

WETLAND *matters*

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

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Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

Birdathon 2010 Celebrates 25 Years of Oxbow, Inc.

.....by Jon Seymour

Birdathon 2010 will be a celebration of Oxbow, Inc.'s first 25 years. We started in 1985 as the Save the Oxbow Society and incorporated a year later as Oxbow, Inc. However we trace our origin to the Save the Oxbow Society and so 2010 will be our 25th Anniversary. We hope that the number of participants and the dollars raised by them will be the largest ever and we will need your help to see that hope come true.

So mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, May 7-8**, and plan to do one of the following, donate to the Birdathon, enter the competition, and attend the Tally Pizza Party at Winton Centre, at 5:00 pm on Saturday May 8, for all participants. Money raised from the Birdathon goes to habitat improvement and improved access so both animals and people can enjoy the Oxbow are even more.

In our 25 years of existence we have gone from a loosely organized letter writing group to a newly formed grass roots non-profit land trust, to owning our first property, to obtaining our first conservation easements, to growing our holdings to over 1100 protected acres, to being named an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, and this year recording our 285th and 286th species of bird seen in the 5 square mile area we call the Oxbow.

So let's make this anniversary year's Birdathon the best ever. See other pages in Wetland Matters for information on how to donate or how to enter a team or yourself in the "competition". And remember the main competition in the Birdathon is to see who can have the most fun – and raise the most money for Oxbow, Inc.

Register Yourself or Your Team for Birdathon 2010

Consider participating in the 2010 Oxbow Birdathon. To participate you do not have to be a birding expert, you do not have to spend all 24 hours in the field, and you do not have to go any farther than your kitchen window. You do need to count bird species. We would appreciate if all participants would take personal pledges in support of their efforts. All participants are invited to come on down to the pizza party at the end of the count period and tell us what you saw. You will find the team and individual registration information on page 4.

Those interested in participating or volunteering to be part of this birding celebration call Jay Stenger at 513-522-8147 or email Jay at jaystenger@cinci.rr.com or Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835 or email Jon at jlsjks@hotmail.com.

Make Your Birdathon 2010 Pledge Now!

We need your support for one of Oxbow's teams with your pledges. Fill in the pledge form on Page 4 and return it to the listed address. Help us improve the oxbow floodplain.

We only succeed if ALL Oxbow members get behind the Birdathon and pledge money on a per species basis or make a fixed donation to support our teams. Many members have found it easier just to send a check in a fixed amount to support a favorite team or simply the winning team. Participate in whatever way is easiest for you but participate if you can. A pledge form to fill out and send in is on page 4. Pledge your support of the 2010 Birdathon. You can pledge a lot or you can pledge a little. All money pledged to Oxbow teams goes fully to Oxbow, Inc.

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS

To get to the Oxbow, Inc. Office take Highway US 50 south from the #16 exit of I-275. Pass the Argosy exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stop light at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building.)

Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Dr Wayne Wauligman, practicing dentist and volunteer naturalist, will present a program on identification of local amphibians with particular emphasis on those around the Oxbow area. Wayne will offer tips on how to locate them, their behaviors, and life history.

Tuesday, April 13th, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

With both recent and not so recent political events in the Near East and the looming specter of global warming, interest in alternative fuels has suddenly increased. The announcement by the Obama administration of substantial financial support for research in this area has sparked yet further interest. How do we sort the hype from the facts when it comes to various proposals for the replacement of petroleum- and coal-based fuels, especially if we are dependent on popular media accounts which thrive on exaggeration. **Dr. William Jensen** of UC, will present a basic freshman chemistry tutorial on how to properly assess such proposals as ethanol from corn or the so-called alternative hydrogen economy, as well as suggest a few much simpler steps which could be taken to conserve our present fuel supplies.

Oxbow Clean Ups

The Great Garlic Mustard Pull
 Saturday, April 24, 9am - noon
 Meet at the entrance parking lot.

AND

Great Miami River Clean Up
 Saturday, May 1, 9 am - noon
 Meet at the entrance parking lot

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. The lot is on your right.

Sunday, March 21, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot
at the main entrance to the Oxbow.
Leader: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403
pwharton@fuse.net

Spring waterfowl (ducks, geese & swans) migration will be well under way and finding them will be the focus of this trip. Lots of other early spring migrants should also be around or moving through the valley. Besides numbers of ducks and geese we can expect grebes, gulls, herons, raptors (including Bald Eagles) and a diversity of songbirds. Sandhill Cranes are also fairly regular during this month. Our leader Paul Wharton is an expert birder and knows every corner of the Oxbow inside and out. Depending on the weather and water levels, Paul says we can expect a little walking but he also expects to drive to several spots as he plans to cover a lot of ground. If the birds are out there, Paul's the guy to find them. March is a rainy month, so expect a little Oxbow mud. Dress accordingly. If you have any questions or would like more information don't hesitate to contact Paul.

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot
at the main entrance to the Oxbow
Leader: Charlie Saunders, (513) 829-6981

Signs of spring should be abundant on this morning visit to the Oxbow. Our trip leader Charlie Saunders is an expert birder and has a great interest in nature in general. Spring migration will be well under way and we should see a great diversity of birds and other wildlife. Weather permitting, Charlie plans to leave the cars parked and take us on a slow and leisurely walk through the Oxbow on this trip. Be sure to dress accordingly. Shake off the shackles of winter and Join Charlie on what should be a great spring morning in the Oxbow. If you have any questions or would like more information feel free to give Charlie a call.

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2010

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2010 to:

Oxbow, Inc.
C/o John Getzendanner
21007 Crestview Ct.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed below. Cut out the memorandum (on page 11). Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelop to John. Once accepted you will receive a permission slip to hunt on Oxbow land designated for hunting, east of I-275. Members must have dues paid current to the time of application. Any violation of the memorandum of understanding will result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges.



Oxbow Inc. will be the focus of a 2010 Cincinnati Museum Center Heritage Program Tour

On Saturday, September 11, 2010 the Oxbow Area will be the destination of a Cincinnati Museum Center Heritage Tour. The tour will be a grand opportunity to see in one presentation some of the many aspects of the Oxbow Area that make it unique.

Dr. Meg Reistenberg of the College of Mt. St. Joseph will be on hand to discuss the geology and natural history that formed the Great Miami Valley and give the area its unique status. Dr. Bob Genheimer of the Cincinnati Natural History Museum will lead us through several archaeological periods of history as we tour ancient sites in and overlooking the valley of the Great Miami. Finally our own, Dr. Jon Seymour, President of Oxbow, Inc. will point out the wildlife and fauna in the oxbow and give the tour participants a glimpse of the past present and future of the organization that is protecting and improving the floodplain.

The tour will be by air-conditioned bus that will begin at 9 am at the Museum Center and will return to the Center at about 4 pm. Lunch will be aboard the Riverwatch anchored at the foot of Walnut Street in Lawrenceburg. The cost of the tour is \$70 for Museum Center members, \$75 for non members, and lunch is included. The reservation deadline is September 6 (the buses are small so call early). Call 513-287-7031 to make your reservation. Heritage Program Tour brochures are available in the Oxbow Office or by calling Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

Things Past

The gift from Michael Hoff of a book called "The Western Pilot - 1847" by Samuel Cummings contains the following passages concerning the Oxbow area. These books published at the time were navigational guides to people piloting boats down the river.

"North Bend, right side (*again we are going down river*)

When half a mile above General Harrison's plantation keep within about 100 yards of the right hand shore to avoid a large bar on the left, for about a mile and a half, then wear off into the middle of the river.

Great Miami River, right side

(*There is a description of the Great Miami along its length down to Hamilton and we will pick it up there.*) Hamilton, about 30 miles below Dayton, and 25 miles from Cincinnati stands on the east bank, in the midst of fine settled country. It has above 200 dwelling houses, 2000 inhabitants, a court house, and a number of stores. The Miami canal passes within about a mile of the town, from which a lateral and expensive basin has been dug to the town.

There is a large bar on the right, above and below Miami river. Channel near the left shore, until you have passed the mouth, nearly half a mile, then incline to the right and keep nearest the right shore, past Lawrenceburgh. There is a large bar on the left, a mile above Lawrenceburgh.

Lawrenceburgh, right side

This town contains about 200 houses and 2500 inhabitants. It was originally built on the first bottom, which is frequently exposed to inundation. It is not uncommon for the water to rise several feet above the foundation of the houses; in which case, the inhabitants move to the upper story, and drive their animals to the hills. They visit each other in skiffs; and all customary pursuits being suspended they indulge themselves in social recreation. It is said that the floods instead of creating disease, serve to wash the surface of the earth and to carry off all vegetable and animal matter, which would otherwise putrefy, and are supposed to be rather conducive to health than otherwise.

In consequence of these inundations, the inhabitants have of late built upon the second bank, near Tanner's creek, in a part of the town which they call New Lawrenceburgh, which is rapidly improving. It has a court house, a number of stores, two printing offices, some respectable manufacturers, and is eligibly situated for the trade of the rich adjacent country. After you have past Lawrenceburgh, incline towards the left shore, to avoid the bar on the right, at the mouth of Tanner's creek, opposite Petersburg.

Aurora,

Is a new village, situate at the mouth of Hogan creek, four miles below Lawrenceburgh. It contains between sixty and seventy houses, and about 800 inhabitants.

Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers as possible participate in the Birdathon. While there is a competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during the 24 hours of the contest, there are many ways to participate. You do not even have to leave your own house. You do not have to compete at all, just come to the tally party and report your findings. There are also many ways to compete besides most species for the total Birdathon. Here are some possible categories of competition:

- Most Species by a Team. (most overall species by a group)
- Most Species by an Individual (most overall species by an individual)
- Most Species in a Back Yard (most species observed from one yard)
- Most Species One State (most species by state, either Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky)
- Most Species One County (most species in any one county, ex: Hamilton)
- Most Species In One Location (recorded in one defined area, ex: The Oxbow)
- Most Species Non-Fossil Fuel (recorded without using any gasoline)
- Most Species Big Sit (recorded from one fixed 30 x 30 foot spot)
- Most Species Family (most species by a family, parent/guardian and at least one child)
- Most Species Under Age 20 (most species seen by a group 19 & under, 1 adult allowed)
- Most Funds Raised by a Team
- Most Funds Raised by an Individual
- Most Funds raised by Persons Under 20 Years Old
- Make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will probably accept it.

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. **The way to do it is to have fun birding!**

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, **please call Jay Stenger @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835.** We like to know how many are going to be participating on the Birdathon so that we can get the Pizza order right for the grand tally party at the finish of the Birdathon.

Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2010 (May 7-8, 2010)

Name _____

Address _____

Mail To:
Jon Seymour
854 Ligorio Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45218

My Pledge for Birdathon 2008 is: Fixed Amount: \$ _____ () Check Enclosed () Bill me after the Birdathon

If you elect a fixed pledge please remember to specify below which team the pledge is for.

Per Species Pledge: (Circle One, you will be billed after the Birdathon):

\$ 5.00 \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00 \$0.75 \$0.50 \$0.25 Other \$ _____

My Pledge is to Support the following Oxbow, Inc. Team

_____ Highest Scoring Team

_____ Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger, and Joe Bens

_____ Team #2 – Jerry Lippert, Erich Baumgardner, and Wayne Wauligman

_____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Katherine Miller, Sarah Krailler

_____ Team #4 – Dave and Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

_____ Team #5 – Jon Seymour and the First Timers

_____ Team # 6 – Steve Pelikan, Mike Busam, and Charlie Saunders

**Make checks payable to
Oxbow, Inc. All donations
to the Birdathon are tax
deductible.**

Wish List for volunteers:

- A volunteer interested in organization to help us organize files in the office.
- A volunteer interested in history to organize historical documents and create a living history of Oxbow, Inc.
- A volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories, on the efforts of each volunteer, to be published in our newsletter.

If you are interested or think you might be interested call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835 to talk about it. Oxbow, Inc. runs solely on the basis of volunteer effort and all that we accomplish is due to our volunteers.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials & Honorariums

Donor

In Memory of

Ken & Shirley Durbin

Dale Durbin

Phyllis Kadle

Roy Kadle

Donor

In Honor of

Herbert & Wilma Beigel

Lois Geary

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.

Oxbow, Inc. would like to thank:

Bonnie and Ken Borisch

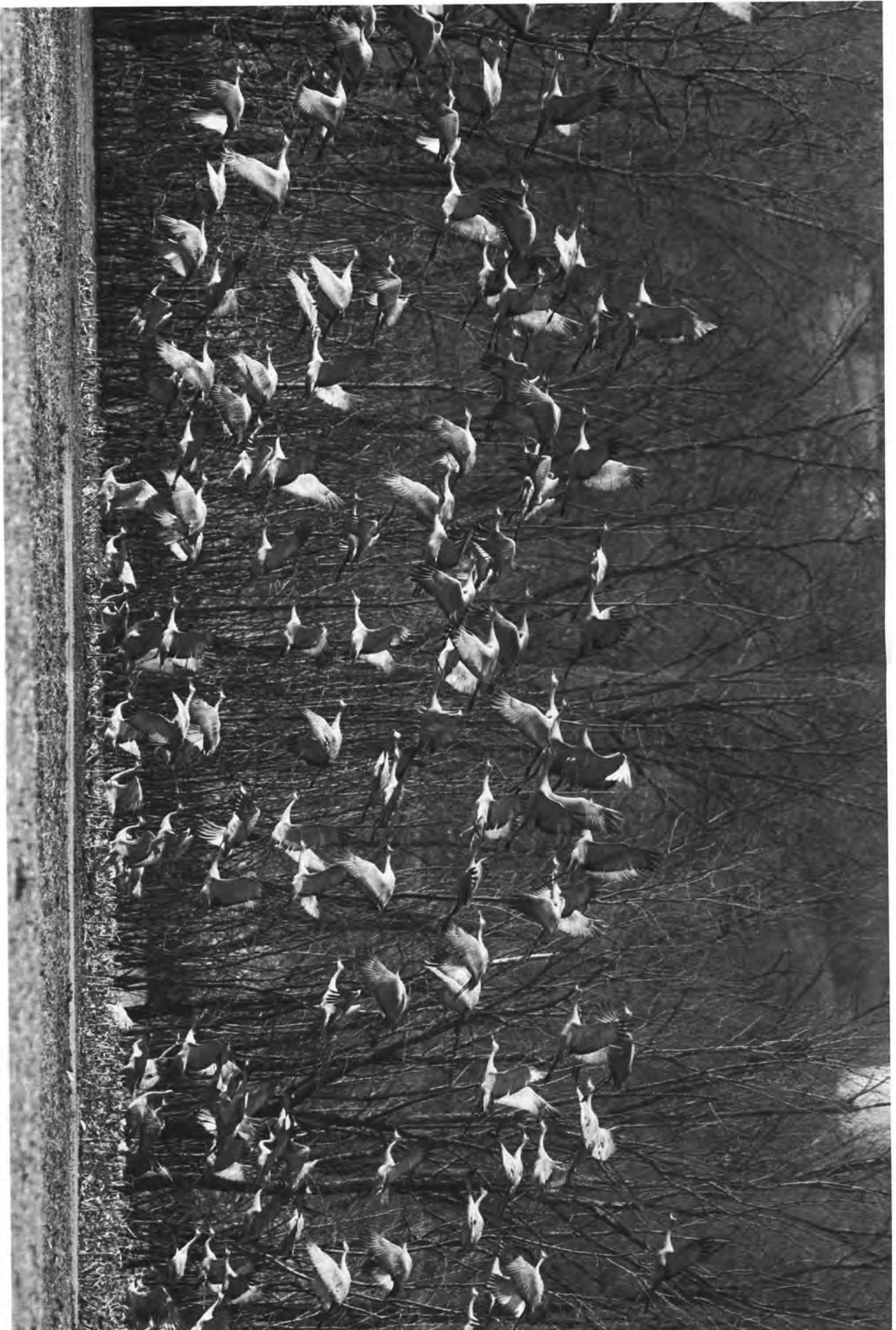
For their gift of the complete collection of Living with Nature: Jerner's Ducks, a series of eight limited edition 8 ½ inch plates from Knowles China, Bart Jerner artist. Produced between 1986 and 1988 and complete with documentation and original boxes.

Bonnie Pence

For her generous gift

Joanne Jeffrey

For her generous gift



Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes usually pass through the Oxbow area at the end of November and the first part of December. This year the large flocks came through the area in numbers at mid-December. Tom Uhlman was out in his Kayak and captured this photo of a flock of 500 resting and feeding in the wildlife crop areas of the Oxbow.



John Klein, HCPD Land Manager, presents Ned Keller (right) with the 2009 Stewart Welsh Award at Winton Centre. Winton Woods. (Photo by Jim Mundy)



A Fox Squirrel contemplates the snow and ice in the Oxbow and tries to remember under which ice drift and pile of snow he buried that nut. (photo by Tom Uhlman)



Ice sheets float down the Great Miami River and pile up behind a snag creating a small ice jam. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Ice sheets floating down the Great Miami River crash into the outside bend of a meander turn at the mouth of Double Lick Creek. Ice sheets breaking up and grinding against the bank cut at the soil like millions of knives. Fortunately the bank sand is frozen or the soil would be ripped apart. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Mark Jansen (left) and Nursery workers drill a planting hole for one of the fifteen mature trees planted along a portion for Mark's former property which he sold to Oxbow, Inc. in July. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Musings

by Dave Styer

The Yellow-throated Warbler

As we get ready for another spring migration, we can look forward to the arrival of the Yellow-throated Warbler in mid-April. This bird is one of the earlier warblers to arrive. This beautiful bird is often hard to see because, in the Cincinnati area, it favors the canopy of large Sycamore trees. Although the Yellow-throated Warbler is a breeding bird at Shawnee Lookout Park, I have heard it singing there more often than I have seen it. My most memorable sightings of these birds were along West Fork Creek in Mt. Airy Forest. There I have had leisurely views at eye level. What a stunning bird!

Once, on a bird count, I identified a Yellow-throated Warbler by song, and a person with me asked how I knew that we weren't hearing an Indigo Bunting. I suppose that there is a certain regularity in the song that is lacking in the Indigo Bunting. None-the-less, the tone quality and the phrasing of the Yellow-throated Warbler's song are similar to that of an Indigo Bunting. Since then I have read several accounts that mention this similarity. My Peterson *Field Guide* states that the notes of the Indigo Bunting song "are usually in twos: sweet-sweet, chew-chew, etc." Most descriptions I have read of the Yellow-throated Warbler song do not recognize this, but Alexander Sprunt, Jr's account in Bent's *Life Histories* does:

Aretas A. Saunders (MS.) writes: "The song is bright, musical and lively, beginning with high-pitched two-note phrases, sounding something like cheeka-cheeka-cincha-cincha, and then dropping down in pitch in a series of rapid notes. It is fairly loud, with a clear ringing quality." This is much the best description I have seen of this highly individual song.

And I agree.

There are a couple of mysteries associated with Yellow-throated Warblers. Why is a Sycamore tree like a pine tree? Answer: West of the Appalachian Mountains the sycamore is a favorite nesting tree for the Yellow-throated Warbler, while east of the Appalachians pine trees are favored. This disingenuous answer completely begs the question. Of the scientific publications I have, not one even hints at a reason this strange dichotomy of nest tree selection might be so. I don't doubt that wild speculation can play a role in science, but not at the publishable level. In this article I'm allowed to make a pure

guess. Unfortunately, I don't have an inkling of what a pine and a sycamore have in common. The local race of Yellow-throated Warbler used to be called the Sycamore Warbler. (See, for example, the *Birds of Southwestern Ohio* by Kemsies and Randle.) However, the pine-tree nesting race of the Yellow-throated Warbler was never called a "Pine Warbler," because the name "Pine Warbler," has been given to a totally different bird. Pine Warblers nested in the pine grove at Mt. Airy Arboretum, but Yellow-throated Warblers never did. With one exception, I never saw Yellow-throated Warblers in the Cincinnati area associated with pines rather than sycamores. I have sometimes wondered if the pine tree nesting Yellow-throated Warblers were actually a different species from ours. However, recent morphological and DNA studies by Bailey McKay suggest that there aren't even enough differences to separate the two races.

There is another mystery associated with Yellow-throated Warblers. In the nineteenth century these warblers were reasonably common nesting birds throughout most of Ohio. In the first half of the twentieth century they disappeared from most of the state. In the second half of the twentieth century they returned, at least to the southern half of Ohio as breeding birds. According to Bruce Peterjohn in *The Birds of Ohio* "habitat availability was not a factor in this decline, but the causes were never established." If all of the trees are cut down, of course the tree-nesting birds will no longer be there. If the habitat is left alone and the birds disappear anyhow, then something else must have happened. The problem might be very subtle. Would any one have known if a strain of flu specific to Yellow-throated Warblers had killed off most of the population during the winter? If so, some individuals must have been immune to the disease, and fifty years later their progeny were repopulating Ohio. Here is another scenario. What if, after the nineteenth century development of Ohio there were enough predators and parasites (Brown-headed Cowbirds) so that the Yellow-throated Warblers were no longer producing enough young to maintain themselves. This problem is known as a population sink, and it is a real concern for some species, such as Wood Thrushes. After a while the population crashes and the birds disappear. If that happened, then, somewhere along the line there were a few Yellow-throated Warblers left that built nest harder to find. This trait would have been inherited, and the population would have slowly built back up with warblers whose nests were more likely to succeed. Let's hear it for down-home style science fiction.

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Sunday, January 3, 2010 by Jon Seymour

It is really cold!!! So I am asking myself why I am heading for the Oxbow to participate in a tree planting expedition. To answer the question I have to take you back to our mid-summer purchase of the Mark Jansen property on the banks of the Great Miami River. Part of the contract with the Jansen family allows a lease to camp on the northernmost portion of the property. In order to be able to see the limits of the area it was agreed to plant a line of mature trees to mark the southern boundary of the camping area. The other boundaries are marked by natural features of the landscape. In addition Mark owns 6 acres immediately adjacent and east of our purchase in the State of Ohio.

Mark had taken it upon himself to track down the trees of the appropriate species and get prices as well as a planting estimate. His proposal was under the budgeted allowance and was accepted by the Board. We had to wait for a hard frost to freeze the ground so we could haul heavy equipment and heavy tree balls out the 1 ½ mile of dirt road to the planting site.

Well we now had our hard freeze and, while my wife, Jackie, is in a warm church and sharing pastries with friends during the fellowship period following church, I am climbing into Mark's truck (with no heater) to head out to the planting site.

We are a strange procession heading out to the riverbank. We leave US Hwy 50, cross under the Interstate through a tunnel and head out across the farm fields. An old truck with no heater, a second truck pulling a trailer with several large trees on the trailer bed, and yet another truck with a trailer carrying a Bobcat. We pass by a rather startled goose hunter. He is sitting under a lone tree in the fields with his steroid enlarged decoys scattered on the corn stubble in front of his blind. I wince as I realize that he probably had gotten up early and had positioned his decoys to be their most alluring in the pale light before the dawn. Now he could only stand and watch us go by and curse that his day of relaxing and enjoying hunting had just been cut short before he could even take a shot.

Mark's truck is loaded with 2x4's and scrap lumber. The 2x4's are for bracing the trees and the scrap lumber is for a fire. We are going to need the latter as the mercury is hovering around 10° F with a stiff breeze as the project gets under. As the nursery men unload the trees and start to dig holes, I notice the ice flows that are moving down the Great Miami River grinding against the outside shore at the bend in the river nearest us. Ten foot high erosion banks evidence the power of the water to sweep cubic yards of riverbank down the river and eventually out to the Gulf of Mexico. (Yes, we help build the

Mississippi Delta.) I hear the ice flows grinding against the bank and for the first time realize how much of a role ice probably plays in hastening shoreline erosion in the Great Miami River.

The trees that are being planted will help slow down that erosion. It is not really possible to stop it as it is the natural process by which a river moves around the floodplain. However agricultural practices that denude a shoreline and populate the land with short-rooted plants have increased the rate of this natural process. Trees growing near the shoreline provide deep permanent roots that hold soil more firmly and slow down the erosive process to a more natural pace. These 15 trees themselves will not be that effective but they will provide shelter and a seed base to help start a grove of trees in the area to match a few other isolated groves on the nearby shoreline.

The bobcat has placed the fifteen trees at the pre-selected locations based on the surveyor's stakes. The reason we are here in January to plant trees is we had to wait for the crops in the area to be harvested so that the surveyors could go back in and mark the line that corresponded to the lease agreement with Mark. With all the rain following the harvest, in order to operate the heavy equipment on the plowed ground and to drive the roads to the river we need to have a hard freeze so, January it is.

Mark has no problem doing the Boy Scout thing and getting a fire going. The problem is that the wind is still up and the fire burns rapidly and must be fed frequently to keep it going in the frigid weather. The trees have been placed and the Bobcat changes from a lift to the auger (about 3 feet across at the top) and starts to dig some holes. With the holes dug we struggle to rock the heavy tree balls into place and get them up right. The nursery men are doing the heavy work and Mark and I help as we can and take care of some of the preparation and some of the clean-up work. As the work progresses the Bobcat throws a track and needs to be repaired. The nursery crew will have to return tomorrow with the appropriate tools to fix the track and finish the job. My job, to merely oversee the work for the Oxbow, Inc. Board, is completed for the day. I head for the Office to get warm knowing that the job will be finished in the next few days.

HCPD Honors Ned Keller with 2009 Stewart Welsh Award

.....by Ann Oliver

(Reprinted with the permission of "The Passenger Pigeon", the newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club)

The Hamilton County Park District awarded the 2009 Stewart Welsh Award to a stalwart of the Ohio birding community: Ned Keller. Co-winner of the award was Jim Davis.

Jim Mundy, HCPD Land Management Assistant and noted photographer, was part of the HCPD nominating committee. Mundy read the following passage describing Ned at the December award ceremony.

Ned Keller is a tireless promoter of every bird conservation organization and activity in our region. Because he is, and has been involved in so many of these organizations, you wonder if he does anything not bird conservation based.

Ned was a founding member of the Ohio Ornithological Society, former President of both The Cincinnati Bird Club and Raptor Inc, a former board member of the Audubon Society of Ohio and Audubon Ohio, and Oxbow Inc. He is currently the Secretary of the Ohio Birds Records Committee, a webmaster for the Ohio Ornithological Society, and owns and maintains the web site for cincinnatibirds.com. He's also the regional coordinator for the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBII).

Ned is a compiler for the Western Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count. He writes the Ohio State report in the Ohio Cardinal, a yearly summary of all Ohio Christmas Counts. And if that is not enough, he's actively involved in Wild Ones and the Midwest Native Plant Society and promotes native plants. He is a member of the Ohio Young Birders Club and leads many field trips for Oxbow Inc., Cincinnati Bird Club, and the Audubon Society. His 'lawyer services' have been called on by many of the local non-profit groups: Ned doesn't charge them for his time.

Ned's leadership in bird conservation has directly impacted Hamilton County, Ohio and Tri-state area residents. Ned Keller exemplifies everything you could ask for in a true leader and supporter of conservation, he gives a lot and asks for nothing in return. ~Jim Mundy, HCPD

The Stewart Welsh Award is named after the late Deputy Director of the HCPD. During Welsh's tenure, the HCPD grew from three parks to 16 parks: nearly 9250 acres of additional land was preserved.

During his career, Welsh served as Naturalist, Assistant-Director, Co-Director, and Deputy Director. As Deputy Director, Welsh forwarded the Land Management

Policy which states 80% of all HCPD property must remain in a natural state and those natural areas will be managed to promote biodiversity.

The Stewart Welsh Award began in 2008. To become a recipient, a person must meet the following criteria: **the recipient will have demonstrated leadership or dedication to a specific project of body of work resulting in a marked improvement to the environment in our region.** Last year's honorees included Paul Wharton and the late Morris Mercer, Ginny Wiseman, and Art Wiseman.

The other 2009 "Stewie" honoree, Jim Davis, was avid kayaker Jim Davis who anonymously and voluntarily removes up to 500 bags of trash annually, by tandem kayak, from Winton Lake. His nomination form noted, "his efforts have made Winton Lake a better place in both an ecological and recreational sense".

(Editor's Note: Ned Keller and his wife Kathy McDonald have been long time supporters and active volunteers for Oxbow, Inc. We add our voice to in congratulations honoring their contribution to nature and conservation in the Greater Cincinnati area.)



2010 Election Results

At our January Members Meeting the following Board members were elected:

Elected for a three year term on the Board ending in February 2012:

- Aaron Perlman
- Jim Poehlmann
- Jon Seymour
- Mike Miller
- Wayne Wauligman

At our January Board Meeting the following Officers were elected:

Elected for a one-year term as officers of Oxbow, Inc.:

President - Jon Seymour
 Vice-President – John Getzendanner
 Secretary – Dwight Poffenberger
 Treasurer – Jim Poehlmann
 Indiana Agent – John Getzendanner
 Ohio Agent – Dwight Poffenberger

Ft. Finney.....by *Kanilou Meyer*

At our January member's meeting, historian Tom Strohfeldt described the establishment of Ft. Finney by American forces lead by George Rogers Clark just north of the mouth of the Great Miami River at what is now the Ft. Miami power plant in 1785. The purpose of this expedition was to gather Shawnee together to sign a treaty to establish their territory and relinquish Indian claims to southwestern Ohio and Indiana. An earlier Treaty of Fort McIntosh was not holding. They brought material, animals and men downriver by both keelboats and Kentucky boats making about 10-15 miles a day until they arrived at the site on October 22. The fort was built in a very short time. While waiting for the tribes to gather there was much dancing, drinking, and playing of games.

In January, 1786, negotiations began with the Indians giving the Americans a belt of black wampum signaling war but the Americans swept that aside and threatened a full attack. The Indian leaders were finally intimidated into signing but when they returned to their villages, their people were not pleased and the peace did not hold. Many attacks were launched until Anthony Wayne finally defeated the Shawnee and negotiated the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. Ft. Finney lasted at least a year beyond its establishment with a small garrison that celebrated both St. Patrick's Day and the Fourth of July.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon your application acceptance.

Application and Memorandum of Understanding

I am a member in good standing of Oxbow, Inc. and request permission to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. property east of I-275 as will be shown on the map affixed to the permission slip that must be carried while hunting on Oxbow property.

I agree: to hunt subject to the following Oxbow, Inc. rules:

- I will practice good hunting ethics at all times.
- Others may rightfully visit the area and my activity has no priority over that of others.
- During my use of Oxbow, Inc. property I will not litter, remove or damage Oxbow, Inc. property, or cause any habitat destruction.
- I will not leave any structures on the property (ie. hunting stands, duck blinds, etc.).
- I will carry a valid permission slip at all times while hunting on Oxbow, Inc. land.

I will obey all applicable laws

I understand that hunting privilege will be revoked if any of the above regulations are violated. I understand that I enter Oxbow, Inc. property entirely at my own risk and hold Oxbow, Inc. free of liability for any hazards, known or unknown to it. I HAVE INCLUDED A COPY OF MY VALID INDIANA HUNTING PERMIT and A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

Your Signature: _____ date _____

Return Mail Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc., c/o John Getzendanner, 21007 Crestview Ct., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025, Phone: 812-537-5728

Hunting permission is granted for one year (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) only and must be reapplied for yearly.

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2010

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 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
513-851-9835

Corporation Officers

President, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Vice President, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728
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, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
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513-851-9835

Need a Speaker?
Give Us a Call!

WWW.OXBOWINC.INFO

P.O. BOX 4172
LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025

FOUNDED 1985

OXBOW, Inc.

PROTECTING WETLANDS