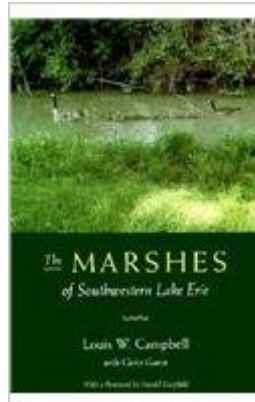


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The Marshes Of Southwestern Lake Erie



Synopsis

The marshes along the Ohio shore of Lake Erie represent less than ten percent of the vast wetlands that were there two hundred years ago. Virtually unknown outside the region and, indeed, little known even by area residents, the western Lake Erie marshes are among the most mysterious, beautiful, and vulnerable of all the wild lands remaining in Ohio. Constantly threatened throughout the years with destruction by high lake waters or human enterprises, they have been critically important to the large populations of migrating waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds that twice a year face the treacherous air currents above the lake. This book explores both the human and natural history of the marshes between Toledo and Port Clinton, Ohio. The author, Louis Campbell is the acknowledged authority on the birds of the Toledo area. Mr. Campbell began weekly birding trips to the marshes in the 1920s, carefully recording his observations. His discerning eye and inquiring mind have accumulated a wealth of information, presented here in a style that is comfortably conversational, whether the subject is glacial moraines, nesting eagles, or a drunken meadow mouse. The book begins with an almanac, a celebration of marsh life throughout the year, enriched by personal experiences. Mr. Campbell's encounters include a pair of bloodthirsty shrews, a roguish gallery of courting waterfowl, and a rhythm-challenged bittern. He invites the reader to share the risky pleasures of punting and the eerie night sounds of the marsh in May. Part II describes the history of the low-lying marshes from the Ice Age to the present, as they were transformed into drained, flood-plagued farmland then to drought- and flood-plagued private hunting clubs, and finally to government-protected marshes sealed off by huge dikes from the gift and the threat of Lake Erie. Readers of this book will never again take these wetlands for granted.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Marshes of Southwestern Lake Erie" by Louis W. Campbell In spite of the rather dry-sounding title this is a lively, highly informative volume about one of the most fascinating natural areas on the continent. Louis Campbell writes not only with charm but also the knowledge and understanding of the marshes produced by about seventy years of intimate association with the marshes and the kaleidoscope of people who have lived by, used, owned, saved and loved them. He opens with a splendid almanac of the marsh year that is immensely valuable to anyone seeking to time a visit to the marshes. Then he gives a succinct but very enlightening account of the marshes' geology and history and then proceeds to "thumbnails" of most of the marshes resident and seasonal birds and wildlife. Every Nature lover, and certainly every birder, can enjoy this well-written portrait of the incredible marsh ecosystems of western Lake Erie. Once an impenetrable "wasteland", then a waterfowl hunter's Paradise and now a terrific outdoor recreational and educational area for everyone, the Lake Erie marshes are among the most valuable natural gems of North America. This is a "must read" for any outdoorsman or outdoors woman of any description.

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