



# WETLAND *matters*

Published bi-monthly for the Friends and Members of Oxbow, Inc.

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## Karl Maslowski 1913 - 2006

.....by George Laycock



**Karl Maslowski, in the early 1990's** Even after easing into retirement, Karl avidly pursued the outdoor life. As a boy growing up in then-rural Avondale, he carried a rifle to school so he could shoot a squirrel or rabbit on the way home for dinner, and his passion for hunting, fishing and bird-watching – all excuses to be outside – always burned brightly.

One March evening in 1986 some 20 local conservationists assembled in Cincinnati determined to rescue the Oxbow area from commercial development. They needed an attorney's advice on gaining state approval of their planned organization, and this brought up the question of money. After some discussion, Karl Maslowski picked up his hat, dropped a \$10 bill into it and said, "Let's take up a collection," thereby becoming the first donor to Oxbow, Inc.

This was typical of Karl's dealing with problems. His direct approach, coupled with a bulldog persistence, helped make him a legend in his chosen profession.

Karl, who died at his Mt. Washington home on June 1, 2006, traced his career as a nature photographer to an evening class at the University of Cincinnati. For a class project he borrowed a movie camera and used it to illustrate a ten minute talk on local wildlife. This brief illustrated lecture went so well that the university hired him to create a series of wildlife programs to promote the school. This was the beginning of Karl's lifetime career in wildlife photography, writing and lecturing. He served in WWII as a combat photographer.

Karl was a pioneer in wildlife color photography. His motion pictures illustrated hundreds of lectures delivered for the National Audubon Society, National Geographic Society, countless garden clubs and other groups. His combined audiences totaled an estimated one million viewers.

For more than fifty years, his weekly column, *Naturalist Afield*, appeared in the *Cincinnati Sunday Enquirer*. He wrote hundred of magazine articles. Thousands of his photos appeared in books and magazines. His still photos were predominately taken in southwestern Ohio, but he photographed wildlife in other states as well as Africa and the Canadian Arctic.

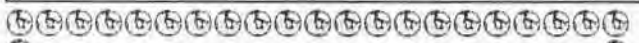

Karl helped found the Cincinnati Nature Center and Oxbow, Inc. For many years he served on the boards of directors of both the Nature Center and the Museum of Natural History.

His honors were many. Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology gave him the Arthur Allen Award and Miami University granted him an honorary doctorate.

When Karl retired, his sons, Stephen and David, carried on his work in Maslowski Wildlife Productions. This allowed Karl more time to go hunting and fishing which he continued into his 93<sup>rd</sup> year.

### Support Oxbow – See new ideas in Aquascapes

Meyer Aquascapes is sponsoring their third annual tour of water gardens and water features in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Over 30 participating sites showcase a wide variety of ways to decorate and garden with water. See waterfalls, bog gardens, and artificial streams, to mention a few features. **The tour will be held Saturday, July 22 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, July 23 from 10 am to 5 pm.** As in the past, if you purchase your tickets through Oxbow, Inc. the entire price of the ticket is donated to Oxbow, Inc. Tickets are \$ 10 per person and may be purchased by sending a check made out to Oxbow, Inc to 854 Ligorio Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45218. Please provide contact information (phone, address) so we can get your tickets to you. If you have any questions call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

  
**2006 Oxbow Clean-Up Schedule**  
**Come On Out and Help the Oxbow!!**  
**Saturday, July 15, 1-4 p.m.**  
 (Great Miami Clean Up)  
**NOTE CORRECTED DATE**  
**Questions? Call 513-851-9835**  




**Karp Maslowski In Arctic, circa 1975, photo by George Laycock**

Karl traveled widely through Africa and the Canadian Arctic. Here he rests against a caribou skin after spending a day fishing and photographing with George Laycock. Footage shot during the trip eventually became part of a lecture show entitled "On The Trail of The Arctic Char", which was presented in, among other places, Constitution Hall as part of National Geographic's highly popular lecture series.

### **Tribute to Karl by Jim Simpson (Morris Mercer's son-in-law)**

Writer, photographer, conservationist, raconteur. Virtually all of my memories of Karl are closely associated with Morris; they seemed a pair made for each other. I recall a unique excitement when Morris first introduced me to him. Here was someone that actually made his living taking pictures of wildlife. Cool! Our paths crossed occasionally over the decades, always when I was Morris. We would always look forward to the *Naturalist Afield* column in the Enquirer. There was always one of the Maslowski calendars on the wall. I had a chance to actually work with him when he was doing the Audubon film lectures; when he appeared in Dayton I was the unpaid projector operator.

The clearest memories are certainly the most recent - when I started going along on the St. Patrick's Day trip with Karl and Morris and George Laycock to look for green-winged teal. Carl was constantly filling the gaps as we went from one location to another with tales of an immensely interesting life. I recall one that spilled out in jumbled chapters over the course of a morning. It involved combat photography and duck hunting and an Italian Count and a boar hunt and teaching a dog to retrieve and "just where did you shoot that bastard" (not a typo). It was only after lunch that you could put the chapters in sequence. And through it all, you keep thinking "what an amazing guy".

On more than one occasion, I told Karl that I wanted to be him when I grow up. It's a goal worth aspiring to. I hope he and Morris get a chance to exchange more stories.

### **Tribute to Karl Maslowski by Jon Seymour**

There are legends about him. No one could remember the course of nature in the Cincinnati area better than Karl. His column which ran for nearly 50 years in the Cincinnati Enquirer was read by thousands and his voice spoke for thousands who felt the same way he did about nature. The first time I met Karl he did not give me a historic lecture on nature nor did he impart any wise advice from a man who had lived many a fight for Conservation. What he did was give me a simple joke that would get the attention of small children. He was a man who cared about others.

Karl was a founding member of Oxbow. He went looking, when we had our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration last year, for the hat he passed that day in March of 1986 to get the funds to incorporate the Save the Oxbow Committee so they could become Oxbow, Inc. He could not find it and he was disappointed. I would have loved to have had that hat. At our Anniversary Celebration he asked me to remind people what a large role Judy Bramstedt had in the formation of Oxbow, Inc. He thought we should have an article devoted to her early efforts. In the last issue of Wetland Matters he got his wish when we published Dave Styer's article recalling Judy's contributions to the formation of Oxbow, Inc.

This last St. Patrick's Day we went on his last search for the Green-winged Teal. Jim Simpson and I had replaced Morris Mercer in the original threesome of Karl, Morris and George Laycock. We found our Teal and did a little birding. Jim and I sat back and listened to the stories bouncing between Karl and George. It was great. I will miss that immensely. I will miss the passion for nature that flowed out of him like living water.

### **Tribute to Karl Maslowski by David Brinkman**

As a young birder in the 1980's, I always looked forward to Karl Maslowski's column, "Naturalist Afield" in the Sunday edition of The Cincinnati Enquirer. With scissors in hand, I clipped each weekly article. I still have these in a box in my basement. I first met Mr. Maslowski when an unusual bird showed up at my side yard feeder. As a fledgling birder, my initial identification of the bird was that of a "White-winged Junco". Karl made more than one visit to my house during the winter of 1981-1982 because the bird did not show up on his first visit. When he finally saw the bird, he identified it as an aberrant "Slate-colored Junco". In his January 24, 1982 article in "Naturalist Afield" he wrote two paragraphs about my "unusual" bird. I was humbled. Since then I have met up with him in the field on occasion, including spotting his first Little Gull at East Fork State Park while viewing the Western Grebe that was there at the same time. I would see him annually at the Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count tally and he would always greet me with "Hello, young man". His enthusiasm about birds and his historical perspective of the natural world was something I will always treasure. Mr. Maslowski's nature writings and photography was a big influence on me in my growth as a young naturalist. He will surely be missed.

## OXBOW, INC. PROGRAMS

Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton County Wildlife Officer

**Earth Connection, College of Mt. St. Joseph**

Meet Josh Zientek, the State of Ohio's new Wildlife Officer for Hamilton County, who will introduce himself to Oxbow members and speak about the current challenges facing wildlife officers in our region as well as recent positive developments regarding wildlife in our area. For more information, call Josh at 937-372-5639, ext. 5217.

To get to Earth Connection in Delhi, go south on Neeb Road past the Delhi Road traffic light, turn up the second drive on the left.

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 7:30 PM

Update on Deer Management in the

Hamilton County Parks

Public Library, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

John Klein, Land Manager of the Hamilton County Park District, will provide an update on the Park District's deer management program which he first told us about two years ago when the program was new. Hear the positive aspects of managing deer numbers and how habitats are slowly recovering in most areas. For more information, call John at 513-521-7275, ext. 227.

The Lawrenceburg Public Library is downtown at 123 High Street. Turn left going west off US 50 onto Walnut Street, then right on High Street.



**Happy Birthday, America!**

## OXBOW INC. FIELD TRIPS

To reach the upper Oxbow Inc. parking lot near the cement plant, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to the end of the road, then left and the lot is on your right.

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 8:00 a.m.

July Birds

Meet Darlena Graham, at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. Darlena will search for birds including shorebirds and whatever else crosses the path. For more information, call Darlena at 859-341-4893 or email to darlena@fuse.net.

Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 4:30 PM

An Oxbow Plant Hike

Meet Dr. Denis Conover, botanist, for this fun hike to search for interesting plants of the Oxbow. We will be walking at least 2 miles as we head to the mouth of the Great Miami River and walk along the Ohio River. Long pants are recommended, and boots that can get muddy. Meet at the new Oxbow parking lot near the cement plant. From there we will drive down closer to the railroad tracks. Bring drinking water. For more information, call Denis at 641-3651 or email to denis.conover@uc.edu.

## **Birdathon Report**

.....by Dave & Jane Styer

We identified 146 species. Highlights for us were a Least Tern and a Glaucous Gull. These are both birds that have been seen in the Oxbow area, but maybe not on a birdathon. Relatively common birds here, such as Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Wrentits would never have been seen in the Greater Cincinnati area. We also saw less common birds that aren't seen in the east, such as the Mountain Quail and the Tricolored Blackbird. Of course, we saw some birds that are common east and west, such as Starlings and Mourning Doves. (The editor would like to thank Dave for his long-distance report.)





by Dave Styer

### The Great Egret by Any Other Name

Late summer and fall has been heron and egret season at the Oxbow. I loved to go there in the evening to watch the Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. Often, if I stayed to dusk, the Black-crowned Night-Herons would come out to feed. It's a bit hard to believe that when I published *Birds of the Oxbow*, thirteen years ago, nobody had reported seeing as many as 15 Great Egrets at the Oxbow at a time. By the late 1990s, up to 80 Great Egrets had been seen there. If my memory is correct, people have, in recent years, seen over 100 Great Egrets at the Oxbow.

In order to get a broad perspective I started my research for this article by looking in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (HBW). There they call the Great Egret the Great White Egret and give it the scientific name *Egretta alba*. It appears to live on all continents (except Antarctica), but it doesn't live in the far north anywhere. In New Zealand the Maori consider it "a great compliment to compare someone with the Great White Egret, or 'kotuku,' which is seen as a strange, but beautiful bird." That is a refreshing change. I grew up learning that Great Egrets came close to being shot out of existence because they had beautiful feathers.

*Egretta* seems a good scientific name for egrets, but I didn't remember that, so I looked in a recent field guide, *the Sibley Guide to Birds*: the scientific name for the Great Egret is *Ardea alba*. The Great Egret is the same species regardless of whether it is *Egretta alba* or *Ardea alba*. So much for what I was told in school about there being many common names but only one scientific name for a species. This reminded me of what Vern Yadon, the Monterey Country botanist recently said: "common names change from place to place and scientific names change from time to time." That's pretty good. So, according to American books, what was the scientific name of the Great Egret back when the first volume of the HBW was published in 1992? *Casmerodius albus*! Where on Earth did that name come from? According to *the Dictionary of American Bird Names* by Earnest A. Choate the name is a contraction of *chasma*, "open mouth," and *herodios*, "a heron." Choate writes "as there is nothing open-mouthed about the egret, the name seems nonsensical." I am the one left open-mouthed; this doesn't seem complimentary at all! I'll bet the Maori word "kotuku" does **not** mean "open-mouthed."

Constantin Gloger created the genus *Casmerodius* in 1841, so the name was assigned to the bird for over 150 years. Gloger is generally remembered today for "Gloger's rule" that in warm-blooded species lighter colored individuals become more frequent as you move away from the equator.

In Bent's *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds* (1926) the scientific name of the Great Egret is given as *Casmerodius egretta*. I would like to check several of my older books to find what they give as the scientific name of the Great Egret. Fortunately, the books are packed away; we are having a lot of work done on our house. But here's an Audubon Great Egret watercolor painted in 1832. Right there on the bottom of the painting

Audubon has written the scientific name: *Ardea alba*, the name given by Linnaeus. So there you have it! After going through several changes the scientific name of the Great Egret is back to the original. That won't happen very often.

When I think of the Great Egrets at the Oxbow peacefully eating their fish, grasshoppers, mice, frogs, etc., I recognize how irrelevant all this name business is to them. The scientific name might seem spurious, but it is more than just a convenient, more-or-less universal way to catalog living things. It bears directly on our understanding of how species are related. For example, HBW gives the scientific name of the Great Egret as *Egretta alba*, but they include a telling sentence: "Frequently placed in genus *Casmerodius*, less often in *Ardea*; work on DNA indicates closer genetic link with *Ardea* than with *Egretta*." That was published in 1992. The seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds*, published in 1998, has this note: "Studies by Payne and Risley (1976) of skeletal characters, and by Sheldon (1987) and Sibley and Ahlquist (1990) of DNA-DNA hybridization indicate that *Casmerodius* should not be separated from *Ardea*." Our Great Blue Heron is in the genus *Ardea* and our Snowy Egret is in the genus *Egretta*. All this evidence says that the Great Egret is very closely related to the Great Blue Heron, and the Snowy Egret is a more distant cousin.

### April 22, 2006 Earth Day Oxbow Clean-Up

...by Kani Meyer

It was a beautiful day, one that most would agree was perfect... clear and sunny, low humidity, temps in the low 70s. A perfect day which would have been more perfect (if there can be such a term) had it not rained the previous two days. Rain and trying to work out in the Oxbow don't make a perfect duo! There was MUD. However, a large group of enthusiastic kids and parents from the Bright Elementary Outdoor Club took such a challenge in stride. They hiked the muddy road all the way out to the far side of Mercer Pond. They found turtles and field mice and gathered together over 150 tires and many bags of garbage that had been previously piled there but which had not been removed because of the mud and became re-scattered by flooding. We certainly hope to be able to get them out of there before it floods again! Most of these good people actually carried out one or two bags each to the dumpster...a job above and beyond the call of duty.

Our sincere thanks to each and every one of these hard-working people! They include: Cathy Mund (Club Leader), Caitlan & Connie Wolfzorn, Chelsea Jones, Caroline Meunier, Teagan Mason, Curtis & Emily Koschmeder, Christy & Dawn Witte, Vincent Parisey, Kyle Beck, Hannah, Debbie, Larry & Larry Sandmann, Amy, Ayden, & Audrey Schwier, Seatt Moor, Tori Kern, Abi Mechley and her mom, Wendy Myers, and Ian Polito.

In addition faithful Oxbow members showed up to help. They include: Ron Kolde, Bob Schlegel, Cammie, Jackie and Jon Seymour. Many thanks to Bob for using his van to carry out what bags he could reach and to Ron and his company, Environmental Quality Management, for the use of their truck. With all their help, the Oxbow is looking good!

**Addendum:** On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Jon Seymour and Ron Kolde went to Mercer Pond to retrieve all the trash that Bright Elementary could not bring out on Earth Day. The kids had carried the trash bags out but had to leave the big stuff. Ron and Jon removed 151 tires, assorted metal and plastic barrels, a few odd car parts and a 1 1/2 inch steel docking cable. Our thanks to them both for all their work!

## Birdathon Highlights from the Oxbow Team of Erich Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert and Wayne Wauligman

.....by Wayne Wauligman

With weather conditions expected to be cool, rainy and windy, we were excited. You know how it goes, "The worse the weather the better the birds!" We were hoping the front would stop some birds and keep the warblers low. And for us it did!

We began at Harveysburg Road where it ends at Caesar Creek Lake. Exactly at 5:00 we looked over the edge and saw again the Ruddy Turnstone. Next was the Common Loon out on the Lake and a Forster's Tern on a buoy. There was no Osprey. Turning around to look into the nearby trees, we saw Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white Warblers. We also saw a Prothonotary at that promontory. We heard later from Jon Seymour's group that exactly at 5:00 they too had a Ruddy Turnstone on the beach, and it was chased away by a Peregrine!

Next was the beach and with no Ruddy Turnstone there, we thought we had found the only one. Common Tern, Ring-billed Gull, Meadowlark and a Blackpoll Warbler were there. On Compton Road we checked off a Red-tailed Hawk (on a nest), White-crowned Sparrow, Kingbird, White Nuthatch and House Finch. I called to Jerry a possible Blue-headed Vireo calling. He found it and pointed out the Philadelphia Vireo instead that was calling.

At our next stop, the boardwalk at Spring Valley, we noticed the tree where the Black Rat Snakes hibernate had blown over. Fortunately, we found no dead snakes. Last year, on the same but warmer day, they were out sunning. Carefully searching and listening, there were no Virginia Rail, Swamp Sparrow, Moorhen, or Sandhill Crane. We did find Red-shouldered Hawk, Coot, Hooded Merganser, and Blue-winged Teal. At the Roxanna/New Burlington gravel pit lakes we found only Kingfisher and Cormorant. There were no ducks! There was no Osprey. Our theory the ducks would be held back by the weather wasn't working. They were here last week!

Heading through Lebanon for our next spot, a flooded field that had numerous shorebirds last week, we saw a Kestrel fly to the top of a pole. When we arrived at the field, the water was there but the shorebirds were not. The owner saw us looking from the road and said, "We should grow rice in that field." Erich replied, "No, we like it just that way for the shorebirds." Next, along Bethany Road, Erich had found a construction pond with many shorebirds. Checking it in the fading light we quickly found all the common shorebirds plus Dunlin, Snipe and about forty Dowitchers. We arrived at Voice of America at dusk just in time to see Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows. Then the Henslow's and Woodcocks began to call in earnest. With no Horned Larks in their usual place at VOA, we decided to head to Union Center Blvd. where we found them and shorebirds, several days before. When we arrived, the bulldozers had done their damage just that day, and no Horned Larks were to be found. Who sang those lyrics, "pave paradise and put up a parking lot?"

At one of our stops to find owls, we called at Sharon Woods to hear if a Barred Owl would answer. After our first call, nothing happened. Then, with another, two shadowy figures floated toward us. From then until we could quickly return to our car, it sounded like the Howler Monkeys at the Cincinnati Zoo were after us! Erich and Jerry sure give authentic Barred owl calls!

What to do next, we pondered? If we go to Higgensport, we won't get much, if any sleep. But, we decided to go, as the Bald Eagle nest was a "gimmie", and we had a Great Horned Owl and Barn Owl spot. After five minutes at the eagle nest, we searched

the Chilo Lock area for our Great Horned Owl, but he wasn't there this week. At the Barn Owl nest, we heard the adult call. From the hills we heard no Whip-por-will call, so we decided to go to our usual Indiana site. Arrived about 2 a.m., and listened while we dozed in the car, we heard nothing! Then back to my home for a very late night birthday party for Jerry. (He's young!)

After 1-1/2 hours of sleep, we headed for Bowles Woods and Timberlakes at Miami Whitewater. A cacophony of calls confronted us. But what a joy it was to pick them apart and check off one warbler after another. Tennessee Warblers dominated. Hooded Warblers had returned after finding only one last year. However, the Louisiana Waterthrush would not call. At the back of Miami Whitewater Lake, we found Blue-winged, Prairie and Chat. There was no Olive-sided or Least Flycatcher there this year. Turkey were all over that Park!

At Mitchell Memorial Forest, we readily found the Cape May Warblers that had been there a day before. At the shallow ponds in the gravel pit along Mt. Nebo and Lawrenceburg Roads, Semipalmated Plovers, Bank and Cliff Swallows were present. At Shawnee Lookout, from Tomahawk Knob we viewed a peregrine on the box. At the road's end, five American Redstart males were singing. Jerry and I told Erich to drive to the Miami Fort Power Plant to find a Black Vulture. He replied, "Sure! Like I will drive there and find one over the road?" So, we drove there and found one, just one, flying over the road!

Next, at the Oxbow, we drove to the left. A falcon flew over us. It sure looked like a Merlin, but we didn't count it. Coming back, an immature Night Heron flew in the willows. Was it the Yellow-crowned? We couldn't find it again. So, we didn't mark it. Further, a shorebird lands near the car. As all eyes meet those of the shorebird, and Jerry exclaims, "Hey, is that a Baird's?", it shot out of there before we could identify it. We didn't count that one either. However, the Great Egrets were readily identified.

At a gravel pit lake along Lawrenceburg Road north of Elizabethtown, we found more shorebirds. Jerry told Erich, "Go to the edge and look down and you might find something." Find something he did! A Greater Scaup male swam away from him. I took a good photo of that one. Stopping at the Campbell Road Lakes, we found no Osprey, again! Back at the Miami Whitewater Wetlands, we hiked south of Baughman Road. A Sora called, and then a wren popped up right in front of us. We all froze, and so did the wren. Yes, it was a Marsh Wren! Then some Cedar Waxwings flew over, the first we've found on Birdathon in a long time. Walking north of Baughman Road, we came across Willow Flycatchers, Northern Waterthrush, and two Rudy Ducks on the main pond. An adult Northern Water Snake was swimming alongside us. Over at the access road to the bat house, several Sedge Wren were calling.

Decision time. Should we go to Gilmore or Spring Grove Cemetery for more warblers? We chose Spring Grove and found no warblers. We thought we saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch make a beeline above us. But, we didn't count it. Of course, the Black-crowned Night Herons helped. As it was time to return for the tally at Winton Center, we headed there, stopping at the Silt Basin first. Upon arriving, an Osprey flew over! Next we went to the East Woods near Warren Wells Preserve. There are pines in here, and Jay Stenger said some time ago there are warblers here too. He was right. High above we saw and heard Black-throated Green, Pine, Chestnut-sided and Blackburnian.

At the tally, we came in second with 143 species and 25 warblers. The next day, as usual, my jinx Birdathon bird, the Least Flycatcher, was in the yard. Many thanks to Erich for allowing us to muddy his car and to Jerry for his eagle eyes.



Students and Parents of Bright Elementary School's Outdoor Club sponsored by teacher Cathy Mund strike out across the Oxbow fields on a quest of picking up trash in the Mercer Pond area.



Two Bright Elementary students stop to examine turtles and frogs trapped in pools by receding flood waters. This is what "getting out" in nature is all about. There can be a surprise in every puddle.



The students, parents, and sponsor/teacher Cathy Mund of the Bright Elementary School Outdoor Club declare victory over trash at the end of the Earth Day clean-up. The Oxbow will be forever grateful for their Herculean efforts.



Tires are not the only things that the explorers from the Bright Elementary Outdoor Club were able to roll out of the woods. This rusted out 55 gallon drum was later found to harbor a nest of mice. That must have been some Merry-go-round ride for those mice.



Students from Bright Elementary School Outdoor Club discuss strategy. What's next? There was no lack of trash for anyone. The problem was figuring out where to begin.



The Outdoor Club corralled 170 tires and found themselves asking that age old question of, "Are tires supposed to roll up hill?"



Chris and Suzanne Clingman of Clermont County sit back to catch their breath and down some pizza donated by Papa John's after tallying 104 species of birds in the 24 hour period.



Charlie Saunders, Bob Lacker, Lauren Saunders, and Steve Pelikan reminisce over the days events and figure out what tall tales they want to tell the other teams.



Bill Stanley, Sandy Pence, and Jerry Carter wait in anticipation of hearing the final counts of the teams and swapping Birdathon stories with the other participants.



Wayne Wauligman prepares to dive into the Papa Johns Pizza.  
*Photo by Meg Poehlmann.*



What draws such a crowd of curious onlookers? What could be so popular? We'll see in the photo to the right.



I don't know why I am so popular. I am just a mouse whose house was jostled about.

## Birdathon 2006 Results

Birdathon 2006 is over! We raised a lot of money for the Oxbow and all the participants had a great time! The combined list of all the species seen by all the teams is found on pages (9 & 10). Twenty-five of the species reported were seen by only one Team.

Every one of the participating teams contributed at least one species to the list that no other team saw. The combined groups (8 Teams and 27 Birders) recorded an astonishing 181 species in the Cincinnati area during the 24 hour Birdathon. This was done even though the number of duck species sighted was unusually low. Most of the waterfowl migration passed through the Cincinnati area early in the year. With the warm weather the ducks had no reason to stay around the Ohio River Valley since the water was open nearly all the way to Canada. It just shows that we need all the participants we can get and every team contributes to the overall experience.

The pledges and donations for the Birdathon are still coming in so in the next newsletter we will list all the donors and give the total of the fundraising. It looks now that we will beat last year's donations total, which was our goal for 2006. Thank You

At the tally at the end of the Birdathon the participants chowed down on Pizza donated by Papa Johns washed it down with drinks donated by Steve Pelikan and Anita Buck. Steve Pelikan and Anita Buck also provided veggies and cookies. Anita and Jim and Meg Poehlmann picked up the donations of food and had it all set up and ready for all the hungry participants. Thanks to you all. You have no idea how good it feels to sit down with the other teams and discuss the Birdathon and eat pizza.

We did have some winners in our categories:

- Most species in a limited area – 71 species in 2 Counties: John and Barb Eckles & Dave and Vickie Tozier.
- Best ratio of species to miles driven: 105 species for driving 165 miles – Sister Marty Dermody and Katherine Miller.
- Most species seen in the Birdathon Area: 150 species for Paul Wharton, Jay and Jack Stenger, and Joe Bens

Other Totals for the Birdathon:

- 143 - Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman, and Erich Baumgardner
- 137 - Charlie and Lauren Saunders, Mike Busam, Bob Lacker, Steve Pelikan
- 133 - Jon Seymour, Bob Foppe, Don Morse, Jeff Burress
- 109 - Bill Stanley, Jerry Carter and Sandy Pence
- 105 - Sister Marty Dermody and Katherine Miller
- 104 - Chris and Suzanne Clingman
- 71 - John and Barb Eckles, and Dave and Vickie Tozier
- 22 - Karl Maslowski reported from his backyard area but did not compete

### **Birdathon Highlights from the Oxbow Team of Erich Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert and Wayne Wauligman**

.....by Wayne Wauligman

With weather conditions expected to be cool, rainy and windy, we were excited. You know how it goes, "The worse the weather the better the birds!" We were hoping the front would stop some birds and keep the warblers low. And for us it did!

## Birdathon 2006 (The Peregrine ate our Turnstone!)

.....by Jon Seymour

About an hour before Birdathon 2006 was scheduled to start we flushed a Rudy Turnstone from its meal table along a Caesar Creek inlet. We watched it until it was out of sight, flying north up the shore of the lake. A quick trip south to the other side of the lake to the beach area and we were lucky to find what appeared to be another Rudy Turnstone on the beach. This would have been a great bird to have on the Birdathon list. The cold, cloudy weather with its threat of rain was actually perfect. It would keep boaters off the lake and swimmers off the beach. There was a chance that the Rudy Turnstone might be there when we returned from our selected starting point of Spring Valley Wildlife Management Area. An hour after the Birdathon started, my team, consisting of Bob Foppe, Don Morse, Jeff Burress and myself, returned to the Caesar Creek beach area. Walking down to the beach we could see Common Terns on and near the beach but the buckle of the grass lawn prevented us from seeing small shorebirds near the shoreline. As I was gazing through my binoculars to see if I could see any birds on the shore, a steel gray shadow flashed through my field of vision and I instinctively followed the shadow. The form, the speed, the markings of the face all scream "Peregrine" and he accelerates toward the end of the beach. I holler "Peregrine, just above the beach, going left to right." I hear the others behind me exclaim "Peregrine" as they find it and make their own separate identification. Then as quickly as he appeared he is gone. I holler again, "He's cleared the beach"! My first thought was, "He's trying to eat our Turnstone!"

Sure enough, a closer approach to the beach showed that no birds remained on the sand the Peregrine was gone and so was any Rudy Turnstone that might have been there. We never saw another. There was a bright side, shortly after the Peregrine cleared the beach a single Herring Gull, sometimes hard to find during Birdathon, drifted into the beach from the opposite direction. At the end of the Birdathon during the tally while we were swapping stories we found out that other teams had also seen Rudy Turnstones at Caesar Creek, after our little Peregrine adventure. Seems like they did survive!

It turned out to be a great 24 hour period for birding and we had good but not great luck particularly with ducks and warblers. A walk in the Oxbow turned up both Horned Lark and American Pipet, both hard at Birdathon time. A stop at Lost Bridge allowed a view of scraped fields with water puddles that attract some shorebirds. As we exited the car to set up our scopes another Peregrine swept in from the south. We don't know what this did to our chances of seeing anything since we had not previously looked the area over. We found a Dunlin to add to our list and we were happy. At the end of the Birdathon others reported more species from this same area than we had seen. Maybe the Peregrine Patrol did it to us again. We ended the day with 133 species and a respectable finish of 4<sup>th</sup> Place in the overall species count. I wonder how many more we could have had if it wasn't for those "darn" Peregrines following us everywhere.



# BIRDATHON 2006

## CinCheck

Cincinnati Birding Checklist  
cincinnatibirds.com

Date: May 12, 2006 - May 13, 2006

Birders: 27 Birders in  
8 Teams

Location: Birdathon Area  
Cincinnati

Notes: 181 species  
Combined

All eight teams contributed at least  
one species unique on this list.

X	BCD	Hermit Thrush	1
X	AAAAA	Wood Thrush	8
X	AAAAA	American Robin	8
X	BAAAA	Gray Catbird	8
X	BBBBB	Northern Mockingbird	8
X	ABBBB	Brown Thrasher	8
X	AAAAA	European Starling	8
X	EEE	American Pipit	1
X	DCBBB	Cedar Waxwing	8
X	BBBBB	Blue-winged Warbler	5
X	DDDD	Golden-winged Warbler	8
X	BAAAA	Tennessee Warbler	6
X	DDD	Orange-crowned Warbler	8
X	BABC	Nashville Warbler	4
X	CCDD	Northern Parula	8
X	AAAAA	Yellow Warbler	8
X	CCBB	Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
X	DCBB	Magnolia Warbler	4
X	CBCE	Cape May Warbler	4
X	DCD	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
X	AAABE	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7
X	AAABD	Black-throated Green Warbler	6
X	CBBD	Blackburnian Warbler	5
X	BBBBB	Yellow-throated Warbler	7
X	CCDD	Pine Warbler	4
X	CCCC	Prairie Warbler	5
X	BBBCD	Palm Warbler	2
X	DC8BD	Bay-breasted Warbler	3
X	DC8BD	Blackpoll Warbler	3
X	BB8BB	Cerulean Warbler	8
X	BB8CD	Black-and-white Warbler	7
X	DC8BC	American Redstart	8
X	CC8C8	Prothonotary Warbler	6
X	DDDD	Worm-eating Warbler	1
X	BB8BC	Ovenbird	6
X	CCDD	Northern Waterthrush	3
X	BC0CC	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
X	CB8BB	Kentucky Warbler	5
X	EEE	Connecticut Warbler	1
X	DCDD	Mourning Warbler	8
X	BAAAA	Common Yellowthroat	8
X	BB8BC	Hooded Warbler	6
X	EDCCD	Wilson's Warbler	3
X	DDCC	Canada Warbler	8
X	DC8BB	Yellow-breasted Chat	7
X	CB8BB	Summer Tanager	6
X	BAAAB	Scarlet Tanager	8
X	AAAAA	Eastern Towhee	8
X	BB8BB	Chipping Sparrow	8
X	AAAAA	Field Sparrow	8
X	EEEE	Vesper Sparrow	8
X	CCDD	Savannah Sparrow	6
X	DDDD	Grasshopper Sparrow	4
X	EEEE	Henslow's Sparrow	4
X	AAAAA	Song Sparrow	8
X	EDDE	Lincoln's Sparrow	8
X	BCCE	Swamp Sparrow	3
X	AABCD	White-throated Sparrow	3
X	CBCE	White-crowned Sparrow	3
X	DDD	Dark-eyed Junco	8
X	AAAAA	Northern Cardinal	8
X	BBBBB	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
X	EEDDD	Blue Grosbeak	1
X	BAAAA	Indigo Bunting	8
X	EDDD	Dickcissel	1
X	ECCDD	Bobolink	8
X	AAAAA	Red-winged Blackbird	8
X	BBBBB	Eastern Meadowlark	7
X	DDE	Rusty Blackbird	8
X	AAAAA	Common Grackle	8
X	AAAAA	Brown-headed Cowbird	8
X	BBBBB	Orchard Oriole	8
X	BAAAA	Baltimore Oriole	8
X	DDE	Purple Finch	8
X	AAAAA	House Finch	8
X	DDDE	Pine Siskin	8
X	AAAAA	American Goldfinch	8
X	EE	Evening Grosbeak	8
X	AAAAA	House Sparrow	8
X		Rare King Rail	1

EEE	Snow Goose
X	Canada Goose 8 *
DD	Mute Swan 4
X	Wood Duck 8
DDD	Gadwall
CODE	American Wigeon
DDEEE	American Black Duck
X	Mallard 8
X	Blue-winged Teal 6
X	Northern Shoveler 1
DD	Northern Pintail
CD	Green-winged Teal
E	Redhead
CDDDD	Ring-necked Duck
X	Lesser Scaup 1
DEE	Bufflehead
DDDDD	Hooded Merganser 4
DDDE	Red-breasted Merganser
DDDDD	Ruddy Duck 4
EEEE	Ring-necked Pheasant
CCCC	Wild Turkey 5
X	Northern Bobwhite 3
DDDDD	Common Loon 3
BCCCC	Pied-billed Grebe 7
EE	Horned Grebe
CCCC	Double-crested Cormorant 5
DDDDD	American Bittern 2
DDDDD	Least Bittern 1
BBBBB	Great Blue Heron 8
DDDDD	Great Egret 3
EE	Snowy Egret
EEEE	Little Blue Heron
EEEE	Cattle Egret
CBBBB	Green Heron 7
CCCC	Black-crowned Night-Heron 4
EEEE	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
DDDDD	Black Vulture 8
AAAAA	Turkey Vulture 8
CDDDD	Osprey 6 4
DDDEE	Bald Eagle 4
DDEEE	Northern Harrier 1
DDEEE	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
CCCC	Cooper's Hawk 5
CCCC	Red-shouldered Hawk 6
CCCC	Broad-winged Hawk 1
BBBBB	Red-tailed Hawk 8
BBBBB	American Kestrel 7
EE	Merlin
DDDDD	Peregrine Falcon 5
DDDDD	Virginia Rail 1

CCDD	Sora 1
DDDDD	Common Moorhen 4
BCCCC	American Coot 6
EEE	Sandhill Crane
DDDD	Black-bellied Plover 1
EEE	American Golden-Plover
DCCCC	Semipalmated Plover 6
AAAAA	Killdeer 8
EE	American Avocet
BCCDD	Greater Yellowlegs 4
BCCDD	Lesser Yellowlegs 6
BCCCE	Solitary Sandpiper 6
EEE	Willet
BBBBB	Spotted Sandpiper 6
EEEE	Upland Sandpiper
EEE	Ruddy Turnstone 4
DDCB	Semipalmated Sandpiper 3
DDCCC	Least Sandpiper 6
DDD	White-rumped Sandpiper 1
CCDDD	Pectoral Sandpiper 2
DDDDD	Dunlin 5
EDDD	Stilt Sandpiper
DDDDD	Short-billed Dowitcher 1
E	Long-billed Dowitcher
CDD	Wilson's Snipe 2
CCDDD	American Woodcock 4
EEEE	Wilson's Phalarope
DDDEE	Bonaparte's Gull
CCCC	Ring-billed Gull 8
DDDDD	Herring Gull 2
DDDEE	Caspian Tern 2
DDDEE	Common Tern 4
DDDD	Forster's Tern 5
DDDD	Black Tern 1
AAAAA	Rock Pigeon 8
AAAAA	Mourning Dove 8
DDDEE	Black-billed Cuckoo 3
DCBBB	Yellow-billed Cuckoo 7
EEEE	Barn Owl 3
CCCC	Eastern Screech-Owl 1
CCCC	Great Horned Owl 4
CCCC	Barred Owl 6
EDCCC	Common Nighthawk 4
EEEE	Whip-will's-widow
DDDEE	Whip-poor-will 2
AAAAA	Chimney Swift 8
DCBBB	Ruby-throated Hummingbird 8
BBBBB	Belted Kingfisher 8
CCCC	Red-headed Woodpecker 4
AAAAA	Red-bellied Woodpecker 8

CDE	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
AAAAA	Downy Woodpecker 8
BBBBB	Hairy Woodpecker 5
AAAAA	Northern Flicker 7
BBBBB	Pileated Woodpecker 8
DDD	Olive-sided Flycatcher 1
DCAAA	Eastern Wood-Pewee 6
EEE	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
ECBBA	Acadian Flycatcher 7
EE	Alder Flycatcher
DDCBB	Willow Flycatcher 7
CBBCD	Least Flycatcher 3
BCCCC	Eastern Phoebe 8
BAAAA	Great Crested Flycatcher 8
BBBBB	Eastern Kingbird 7
EEEE	Loggerhead Shrike
BBBBB	White-eyed Vireo 7
EEE	Bell's Vireo
BBBBB	Yellow-throated Vireo 7
BBCDE	Blue-headed Vireo 3
BBBBB	Warbling Vireo 7
DDCCD	Philadelphia Vireo 2
BAAAA	Red-eyed Vireo 8
AAAAA	Blue Jay 8
AAAAA	American Crow 8
CCCC	Horned Lark 4
CCBBB	Purple Martin 7
BBBBB	Tree Swallow 8
BBBBB	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 8
CCCCB	Bank Swallow 7
DDDDD	Cliff Swallow 6 7
BBBBB	Barn Swallow
AAAAA	Carolina Chickadee 8
AAAAA	Tufted Titmouse 8
DDDEE	Red-breasted Nuthatch
BBBBB	White-breasted Nuthatch 8
DD	Brown Creeper 1
AAAAA	Carolina Wren 8
EEEE	Bewick's Wren
AAAAA	House Wren 7
EE	Winter Wren
EEEE	Sedge Wren 1
DDDDD	Marsh Wren 3
DD	Golden-crowned Kinglet
ABCD	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
BBBBB	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 8
BBBBB	Eastern Bluebird 8
ECCE	Veery
DDCC	Gray-cheeked Thrush 1
BBAAB	Swainson's Thrush 6

\* Number of Teams reporting the Species (8 Total)

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**Karl Maslowski circa 1948, photo by Al Kain.**

Karl is editing 16mm film for a movie on wildlife. He's putting to use the film training he received during WW II as a combat cameraman. Among his military instructors was William Wyler, who later directed the Hollywood blockbuster "Ben-Hur".

Our membership volunteer has upgraded her computer. Due to the difference in programs, if you find problems with your mailing label, please let us know.

### Anyone for Fossil Fungi?

Our scheduled speaker in May got sick and was kind enough to recruit her own substitute for Oxbow. Sandy Stehlin stepped up to pinch hit in the emergency so instead of a treatise on fungi, we were treated to a discussion of local fossils. The Cincinnati area is world renowned among fossil collectors. The counties in and around Cincinnati sit on top of a structure call the Cincinnati Arch. It is a fold in the surface of the earth that brings some of the most ancient fossil beds to be found anywhere in the world right up to the surface where collectors can find them. Sandy brought several examples of local fossils to examine. She is fortunate to own land on a hillside with rock outcroppings so she can fossil hunt in her own yard. We will ask our speaker on fungi to return when she is feeling better. Thanks Sandy for stepping in a giving our attendees an unexpected treat.

## Oxbow, Inc.

A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands ecosystem know locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This agricultural area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

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