

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



Think of Oxbow, Inc. as a Learning Incubator or an Environmental Micro Financer

.....by Jon Seymour

I bet you did not expect "corporate speak" in an article about Oxbow, Inc. but it is not only designed to motivate our support but to tell everyone just how cool we are. Of course, all the modern "corporate speak" is completely blown by my use of the word "cool" (can we say 50s-60s really loud). However, through all the "corporate speak" many of the things we make possible with our small investments in education, are really, really COOL.

Below is a report from the Dater Montessori Wetland that one of our Wiseman (Witte) Education Grants helped make possible.

Dater Montessori Wetland Project Update

On June 5, 2013 fifty students from Covedale, Fairview, Dater, and Gamble and Clark Montessori schools (ages 5-17), plus 4 adult counselors from the "Powered by Nature Camp", spent the morning studying the vernal pond on the Dater Montessori Campus. The wetland had been installed in September of 2012 with a generous donation from Oxbow, Inc.

Under the guidance of Matt Stenger of Next Generation Nature, the children were given the task of catching pond critters with dip nets. They proceeded to use magnified bug-viewing specimen containers and microscopes to obtain the following bio-survey results.

The survey was neither extensive nor scientifically controlled, but it does show that after just nine months the vernal pond is supporting a thriving community of living organisms. All of the indicator species are hardy and pollution tolerant, which falls in line with a newly constructed environment.

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Protecting the Oxbow: The Big Picture

.....by Tim Mara

Protecting the Oxbow wetlands from outright destruction has been the focus of our efforts since the creation of our organization back in 1985. Through the commitment of our members and the generosity of donors, Oxbow has raised and spent millions of dollars to purchase outright 1000 acres and to buy conservation easements over another 230 acres, all in the bottom land where the Great Miami River flows into the Ohio. We stand ready to buy additional land as willing buyers come forward. But actual construction in the Oxbow wetlands itself is not the only threat to the wetlands.

What happens upstream on the Great Miami and its tributaries can greatly harm water quality in Oxbow Lake and the other smaller ponds sprinkled across the wetlands, and that in turn can destroy the wetland habitat that is home to an impressive array of birds, waterfowl, and other valued animals, fish, amphibians, insects and plant species. That's why the Oxbow board of directors has increasingly been monitoring new developments upstream, particularly along the Whitewater River.

The Whitewater River is thought to be one of the cleanest streams in Indiana and Ohio. Water quality in the Great Miami above the Whitewater, by contrast, has been heavily impacted by discharge from industrial activity and other urban and suburban development. Water from the Whitewater helps to dilute the pollutants in the

(continued on page 2)

Important Notice

All Oxbow Members need to vote for the 2014 slate of candidates for the Boards of both Oxbow, Inc. and for the Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. The Ballot is found on Page 11. Cut it out, vote, and send it in to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. We need everyone to vote!

Protecting the Oxbow... (continued from page 1)

Great Miami before it reaches the Oxbow and empties into the Ohio.

Because the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers typically inundate the Oxbow wetlands several times a year, the river waters, particularly from the Great Miami River back up and can mix with the water in Oxbow Lake and other ponds in the Oxbow wetlands. In that way, the quality of water in the lakes and wetlands can be impacted by the quality of the water in the Great Miami. The water covers the soil and plants of the Oxbow and leaves behind materials dissolved and carried in the flood water. In recognition of that fact, the Oxbow Board of Trustees has become increasingly alert to potential degradation of upstream water quality, particularly in the lower stretches of the Whitewater River in both Ohio and Indiana.

Last year, we provided testimony at hearings held by the Ohio EPA on a proposed turkey processing plant on the banks of the Whitewater near Harrison, Ohio. This year, we are in touch with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and county officials regarding a proposed flour mill on the Whitewater River near West Harrison. We seek not to prevent economic development, but to press state regulators to insist that these new businesses use best available practices to prevent the degradation of water quality in the Whitewater River and ultimately in the Oxbow wetlands.

We encourage Oxbow members and friends to alert us to new proposals for development along the lower stretches of the Whitewater and Great Miami Rivers so that Oxbow can take timely action to do what we can to protect these valuable water resources.

New Oxbow T-Shirts Are Here

The new oxbow T-shirts, designed by local wildlife artist Ann Giese, are available. \$15 if picked up at the Oxbow office. By mail, \$19 (including shipping). Advertise your love for the Oxbow area with this great t-shirt.

Oxbow T-shirts come in M, L, XL and XXL only. If there is a large demand for another size, we may be able to have them printed.

To order your T-shirt, send \$19.00 per shirt, to:

Oxbow, Inc.
Attn: T-shirt
P.O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Be certain to include
your return mailing
address!

Think of Oxbow, Inc. (continued from page 1)

Organism	Approximate Number Observed
Rat-tailed Maggot (drone fly larva)	1
Red Midge Fly Larva (blood worm)	3
Spotted Fishing Spider	6
Spotted Skimmer	12
Mosquito Larva	many hundreds
Daphnia (water fleas)	many dozen
Single celled algae	many varieties

Future exploration will include students conducting a more thorough survey a few times per year as part of a science class and /or camp. Over time, the data will be compared to help the students gain an understanding of aquatic life, how ecosystems change as the mature, food chains, predator-prey relationships, data collection, scientific inquiry and much more. This data will continually be shared with other schools and organizations interested in the wetland restoration ecology.

One anecdotal piece to add was the complete enthrallment of Keith, one of the teen volunteers. Aside from collecting the vast majority of specimens for the Campers, Keith shared a long conversation with Matt regarding wetland ecology, species, succession, and much more. Up to that point in Camp, Keith had seemed disinterested in our activities which primarily included gardening. Later after some research at home, Matt sent more detailed taxonomy information to Keith, our budding wetland scientist.

Additional wetland activities took place during Camp: Installation of seed start and broadcasting native Ohio wetland seeds donated by the Hamilton County Parks Shaker Trace Seed Nursery. Seeds included Eupatorium, Verbena, Napaea, Asclepias, Helenium, Sida, Alisma, Scirpus, and Carex species. In addition, two lovely, comfortable benches at the wetland's edge were installed through the courtesy of a private donor and the work effort of a crew from Crossroads Church's "Go Cincinnati" effort. Synergy is a wonderful thing.

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT
INCOME & EXPENSE

Category	<u>Oxbow, Inc.</u>	<u>Oxbow of IN, Inc.</u>	<u>Combined</u>
INCOME			
Contributed Support	31,039.93	0.00	31,093.93
Legacies & Bequests	94,746.70	0.00	94,746.70
Earned Revenue ¹	51,899.60	57,774.75	109,674.35
Special Events	0.00	4,969.00	4,969.00
Restricted Funds Activity	2,987.06	0.00	2,987.06
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>12.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12.00</u>
Total Income	180,661.29	62,743.75	243,405.04
EXPENSES			
Grants	2,720.00	0.00	2,720.00
Legal & Accounting	9,924.59	4,338.91	14,263.50
Non-Personnel Exp. ²	1,772.99	19,728.30	21,501.29
Occupancy Expenses ³	0.00	17,813.96	17,813.96
Travel & Meetings	100.00	10.00	110.00
Miscellaneous	1,200.00	2,500.00	3,700.00
Business Expenses	<u>220.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>220.00</u>
Total Expenses	15,937.58	44,391.17	60,328.75
NET INCOME	164,723.71	18,352.58	183,076.29

BALANCE SHEET

Checking & Savings	\$1,716,378.19	\$73,362.99	\$1,789,741.18
Other Current Assets	<u>\$966.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$966.00</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,717,344.19	\$73,362.99	\$1,790,707.18
Land	\$245,551.60	\$1,383,982.86	\$1,629,534.46
Easements Owned	\$231,963.28	\$0.00	\$231,963.28
Land Improvements	\$8,438.10	\$11,631.60	\$20,069.70
Office Furn. & Equip.	\$3,783.00	\$0.00	\$3,783.00
Other Assets	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Accumulated Amort. - Land Improvements	-\$2,477.00	-\$745.00	-\$3,222.00
Accumulated Depr. - Office Furn. & Equip.	<u>-\$3,521.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>-\$3,521.00</u>
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$483,737.98	\$1,395,369.46	\$1,879,107.44
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,208,082.17	\$1,468,732.45	\$3,676,814.62

¹ Dues, Interest, Cropland Rental

² Office Exp., Fundraising, Special Events, Postage, Printing

³ Exp. related to renting office & maintaining land, including property taxes

2012 Income and Expenses Report

The Income and Expense Report for 2012 for Oxbow, Inc. and for Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. is presented on this page. Contributed Support is primarily a gift to the restricted education fund, plus general gifts and memorials. We received one large legacy gift of about \$26,000 in 2012.

Legacies and bequests include the single gift of \$26,000 and the income from the endowment fund. We are now required to take 5% of this income, by the terms of the trust. Earned Income includes dues, which were about the same as the prior year, at about \$31,450, and rental of the farmland, which increased by about 2/3, as a new rental contract took effect.

Special Events is primarily the Bird-A-Thon, which was less than the prior year.

Restricted funds is interest income from the designated education fund.

Total expenses were about the same as 2011, with some items being up a little, and some being down a little. As a result, our net income for last year was nearly \$70,000 higher than in 2011.

On the Balance Sheet, the value of the land and easements is recorded as the value when the individual plots were obtained (bought or donated). This is not the current value. There was an increase in the Land Improvements, due to the vernal ponds we put in, at a cost of about \$8,200.

Ed Gemperle
Treasurer, Oxbow, Inc.
9/12/13

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

September 7, 2013 by *Bob Nuhn*

For those of you who did not join us last Saturday for our butterfly walk, here are the results which I hope you find interesting. The count was held from 1115 hrs. till 1345 hrs. walking from the small parking lot at east end of the conservancy over the main road to a point where the road started turning towards the right to the second pond. We walked about 1.5 miles in sunny 80F weather. We counted the following 72 individual butterflies comprising 18 species:

- 2 Black Swallowtails
- 1 Tiger Swallowtail
- 10 European Cabbage Whites
- 1 Clouded (yellow) Sulphur,
- 3 Orange Sulphurs
- 1 unknown albino female sulphur (either a Clouded or Orange Sulphur)
- 1 fresh Southern Dogface Sulphur (form "rosa" named for the pink striations on the underside which occur only in fall broods),
- 8 Cloudless Sulphurs,
- 6 Little Yellows
- 5 Sleepy Oranges
- 2 Eastern Tailed Blues
- 11 Pearl Crescents
- 1 fresh Question Mark
- 4 Red-spotted Purples
- 1 Viceroy
- 2 Monarchs (Monarchs have been scarce all summer)
- 2 Least Skippers
- 3 Peck's Skippers
- 8 Sachem Skippers.

We did not find the Checkered White or Dainty Sulphur this year. Monarchs have been reported scarce all over Ohio this year for unknown reasons, whether systemic pesticides on corn getting into adjacent milkweeds, or the overwintering colony in Mexico last winter having suffered some catastrophe (so far no reports of this). During the next few weeks, we will know if the species rebounded further north in MI and Canada as those individuals pass through our area heading south to Mexico. If we see a significantly smaller number than "normal", then the Monarchs may have more difficulty overwintering in the fir forests in Mexico since they need large numbers to help

keep the colonies "warm". The West Coast Monarchs have been threatened for years and steadily diminishing in numbers as their overwintering sites in southern CA have been progressively developed. In fact, few Monarchs reportedly overwinter in "Butterfly Town, USA" in CA where killing an adult Monarch was a \$100 offense back in the '70s; however, no thought was given to protecting the colony site from encroaching motels to cater to tourists wishing to see said Monarchs!! As we all know, it comes down to habitat protection, no matter what species we are talking about. Bob Pyle documents some of this degradation re: Monarchs in his book: "Mariposa Road" which is about his first "butterfly year". Like a birding year but involving seeing as many US butterfly species as possible in one calendar year. He put in well over 13,000 miles car miles, not incl Alaska and Hawaii. Started in his home state of Oregon in his garage on January 1st (finding a CA Tortoiseshell overwintering) and ending up on Key West on December 31st! What a cool trip. Wish I had the money to do that! He used a beatup '70s Honda for most of the travelling.

Saturday, September 28, 2013 by Jon Seymour

Great Outdoor Weekend (GOW) started early this year. In fact it started two days ago. It started with the kick-off of the "Taking Root" campaign that is sponsored by Green Umbrella, OKI Regional Council of Governments, the Cincinnati Zoo, and other organizations. The goal is to plant 2,000,000 trees in the Greater Cincinnati area by 2020, one tree for every resident of the area. It will replace only 10% of the expected canopy loss due to the Emerald Ash Bore, but we have to start.

A symbolic tree planting by school children at Eden Park recreated an 1882 event where all the school children in Cincinnati were given the day off to help plant trees on the then denuded heights of Mt. Adams. Speeches were made, promises given and trees handed out. Oxbow was scheduled to receive two of the initial 50 trees (provided by Natorps) to be planted around the area during GOW as part of the kick off event. I had arrived in my Prius and was a bit taken back to see that both trees were 6 feet tall in large root pots. After considerable rearrangement of my cargo both trees fit neatly inside the Prius and they were off on their journey to the Oxbow. I had

(continued on page 5)

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary—continued from page 4

received a Tupelo (Blackgum) and a hard wood Maple. My idea was to have the visitors to the Oxbow during the GOW all participate in the planting. Now I merely had to figure out how.

I arrive early on Saturday afternoon. It is 4:00 pm and the visitors are not due until 6:00 pm. I take the hardwood Maple from its hiding place in the entrance parking area and grab the empty bucket that formerly held cat litter and is now usually employed carrying large rocks to outdoor displays where the rocks help keep the literature, table cloth and occasionally, I think, the table itself from blowing away in the breezes and gales we sometimes encounter. Stripped of its rocky load it becomes my water bucket for the weekend (recycle, reuse, repurpose).

I decide to see if the tree can be planted near the new vernal ponds. I select a likely spot and my shovel bites into the earth for one and one-half inches, only to climax with a solid sounding “clank”. A step over and another attempt reaches the same conclusion. A closer examination of the “clank” reveals a broken chunk of concrete. I immediately decide to reevaluate my selection and think how soft the agricultural soil near the Overlook must be. The Maple becomes reacquainted with my Prius and I head for the overlook. I select a location at the overlook that will maybe give the overlook area a little afternoon shade in 20-30 years. Planting a tree is never anything that you do for yourself, it is always for a generation down the road. I dig a hole deep enough to properly plant the tree and pile the extra dirt around the opening. I set the root ball in the hole and put some of the dirt back in. A trip to the edge of Oxbow Lake with the bucket brings the tree some really great starter water. I hide the shovel near the tree and get ready to greet the GOW visitors.

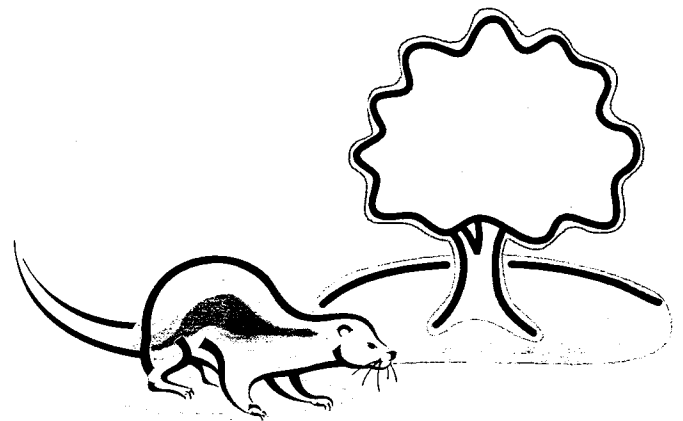
Steven Pelikan has arrived to scout the area in preparation for our GOW tour and has watched bemused as I prepare the tree planting. He is checking out the bird life, plant life, and insects that are present in the area to show the GOW visitors. It is about 5:15 and we are thinking of heading back up to the entrance parking lot to be ready to greet our guests. Off the overlook I see two heads pop up in the water. A third head joins them and then maybe a fourth but there were only three heads above the water at any one time. The family of River Otters was working the lake and swimming around each other. Boy that would be a great thing to show the GOW visitors but the chances of these otters sticking around for another

two hours is slim to none. We can only hope that when the GOW tour reaches the overlook the otters are swimming around within sight.

Velda Miller joins us at the entrance parking lot to help guide. We have a great turnout of 17 adults and 8 kids, most of them have never been to the Oxbow. As we approach the overlook area, the hope that the otters might be frolicking nearby fades away. However, a couple of Black-crowned Night Heron and a slew of Great Egrets and Great Blue Heron eliminate any disappointment. I haul out my shovel and the kids on the tour each throw a shovel full of earth onto the base of the tree. I explain that they are participating in planting one of the “campaign kick-off” trees for the Taking Root campaign. I invite them to come back and check on its growth in the coming years. The sun is going down behind us and we all turn to see the gorgeous sunset. Another great GOW day!

Epilog — *Wednesday, October 2, 2013*

What happened to the Tupelo tree? The Tupelo is a wet soil tree and everywhere I thought of planting the Tupelo was either too wet or too steep for a group to plant a tree without a bit of hazard. So I held back the Tupelo and Oxbow Director John Klein said he would help me plant it. We met at about 2:00 p.m. and took the tree (in John’s truck) to a site near the overlook but much closer to the water. We just got it planted when I looked out and saw two River Otters watching us. John was thrilled and said that he knew we had been seeing Otters in the Oxbow but this was the first time he had seen them there himself. So the moral of the story is that if you want to see otters in the Oxbow — plant a tree





The Cincinnati Wildflower Society held their Great Outdoor Weekend event in the Oxbow featuring a walk to the mouth of the Great Miami River on the Ohio River. Here the crowd gathers on a cloudy, cool morning with a chance of rain. Everyone would be a little wet before the walk was over. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



Dr. Denis Conover (center facing the camera) leads an Oxbow plant hike finding and explaining the fine points of many of the over 470 species of vascular plants found in the Oxbow. (photo by John Klein)



David Berninger studies a Mayfly up close and personal on the Cincinnati Wildflower Society walk in the Oxbow. Neither Wayne Wauligman (one of the tour leaders) or Jon Seymour (participant and President of Oxbow, Inc., had ever encountered Mayflies in the Oxbow before. (Photo by Wayne Wauligman)



Dater Montessori School (pre-school thru Kindergarten students) tour the bio-wetland demonstration pond funded in part by Oxbow, Inc. through the Wiseman (Witte) education grant structure established by the Board of Directors. Only a year old, the vernal pool is producing insects and supporting a variety of native plant around its perimeter forming a micro habitat for wildlife. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



Young people on the Oxbow, Inc. Great Outdoor Weekend tour line up to be the first in the Oxbow to plant a symbolic starting tree (provided by Natorps) as part of the kick off for the Taking Root Campaign. Everyone threw a shovel of dirt on the tree (a hard maple) to get it planted. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



Oxbow's nesting heron, a Green Heron, alights high in a tree where life is comparatively safe. A survey a few years ago counted 14 Green Heron nests in the Oxbow. (Photo by Pat Bell)

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS—submitted by Kani Meyer

To reach the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 west from the #16 exit off I-275. Pass the Hollywood Casino exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stoplight 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. **All meetings are at The Oxbow, Inc. Office, 301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg unless otherwise noted**

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Rich Cogen, Executive Director of Ohio River Foundation, will talk about their Youth Conservation Team program, including the growth and impact the program is having in the tri-state. The YCT program employs high school students in habitat restoration and protection activities in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Ohio River Foundation is a regional conservation non-profit organization based in Cincinnati dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality and ecology of the Ohio River watershed. Its education and conservation programs benefit thousands of students and millions of Ohio River watershed citizens.

Due to the Holidays, there will be no December Program — HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

John Audubon is well known internationally for his artistic skills and accomplishments, but his scientific achievements are equally impressive if not as well known. **Devere Burt**, artist and Director Emeritus of the Museum of Natural History, will compare and contrast Audubon with Alexander Wilson, George Ord, John Bachman and Charles Darwin. Some were friends, some were foes, and one was a vicious enemy. Art from Burt's Audubon's River collection will help illustrate the presentation.

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS—submitted by Jay Stenger

***Revised Directions for Oxbow Inc Field Trip Meeting Location — Unless otherwise indicated, all trips start at the upper Oxbow parking lot.** To reach the upper Oxbow parking area, go south on US Hwy 50 from the I-275 #16 exit. In about 200 yards, turn left (east) at the edge of the Shell/Subway and go over the levee to where the road T's with a fence directly in front of you. Turn right and go to the Oxbow entrance sign. Turn left into the Oxbow. The upper parking area is immediately on the right.

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 8:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

One of my favorite places at this time of year is the Oxbow. The fall harvest is in the air and the subtle hues of the landscape, interspersed with brilliant colors offer a stark beauty. The approaching winter is in the wind, but not here quite yet.

The changing season also has wildlife active and on the move. Many species of birds are migrating south at this season and use the Oxbow as a resting or "staging" area. Other birds are returning to spend the winter here. When many of us think of the Oxbow in November the first thing that comes to mind is waterfowl, which is the theme of this trip. Fall duck migration peaks during this month and the Oxbow offers a great refuge for them. As one of our catch phrases states, "The duck stops here".

A number of species of ducks and other water birds, Bald Eagles and other hawks will be seen. There is even a good chance we will see migrating Sandhill Cranes. Late migrant and winter songbirds should also be abundant and the weedy fields will abound with sparrows of many species. Our trip leader, Darlena Graham, is a top notch birder and has birded the Oxbow for many years. Come out and join Darlena for a beautiful autumnal visit to the Oxbow. The Oxbow can be muddy and November weather can be cold & wet, so prepare accordingly. Feel free to contact Darlena if you have any questions

No December Oxbow Field Trips, but consider these Christmas Bird Counts:

2012 Ohio River "Oxbow" Christmas Bird Count (26th Annual)

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society

When: Sunday, December 15, 2012, 7:45 am.

Where: Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Park upper boat ramp parking lot.

Compiler Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403, pwharton@fuse.net

Join count compiler Paul Wharton on this annual holiday bird count (known locally as the Oxbow Christmas Bird Count) which censuses winter bird populations in a 15-mile diameter circle, which includes the Oxbow, Shawnee Lookout Park and most of Dearborn County Indiana. Everyone skill levels are welcome and there is no participation fee. You can participate all day, for just a few hours or by staying home and counting the birds at your feeders if you live in the count area. Interested? Please contact Paul for more information.

See page 6 for information on more Christmas Bird Counts.



usings

by Dave Styér

The Double-crested Cormorant

A year ago I wrote about a Neotropical Cormorant that showed up in the Oxbow area. That bird was quite a surprise. If you want to see Neotropical Cormorants where they are really common, go down to the Texas coast, or points south. If you want to see Double-crested Cormorants where they are fairly common, go to the Oxbow. That has not always been the case, as pointed out 20 years ago in *Birds of the Oxbow*. The era of DDT use had nearly wiped out the cormorants. In fact, I'm not aware of a single cormorant record for the Oxbow area from 1971, when I started going there, until 5 Jun 1977, when Bill and David Moring saw 1 immature bird at the Oxbow Lake. That was the same day they saw 2 Hudsonian Godwits there. What a day! I saw my first cormorant there three days later. We didn't know at the time that we were witnessing the start of a dramatic increase in Double-crested Cormorants.

The Oxbow area simply reflects what is happening in general. In *The Bird of Ohio*, Bruce Peterjohn writes of the recovery of the Double-crested Cormorants:

"Even after use of these pesticides was banned, cormorants remained relatively rare during the 1970s." And "their recovery during the 1980s was astounding." By 7 Nov 1983 there was "an incredible 1100 at East Harbor State Park."

Since the primary food of cormorants is fish, we can understand why cormorants are not universally popular. I suppose a sudden influx of cormorants could wreak havoc at a fish hatchery. However, studies have shown that Double-crested Cormorants favor smaller, non-commercial fish. The *Handbook of the Birds of the World* points out that people tend to blame the cormorants when the fishing is poor. However, before Europeans arrived in America there were vast quantities of fish, and the fishing birds did not deplete them: it is man that depletes fish populations, not cormorants.

It is common to see cormorants swimming with only their heads and necks out of water. It is also common to see them perched out of water, with their wings spread to dry. I have read that unlike many other water birds, cormorants don't "shed water like off of a ducks back." I have wondered why cormorants hadn't evolved good, water-repellant feathers. Apparently they have, and I just viewed things too simplistically. For one thing, if cormorants get in an oil slick, their feathers lose their insulating quality, and the cormorants are doomed, just the same as other water birds. A paragraph in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* helps to explain:

Although they swim well, above all they are great divers, and they have several adaptations which reduce buoyancy, facilitating diving. In spite of the presence of a feathered oil-gland at the base of the tail, the structure of the feathers enables them to retain water, and thus the plumage can become soaked and increase the bird's density. At the same time, the bird has an insulating layer of air next to the skin, which limits heat loss. On emerging from the water, much of the water is efficiently repelled, and the insulating air can rapidly reoccupy the plumage to prevent the bird becoming cold.

On reading this account, I get the impression that the feathers, except the innermost ones, allow water to fill all the cracks and spaces without really soaking the feather structure. The feathers next to the body must shed water as well as the feathers of other water birds. Goodness, that's really sophisticated! I should have known all along that evolution wasn't simply failing for those poor ol' Double-crested Cormorants.

Oxbow Needs

This Holiday Season consider giving a gift to Oxbow, Inc. as part of your Holiday planning. The kinds of gifts Oxbow needs are listed below and you may be able to think of others.

- We need a gift of time and effort for someone to be our volunteer coordinator. We need someone willing to stay in contact with our volunteer workers and make them aware of new volunteer opportunities.
- We need a gift of time and effort for someone to tell the stories of the amazing efforts of our volunteers for *Wetland Matters*. This would mean interviewing a volunteer or two every two months and writing their story for publication in *Wetland Matters*.
- We need a decent condition pick-up truck that is being replaced or is no longer need. Contact us—we can make the arrangements and you can take a deduction for the donation.
- If you have extra funds, we are looking for donations specifically to our endowment fund for the future stability of the organization and for donations to our education fund used to support local educators teaching nature to children. Interested? Contact us and we will make the necessary arrangements.
- We are in need of a functioning printer/copier/fax machine that can be used in the Oxbow office. Give us a call if you have one available.



Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Donor

Memorium

The Wulker Family

Robert J. Ponikvar

Thank You

Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.

George & Jean Perbix

Vicki Shepherd & Ron Gough for their generous gift in memory of Julia Shepherd

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 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.

Christmas Bird Counts

You may be interested in these other local National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts. If so, contact the count compilers for more information.

Sunday, December 29, 2013—Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count (66th Annual)
Compiler Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Sunday, December 22, 2013—Western Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count (47th Annual)
Compiler Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

Saturday, January 4, 2014—East Fork Christmas Bird Count (30th Annual)
Compiler Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, joebens@live.com

Saturday, December 14, 2013—Hamilton-Fairfield Christmas Bird Count
Compiler Mike Busam, (513) 755-0057, mbusam@gmail.com

For more information on Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts visit the following website:
<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

Important notice Important Notice Important Notice

Ballot of Election of Directors

Our corporation regulations to call for the election of the Boards of Directors by ballot with the deadline for receipt of that ballot to be January 1, 2014. The Directors serve a 3 year term and about 1/3 of the directors are elected each year.

Here are the candidates for election to the **Board of Oxbow, Inc.** Vote for 4 candidates:

Mike Kluesener

Steve Pelikan

Dwight Poffenberger

Jay Stenger

Write in _____

Here are the candidates for election to the **Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.** Vote for 4 candidates:

Mike Kluesener

Steve Pelikan

Dwight Poffenberger

Jay Stenger

Write in _____

After voting for both Boards, Cut the ballot out and send it to **Oxbow, Inc. P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, 47025** by January 1, 2014. First class postage will be required.

Important notice Important Notice Important Notice

Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, 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 known 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, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason	(513) 385-3607
Treasurer, Ed Gemperle	(812) 539-3666
Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Indiana Agent, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800

Committee Chairpersons


Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Land Management, Kani Meyer John Klein	(513) 948-8630 (513) 941-4877
Programs, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
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

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**Need a Speaker?
Give Us a Call!**

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