



May—June 2014

No. 167

# WETLAND

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

*Have you visited our website?...[www.oxbowinc.info](http://www.oxbowinc.info)*

**Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835**

## **Oxbow Birdathon 2014**

*.....by Jay Stenger*

The annual Oxbow Birdathon is scheduled for **Friday and Saturday May 9th and 10th, 2014**. This is the 27th consecutive year for this event, which has become a spring birding tradition within the Greater Cincinnati birding and conservation community.

As always, the event will begin at 5:00 PM. sharp on Friday evening and end at 5:00 PM. sharp on Saturday. The registration fee remains \$5.00 per person. At 5:00 PM. Saturday May 10th, immediately after the Birdathon ends, the Birdathon Tally and Party will begin. Plenty of cold drinks, pizzas and other food are provided at no additional cost. The Birdathon Tally & Party will again be held at our own Oxbow Inc. office located at 301 Walnut Street in downtown Lawrenceburg, Indiana. There is plenty of room, ample parking and it is centrally located to the Oxbow. As tradition dictates, our Birdathon dates are always scheduled on the Saturday before Mothers Day (the second Sunday in May).

When Oxbow Inc. was in its infancy, members realized we needed an annual fundraiser if we were to achieve our goals and preserve the Oxbow area. So it was that the Birdathon was born and the first event took place in May 1988. Over the years Oxbow Inc. has achieved great success and today well over 1,000 acres have been protected and Oxbow Inc. is in a good position to acquire more land as it becomes available. But Oxbow Inc. continues to need your financial support. With ownership of the land comes the responsibility of stewardship of that land. These days the funds raised from the annual Birdathon are earmarked for habitat management, improvements and access. Many projects have

*(continued on page 2)*

## **What You Cannot See Takes Up Most of Your Time**

*.....by Jon Seymour*

I know some people think that all I have to do with the Oxbow is drive out in the floodplain, set up my scope, open a bottle of Diet Pepsi, and sit back and watch birds all day. I WISH! That is a dream – not reality. Most of the job of President of Oxbow, Inc. is spent indoors meeting with other people. Don't get me wrong. When it is snowing, blowing, and 15° F, I have nothing against "inside". Of course, that was all December, January and February this winter.

There have been a lot of inside things going on this year. We have four major projects that are ongoing and have yet to reach fruition. The projects are: Rezoning, Land Purchase, Display Development, and Best Way site development.

**Rezoning:** It may surprise you to know that nearly the entire Indiana portion of the floodplain is zoned Manufacturing, and not just manufacturing but M-3 for the heaviest kind of manufacturing. We have known this for a long time but a chance to change it had not presented itself before. Now there is a new opportunity. The Dearborn County long range plan, recently adopted by the county, shows the floodplain designated for agriculture usage. This agricultural zoning is much more to our liking and adds an extra layer of protection to the floodplain. But since the current zoning is manufacturing, it works out best if we apply to the county to change the zoning. As a result we are in the process of gathering the necessary documents to ask the county for a zoning change. Knowing that we are not the only land owner in the floodplain we have sent letters to other owners that we believe would be willing to join us in a group application. Because this application matches the county plan we are also applying for a waiver of the usual charges for a zoning change consideration.

*(continued on page 2)*

Oxbow Birdathon 2014 *(continued from page 1)*

already benefited from Birdathon funds and many other projects are on the table waiting for financial support.

But the Birdathon is more than just a fundraiser for Oxbow Inc. We see this event as a community celebration of the conservation ethic and birds during the peak of spring migration. It truly is a festive event and we encourage individuals to form teams or fly solo as representatives of Oxbow Inc. or a charitable organization of their choosing. We have also always encouraged other nature, conservation and educational organizations to participate in this event. These organizations are encouraged to form teams and use this opportunity to raise funds for their own groups. Each of these teams is asked to split any funds they raise 50/50 with Oxbow Inc. In this way both organizations benefit. We usually have at least ten or more such organizations participate in this way.

Last year's event represented the 26th year of the Birdathon and was a great success. Over twenty teams made up of over 70 individuals took to the Birdathon field and raised several thousand dollars for habitat management in the Oxbow. Most importantly all those who participated had a lot of fun and experienced the sense of camaraderie that comes from a group effort working together for a good cause. What can be more fun and rewarding than a birding excursion with your friends on a glorious spring weekend? The answer; doing exactly that while at the same time knowing your efforts are helping to preserve the important natural area we know as the Oxbow.

So mark your calendar and help us make Birdathon 2014 another great success. We encourage you to participate in the event, but if you can't physically participate, we hope you can pledge at least a few dollars to this worthy cause. Bear in mind that the Birdathon is intended to be, first and foremost, fun. You can participate in many ways. You can go all out and try to find as many birds in 24 hours as possible or you can participate for just a few hours from your favorite deck chair in your backyard. Or you can choose any number of ways in between those two examples.

If you are interested in participating, have questions, need a registration packet please e-mail me, Jay Stenger, at [jaystenger@cincfi.com](mailto:jaystenger@cincfi.com) or call me at (513) 522-8147.

Oxbow Inc. thanks you for your support.

What You Cannot See ... *(continued from page 1)*

**Land Purchase:** Over the last several years we have advised several other land owners in the floodplain that we are willing to work with them on the purchase of their land by Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. These periodic efforts have had limited success. Recently we decided to consider naming a local real estate agent as a broker representing us. They would be the person to contact and work with the remaining land owners to try to negotiate a sale. This would allow the local broker freedom to act as a go-between to bring the parties together in the hope we could negotiate a deal. We are anxious to see if this strategy will help us pick up our pace of land acquisition.

**Display Development:** Susan Kemme, a Miami University student, offered to up-date our graphic show displays as part of a class project that she is doing this semester. This was timely as our display boards are beginning to fall apart. In conjunction with Susan's design we have identified a new display vendor whose product seems professional, portable, and yet sturdy enough for most outdoor as well as the indoor events. We look forward to Susan's final creation and are anxious to try it out – maybe at Paddfest this summer.

**Best Way Site Development:** Our new neighbors, Best Way, are starting to consider how they can use the land of the old cement plant. There are many problems on the site from the previous cement making operation. Not the least of which are the two concrete waterfalls formed by the cement plant owners dumping waste concrete over the edge of their hill to form a wasteland of crumbling concrete ledges as it descended toward Oxbow Lake (the cement plant Pond portion). Covering over these "waterfalls" would give Best Way more useable space on top of their property but would require filling of the small pond on their property. This would mean a redirection of the water leaving their property and a redirection of the water draining under US Hwy 50. They approached us with a plan to construct a wetland area to serve as a new outlet for the drainage and hopefully help clean the water entering the Oxbow from both their site and areas on the other side of US Hwy 50. We think the result will be major improvement in the site drainage and offer an opportunity to create line-of-sight disruptions between the Oxbow and the Best Way area that would add to the natural feel of the Oxbow area. We will see how this plays out, but are looking forward to working with Best Way to enhance their operations while improving the Oxbow.

### Oxbow Needs

**If you can help. Call Jon at 513-851-9835 or send an email to [jlsjks@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsjks@hotmail.com)**

Consider giving a gift to Oxbow, Inc. of yourself, your time and talent. The kinds of gifts that Oxbow needs are listed below and you may be able to think of others.

We need someone to be our volunteer coordinator. Your gift of time and effort would be used staying in contact with our volunteer workers and making them aware of volunteer opportunities.

We need a gift of time and effort for someone to document the amazing efforts of our volunteers and ensure their stories are told in *Wetland Matters*. This would mean interviewing a volunteer or two every two months and writing their story for publication in *Wetland Matters*.

### Giving to Oxbow

As part of charitable giving, think of Oxbow, Inc. We are seeking donations specifically to our endowment fund for the future stability of the organization or for donations to our education fund that is used to support local educators teaching nature to children. Donations may be made to Oxbow, Inc. and marked on the envelop or on the check, endowment or education fund. Send those donations to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. If you are interested in making a large donation or naming Oxbow in your will, contact us and we will help make the necessary arrangements. Contact Jon Seymour, 513-851-9835 or send an email to [jlsjks@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsjks@hotmail.com).

Thanks for thinking of us!

### 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!



# Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Monday, March 24, 2014 Jon Seymour

The phone call says they will be ready at 10 o'clock. It is 9:00 a.m. on my end of the receiver at my Greenhills home. I have an hour to get there, 35 minutes of it as drive time. This started on the first of March but it all started even earlier.

It seems to me that this winter has been hard on people—especially people we know. There have been a lot of deaths in my wife's family, mine and among those we know. On March first, Jackie and I find ourselves at the Cincinnati Home and Garden Show with the express purpose of finding a nursery that will sell and plant a tree for us to honor relatives who have passed away. We want this tree planted in the Oxbow and we want a substantial Sycamore tree.

Walking the aisles of the Convention Center we find a small booth advertising the Whitetail Acres Nursery of Brookville, Indiana. They have lots of Sycamores for sale in our size, about 2" in diameter, and we only have to stop by Brookville to pick one out. We tell them we will and take their literature with their address on Hwy 52 just south of Brookville. A few weeks later we pick out a nice balled Sycamore about 2" in diameter and about 13' tall. In arranging for delivery we learn they will be displaying during the weekend of the March 22-23 at the Lawrenceburg Fairgrounds for the Home and Garden Show. While they are cleaning up on the following Monday they can bring the tree down. Since I know where I want this to be planted in the Oxbow, I only hope the water level will be down low enough to reach the location.

I know where I want this planted because of a trip that Jackie and I made to the Oxbow to pick a good location. I told Jackie that I had a pretty good idea of where a Sycamore would be happy because there already was a healthy volunteer Sycamore growing nearby. Driving down the Oxbow Lake road, I stopped the car near the location that I think will be nice and Jackie follows me through the winter smashed plant mat that forms as snow, ice, wind and rain gradually flatten the grasses during the winter months. Presently I emerge on the shore line of Oxbow Lake and look to my left at the volunteer Sycamore to see where it is in relation to the shoreline. Jackie follows me, looking down to see where she is actually going, a habit I have not developed but would be less prone to injury if I did, looks down into a tangle of sticks and bare limbs piled on the shoreline just in front of us and sees a large brown furball in the tangle that upon seeing/hearing us, decides to get the heck out of Dodge. Jackie announces to me that we have just scared a beaver and in my cluelessness I ask where? How? The question barely left my lips when I see the little timber mowing machine surface a few feet off shore and proceed to indignantly swim away. We

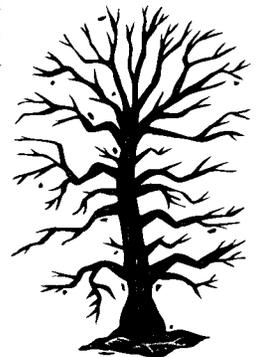
had walked right to a bank beavers den—only missing joining it in the burrow by a few more steps.

We reach an immediate and simultaneous conclusion. Planting a tree on top of a beaver's den is not what we consider a good tree investment. It also reminds me that we are not planting a tree in our own yard. Come to think of it the last tree I planted in my own yard ran afoul of tall four-legged furballs with antlers. Nothing is easy in the tree planting business.

Back to the phone call that tells me that the nursery will be ready to plant our tree at 10 o'clock. They ask me to meet them at Agner Hall to show them the planting site. At first I cannot find anyone that looks like they are from the nursery or have a spare 13' tree hanging out of their truck among the folks busy in front of Agner Hall cleaning up after the weekend show. Back on the phone they claim they are there and I need to look harder, specifically, I need to walk out the back door of the hall where they are waiting all by themselves completely out of sight from the front. They have the tree in a 20' trailer attached to their truck and I quickly decide that the trailer/truck combination will not make an easy U-turn in the Oxbow. I suggest we drop the trailer in the parking area near our entrance and proceed into the floodplain with the truck only. They agree—their truck impresses me with its versatility since it seems to be able to be deconstructed and reassembled like a Lego truck in order to fit their mission.

I do not ask what they think when I warn them, in their big truck, about some of the road hazards we are likely to encounter. As I lead them down the road in my Prius, I suspect there are some jokes being made at my expense. However, I notice in my rearview mirror, on several occasions, that I need to slow down and let them catch up. I pull up and walk on ahead to location Jackie and I picked out. The crew of three makes short work of the planting and everyone seems to appreciate the location. In the distance I can see the beaver den and remind myself that there is no tree that is ever completely safe. Tree planting is a bit like gambling on the future. You hope and dream and with luck future generations will see and enjoy.

My task is not yet complete as I go home with the intention of getting on the computer and registering my tree on [www.takingroot.info](http://www.takingroot.info). One tree down and only 1,999,999 more to go. Go get a tree, plant it, and register your tree planting. It is simple and quick to do. You should not even require an eight year old to show you how. I didn't.



**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, May 13, 2014 @ 7:30pm**  
**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**  
**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

The Everglades Region was the last explored area of Continental U.S. The many ecosystems encountered in a short distance make this area a Capitol of flora and fauna. Jack and Elaine Berninger have explored this region over many winters in sunny Florida and invite you to join them on an adventure through this neo-tropical area.

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014 @ 7:30pm**  
**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**  
**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a rapidly spreading disease affecting cave hibernating bats that is caused by a non-native cold-loving fungus named *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. It was first documented near Albany, New York in the winter of 2006-2007, has since spread to over 22 states and 5 Canadian provinces and caused what experts dub one of the most precipitous population declines ever recorded among North American fauna. By the winter of 2010 - 2011, WNS was observed in several bat hibernacula (i.e., caves) in Indiana. Ben Walker, Wildlife Biologist at Big Oaks NWR, will provide an update on Fish and Wildlife Service activities concerning WNS and affected bat species.

**Tuesday, July 8, 2014 @ 7:30pm**  
**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**  
**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Cool Trees, Reforestation and the Taking Root Campaign: Tom Borgman, Hamilton County Parks will inform us about some great, uncommon trees to plant on your property and how the Great Parks of Hamilton County accomplishes large scale reforestation projects. We will also learn how and why Taking Root is encouraging people to plant 2,000,000 trees by 2020.

### **Birdathon Participation**

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers as possible participate in the Birdathon. While there is a basic competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during 24 hours, there are many more ways to compete. To get your mind working, here are some possible categories of competition:

*-if not the entire Birdathon area then a portion-*

Most Species seen: in one state, in one county or a river watershed

*-maybe it is a small area-*

Most Species In One Location: like the Oxbow, back yard, or a big sit

*-maybe the type of team-*

Most Species seen: by a family, a group under the age of 20, a school class

*-maybe it can be a special category-*

Most money raised: by a team, an individual, a class

*-or-*

Most birds seen without using fossil fuel, while building a deck, taking the kids for a hike

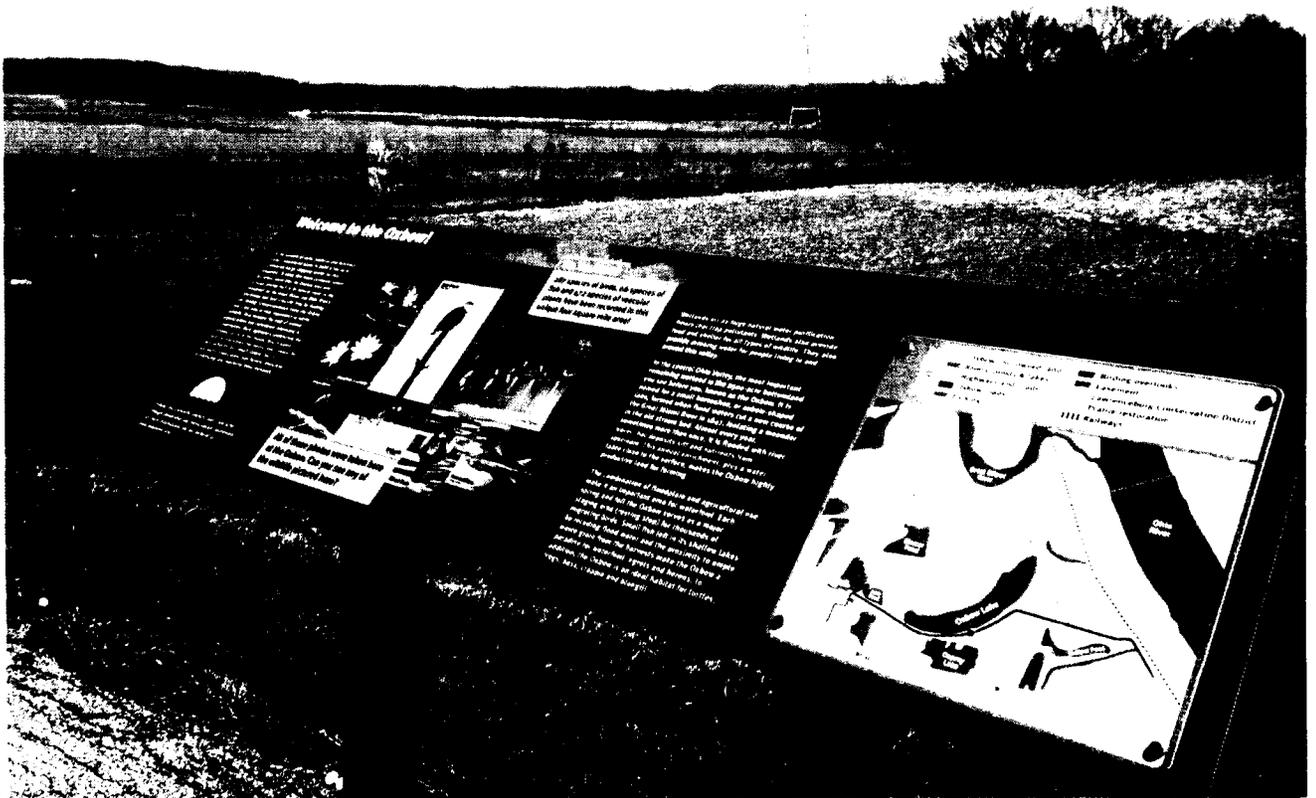
*-or-*

Most birds photographed

Or create your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species during the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will probably accept it. Remember the purpose of the Birdathon - to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. Each team or individual participating should do everything it can to raise money for Oxbow. **The way to do it is to have fun birding! Then celebrate all the fun at the Grand Tally Party**

Enter a team (or an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon by calling **Jay Stenger @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835**. We like to know how many will participate in the Birdathon so we get enough Pizza for the Grand Tally Party after the Birdathon finish. The \$5.00 per person fee covers the cost of the food at the Tally Party. See you ALL there.

Our sign on the levee overlooking the Oxbow gradually bleached away in the rain, sun, snow and ice of past years and did so before its guarantee ran out (unheard of!). The manufacturer replaced the sign for a modest fee and even update some of the info on the sign at our request. Rick Pope and Jon Seymour (mostly Rick) removed the old nearly white sign and installed the new sign for travelers of the levee walkway to see. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



Velda Miller, at the 2013 Kids Expo, shows children and parents some Oxbow artifacts and shares stories of the natural history of each item. Over 5000 children (many inner city) are bussed into the Kids Expo at Coney Island for a day of exposure to nature and nature information. Details on the 2014 event and how you can help can be found on page 8.





A Different Point of View: Many visitors to the Oxbow drive in to the Oxbow and drive to Juno Pond or to the Oxbow Lake Overlook and that is the extent of their visit to the Oxbow. To really know the Oxbow you have to leave the car behind and strike out on the roads (which form our trails). This view of the Oxbow can only be seen from the Ohio River side of the railroad tracks that run across the south end of the Oxbow property. (photo by Jon Seymour)



A Different Point of View: Almost all the visitors to the Oxbow pass Osprey Lake on its eastern shore following the Oxbow Lake Road toward the Ohio River (if they are going south, toward Hardintown, if going north) and see the lake from only the view from the road. From the other side, near the base of the levee Osprey Lake takes on a different perspective. (photo by Jon Seymour)

**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.

**OXBOW INC. 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BIRDATHON 2014**

Begins: 5:00 pm, Friday, May 9, 2014

Ends: 5:00 pm, Saturday, May 10, 2014

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details and more information or contact Jon Seymour or Jay Stenger directly. Jon Seymour, 513-851-9835, [jlsjks@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsjks@hotmail.com) OR Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147, [jaystenger@cmcln.com](mailto:jaystenger@cmcln.com)

**Breeding Birds in the Oxbow**

**Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the recycling center**

Date: June 22, 2014, 7:30 AM

Leader: Ann Oliver, (513) 307-0929, [anniebinder77@yahoo.com](mailto:anniebinder77@yahoo.com)

Join our trip leader Ann Oliver for a pleasant morning looking for summer residents and breeding birds in the Oxbow and at Shawnee Lookout. By June almost all migrants have passed through our region and those that remain are most likely nesting somewhere in the area. You may be surprised that nearly a hundred species regularly breed within the Oxbow area or within close proximity. With summer vegetation and foliage near peak, some species can be difficult to see. On the other hand this is the peak singing period and the morning chorus of bird songs will be abundant and obvious and give us a great chance to track them down and get a look. Don't worry if you're not very good at bird vocalizations. Our skilled trip leader Ann is experienced with bird songs and won't miss much. Expect to see and hear 10 or more species of warblers plus vireos, orioles, tanagers, flycatchers, grosbeaks and buntings, hawks, cuckoos and lots more.

Most of this trip will be on foot, but walking will be easy to moderate and at a birders pace. To insure your comfort remember that June can be hot by mid-morning. You may want to consider bringing water, sun screen and insect repellent. It goes without saying that binoculars are necessary for seeing small birds. Restrooms are available. Shawnee Lookout, a Hamilton County Park, requires a Motor Vehicle Pass (\$3 daily, \$10 annual). Contact Ann with any questions..

**Join us for the 3rd Annual Oxbow Butterfly Count!**

Trip Leader: Bob Nuhn

August 16th, 2014 11:00 AM

Meet at the East end of the Oxbow parking lot

This trip will last approximately 2 hours. If there is time, we may visit Shawnee Lookout to look for more butterflies. Bob Nuhn, a retired naturalist with the Hamilton County Park District, has been a compiler for the North American Butterfly Counts in SW Ohio, and his passion for butterflies is contagious. This is the 3rd year he has led a count for Oxbow, Inc. We hope to see some interesting species in this area with diverse habitat along the riverbank, in the prairies and crop fields. Most of the walking will be on flat dirt roads, but may be rocky at times. Water and Sunscreen are recommended. Please RSVP to Kathy McDonald at [mkmcdonald@me.com](mailto:mkmcdonald@me.com) or call 513-748-0281. Hope to see you there!

**Kids Expo 2014**

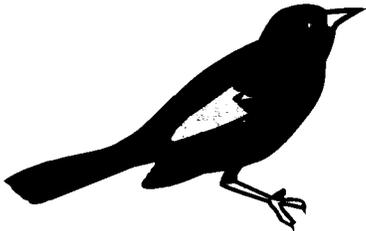
In 2013, Velda Miller manned the Oxbow booth at the 2013 Kids Expo and shared some Oxbow artifacts and stories of the natural history of each item. Kids Expo, held the day before Paddlefest involves over 5000 children (many inner city) bussed into the Kids Expo at Coney Island for a day of exposure to nature and nature information. Other children come as family groups or home school groups. All are welcome free of charge for a day of immersion in "what's outdoors". In 2013 Oxbow, Inc. sponsored two of the buses used to convey the children to Coney Island. And we have direct contact with 300-500 children. **In 2014 we will be back again to an even bigger Kids Expo. If you would like to help out and join the fun, call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.**



## usings

by Dave Styer

### Baltimore Oriole



The male Baltimore Oriole, with its striking black and orange plumage (Lord Baltimore's colors) and its loud, clear song is familiar to birders throughout the area. It is

normally here as a breeding bird, not a wintering bird, but the Baltimore Oriole's distinctive, hanging nest is so well built that it can often be seen in fall after the leaves have dropped. Birds that spend more time near the ground, such as the American Robin and the Northern Cardinal, must be more familiar to the general public.

I don't know when I first noticed Baltimore Orioles, but an event 61 years ago stands out. It was in the spring of my freshman year in high school. Back then I was studying birds with great intensity, and studying school subjects not at all. I lived on a farm in eastern Pennsylvania, and there was a short lane to the house and farm buildings, which were near the road. Part way in was a lilac bush that leaned over the lane. The lilac was tall enough so that the cars and trucks that came in the lane wouldn't hit it, but it couldn't have been much taller. Generally, Baltimore Orioles nest well up in tall trees. Incredibly, Baltimore Orioles built a nest in the lilac, directly over the middle of the lane. You could park a vehicle by the lilac, climb up, and be about face-to-face with the oriole nest. There is more to the story. You may have heard of Frank and John Craighead, twin brothers who became famous for their study and protection of the Grizzly Bears of Yellowstone National Park. It happened that their nephew, Bill Craighead, taught biology at my high school, and he was interested in nature photography. Thus, Bill got to come out and easily get a close-up photograph of a nest which might otherwise have been very difficult to get near. As I recall, Bill also got to photograph a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest I had found by watching two lines of flight of a female hummingbird and

locating where they crossed. Voila! I also showed Bill a double-decker Yellow Warbler next. This is a situation where a Brown-headed Cowbird had parasitized the original warbler next, but it was recognized by the warblers. Rather than raise a cowbird, the warblers built a new nest on top of the old, and started over.

If you look in my *Birds of the Oxbow* or the first addition of Bruce Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio*, you won't find the Baltimore Oriole. If you look in older or newer books of eastern birds, you will find the Baltimore Oriole. This is not because these birds disappeared for a few years and then returned. The ranges of the eastern North American Baltimore Oriole and the western North American Bullock's Oriole meet in the Great Plains. In some places there were commonly hybrid birds. This suggests that Baltimore and Bullock's may not really be separate species of oriole. In 1983 the American Ornithologist's Union (AOU) decided that the two orioles were not separate species, and thus the Northern Oriole was formed by combining the two. You can be sure that the folks in Maryland found that completely unacceptable, although their complaint was not biologically based. It turned out that a number of biologists were not convinced that the Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole should be treated as one species. That led to more studies. To understand what's going on in difficult situations, there's nothing like getting more information. In 1995 the Checklist Committee of the AOU separated the Northern Oriole, back into the Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. They say that while there is hybridization, they know of no single species with "so many discrete, abrupt, concordant differences" as in the Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. What a relief. Would you care to guess the state bird of Maryland?

This brings to mind a bit of Cincinnati area history. Bullock's Oriole was named in honor of William Bullock, an English naturalist. In the spring of 1827 he came up the Ohio River and stayed over at an "elegant retreat," Elmwood, within 1 mile of Cincinnati. There he saw a Northern Mockingbird. If Elmwood was in Ohio, rather than Kentucky, that would likely be the earliest known record of the mockingbird in the State of Ohio! According to Wikipedia, Bullock invested in land in the Cincinnati area in the hopes of developing a utopian community. This failed, and Bullock sold his land to Israel Ludlow, Jr.

**Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2014  
(May 9-10, 2014)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**My Pledge for Birdathon 2014 is:**

*Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.*

Fixed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed

Bill me after the Birdathon,

-OR-

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 & Joe Bens
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman & Erich Baumgardner
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, Katherine Miller & Chris Moran
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #4 – Charlie Saunders, Bob Lacker & Steve Pelikan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #5 – Jerry Lippert & Madeleine Lippert
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #6 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team #7 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

Mail To: Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. P.O. Box 4172 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 Attn: Birdathon
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<p><b>Make checks payable to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.</b> Note this is a change to allow us to better track the money for the purposes of habitat restoration and improved access. All donations to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are tax deductible.</p>
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**Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials**

Donor	Memoriam
Al Ambrosius	Jim Steinway
Covington Catholic HS Baseball Team	Jim Krumpelbeck
Mark & Meg Galvin	Jim Krumpelbeck
Thomas & Carol Hughes	Jim Krumpelbeck
Donald & Karen Metz	Jim Krumpelbeck
Martha Metz & Jeannine Bohn	Jim Krumpelbeck
Rick & Susan Pope	Dorothy Schultz
Ron & Meg Riestenberg	Jim Krumpelbeck
Don & Dy Westermeyer	Jim Krumpelbeck
Bill Voss	Jim Krumpelbeck

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

Kathryn Shahani  
Irwin and Melinda Simon

*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.*

### Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2014

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2014 to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
c/o Denny Mason  
10210 Scull Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45252

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed on page 11. Cut out the memorandum. Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Denny. 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.

If you have any questions contact Denny Mason at 513-385-3607.

#### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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

*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.

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.  
c/o Denny Mason  
10210 Scull Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45252  
Phone: 513-385-3607

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2014**

## **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 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, 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	(513) 948-8630
John Klein	(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	

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

513-851-9835  
www.oxbowinc.info

**513-851-9835**



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

www.oxbowinc.info  
LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025  
P.O. BOX 4172

