

WETLAND *matters*

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

Have you visited our website?...www.oxbowinc.info

Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

Birdathon 2007

The Watchers, the Birds and the Weatherman

The results of the Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon 2007, sponsored by Oxbow, Inc., have been tallied and finalized. There were winners in 5 categories this year. Not all teams reported in at the tally but 11 teams representing 27 observers traded in their count sheets for the pizza, cookies, chips, veggies and soft drinks provided by Oxbow, Inc. in the congenial surroundings of the Sharon Woods Centre.

The winners in the following categories are:

- Most Species in a back yard: 34 by Jon Seymour
- Most Species in a Single Defined Area: (Miami Whitewater Forest) 59 by Sister Marty Dermody and Katherine Miller
- Most Species per mile of travel: 1.31 species per mile traveled by Steve Pelikan, Charlie Saunders, and Mike Busam
- Most Species while Climbing Red-shouldered Hawk Nests and Banding the Young: (*a somewhat unique category but we accepted it as appropriate*) 62 by Jeff Hays
- Most Species seen in the Birdathon Area During the 24 hour period: 160 by Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger, and Joe Bens. **THE GOLDEN STARLING WINNERS**

The other team tallies are listed below:

- 148 Species: Dave Brinkman, Bob Foppe, Don Morse, and Bill Hull
- 148 Species: Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman, Erich Baumgartner
- 131 Species: Steve Pelikan, Charlie Saunders, and Mike Busam
- 116 Species: Chris & Suzanne Clingman

- 106 Species: John & Sarah Leon
- 84 Species: Ned Keller and Kathy MacDonald
- 80 Species: John & Barb Eckles and Dave & Vicki Tozier

Congratulations to all the teams and their members. It was a great time birding and the weather cooperated fully for the first time in memory. Steve Pelikan performed the MC duties at the Tally and each team shared a tale of a memorable incident that occurred during the Birdathon. A compilation of all the species tallied by the teams is on pages 8 and 9. This year all the teams collaborated to find a total of 183 species. At least 8 of the 11 teams contributed at least one species that none of the other groups found. This total of species is really good especially when you consider that almost no species of puddle ducks were observed in the area. They were already up north and breeding. As a side note I was recently listening to an National Public Radio story where they sent two reporters imbedded in two Birdathon Teams in Southwest Michigan. The two leading teams tied with 128 species. I will take our local Birdathon competitors over theirs any day.

Dave and Jane Styer report that they participated in the Monterey County "Birdiest County" count and were assigned to Ft. Ord and the mouth of the Salinas River. They identified 117 species of birds. The highlight was a Yellow-breasted Chat, common enough in the Cincinnati area, but a first on Ft. Ord. Other birds they reported such as Western Gulls, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Tricolored Blackbirds would be very exciting in the Oxbow area.

(Continued on page 2)

Oxbow's website has changed to:

www.oxbowinc.info



(Birdathon—continued from page 1)

As you know having a great time Birding is only half the goal of the Birdathon the other goal is to raise money for Oxbow habitat development and improved access. Next time we will list the amounts of money raised by the teams and by Oxbow over all. It is not too late to send in a supporting check made out to Oxbow, Inc. Send to:

Jon Seymour, Oxbow, Inc..
854 Ligorio Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45218.

○ NATURE'S BLOG

A log of natural events, natural history and nature-based philosophy

by Robert Folzenlogen

www.naturesblog.blogspot.com

Help the Environment and Help Oxbow, Too

EnviroSmart is one of the leading inkjet & laser recycling companies in the world. They will donate \$1 - \$3 to Oxbow for every InkJet, Laser cartridge or cellphone that members turn in for recycling. You may bring cartridges to members meetings or, to obtain prepaid envelopes, please contact Oxbow member:

Wade A. Wolf
Timberwolf Group Inc
636 valley Trails Dr.
Harrison OH 45030
Email wwolf@cinci.rr.com
Cell 513-238-2376

Member Sally Polk Passes On

Sally Polk, 88, was a member of Oxbow for 20 years and in that time played a major role in expanding the holdings of Oxbow, Inc. As a member of one of the land holding families in the Oxbow area she was instrumental in helping Oxbow, Inc. arrange to purchase pieces of property held by the family. Her faith in the mission and dedication of Oxbow, Inc. allowed her to actively support our petition to purchase the property owned by her and other members of a large extended family. We may have been able to do it without her help but it would have been much more difficult if not impossible. We will miss Sally as will many, many other organizations of which she supported or was an active member.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials & Honorariums

Donor
Ernesto G. Sabato, D.D.S.

In Memory of
Barbara J. Lukas

Donor
Virginia Rueve

In Honor of
Cheryl (Winslow) Devine, D.V.M.

Thanks for a generous contribution to Oxbow, Inc.
go to

Joan Friedland

Very special thanks for a major donation to Oxbow, Inc. go to:

The Karl Maslowski Family

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or relative will be enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Each contribution to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor.

Tributes are also enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Some tributes are birthday or anniversary remembrances, holiday greetings or gratitude acknowledgements. If so desired, "Happy Birthday!" or the like can be inscribed in the tribute notice.

Contributions should be sent to: Oxbow, Inc., P. O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.

Conservation Corner

.....by Jon Seymour

While the Birdathon has been occupying a lot of our time there are many exciting things going on in the Oxbow. The first is directly related to the Birdathon. Birdathon funds are dedicated to habitat and access improvement. With the initial success of last years Birdathon we started a project to establish a seasonal flood area between Oxbow Lake and the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District. This last year we contacted the US Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Division and toured the area with Jeff Keifer their Southern Indiana Agent. Jeff was excited about our vision and brought us into contact with John Coluccy of the Midwest Ducks Unlimited (DU). Another tour of the planned area resulted in more excitement and the proposal to have DU help establish the design requirements and the initial engineering of a road/dike and water control structure. At the time of this writing we are examining the DUs initial proposal for survey and design work. We hope this exciting project, when complete, will be a demonstration of multiple wildlife and agricultural use that other farmers may adopt.

You may notice a lot more traffic on the Oxbow Lake road this summer as the IDOT should start the mitigation project along the southwest side of Oxbow Lake to establish a 50 foot riparian strip along the shore about ½ mile in length. This project has been slow getting started but should take place this year. The result will be a better lake-side habitat along the Oxbow Lake shore. My only concern is whether the Beaver will leave enough of it alone to allow tree growth.

While we have not had any recent opportunity to acquire land (no currently willing sellers) we have had the opportunity to help the Hamilton County Park District acquire another portion of the Oxbow on the Ohio side of the border. In early 2006 the Park District applied for Clean Ohio Funding to purchase the Jansen Property. The Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. voted to join the Park District as a supporting applicant and pledged \$1000 to matching funds for the Clean Ohio Grant. By adding our voice to the application we enhanced the community support component of the application and hopefully aided the success of the application. Late last year the Park District closed on the property which will be restored to river bottom forest area. Both the Park District and Oxbow, Inc. are proud of our continued collaboration to save the floodplain of the Great Miami River. (see map on page 5)

Two years ago we received a \$1000 grant from Xavier University through Dr. George Farnsworth's class project. The grant was to study contamination run off from the Greendale business park and its effect on Oxbow Lake.

Dr. Michael Miller of the University of Cincinnati coordinated taking water samples from the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District (run off water from the business park) and water samples from Oxbow Lake. The samples were analyzed by the Greenacres Foundation and incorporated into the data base they are gathering on the Great Miami River. As a result the Board of Oxbow, Inc. used the grant money to pay the Greenacres Foundation for equipment and supplies used in obtaining the measurements for this continuing project. In future Wetland Matters we will have discussion of the results of the monitoring.

Update on Gregory Pecker, Mockingbird

.....by Linda Stroud

Gregory and his mate have been frequent visitors at the feeder, and she seems to be getting almost as bold as he - they both frequently wait patiently in the Burr Oak for me to dole out their raisins. Since I haven't seen them together for a week or so, and since Greg's visits seem to be early morning, mid-day and late evening, I suspect that they have a nest, and maybe young, at this point. My guess is that he's spending much of his day providing food for the little ones. He has just stopped by for his evening's treats. I am also pleased to report that he is less aggressive than in past years - maybe the certainty of a food source has made him a little easier to get along with. My neighbor, who provided the pictures for your recent story, did see him run off a hawk from the yard next to hers last weekend - we suspect his nest might be in that area.

Earlier this spring he seemed to be interested in watching me do yard work - he seemed to be in the immediate area the entire time I was outside, singing all the while.

We think we know where Greg's first nest was - the babies were pretty loud just before fledging and immediately after, both Greg and Ingrid (well -she had to have a name, too. Ingrid Bergman costarred with Gregory Peck, so it seemed right.) have been at my feeders at the same time. We think they are building nest #2 in a front yard several doors down. They have become more adamant about when they get food - one has now switched to red grapes and one is still going for raisins. Due to an influx of less desirable, really piggy birds at my main feeder, I have a small feeder set up for the Mockingbirds just under my pergola - so far, the Mockingbirds are the only ones who have found the secret feeder stocked with raisins and grapes. They show up when I let the dogs out for lunch and making the most horrid buzzing noises while I fill their feeders, all while perched about two feet on either side of me, waiting, but not patiently.

Last week I came home to see our sharp-shinned hawk perched on my back fence, with Gregory attacking from the air - the hawk took off with Greg in pursuit, assisted by several other birds. My neighbor reports the same scenario in her back yard several weeks ago.

(Editor's note—Linda has promised to keep me updated on Gregory. I'll pass the updates along.)



usings

by Dave Styer

Caspian Tern

The largest tern of the Oxbow area, the Caspian Tern, is in fact the world's largest tern. The Caspian Tern weighs as much as four of the Oxbow area's second largest tern, Forster's Tern. Books note that most terns are very slender, but that the Caspian Tern has a heavier, gull-like build, and that it soars like gulls. Caspian Terns are slightly heavier than Ring-billed Gulls, but substantially lighter than Herring Gulls. Oft quoted is the phrase in A. C. Bent's *Life Histories* that this is "the largest, the strongest and the fiercest of the terns." When I lived in the Cincinnati area, far from where these terns nest, I didn't fully appreciate the "fierce" quality of Caspian Terns. I was taken by surprise a while ago at the Salinas National Wildlife Refuge on Monterey Bay: a Caspian Tern came screaming toward me and flew right over. I was truly intimidated. Lions and tigers and terns! Oh, my!

With the name "Caspian Tern" you might guess that this bird lives by the Caspian Sea, and you would be right. This species was described for science and named by Pallas in 1770 from a specimen collected near the Caspian Sea. In fact, the Caspian Tern nests on all continents except South America and Antarctica. Three of Oxbow areas five tern species are widely distributed. The Common Tern and the Black Tern nest in the Old World as well as the New World. One does need to be cautious about making assumptions. The Caspian Tern could have been named for a bird from Caspiana, Louisiana. Sure! On the Internet, I located a John Caspian in South Carolina. Maybe the tern was named for one of his ancestors. Right! Of course, the tern could have been named for a bird *thought* to have come from the Caspian Sea when it was actually killed by a fly ball in Crosley Field. Mistakes happen. Linnaeus named the Common Milkweed *Asclepias syriaca* because he thought it came from the Orient (Syria). It doesn't; it comes from North America.

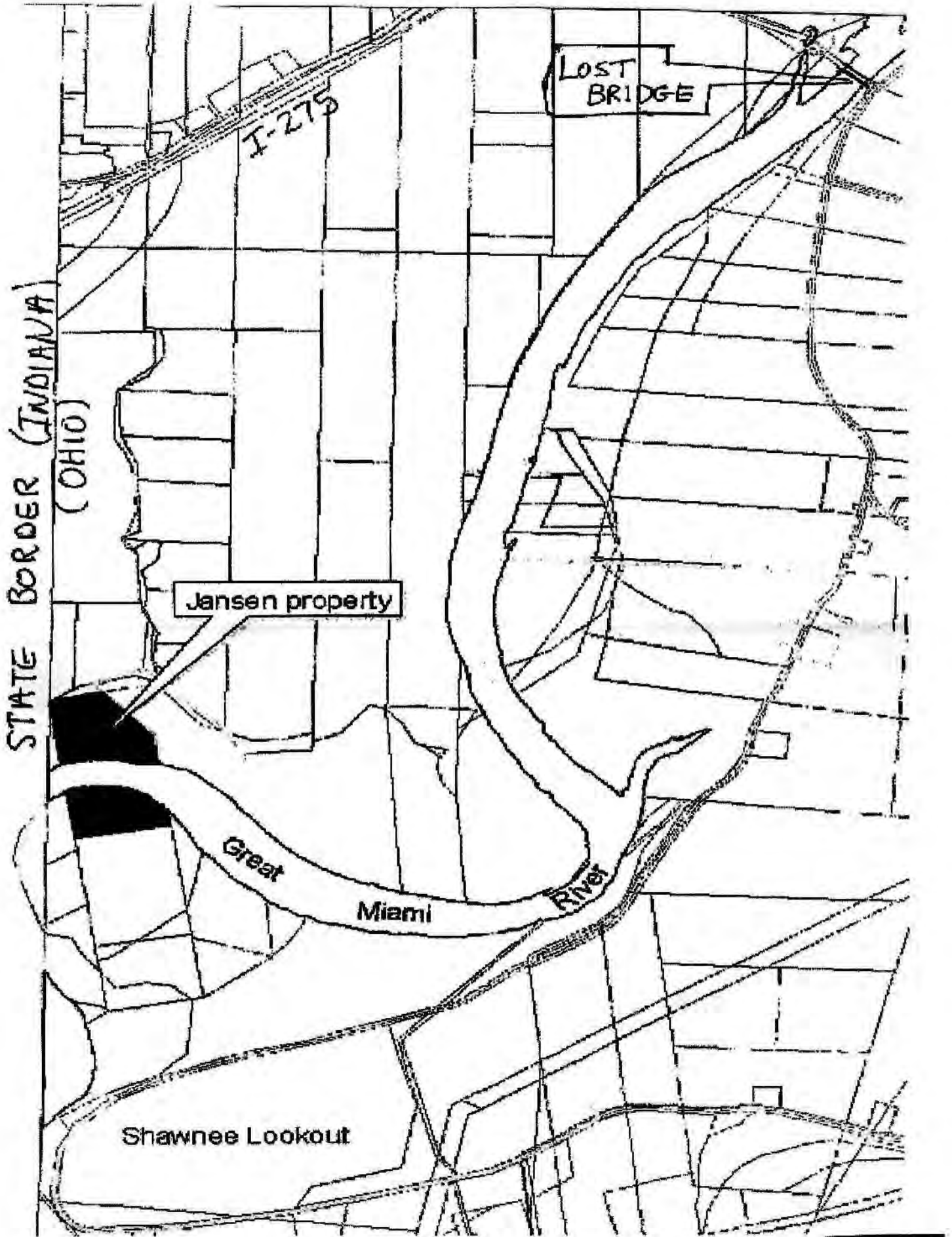
Young Caspian Terns don't usually start breeding until their fourth summer. These birds have been known to live over twenty-five years, so their longevity more than compensates for their slow start at reproduction. When they do nest, they usually lay only two eggs,

and raise just one brood a year. Compare this to songbirds that raise two or three broods of four or five young per year. An individual Caspian Tern's chance of survival is far greater than that of a European Starling. From my (human) point of view the Caspian Tern's life seems better. (Which would you rather be?) For biological success, a long life is no necessity. Starlings are far more widespread over the land, and seem much less threatened by events. Although one Caspian Tern weighs as much as six European Starlings, I would wager that the total weight of living starlings far exceeds that of Caspian Terns.

In the Caspian Tern treatment by Francesca Cuthbert and Linda Wires in *The Birds of North America* there are two statements a couple of paragraphs apart that seem almost contradictory. For one thing "Caspian Terns have the longest period of parental care of any tern; most immatures remain partly dependent on parents and continue to be fed by them for several months." However, "In late summer before migrating south, young birds disperse from natal colonies and sometimes wander; 2 Pacific Coast hatch-year birds were recovered 800 and 1,500 km north of natal colonies 2 mo[nths] after banding...." Now I have ended up asking: How can the young wander like that if they are dependent on their parents? I think Jim McCormac and Gregory Kennedy allude to the answer in their book *Birds of Ohio*. "In fall passage, adults are often accompanied by their offspring, who continue to pester their parents for good. The long-suffering adults provide the longest period of parental care of any tern, enduring the freeloading young for several months." So that's what it's all about: teenagers who could go out and earn their own living, but find it easier to stay home and be fed by their parents. The Caspian Tern has a more human life style than I ever imagined.

In looking back at *Birds of the Oxbow*, I see that the very latest record of the year was four birds seen by Morris Mercer, Alan Knue, and his sister. Two were adults and two were immature. Perhaps the adults were the parents of the young ones. Perhaps, the young ones were tagging along to be fed. No wonder they were late. It's so hard to get anywhere with the kids in tow.







At the Tally 2007



Erich Baumgartner, Jerry Lippert, and Wayne Wauligman (photo by Jon Seymour)



John & Barb Eckles and Dave & Vicki Tozier (photo by Jon Seymour)



Mike Busam, Steve Pelikan, Charlie Saunders (photo by Jon Seymour)



Bill Hull, Bob Foppe, Dave Brinkman, and Don Morse (photo by Jon Seymour)



Chris and Suzanne Clingman (photo by Jon Seymour)



**HAPPY
FOURTH
OF
JULY!**



Sister Marty Dermody & Katherine Miller (photo by Jon Seymour)



After devouring Pizza, pop, veggies and cookies Birdathon participants put together the grand list by comparing all lists against the winning list. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Ned Keller (photo by Jon Seymour)



The meeting room at the Sharon Woods Centre provided an excellent finishing place for the tally with sufficient room to kick back and relax after 24 hours of birding and compare birding adventures. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Jack & Jay Stenger, Paul Wharton, and Joe Bens (photo by Jon Seymour)



Jeff Hays (photo by Jon Seymour)

= Number of Teams Report the species (max = 11)

| | | |
|----|-------|------------------------------|
| 9 | BOD | Hermit Thrush |
| 11 | AAAA | Wood Thrush |
| 10 | AAAA | American Robin |
| 11 | BAAA | Gray Catbird |
| 7 | BBB | Northern Mockingbird |
| 11 | ABBB | Brown Thrasher |
| 1 | AAAA | European Starling |
| 1 | EEE | American Pipit |
| 7 | DCBB | Cedar Waxwing |
| 7 | BBB | Blue-winged Warbler |
| 9 | DDDE | Golden-winged Warbler |
| 9 | BAAAD | Tennessee Warbler |
| 5 | DDD | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| 9 | BABC | Nashville Warbler |
| 9 | CCDD | Northern Parula |
| 9 | AAAA | Yellow Warbler |
| 5 | CBBD | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 4 | DCBC | Magnolia Warbler |
| 4 | CABCE | Cape May Warbler |
| 2 | DCCD | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 7 | AAABE | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 7 | AAABD | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 2 | CBBD | Blackburnian Warbler |
| 8 | BBB | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 2 | CCDD | Pine Warbler |
| 9 | CCCC | Prairie Warbler |
| 3 | BBBCD | Palm Warbler |
| 9 | DCBBD | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 9 | DCBBD | Blackpoll Warbler |
| 3 | BBB | Cerulean Warbler |
| 3 | BBBCD | Black-and-white Warbler |
| 6 | DCBBC | American Redstart |
| 6 | CCCB | Prothonotary Warbler |
| 3 | DDDD | Worm-eating Warbler |
| 6 | BBABC | Ovenbird |
| 2 | CCDD | Northern Waterthrush |
| 4 | BCCCC | Louisiana Waterthrush |
| 4 | CBBB | Kentucky Warbler |
| 1 | EEE | Connecticut Warbler |
| 1 | DDCD | Mourning Warbler |
| 9 | BAAAA | Common Yellowthroat |
| 5 | BBB | Hooded Warbler |
| 3 | EDCCD | Wilson's Warbler |
| 1 | CCCC | Canada Warbler |
| 8 | DCBBB | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| 7 | CBBB | Summer Tanager |
| 9 | BAAA | Scarlet Tanager |
| 10 | AAAA | Eastern Tanager |
| 1 | BBB | Chipping Sparrow |
| 9 | AAAA | Field Sparrow |

44 Species

| | | |
|----|-------|------------------------|
| 6 | EEEE | Vesper Sparrow |
| 3 | CCDD | Savannah Sparrow |
| 3 | DDDD | Grasshopper Sparrow |
| 5 | EEEE | Henslow's Sparrow |
| 11 | AAAA | Song Sparrow |
| 4 | EDDE | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| 4 | BCCE | Swamp Sparrow |
| 2 | ABCD | White-throated Sparrow |
| 7 | CBCE | White-crowned Sparrow |
| 10 | DD | Dark-eyed Junco |
| 7 | AAAA | Northern Cardinal |
| 1 | BBB | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 7 | EEDD | Blue Grosbeak |
| 9 | BAAA | Indigo Bunting |
| 5 | EDDD | Dickcissel |
| 5 | ECCDD | Bobolink |
| 11 | AAAA | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 8 | BBB | Eastern Meadowlark |
| 1 | DDE | Rusty Blackbird |
| 11 | AAAA | Common Grackle |
| 11 | AAAA | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 9 | BBB | Orchard Oriole |
| 11 | BAAA | Baltimore Oriole |
| 8 | DDE | Purple Finch |
| 1 | AAAA | House Finch |
| 1 | DDDE | Pine Siskin |
| 1 | AAAA | American Goldfinch |
| 1 | EE | Evening Grosbeak |
| 1 | AAAA | House Sparrow |
| 1 | 1 | Red necked Grebe |
| 1 | 1 | King Rail |
| 1 | 1 | Sudf Sooter |

25 species

How to read these pages

1st week of May → 5th week of May
 B B C C D
 each letter represents on week

A = should find on over 90% of bird trips
 B = should find on over 50% of bird trips

C = should find on less than 50% of bird trips
 D = should find on less than 10% of bird trips
 E = very hard to find but regularly present.

Notes: 183 Total Species

Location: All countries within or touched by a 50 mile radius circle with its center in the Orbaru

Cincinnati Birding Checklist
 CincinnatiBirds.com
 Date: May 11, 2007
 Birders: 11 Teams
 27 Birders

Cincheck

= Number of Teams reporting species (Max = 11)

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| EEE | Snow Goose |
| AAAA | Canada Goose |
| DD | Mute Swan |
| BBBB | Wood Duck |
| DD | Gadwall |
| DDDE | American Wigeon |
| DDDEE | American Black Duck |
| AAAA | Mallard |
| BBCC | Blue-winged Teal |
| DDDD | Northern Shoveler |
| DD | Northern Pintail |
| CD | Green-winged Teal |
| E | Redhead |
| DDDD | Ring-necked Duck |
| DDDE | Lesser Scaup |
| DEE | Bufflehead |
| DDDD | Hooded Merganser |
| DDDE | Red-breasted Merganser |
| DDDD | Ruddy Duck |
| EEEE | Ring-necked Pheasant |
| CCCC | Wild Turkey |
| CCCB | Northern Bobwhite |
| DDDD | Common Loon |
| BCDC | Pied-billed Grebe |
| EE | Horned Grebe |
| CCCC | Double-crested Cormorant |
| DDDD | American Bittern |
| DDDD | Least Bittern |
| BBBB | Great Blue Heron |
| DDDD | Great Egret |
| EE | Snowy Egret |
| EEEE | Little Blue Heron |
| EEEE | Cattle Egret |
| CBBB | Green Heron |
| CCCC | Black-crowned Night-Heron |
| EEEE | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron |
| DDDD | Black Vulture |
| AAAA | Turkey Vulture |
| DDDD | Osprey |
| DDDE | Bald Eagle |
| DDDEE | Northern Harrier |
| DDDEE | Sharp-shinned Hawk |
| CCCD | Coeper's Hawk |
| CCCC | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| CCCC | Broad-winged Hawk |
| BBBB | Red-tailed Hawk |
| BBBB | American Kestrel |
| EE | Martin |
| DDDD | Peregrine Falcon |
| DDDD | Virginia Rail |

34 Species

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| CCDD | Sora |
| DDDD | Common Moorhen |
| BCCC | American Coot |
| EEE | Sandhill Crane |
| DDDC | Black-bellied Plover |
| EEE | American Golden-Plover |
| DDCC | Semipalmated Plover |
| AAAA | Killdeer |
| EE | American Avocet |
| BCDD | Greater Yellowlegs |
| BCDD | Lesser Yellowlegs |
| BCCE | Saltatory Sandpiper |
| EEE | Willet |
| BBBB | Spotted Sandpiper |
| EEEE | Upland Sandpiper |
| EEE | Ruddy Turnstone |
| CCB | Semipalmated Sandpiper |
| DDCC | Least Sandpiper |
| DD | White-rumped Sandpiper |
| CCDD | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| DDDD | Dunlin |
| EDDD | Stilt Sandpiper |
| DDDD | Short-billed Dowitcher |
| E | Long-billed Dowitcher |
| CCD | Wilson's Snipe |
| CCDD | American Woodcock |
| EEEE | Wilson's Phalarope |
| DDDE | Bonaparte's Gull |
| CCCC | Ring-billed Gull |
| DDDD | Herring Gull |
| DDDE | Caspian Tern |
| DDDE | Common Tern |
| DD | Forster's Tern |
| DDDD | Black Tern |
| AAAA | Rock Pigeon |
| AAAA | Mourning Dove |
| DDDE | Black-billed Cuckoo |
| DCBB | Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| EEEE | Barn Owl |
| CCCC | Eastern Screech-Owl |
| CCCC | Great Horned Owl |
| CCCC | Barned Owl |
| EDCC | Common Nighthawk |
| EEEE | Chuck-will's-widow |
| DDDE | Whip-poor-will |
| AAAA | Chimney Swift |
| DCCB | Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| BBBB | Belted Kingfisher |
| CCCC | Red-headed Woodpecker |
| AAAA | Red-bellied Woodpecker |

41 species

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| CDE | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| AAAA | Dowry Woodpecker |
| BBBB | Hairy Woodpecker |
| AAAA | Northern Flicker |
| BBBB | Pileated Woodpecker |
| DD | Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| DCAA | Eastern Wood-Pewee |
| EEE | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher |
| ECBA | Acadian Flycatcher |
| EE | Alder Flycatcher |
| DDCB | Willow Flycatcher |
| CBBCD | Least Flycatcher |
| BCCC | Eastern Phoebe |
| BAAA | Great Crested Flycatcher |
| BBBB | Eastern Kingbird |
| EEEE | Loggerhead Shrike |
| BBBB | White-eyed Vireo |
| EEE | Bell's Vireo |
| BBBB | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| BBCE | Blue-headed Vireo |
| BBBB | Warbling Vireo |
| DDCCD | Philadelphia Vireo |
| BAAA | Red-eyed Vireo |
| AAAA | Blue Jay |
| AAAA | American Crow |
| CCCC | Horned Lark |
| CCCB | Purple Martin |
| BBBB | Tree Swallow |
| BBBB | Northern Rough-winged Swallow |
| CCCB | Bank Swallow |
| DDDD | Cliff Swallow |
| BBBA | Barn Swallow |
| AAAA | Carolina Chickadee |
| AAAA | Tufted Titmouse |
| DDDE | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| BBBB | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| DD | Brown Creeper |
| AAAA | Carolina Wren |
| EEEE | Bewick's Wren |
| AAAA | House Wren |
| EE | Winter Wren |
| EEEE | Sedge Wren |
| DDDD | Marsh Wren |
| DD | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| ABCD | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| BBBB | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| BBBB | Eastern Bluebird |
| ECCE | Veery |
| DDCC | Gray-cheeked Thrush |
| BBAB | Swainson's Thrush |

39 species

OXBOW INC. FIELD TRIPS

Friday, July 20th, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Plant Hike

Join **Dan Boone**, local naturalist and plant expert, for this botanical hike into the Oxbow. Dan will search for and identify many of the interesting plants found here, including *Polygonum erectum*, which was grown by the prehistoric Indians who ate its starchy seeds. For more information, call Dan at 481-5997, or email Dan at jerboo@fuse.net. Meet at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot by the cement plant.

Thursday, August 23rd, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Long-legged Waders

Meet **Darlana Graham** at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. Darlana will lead you in a search for long-legged waders like herons and egrets, plus the other birding surprises the Oxbow usually has in store. For more information, call Darlana at 859-341-4893 (H), or email to darlena@fuse.net.

Saturday, September 8th, 2007, 8:00 a.m.

September Birds

Meet **Ned Keller** at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. Ned will lead a search for the interesting mix of birds which September provides, including migrant shorebirds, migrant songbirds like warblers and vireos, several types of herons, resident birds, and more! For more information call Ned at 941-6497 or email to keller@one.net.

Help Clean Up the Oxbow!

Every year debris floats into the Oxbow with the floods or unthinking people dump trash in the Oxbow. We have one more clean up this year and would very much appreciate your help. If you have a truck or know anyone who has a truck to help shuttle trash from pick-up site to the dumpster please let Kani know at kaniau@yahoo.com or 513-948-8630. Meet at Oxbow entrance parking area.

Great Miami River Clean Up

July 14, 2007

Clean up is from 8 am to noon.

OXBOW, INC. PROGRAMS

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.

Tuesday, July 10th, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Earth Connection, College of Mount St. Joseph

Dr. Wayne Wauligman, practicing dentist and volunteer Naturalist, will present a program on identification of local reptiles and amphibians (herps) with particular emphasis on those around the Oxbow area. Wayne will offer tips on how to locate them, their behaviors, and life history. For more information, call Wayne at 922-4430 (H) or email WRWPGW@aol.com.

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 14th, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Lawrenceburg Public Library,

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Ron Austing, naturalist and photographer, will speak tonight on the efforts of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, and show a 15-minute video on the Kirtland's Warbler showing all phases of their life cycle. Then Ron will present a slide show on birds through the seasons. The entire program will last about one hour. You won't want to miss it! Here is your chance to hear one of the area's best naturalists and best photographers! Ron's phone number is (812) 667-5600 and email is ronausting@aol.com

The Lawrenceburg Public Library is downtown at 123 High Street. Going west on US 50, turn left onto Walnut Street, then right onto High Street. The Public Library will be on your right.

Tuesday, September 11th, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Earth Connection, College of Mount St. Joseph

Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

Dr. Gene Kritsky, chair of the Biology Department at the College of Mount St. Joseph, will speak about Colony Collapse Disorder in Honey Bee colonies that is threatening pollinized fruits and vegetables. Dr. Kritsky will also elaborate on his research into the history of beehive design in order to determine if there's anything we've forgotten from the past that may assist our efforts at reducing honeybee decline.

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.



Sunday in the Bosque

.....by Jeanne Bocklage

It was not a feast but it was more than satisfying. My daughter, Therese, and I drove down to the Bosque (a 202 mile round trip from our Albuquerque home) Sunday, April 1, another beautiful day in New Mexico. We tallied 22 species of birds. No coyotes this time in this National Wildlife Refuge.

Among our finds were a lone Great Egret, one American Kestrel, one Ring-necked Duck, a male Cinnamon Teal although there may have been females but we couldn't identify them. Same problem with a single male Ruddy Duck. We were elated with these sightings.

There were many Mallards, Canada Geese, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, Double-crested Cormorants (the one Oxbow bird Morris loved to hate) , a half-dozen Red-heads, a pair of Black Vultures, a pair of American Crows, several Canvasbacks, several Red-wing Blackbirds and at least a dozen busy Glossy Ibises with their long curved beaks probing for an early lunch. Far back on one lake we saw a large white mass and wondered if it could be Snow Geese and with that they took flight (perhaps one hundred leftovers from the thousands during the migration periods) and showed off their blanched glory and contrasting black wing tips.

We heard but did not see Killdeer, Mourning Doves and Western Meadowlarks. We also watched some amusing turtles swimming and sunning on rocks and then looking up into the trees for a hawk or eagle spotted a squirrel hugging a topmost branch leisurely surveying the Bosque del Apache.



High Desert Update

.....by Jeanne Bocklage



One scene that always snaps a smile on my face is a frantic Greater Roadrunner in his wild get-up racing across the street in front of my moving car here in the High Desert of Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Maybe a rattler is nearby.) Another grin I can't hide comes on when a Black-tailed Jackrabbit speedily hops across my back yard looking like he sports a built-in pogo stick. A happy feeling lingers quite a while after I watch Mr. and Mrs. Gambel's Quail and their five or six chicks nonchalantly meandering about the neighborhood. If you're lucky, about a dozen blocks from my house on the main thoroughfare, you may catch a delightful glimpse of a playful Gunnison's Prairie Dog standing along the roadside inspecting the passing traffic. All this brings me to the following story.

One Saturday last July, my daughter , Therese, bought some turkey sausage at a health foods store to make a dish called Toads in a Hole. Sausage is rolled into balls and placed randomly in a baking dish. A dough goes on top and in the baking the meatballs pop through the pastry, thus toads peeking out of holes. The dinner was good but not exactly gourmet.

When we finished, as I opened the front door to let Maggie, our Corgi, out, sitting about two feet from where I was standing and looking intently at me was the cutest little pudgy gray-green toad I ever saw. He sat there as if questioning me, "Am I on time for the Toads in a Hole party?" Fearing he would hop away, I called Therese excitedly: " Come quickly! You'll never guess what's out here!" Therese was as amazed as I. In her 15 years of living here, Therese had never seen a toad. The climate is just too arid. The handsome little fellow never moved, just sat there looking at us. We think he was a Great Plains Toad.

Sunday we wished we had taken his picture -- or maybe kissed him to verify those childhood fairytales. Now when I look back on the episode, I feel blessed. That tiny visitor that special night was a pure gift. This is The Land of Enchantment.



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.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. Make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource. **Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is encouraged and solicited.**

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| Prothonotary Warbler | \$ 15 | Wood Duck | \$ 25 |
| Great Blue Heron | \$ 50 | Green-winged Teal | \$100 |
| Great Egret | \$250 | Osprey | \$500 |
| Bald Eagle | \$1000 | | |
| Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level) | \$25 | | |

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**
P. O. Box 43391
Cincinnati OH 45243-0391
513-851-9835

Corporation Officers

| | |
|---|----------------|
| President, Dr. Jon Seymour | (513) 851-9835 |
| Vice President, Kani Meyer | (513) 948-8630 |
| Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger | (513) 241-2324 |
| Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason | (513) 385-3607 |
| Treasurer, Jim Poehlmann | (513) 931-4072 |
| Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger | (513) 241-2324 |
| Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner | (812) 537-5728 |

Committee Chairpersons

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour | (513) 851-9835 |
| Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener | (812) 623-7800 |
| Land Management, Kani Meyer | (513) 948-8630 |
| Programs, Jerry Lippert | (513) 522-6567 |
| Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan | (513) 681-2574 |
| Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour | (513) 851-9835 |
| Newsletter Editor, Meg Poehlmann | (513) 931-4072 |

Newsletter Email: meggster@fuse.net

Member Communications: Joanne Earls, Kathleen Corneil, Lynda Mason, Velda Miller, Pat Shanklin, Sarah Shell, Suzanne Skidmore, Barb Varland, Jim Wilgenbusch

Wetland Matters, the newsletter for members of Oxbow, Inc., is published bimonthly.



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 7271