in the spring but have not been seen recently and Bell's Vireo (BP et al), Western Meadow Lark (TB et al), Alder Flycatcher (JF et al), Short-billed March Wren (JF et al), Golden-winged Warbler (TB et al) have been seen in June and are thought to be present now.

The Bell's Vireo will be covered in the nest issue. As far as I know, it has been present and singing the entire month of June. It is probably not a first Ohio Record as Troutman, Milton, An Annotated List of Birds of Ohio has a record of two tape recorded songs by Dr. Borrer in May of 1962 and May of 1966 in Franklin County.

Lou Campbell in Birds of the Toledo Area (The Toledo Blade Co., 1968) described the area: "The very few remaining wet prairies, often flooded until the end of July, are marked by a luxuriant growth of blue joint-grass and slough-grass with clumps of willows, cornel, buttonbush, nine-bark, and aspens scattered about. . . . Before these prairies were drained, they were visited by great numbers of water fowl, many of which remained to breed. . . . The wet prairies have been altered most by civilization. Drainage of surrounding areas lowered the water table with a resulting invasion of aspens and many types of shrubs. Fires which burned the peat and left only sandy soil brought on a heavy growth of aspens and poplars, completely eliminating the prairie habitat. Farmers turned first to the prairies because the soil was black and less clearing was required."

Irwin Prairie is in the northwest part of Lucas County. Drive to the general Toledo area and then take U.S. Route 20 north. If you are driving west on the Turnpike, exit at Gate 4 which is U.S. Route 20 and drive north on 20 until it intersects with Ohio Route 2. Go west on Ohio Route 2. If you are driving north on U.S. Route 75, exit at U.S. Route 475 and drive north on 475 (towards Ann Arbor). Exit 475 at Ohio Route 2 Exit and drive west on 2. Once you are driving west on Ohio Route 2 look for Ebner Road to the north. Turn north on Ebner Road and drive to the end. This is Old State Line Road, turn east. Drive until you reach Irwin Road and then turn north. Drive north on Irwin Road. The area is between Dorr and Bancroft Streets on Irwin. There