



July — August 2008

No. 132

WETLAND *matters*

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

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Birdathon 2008

by Jon Seymour

Look out New Jersey, the Oxbow Birdathon Area is the place to be. Well, that may be stretching things a bit. The home of the World Series of Birding, and more types of habitats within a short distance than you can shake a stick at, produces World Series teams that routinely turn up 200+ species in their 24 hours of frantic birding. Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger, Paul Wharton, and Joe Bens were our species leaders with 159 species this year. The outstanding news was when all species from all the reporting teams were combined we found 197 species in the Birdathon area (See pages 10 and 11 for a complete list of the Birdathon Birds seen by all the teams). An Outstanding total!

We had 17 teams enter, up from 11 last year. Sixteen of the teams were able to compete (one had to withdraw at the last minute but will be back next year) and report, although 2 teams only filed a partial report representing their most unusual finds. In addition, we had our West Coast contingent, David and Jane Styer, who pulled a big day of 151 species. Teams competed in a wide variety of categories besides the most total species competition. Over 40 Cincinnati area birders were involved and besides Oxbow, Inc. money was raised for two other organizations. The Nature Center entered a team and Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald raised money for both the state and local Audubon Society. Both of these teams split the money they raise for their own organization with Oxbow, Inc. making their participation a double win situation. While we know the numbers of the birds seen by the teams, we do not know yet how much money was raised. Tune into the next issue of *Wetland Matters* for the big news about how much was raised for habitat improvement and access improvement.

- Paul Wharton, Joe Bens, Jay and Jack Stenger = 159 species – Winner of the most species seen in a 24 hour period in the Birdathon Area.
- Erich Baumgardner, Wayne Wauligman, and Jerry Lippert = 145 species.
- Charlie Saunders, Mike Busam, and Steve Pelikan = 133 species – Winner of the most species seen per mile driven in a car. 4.4 species per mile.

- Bill Creasy, Steve Bobonick, and Dave Helm (Cincinnati Nature Center) = 129 Species – Winner of the most species seen in a single county within the Birdathon area.
- Jon Seymour, Miles Spathelf, Gale Wulker, and Brian Wulker (The First Timers) = 122 species.
- Chris and Suzanne Clingman = 119 species.
- Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald = 111 species – Winner moderate restricted area category (only the Lower Great Miami River Important Birding area).
- John, Sarah, and Evan Leon = 110 species.
- Sister Marty Dermody, Katherine Miller, and Sara Krailler = 89 species – Winner of the all female team category.
- Jeff Hays = 88 – Winner of the birding while working category (Banding Red-shouldered Hawks).
- Mark and Don Keller = 85 species.
- John and Barb Eckles (Bird Elude Us) = 64 species – Winner of the most species at a track meet, wedding shower, preparing for prom and spaces in between category
- Deb Quilligan, Donna Weaver, Herm Mays, Danny Whitsett, and Chris Bedel (Birders on the Edge – of Appalachia) = 61 species.
- Brendan and Don Bogosian = 50 – Winners of the single small area category (Crooked Run Nature Preserve).
- Dave and Jane Styer, in California = 151 species for a BIG DAY count.
- Individual reported sightings during the Birdathon period were received from Bob Foppe and from the team of Jay Lehman and Randy Lakes.

Programs on page 2

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS

Tuesday July 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
North Central Branch
Hamilton County Public Library
(note special location)

Ohio Goldilocks and the MORE than Three Bears.

Learn about the resurgence of the Black Bear in modern Ohio. Meet **Kathy Garza-Behr**, Wildlife Communications Specialist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife who will detail a number of Black Bear sightings in Ohio and tell you what to do if you meet one. The Black Bear were extirpated in Ohio by the 1850's but in the early 1990's they returned to the Buckeye State and have been detected in ever increasing numbers ever since.

To get to the North Central Branch of the Hamilton County Public Library take exit #36 (Hamilton Ave.) south from I-275. The Library is immediately located on the right (west) side of the road and the entrance is the second driveway south of the Interstate.

Tuesday, August 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Lawrenceburg Public Library
Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Carol Mundy of the Hamilton County Park System will present a review of the recently opened children's garden at Glenwood Gardens. Carol will bring us up to date on the current activities and future plans for this exciting park feature and how it all fits in with the concept of getting children back in contact and excited about nature. After the talk we will open the door of the new office at 301 Walnut St. in Downtown Lawrenceburg for any interested members that wish to view our progress at getting the place organized and ready for our grand opening later this year.

The Lawrenceburg Public Library is located at 123 High Street in Lawrenceburg. Turn southeast from US. Hwy 50 onto Walnut St. At High St. turn right and go two blocks to the Library on your right.

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, July 27, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Paul Wharton (513) 353-3403
 pwharton@fuse.net

Come along and join Paul as he looks for early fall migrants in the Oxbow. That's right, I did say fall. While the calendar tells us its still late summer, the southbound fall migration of shorebirds begins early and will be well under way by this date. Shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers) need exposed mudflats and shorelines and during most years the Oxbow provides good to great habitat for them. In addition to several species of shorebirds, Paul will expect to find egrets and herons, staging swallows and a diversity of summer residents. The potential for surprises is always good in the Oxbow, like the American White Pelican that was present during most of August 2007. Contact Paul if you have any questions.

Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant.

Saturday, August 16, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
 Leaders: Jack & Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147
 jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

By this date fall shorebird migration will be well under way and several species in good numbers should be present. Good numbers of Great Egrets, resident Black-crowned Night-Herons and Green Herons should be seen along with the abundant Great Blue Herons. This is the time of year to see the more rare species of herons and egrets as well. Terns should also be on the move and are a possibility. Large numbers of migrating swallows and Purple Martins usually use the Oxbow as a staging area during this month. A number of hawks are always present and even a Bald Eagle is a possibility. This is a great time of year to find an unusual or rare species. Come along with Jack and Jay for an always-interesting morning visit to the Oxbow. Contact Jack or Jay if you have any questions.

Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant.

Oxbow, Inc. 2007 Treasurer's Report

Category Per Report	Profit and Loss		Combined Figures
	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.	
Dues	\$33,775.00		\$33,775.00
Donations	\$16,360.00		\$16,360.00
Interest	\$47,621.74	\$1,901.78	\$49,523.52
Dividends	\$5.70		\$5.70
Memorials	\$1,385.00		\$1,385.00
Birdathon	\$6,448.35		\$6,448.35
Crop Income	\$38,764.20		\$38,764.20
Merchandise	\$46.00		\$46.00
Donated Securities	\$658.80		\$658.80
Miscellaneous	\$175.00		\$175.00
<u>Program Service Fees</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>		<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$145,264.79</u>		<u>\$147,166.57</u>
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	(\$12.00)		(\$12.00)
Gross Profit	\$145,252.79	\$1,901.78	\$147,154.57
Grants to Other Organizations	\$2,000.00		
Security	\$7,600.00		
Legal	\$3,660.00		\$3,660.00
Office Supplies	\$577.06		\$577.06
Fund Raising	\$484.00		\$484.00
Birdathon	\$110.40		\$110.40
Postage	\$1,958.11		\$1,958.11
Equipment Rental	\$532.52		\$532.52
Printing	\$7,542.11		\$7,542.11
Land Maintenance	\$1,271.65		\$1,271.65
Real Estate Taxes	\$255.14	\$3,026.64	\$3,281.78
Depreciation	\$941.00		\$941.00
Insurance	\$3,600.00		\$3,600.00
Membership Dues-Organization	\$375.00		\$375.00
Staff Development	\$80.00		
Advertising	\$60.00		\$60.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$235.00</u>		<u>\$235.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$31,281.99	\$3,026.64	\$34,308.63
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$113,970.80</u>	<u>(\$1,124.86)</u>	<u>\$112,845.94</u>

Balance Sheet

Category Per Report	Balance Sheet		Combined Figures
	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.	
Cash & Investments	\$1,242,257.92	\$40,947.75	\$1,283,205.67
Inventory	\$1,086.00		\$1,086.00
Land	\$245,551.60	\$1,281,356.06	\$1,526,907.66
Easements Owned	\$231,963.28		\$231,963.28
Land Improvements	\$5,323.10		\$5,323.10
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$3,183.00	\$0.00	\$3,183.00
(Less) Accumulated Amortiza- tion-Land Improvements	(\$684.00)		
(Less) Accumulated Deprecia- tion-Office Furniture & Equip- ment	<u>(\$2,388.00)</u>		
Net Worth	<u>\$1,726,292.90</u>	<u>\$1,322,303.81</u>	<u>\$3,048,596.71</u>

As Oxbow continues to grow as an organization, maintaining the books has become an increasingly complex task. In reviewing a year-to-year comparison report, the first thing that jumped out at me was that the category of Contributed Support was down by 16.2%. Then I noticed that in 2006 we received \$14,600 in mitigation funds which we did not receive in 2007. When this extraordinary event is not taken into account, the category still saw an increase.

Looking further down the report, every category saw a significant increase. Dues were up by nearly 25% and Birdathon, our main fundraiser for the year, saw a modest five percent increase. Jon has told me to expect that to increase this year, and if the amount of pizza consumed at the tally is any indication, that will be the case.

On the expense side of the ledger, increases in postage and printing costs, plus the fact that for the first time Oxbow made a grant to another organization, caused expenses to increase 18%. Oxbow gave \$2,000 in grants to other organizations. The first grant was to the Greenacres Water Quality project. The second was to the Hamilton County Parks to assist with a purchase of a parcel of land on the Ohio side. I was proud to vote in favor of both of these grants as I felt they strictly parallel our mission, and also for the simple fact that our organization has gotten to the point where we can now assist other organizations in this manner.

When everything is said and done, Oxbow experienced an increase in net income of 26.5%, which in these economic times is nothing short of phenomenal. Much of the profit the organization experiences each year is directly attributable to the efforts of volunteers who help the organization move ahead while performing tasks which would cost us dearly if we had to pay for them on the open market. The generous support of our contributors allows us to further the mission of Oxbow while continuing to improve the property. I expect to see many significant improvements around the Oxbow in the coming years.

Oxbow, Inc. is a 100% volunteer organization—no salaries or expense accounts are paid for by the organization. We are beholden to the generous support of the membership and the public. The IRS tax returns Forms 990 for Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. may be inspected at www.guidestar.org.

Sincerely,

James W. Poehlmann, EA

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Sunday, June 1, 2008
June is a Bad Month
by Jon Seymour

Lonnie Parker called me several days ago and indicated that he was interested in photography and had just learned about the Oxbow area and about Oxbow, Inc. I agreed to meet Lonnie at the entrance to the Oxbow at 1:00 pm and give him a tour. It turns out Lonnie is a long time resident of the area. I assure him he is not alone in being a local resident that has never previously visited the Oxbow. I tell Lonnie that I will try to show him several different types of habitat within the Oxbow so that he can consider how he might use the area for photography. We drive down to the gate on the causeway. I try to unlock the gate. My keys turn both locks (there are two different ones) but the actual latch portion seems to be rusted stuck from having been underwater so often. It is going to take a can of WD-40 and a hammer to unfreeze the locks – neither of which I have. So we will have to walk to Mercer Pond. Along the way I point out Juno Pond and the emerging smartweed, the swamp areas at the end of the causeway where the willows attract many varieties of butterflies, and the mud flats in the fields north of the causeway that attract shorebirds.

I explain that I think June is probably the most boring month in the Oxbow since many birds are on the nest and not moving about and migration is done for most birds. While interesting, it gets more exciting in other months. We walk across the field that is dry and has not yet been planted by the farmer who leases it and head for Mercer Pond. To the south and east is the remaining flood pool of undrained water still covering several acres of field. Seven Great Blue Herons and one Great Egret are fishing. As we approach within 400 yards the heron and egrets flush toward the edge of Oxbow Lake.

Continuing our journey, we reach the corner of Mercer Pond. Another Great Egret is resting in the trees across the pond. I put my scope on the egret and let Lonnie take a look. I then move the scope to the numerous Double-crested cormorants resting on the fallen logs along the edge of the lake. With the naked eye they blend perfectly with the limbs and crags of the logs. The scope shows them resting and drying their oilless wings. While I am looking at the cormorants Lonnie points to the side and asks if that is another egret. A white bird has flushed from the edge of Mercer Pond near us – a small white bird. I immediately say no and check the color of the feet through the binoculars. They are dark. I wait for the bird to settle and see the brown flush on the head. It is a cattle egret in breeding plumage. Not a common bird in the tri-state area. A great find.

We continue our walk to the backside of Mercer Pond where I show Lonnie the partial swamp and partial upland woods that occupy the backside of Mercer Pond and the micro environment of the wooded rocky hillsides that form the base of I-275. Further on we come to the Corning Easement and examine the growing bald cypress forest interspersed with ash and swamp white oak.

Returning to our car we drive down the side of Oxbow Lake and stop at the overlook. Out in the middle of Oxbow Lake is a single diving duck. It looks a lot like a female Rudy Duck but it is bigger, sleeker, more uniform in color, and the cheek patch is a uniform shade. We watch the female Black Scooter for many minutes and point it out to other Oxbow members birding the area. Another great find, especially for this time of year. After a stop at Wood Duck Slough to examine the low flood area for flowers and woodpeckers, we call it a day as I explain to Lonnie that it is too wet to head for the two rivers, but that some of the best habitats and scenery are along the two rivers that boarder the property.

For the day we found two fairly rare bird species for the area – just another dull day in June.

Picture Puzzle Contest

Thanks to all of you who entered our picture puzzle contest to guess what the picture in the last two issues of *Wetland Matters* was. The photo by Tom Uhlman was taken in the Oxbow this last winter and indicated a natural phenomenon that can occur but is not often captured on film. After a slow start, we did have several entries from folks who guessed what the photo was all about.

Of all the entries – no one correctly guessed what the picture was. All the entries stated it was gas bubbles, either air or methane, trapped under ice. That part was correct, but the cause of the gas bubble was variously attributed to gas from decaying vegetation, clams, or an underwater spring. The mystery picture is reprinted on page 7 along with its companion picture that shows the source of the phenomenon more exactly.

Of all the entries received, the winner of our picture prize is Betty and Matt Beckmeyer who will receive a 8 X 10 photo of two immature eagles hunting for fish in the Oxbow this spring. The eagle photo was also taken by Tom Uhlman.

Answer: Enjoy the photos taken of exhaled air bubbles frozen in place under the water surface that form a path showing the way beaver have traveled from their den to their winter food stick pile located primarily under water and back again to the den for a leisurely winter meal.

Floodplain Smarts

by *Tim Mara*

Recent flooding in the Cincinnati area has again taken lives and damaged homes and possessions. It would be both inaccurate and irresponsible to shrug off this cost of flooding as unavoidable.

The tragic flooding scenario is likely to be repeated in the future, perhaps with increasing frequency and severity, unless we acknowledge the causal connection between this flooding and development practices in our area.

First, we must stop building in the floodplain, and that also means that we must stop using fill materials to raise building sites out of the water. Floodplains and wetlands, such as our precious Oxbow, store huge volumes of water during periods of high water. If they are destroyed, where will that huge volume of water go?

Second, we must preserve wooded areas because trees absorb rainwater that would otherwise run off into swollen creeks and rivers. If large tracts upstream from the Oxbow are cleared of all existing trees and then flattened to facilitate development, the Oxbow will suffer. Conservation-minded development should be a requirement, not an option.

Third, we must limit impervious surfaces. Vast parking lots, driveways, and rooftops prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing the aquifer which lies under the Great Miami River. The rainwater has nowhere to go but downstream, again adding to flood volumes.

Our resolve to do better is already being put to the test in western Hamilton County, immediately upstream along the Great Miami River from the Oxbow wetlands. Political leaders have correctly identified declining population in the City of Cincinnati and in older first-ring suburbs as a blight upon our region. Desperate to halt the loss of population to neighboring counties, some have identified the open spaces of western Hamilton County as a land of opportunity, a place where Hamilton County can grow by leaps and bounds, competing with fast-growing Warren, Clermont, Boone and Dearborn Counties.

But, without a dramatic change in the way we permit land to be developed, flooding in western Hamilton County will surely become even more of a problem, and we should expect even greater loss of life and property. The resulting increase in the frequency and severity of flooding in the Oxbow could also change the ecosystem in ways difficult to predict, and affect the continued economic feasibility of farming on Oxbow-owned and adjacent lands. Water quality is likely to suffer too because of increased sedimentation from construction sites, increased use of garden fertilizers and pesticides in new residential developments, and more frequent spills of pollutants into the Great Miami River and its tributaries.

Maybe we can't stop progress, but we can control the quality of development if we have the willpower to do so.



Special thanks to:

Indiana Michigan Power – AEP for their generous grant to obtain and install an informational sign about the Oxbow on the levee Bike Trail

Oxbow, Inc. would like to thank the following for their generous grants:

The Earl and Florence Simmonds Foundation

The Vosmer Memorial Fund

Oxbow, Inc. thanks
Wayne Wauligman for his generous gift



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!



Oxbow, Inc. has rented the corner office at 301 Walnut St. as their first ever home. The storefront will serve as the office and storage area in the rear and a combination of meeting space and educational area in the front. The location in an historic building, owned by the Knights of Columbus, in the center of Downtown Lawrenceburg was made possible in part by a grant from the Earl and Florence Simmonds Foundation. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



Some of the clean-up crew take a short break before heading back to the entrance and the finish of a hard and satisfying morning's work. *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Tires are piled on a trailer to haul out of the Oxbow. *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Big smiles for a close encounter with a very small Oxbow resident *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Girl Scout troop 49370 gathers garlic mustard bouquets before stuffing them in bags for elimination. *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Clean Sweep of the GMR Volunteers "haul roof" from the edge of Juno Pond. A winter flood gift to the Oxbow. *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



A black rat snake showed up to help the volunteers eliminate the trash from its home. *(photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Birdathon participants gather for the final tally and to eat pizza at Winton Woods Centre. Final tally sheets combining all species seen by all teams resulted in an astonishing 197 species identified in the Oxbow Birdathon area in the allotted 24 hour period.



Tom Uhlman's photo records a "path" of trapped bubbles that lead from the bank home of the beaver to the stick pile jammed into the bottom of the lake bed that acts as a winter food source for the beaver family.



The title of the contest photo is "Beaver Bubbles". Beaver traveling under the ice exhaled air which rose to the surface and was trapped under the thin ice sheet. The ice continued to freeze deeper and so fast the bubbles did not have time to be absorbed back into the water and the water froze right around the bubbles. As the beaver made more passes under the ice sheet layers of frozen bubbles built up to give the unique photo captured by Tom Uhlman. See page 11 for information about our contest winner.



usings

by Dave Styer

The Lesser Black-backed Gull

Jon Seymour asked me to write about our latest addition to the Oxbow area bird list. As written up in the May-June *Wetland Matters*, Jay and Paula Stenger discovered three Lesser Black-backed Gulls there on the 29th of March. The next day Paul Wharton went there and saw one of them.

Jon suggested I look at the *Wetland Matters* article I wrote, predicting the next five additions to the Oxbow area list. I have nearly forgotten the article, but it must be the one where I brilliantly predicted that the Lesser Black-backed Gull would be the very next species. Hmm. Let's see; here's the issue, March-April 2004. What? No mention of the Lesser Black-backed Gull? Marsh Wren, Eared Grebe, Henslow's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, and Fish Crow! The one thing I got right in that article was that my crystal ball doesn't seem to work very well. That's true, even though I read *Harry Potter* with the greatest care.

If you ask what aspect of bird life the Oxbow area is most noted for, the answer is immediate: the large concentrations of water birds following a flood. These floods happen nearly every year, especially in late winter and early spring. During such events water birds come from miles around. The greatest concentration often includes a bird rare in the Greater Cincinnati area. Sometimes birders go there from miles around to watch the birds. In view of this fact it seems natural that water birds would be the most likely candidates for additions to the bird list. Perhaps my 2004 article should have predicted four water birds and one songbird, rather than the other way around. Oh well, as they say, that's water over the dam.

To learn more about the Lesser Black-backed Gull I turned to my now completed series, *The Birds of North America*. I looked more carefully and I noticed that "The Birds of North American series provides comprehensive, authoritative summaries of currently knowledge of the breeding bird species of North American." Lesser Black-backed Gulls breed mainly in extreme northern Europe, and some breed in Iceland. They aren't known to breed in North America, but it is conceivable that a few could now breed in northern Canada and not be noticed. Of all naturally occurring wild birds that have ever been seen in the Oxbow area, the Lesser Black-backed Gull is unique. All other wild birds normally breed ("bred," in the case of the Carolina Parakeet) in North America.

For the casual observer, all gulls are simply "sea gulls," even if they are at the Oxbow, several hundred miles from the sea. For birders there are different species of gull. Three species are normally seen in the Oxbow area. The Ring-billed Gull is by far the most abundant. The Herring Gull is next in abundance, and Bonaparte's Gull is third. Any other gull seen in the Oxbow area is a real bonus. Even for birders, it is easy to be inattentive when there are hundreds of gulls around and they are nearly all the same thing. If you want to add a new bird to the Oxbow area list, a strikingly plumaged male Harlequin Duck would be a "piece of cake" to identify (if only it were there). The Lesser Black-backed Gulls that Jay found were first year birds, that is, they were less than one year old. These birds look much like Herring Gulls. They are slightly smaller and more slender than Herring Gulls, and their beaks are distinctly more slender. These are the sorts of things that a serious birder notes while "scoping out" the gulls in the area.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull has been getting more common in North America. My first Peterson field guide to birds, 1947, relegates this bird to an appendix, and comments that there is no specimen record for North America. *The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds*, 1968, states that the Lesser Black-backed Gull "has straggled to Greenland, N.Y. and Md." They didn't know about the specimen that was found on April 7, 1962, and collected on the ninth at Willow Slough in Indiana. In fact, Indiana's first record was one seen at Michigan City on October 2, 1948 (*the Birds of Indiana*). *The Birds of Ohio*, 1989, states that "the Lesser Black-backed Gull is a Eurasian species regularly reported from North America since the 1960s." Ohio's first record was a Cleveland bird seen on January 20, 1977. Now they are seen every year. This first Oxbow area record of Lesser Black-backed Gulls is likely also the first Dearborn County record. Jay and Paula are to be congratulated for adding the 10th gull species to the Oxbow area list.



California Big Day Report

by Dave and Jane Styer

Jane and I did our Oxbow Birdathon this past weekend. We identified 151 species. We went more for western species than big numbers. Highlights included birds like Yellow-billed Magpie, Mountain Quail, Tricolored Blackbird, Black Oystercatcher, and Allen's Hummingbird. We also saw a beautiful pair of Harlequin Ducks and a Long-tailed Duck. How about this: we also saw Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, and House Sparrows.

American Electric Power Grant for Informational Sign

Oxbow, Inc. has recently received a grant from American Electric Power for the purchase and placement of a informational/educational sign on the bike path that tops the levee along Highway 50. The sign will be placed with the cooperation of the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District in one of the two "bubbles" in the bike path that are designed as pull out areas. The sign, being designed by Oxbow member Bill Zimmerman, will tell users of the bike path about the history and function of the oxbow wetland and about the animals that make their home in the bottoms. While the bike path is not currently connected to anything at either end, there are plans in the works to connect it to the Aurora to Lawrenceburg bike path that is currently seeking to find an appropriate designated route through Lawrenceburg. On the north end of the levee bike path, recent exciting plans to establish a new Indiana State Park above the intersection of Highways US 50 and IN 1 also involve linking the bike path to the new park. The completion of these links in the future may bring hundreds of users past the oxbow wetlands on a weekly basis.

Great Miami River Clean Up a Success

Despite the gloomy and threatening morning weather, we had a very successful clean up in the Oxbow on April 26th, thanks to a cadre of very hard working volunteers! We gathered and stacked 156 tires and filled the dumpster about 1/3 full! Special thanks to Ron Ison, Chris Powell and Don Himburg who brought trucks/trailers that made the hauling out so much easier. Also, Dave Meyer and Don Himburg were responsible for clearing away the tree laying across the causeway so we could get back to the work area in the first place. Thanks also to Joyce Ruehl and her 6 industrious scouts for cleaning the sides of the road and pulling out large quantities of invasive garlic mustard. Greg and Linda Stryker also pulled garlic mustard and were still working until after everyone else left! Bob Schlegel, Cammie, Jon and Jackie Seymour, Ted Scheall, and Wes Weiman all contributed their muscle power to our effort. Thanks to everyone for helping make the Oxbow shine!

Oxbow Acquires a Home

With the aid of a grant from the Earl and Florence Simmonds Foundation, Oxbow, Inc. has rented its first ever home. The store front is located at 301 Walnut St. in downtown Lawrenceburg, IN. (See photo page 6) Oxbow is renting the store front from the Knights of Columbus (K Of C), another charitable organization. The K of C use the rent to maintain the building which also contains their offices and their meeting room.

A grant from Mainstreet Lawrenceburg allowed the K of C to remodel the storefront with new carpet and to repaint the interior. They also constructed a new wall at our request that separates the front half of the store from the back half. We will use the back half of the store front as the office for Oxbow, Inc. while the front will be used for meetings and for public education.

Already we are collecting the various materials stored in the closets and basements of Oxbow members. We are soliciting donations of office furniture and materials (see list below if you have material to donate). Some donations have been offered and we will be busy over the next few months putting this all together. Currently we hope to have a grand opening sometime in September and be able to begin educational activities using the office as the base.

Items we need for our new home:

- Folding tables for meetings and educational display. 30" X 72" are considered the most desirable for maximum flexibility of uses and storage.
- Chairs for meetings and for the office.
- Microwave for the office

Volunteer Opportunity

(Can you hear me (knocking) now?)

Oxbow is seeking two volunteers.

We need a **program chairperson** who will arrange for the eleven monthly programs we have each year (We skip December). These can be arranged at any time, the only requirement being that we have two programs ready to announce for each newsletter. You also get help on this as members and Board members often suggest individuals to contact. Estimated time is about 2-3 hours every 2 months.

We need a **volunteer coordinator** who will call a list of potential volunteers for work events that we have from between 2-5 times per year. The list would be the same each time and would be updated with help of others. The object would not be to persuade the volunteers but to make them aware of the opportunity in advance and report a tally on any that say they can participate. Estimated time is about 1-2 hours for each event.

Total Reports 16

1	BCD	Hermit Thrush
14	AAAAA	Wood Thrush
14	AAAAA	American Robin
14	BAAAA	Gray Catbird
12	BBB88	Northern Mockingbird
12	ABBBB	Brown Thrasher
14	AAAAA	European Starling
7	EEE	American Pipit
7	DC88B	Cedar Waxwing
9	BBBBB	Blue-winged Warbler
1	DDDEE	Golden-winged Warbler
11	BAAAD	Tennessee Warbler
1	DD	Orange-crowned Warbler
8	BABC	Nashville Warbler
11	CCDD	Northern Parula
13	AAAAA	Yellow Warbler
5	CB88D	Chestnut-sided Warbler
5	DC8BC	Magnolia Warbler
4	CBCE	Cape May Warbler
3	CCDD	Black-throated Blue Warbler
10	AAABE	Yellow-rumped Warbler
6	AA8BD	Black-throated Green Warbler
4	CB88D	Blackburnian Warbler
10	BBBBB	Yellow-throated Warbler
4	CCDD	Pine Warbler
7	CCCCC	Prairie Warbler
8	BBBCD	Palm Warbler
3	DC88D	Bay-breasted Warbler
9	DC8BD	Blackpoll Warbler
11	BBBBB	Cerulean Warbler
8	BBBCD	Black-and-white Warbler
9	DC8BC	American Redstart
8	CC8CB	Prothonotary Warbler
2	DDDD	Worm-eating Warbler
9	BBABC	Ovenbird
4	CCDD	Northern Waterthrush
6	CC8CC	Louisiana Waterthrush
6	CB88B	Kentucky Warbler
	EEE	Connecticut Warbler
	DDCD	Mourning Warbler
13	BAAAA	Common Yellowthroat
4	BB8CB	Hooded Warbler
1	ED8CD	Wilson's Warbler
	DDCC	Canada Warbler
12	DC88B	Yellow-breasted Chat
9	CB88B	Summer Tanager
2	BAAAB	Scarlet Tanager
3	AAAAA	Eastern Towhee
14	BB88B	Chipping Sparrow
3	AAAAA	Field Sparrow

Reports Contributing a New Species 13

1	EEEE	Vesper Sparrow
6	CCDD	Savannah Sparrow
7	DDDD	Grasshopper Sparrow
3	EEEE	Henslow's Sparrow
14	AAAAA	Song Sparrow
	ED8DE	Lincoln's Sparrow
6	BCDE	Swamp Sparrow
6	AABCD	White-throated Sparrow
6	CB8CE	White-crowned Sparrow
	DDD	Dark-eyed Junco
14	AAAAA	Northern Cardinal
7	BB88B	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
7	EE8DD	Blue Grosbeak
3	BAAAA	Indigo Bunting
3	EDDD	Dickcissel
7	ECDD	Bobolink
4	AAAAA	Red-winged Blackbird
13	BB88B	Eastern Meadowlark
	DDE	Rusty Blackbird
13	AAAAA	Common Grackle
4	AAAAA	Brown-headed Cowbird
14	BB88B	Orchard Oriole
14	BAAAA	Baltimore Oriole
	DDE	Purple Finch
11	AAAAA	House Finch
3	DD8DE	Pine Siskin
14	AAAAA	American Goldfinch
	EE	Evening Grosbeak
13	AAAAA	House Sparrow
1		European Collared Dove
1		Greater Scaup
1		Lesser Black-backed Gull
1		White-winged Sooter
1		Avocet
5		Canvasback
2		Lark Sparrow
1		Red-necked Phalarope
1		Black Sooter

CinCheck

Cincinnati Birding Checklist
cincinnatibirds.com

Date: May 10, 2008

Birders: Birdathon Stars

43 participants

Location: Oxbow Birdathon Area

Notes: 197 Total Species

* #'s in line are the # of team reports that had seen the species

** Letters show rarity
A Abundant → E (Rare)

*** A A B B C
Rarity first week → last week
of month

BIRDATHON 2008 MASTER LIST

EEE	Snow Goose	7	CCDD	Sora
14	AAAAA	Canada Goose	DDDD	Common Moorhen
10	DD	Mute Swan	BCCC	American Coot
10	BBBBB	Wood Duck	EEE	Sandhill Crane
	DDD	Gadwall	DDDC	Black-bellied Plover
	DDEEE	American Wigeon	EEE	American Golden-Plover
13	AAAAA	American Black Duck	DDCC	Semipalmated Plover
11	BCCC	Mallard	AAAA	Killdeer
11	CCDD	Blue-winged Teal	EE	American Avocet
	DD	Northern Shoveler	BBBB	Spotted Sandpiper
	DD	Green-winged Teal	BCCE	Solitary Sandpiper
	E	Redhead	BCDD	Greater Yellowlegs
3	CCDD	Ring-necked Duck	EEE	Willet
	CODE	Lesser Scaup	BCDD	Lesser Yellowlegs
	DEE	Bufflehead	EEEE	Upland Sandpiper
8	DDDD	Hooded Merganser	CCC	Ruddy Turnstone
5	DDDE	Red-breasted Merganser	DDC	Semipalmated Sandpiper
9	DDDDD	Ruddy Duck	DD	Least Sandpiper
	EEEE	Ring-necked Pheasant	DDDD	Pectoral Sandpiper
11	CCCC	Wild Turkey	DDDD	Dunlin
3	CCCB	Northern Bobwhite	EDDD	Stilt Sandpiper
8	DDDD	Common Loon	DDDD	Short-billed Dowitcher
7	BCCC	Pied-billed Grebe	E	Long-billed Dowitcher
	EE	Horned Grebe	CCD	Wilson's Snipe
9	CCCC	Double-crested Cormorant	CCDD	American Woodcock
11	DDDD	American Bittern	EEEE	Wilson's Phalarope
5	DDDD	Least Bittern	DDDE	Bonaparte's Gull
13	BBBBB	Great Blue Heron	CCCC	Ring-billed Gull
5	DDDD	Great Egret	DDDD	Herring Gull
	EE	Snowy Egret	DDDE	Caspian Tern
	EEEE	Little Blue Heron	DDDD	Black Tern
	EEEE	Cattle Egret	DDDE	Common Tern
10	C8888	Green Heron	DDDD	Forster's Tern
8	CCCC	Black-crowned Night-Heron	13	AAAAA
	EEEE	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	14	AAAAA
9	DDDD	Black Vulture	12	DC888
14	AAAAA	Turkey Vulture	3	DDDEE
4	CCDD	Osprey	EEEE	Black-billed Cuckoo
4	DDDEE	Bald Eagle	EEEE	Barn Owl
	DDDEE	Northern Harrier	CCCC	Eastern Screech-Owl
	DDDEE	Sharp-shinned Hawk	CCCC	Great Horned Owl
9	CCCC	Cooper's Hawk	CCCC	Barred Owl
9	CCCC	Red-shouldered Hawk	EDCC	Common Nighthawk
3	CCCC	Broad-winged Hawk	EEEE	Chuck-will's-widow
14	BBBBB	Red-tailed Hawk	DDDEE	Whip-poor-will
5	BBBBB	American Kestrel	14	AAAAA
	EE	Merlin	12	DC88B
8	DDDD	Peregrine Falcon	14	CCCC
3	DDDD	Virginia Rail	14	AAAAA
				Red-headed Woodpecker
				Red-bellied Woodpecker
				Hummingbird
				Belted Kingfisher
				Chimney Swift
				Whip-poor-will
				Cruck-will's-widow
				Common Nighthawk
				Barred Owl
				Great Horned Owl
				Eastern Screech-Owl
				Barn Owl
				Black-billed Cuckoo
				Yellow-billed Cuckoo
				Mourning Dove
				Rock Pigeon
				Forster's Tern
				Common Tern
				Black Tern
				Caspian Tern
				Herring Gull
				Bonaparte's Gull
				Wilson's Phalarope
				American Woodcock
				Wilson's Snipe
				Long-billed Dowitcher
				Short-billed Dowitcher
				Stilt Sandpiper
				Dunlin
				Pectoral Sandpiper
				Least Sandpiper
				Semipalmated Sandpiper
				Ruddy Turnstone
				Upland Sandpiper
				Lesser Yellowlegs
				American Avocet
				Spotted Sandpiper
				Solitary Sandpiper
				Greater Yellowlegs
				Willet
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				Barn Owl
				Eastern Screech-Owl
				Great Horned Owl
				Barred Owl
				Common Nighthawk
				Chuck-will's-widow
				Whip-poor-will
				Chimney Swift
				Ruby-throated Hummingbird
				Belted Kingfisher
				Red-headed Woodpecker
				Red-bellied Woodpecker
				Golden-crowned Kinglet
				Ruby-crowned Kinglet
				Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
				Eastern Bluebird
				Veery
				Gray-cheeked Thrush
				Swainson's Thrush

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		

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