



March—April 2015

No. 172

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

Revised fishing rules for Oxbow waters

Oxbow, Inc. has had some standard fishing rules for the last several years. Bank fishing only and no fishing from boats pretty much sums it up. You do not have to be a member to fish in the Oxbow but you must have an Indiana license and comply with Indiana fishing regulations. For many years this has been sufficient and abuses were limited. The last few years a few strange encounters have led us to try to tighten up these simple rules.

The improved road conditions seem to have led more fishermen to explore deeper into the Oxbow with more and more fishing being done in Oxbow Lake itself and in Osprey Lake. There have been a few instances of net fishing, personal flotation devices, and even bow hunting that were never really considered in the original rules.

A review of the original land use plan for the Oxbow (1991) showed that fishing was not to be permitted south of Juno Pond. In 1991 we did not own all the land surrounding the Oxbow Lake, Osprey Lake did not exist, and the access roads were farm silt and undriveable much of the year. In other words there was not a lot of fishing pressure south of Juno Pond. That has changed remarkably in the last few years.

Recent review of the hunting lease on the Mercer Pond area showed that fishing control was included in the lease (it came with the purchase of the property and has several more years to run). This means that we needed to declare Mercer Pond off limits to fishing at least until the lease expires.

In order to provide a quality fishing experience and maintain the function of the Oxbow as a sanctuary it has become necessary to apply a more restrictive regulation. In doing so the limiting of the fishing experience to Juno Pond and the connected pond (no accepted name) immediately north of the causeway should not cause any disruption to the

majority of our fishermen who currently fish exclusively in these two ponds anyway.

We will take some time to implement these changes so fishermen now using the area will have time to learn of the changes and comply. Rules statements will be available at the leaflet station at the entrance parking area. The Sheriff's Deputies we employ for security will have access to the rules and initially will only issue warnings to fishermen found fishing in restricted areas. The new rules go into effect July 1, 2015 and actual enforcement begins January 1, 2016.

The new rules are as follows and are accompanied by a general summary of the major land-use rules as a refresher and frame of reference.

Fishing Rules

(For land owned by Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.)

Fishing permitted only in Juno Pond and the Pond immediately north of the causeway connecting with Juno Pond.

- Bank Fishing ONLY (wading is allowed and counted as bank fishing)
- No fishing from boats, canoes, kayaks or any floating device (includes floating waders).
- Fishing with rod and line only. (e.g. no net, trap, bow or shock fishing)
- All Indiana regulations apply. Consumption restrictions should follow Ohio River recommendations.

(General Rules: No overnight camps, no fires of any kind, no use of motorized boating equipment, fish only in the areas where fishing is permitted. Be respectful of other fishermen and users of the property. Do not block the road when parking, including chained gate areas as very large farm equipment may need to get past you. Do not leave trash, bait containers, bait, dead animals, cut line, rods, gear, chairs, clothing or anything else behind when you leave – keep it clean

BIRDATHON 2015

For the 28th year the Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon is off to a great start. We will be celebrating the birds of the Greater Cincinnati area and having a fun time doing it. In the process we will raise money to make the Oxbow a better place. What could be better? Join us on May 8-9 for another birding blast followed by the Tally Party at Fernald where all will be revealed. Stories from the Birdathon is the feature of the party along with the annual review of bird species seen. Plus pizza, snacks (some of them healthy) and beverage make for the ending of a perfect 24 hour hunt for species. Come join us and tally some birds. We still have plenty of room for participants.

If you cannot be there send in money to support the hard working(?) teams and the money goes to supporting habitat and access improvements in the Oxbow. HAPPY BIRDATHON TO ONE AND ALL.

Oxbow's Wish List for 2015

If you missed playing Santa at Christmas here is another way to feel great about giving.

- We still need a volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories, on the efforts of other volunteers, for publication in the Wetland Matters. This is very important since our volunteers are wonderful and deserve to be recognized in many ways for their unselfish efforts.
- We need a volunteer coordinator to make phone calls and send email messages to the many volunteers who participate in our activities through the course on the year. While we have many activities that could use volunteers during the year we have no one to drum up support and follow up with the volunteers and their efforts.
- If you have a truck in good shape that you are no longer using and wish to donate it to Oxbow, we are interested. Having a truck available to use, when we have to haul something in or out of the Oxbow, is a valuable necessity. Lack of a truck has more than once caused us to lose the opportunity to haul a piece of trash out of the Oxbow when conditions were right to do so. We have an offer of a nearby location to park the truck when not in use so all we need is a donor and a truck that works.

If you can help with any of these needs or know someone who can, please call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

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Bob & Tina Schlegel
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Jon & Jackie Seymour
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Donor

Macie Hall &
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Constance Lighthall

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

Michael & Tucker Coombe

Kelly Riccetti

E. W. Marshall Tucker

Mrs. H.W. (Bon) Wharton

Third Protestant Memorial Church Endowment Fund

(c/o Dannah Crosby)

Tom Zureick

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.*

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

by John Klein

It is 7 a.m. and I am up and dressed to meet Meg Riestenberg, Associate Professor from Mount St. Joseph University, and her biology class. They are due for a tour of the Oxbow at 9 a.m. I have been nervous since yesterday evening when the "weather forecast" assured me that I would be facing freezing rain and nasty road conditions by 8 a.m. this morning. The projected model for the morning rush hour showed widespread rain and freezing conditions centered right on top of the Greater Cincinnati area. I cautiously peer out the window into the dark and it seems dry. I check the weather radar app on my phone and there is no rain or ice for 100 miles in any direction. So much for high tech computers, radar, and weather models.

As always with tours, I need to be there at least 1/2 hour early to see what the conditions in the Oxbow are like. I descend the road past the entrance parking area to Juno Pond. There is one person there ahead of me fishing in Juno Pond from the area near the gate. I have seen him here before as he is one of the regulars. He has a raised metal fire grate that he has filled with sticks near where he is fishing. I tell him I will be bringing a class down in a few minutes and remind him that we do not permit fires in the Oxbow. He says he was hoping that it would be safe enough but I tell him rules are rules. By the time I return with the class all trace of the fire grate is gone. As we stand talking a siege of herons take to the air. There are nearly 20 Great Blue Herons in the air above Oxbow Lake.

The class is right on time and Oxbow Treasurer, Ed Gemperle, joins me in the parking area and will also accompany the class. Ed's grandson is a student in the class.

This is the second visit to the Oxbow for this particular class this fall. Ed was their tour guide last time, as I was out of town. They had a great time and even saw an eagle. We are hoping for more species this time as I have brought the spotting scope for them to use. There are recent reports of Sandhill Cranes near Lost Bridge, but the reports are two days old. My hope had been that by scheduling this tour during the first week of December some migratory ducks might be present. That turns out not to be the case. The scope would reveal a few Mallards, 2 Northern Shovelers, and one Gadwall.

Driving down the Oxbow Lake road one of the members spots an eagle in the trees lining the inside bank of the lake. Its back is to us and it is all dark. There is a little white on the head but none on the back. In order to see the bird you have to be on the driver's side of the bus, sitting down, and looking up. I bend over to see the bird and my impression is "too small". The spotter is insisting that it is an eagle so I let it go. My job is to tell the class about eagles. I learned a self taught lesson many years ago in the Gulf marshes of Texas. My wife, Jackie, and I were standing on a observation tower in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge scanning the marsh for Whooping Cranes when an older couple climbed the stairs and looked out over the marsh. The gentleman told his wife, "There's a Whooping Crane!", pointing out a distant Great Egret. She was suitably impressed and they turned around and went back down the stairs. Neither Jackie or I thought it was important to burst their bubble. They were happy and that was enough.

The bus stops a bit further down the road and I tell Ed that I would like a better look at the "eagle" if we can see it. I work my way closer to the edge of the lake and look back through the trees to see if I could find the bird and I cannot. Ed moves to a different spot and calls out that he can see the bird but there are a lot of branches in the way. I join Ed and determine that although the bird is well hidden that with the spotting scope we would be able to see the head and beak. The scope is passed out and I set it up and draw in on the head of the bird to see white above and white below a black stripe through the eye of the Osprey. The original spotter is not convinced so we agree to disagree. I am very happy with an Osprey for the students and we discuss Osprey behavior.

At the Oxbow Lake overlook we find the Great Blue Herons that I saw earlier before the class arrived. They are scattered along the shore now but about 20 are visible. Good looks are available through the scope which always enhances the students experience. There is time left before they head back to the University and Meg had requested a trip to Lost Bridge to see if there were any Sandhills still hanging around.

The north end of the Great Miami floodplain at Lost Bridge is heavily mined for gravel and the mines are getting worse as new areas just south of Lawrenceburg Road have been opened up in the last few years. Fortunately they are limited to the south by conservation easements owned by the Great Parks of Hamilton County. It is at the border between the mining operations and the start of the fields protected by the conservation easements that we find 100+ Sandhill Cranes feeding in the harvested field. Everyone is thrilled to

(Continued on page 4)

Horseshoe Bottoms (continued from page 3)

see the cranes and some have never seen them before. One young lady wants to take one home. I tell them about the Jasper-Pulaski area near Lafayette, IN where they can take a day trip (two days are recommended) and see 10-20,000 Sandhill Cranes gathering before their next leg south on their migration journey. Not as many as the 100-200,000 cranes gathering on the Platte River in Nebraska but a whole lot closer to home. In a small group of Mallards swimming in the pit in front of the cranes I locate 2 Black Ducks and let the students find them in the flock.

Our time is up and the students depart. Another December day in the Oxbow comes to an end.

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Meg is coming back with another class. This class is an "art in nature" class and they are primarily interested in ART. Now it needs to be said upfront that I am not an artist. The closest I have come was an A in mechanical drawing in high school (yes, high school soooooo long ago that they had shop as part of the normal curriculum). My sheetmetal journeyman father was so proud. But an artist, I am not.

However, I really appreciate art and particularly its role in science and nature. Some of the greatest icons of science and nature like DaVinci and Audubon were the top of the artistic world. Ancient scientist up until the invention of the camera had to be artists. If they observed an animal, track, egg or nest they had to be able to draw it in order to explain their observations to others. The first scientist peering through the newly invented microscope had to be able to draw what they saw in order to alert others to the existence of one cell animal and plant life. Art was inseparable from science and nature.

This class arrives at the Oxbow a 1 p.m., a much more reasonable time for a retired person who enjoys sleeping to at least 7:30 a.m. each morning. It is also a much smaller class. I brought with me some bird, plant and butterfly guide books. Staples of the naturalists for identifying birds, plants, and butterflies. I spend the first few minutes in the van telling them about the use of art over the last 100 years to bring about the familiarization of the general public with what is out in nature. This is accomplished by the ever growing phenomenon of nature guide books. We also talk about the use of art from painting, to line drawing, to photos, to the combination of computerized art overlaying photos that create the ever enhanced effectiveness of these guides.

With the art introduction concluded, we descend to Juno Pond. The weather prediction had been for warm (45 F) and sunny. Did I mention that it was 35 F and frozen rain was bouncing off the van's window, with visibility down to about 1/2 mile? In short it was about as miserable as it gets without being life threatening. Now my job is to persuade students to step out of the van into the "wintery mix" and view some birds. The birds of course have more sense and they are hunkered down waiting for this weather system to pass by the Oxbow so they can get on with dinner. Only one heron is visible from the Juno Pond overlook and it is hunched down in grass along the edge of the lake nearly 1/4 mile away so there is no real color visible in the mist and rain. Not very enticing. Back in the van. This will be primarily a window tour. We are nothing if not flexible.

As we move down Oxbow Lake Road I always marvel that we can actually do this as it would have been impossible 10 years ago. I often think on days like this what Morris Mercer, one of our founders and principle tour leader for years, would have thought of being able to drive on a wet Oxbow road. As we approach Osprey Lake the students notice a flock of Canada Geese gleaning in the corn field stubble along the road. I use the sighting as an opportunity to discuss the alertness of wild geese vs. our local business park geese. The wild geese in the field will not let us get close. At about 150 yards they are in the air headed for Osprey Lake. When we arrive at the lake they are between us and the island, swimming away to put the islands between them and us.

We arrive at our destination at the Oxbow Lake overlook and finally see a small group of herons and a few distant Mallards. At least these herons are easier to see in the spotting scope and there are enough of them to impress a bit. We talk about the planted prairie area around Osprey Lake and the natural succession areas around the overlook. I also explain about the invasive tree species such as Callery Pear that we work hard to control.

Our last target is the Lost Bridge area. We find the Sandhill Cranes in the exact same place the other class found them on Tuesday. However they are so far away and near the limit of visibility that I do not even try to count them. I find the group that seems to be in the clearest place and let the class see them through the spotting scope. A flock of Ring-billed Gulls is also present and a few Mallards. A slow drive over the Great Miami and back again does not turn up any eagles. Before the class goes back to the University, I thank them for coming out in the miserable weather. They seem genuinely pleased to have been on the trip, which is a big plus.

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, March 10, 2015 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Dr. Anne-Catherine Vanhove, post-doctoral scientist at CREW in the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, will give an overview of CREW's current propagation and preservation work on native endangered plants. The talk will include the ongoing restoration project of the Cumberland sandwort in Daniel Boone National Forest (Kentucky) and the current 'Frozen Garden' project in which plant samples from CREW's CryoBioBank (seeds, spores, pollen and shoot tips) are retrieved from storage in liquid nitrogen after up to 20 years to examine their viability. Both projects provide valuable information for future work to preserve the world's plant biodiversity.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Naturalist **Jim Williams** will describe to us all the interactions and life functions in "A year in the life of milkweed". Despite producing toxins, this remarkable plant supports the life cycles of a number of insects. At one time the seeds were used to stuff life jackets and pillows.

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

POLLINATION & POLLINATORS: Member **Jack Berninger** will look at the variety and relationships between flowers and their pollinators. Some of the adaptations are quite unique and specific illustrating a co-evolution of structure and function.

Participants in the outdoor programs need to be aware of the following potential hazards that could be encountered during any of the outdoor programs offered by Oxbow, Inc.:

The trails are uneven graveled and often unmaintained dirt roads. We may have to go off the road if there is an obstacle in the road. Areas off road are often more uneven, may have poison ivy and may be close to water and steep banks. You must decide for yourself if you are able to safely navigate this terrain. If at any point an individual decides they need to discontinue the tour the tour leader will do their best to help them to the extent that that it does not prevent the tour from being completed for the enjoyment of the other participants or put their safety at risk. There are no restrooms. (ADA)



Irv and I were out your way this afternoon and drove around the Oxbow....gadwalls, pintails, shovelers, mallards, red-tails, C. geese, plus the regular suspects. When we drove near the Jackpot Pond area-just before exiting the field-area near the Casino, out popped a short-eared owl ahead of us!

It flew from the thick grass, across the road and into the cultivated area close by. We'd been driving very slowly and stopping to check out the Canada Geese in the field (looking for cackling geese). We watched it for about 10 minutes or so from the car. It just looked left and right...think watching for predators...or small birds...who knows. Really beautiful...didn't seem to concentrate on us. I took a few photos out the window with the antique point-and-shoot...Irv worked with them and picked out two that showed the bird to advantage. Thought you might like them. Certainly made our day! Wow! Melinda and Irv Simon (*both photos by Melinda Simon*)



While spectacular blue skies and brilliant sun light are uniformly desired for photography, Sometimes the odd light can make the photo spectacular. A cloudy day in the Oxbow with two Great Egrets flanking a Great Blue Heron. (photo by Ruhikant Meetei)

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.

Sunday, March 22, 2015, 8:00 AM

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant
Leader: Ann Oliver, (513) 307-0929, annieobirder@yahoo.com

March in the Oxbow means ducks, as spring waterfowl migration peaks during this month. The Oxbow has historically been a magnet for migrating birds, but especially waterfowl. As one of Oxbow's long standing motto's states, "The Duck Stops Here".

In addition to waterfowl migration other signs of spring should be noticeable by this date. Shake off your cabin fever and join our leader Ann Oliver for this morning trip. Ann is a skilled birder, long time Oxbow Inc. supporter and regular visitor to the Oxbow area. We expect many species of waterfowl and other early spring migrants as well. Bald Eagles have become almost a sure thing in the Oxbow area, especially at this time of year, and Sandhill Cranes are also a good bet.

March also brings rain and potential flooding to the Oxbow bottoms so some areas are inaccessible during this month, so Ann will adjust her plans on the day of the trip. Her main agenda will be to find waterfowl so several spots in the Oxbow area including Lost Bridge will be covered. Catch "spring fever" and join us. Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. This morning trip will end by noon. Feel free to contact Ann with questions about this trip.

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 8:00 AM

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant
Leader: Brian Wulker, (513) 405-8373, bdwulker@moreheadstate.edu

By the mid-April spring will be in full swing and winter weather forgotten. Spring migration in general will be near peak and a diversity of avian species should be found in the Oxbow area at this season. Join our leader Brian Wulker for a pleasant spring morning visit to the Oxbow area. Brian is a young but exceptionally skilled birder and naturalist who doesn't miss much. There should be a lot to see (and hear). April in the Oxbow coincides with the spring migration of a diverse number of bird families. Ducks, herons and egrets, shorebirds, terns & gulls, raptors, migrant & returning summer songbirds (including some warblers) are all expected on this date. Brian's plan will depend on the weather but he expects to cover several spots in the Oxbow area looking for a diversity of birds. While the focus of many of our trips is birds, Brian (just as all of our trip leaders) won't ignore other abundant nature that may be in the Oxbow area during our visit.

Come out with Brian for a great spring day in the Oxbow. April can be cool and wet so dress appropriately (Expect some mud on your shoes). Don't hesitate to contact Brian with questions about this trip.

OXBOW INC. ANNUAL BIRDATHON 2015

Begins: 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2015

Ends: 5:00 p.m., Saturday, May 9, 2015

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
 Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com



Musings

by Dave Styér

The Yellow-rumped Warbler

The Yellow-rumped Warbler must be one of the commonest birds in the warbler family (*Parulidae*). Although they don't breed near the Oxbow area, they overwinter in small numbers, and migrate through in large numbers. No other warbler is as common around homes and gardens. Yellow-rumped Warblers forage anywhere from the ground up to the tree tops. That makes them relatively easy to see. *Birds of the Oxbow* mentions 36 warbler species that have been seen in the Oxbow area. Perhaps half of those species spend a lot of time on or near ground. That still leaves a lot of warbler species that spend most of their time high in trees. Birders who wish to see every warbler species in the woods have a special term: "warbler neck." That's the sore neck you get from trying to identify all those darn warblers up in the tree tops! The good news here is that you should be able to get good looks at Yellow-rumped Warblers without getting "warbler neck."

The Birds of North America article on the Yellow-rumped Warbler (1998) starts off: "Formerly considered 2 species, the Myrtle Warbler in the East and Audubon's Warblers in the West" I grew up with our Yellow-rumped Warblers being called Myrtle Warblers, plain and simple. I never saw an Audubon's Warbler until I went west. *The Birds of North America* series was written as a much-needed up-date of Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, written, roughly, half a century earlier. Curiously, Bent's treatment on the (Eastern) Myrtle Warbler starts off: "We used to call this the yellow-rumped warbler" Any guesses for the future?

From now on I'll write about the "Myrtle Warbler," the birds we normally see around Cincinnati. The Myrtle Warbler is the only one of our

warblers that can digest the wax in berries of Bayberry and Wax Myrtle plants. It eats these berries with gusto, and this is the source of the name "Myrtle" Warbler. I have been on the Atlantic coast in winter, and I can attest to the abundance of Myrtle Warblers and Tree Swallows in the Wax Myrtle. I gather from John Terres' book *Songbirds in Your Garden* that these are our only birds that really favor Wax Myrtle berries. Around Cincinnati, where Wax Myrtle is decidedly uncommon, Myrtle Warblers really go for Poison Ivy berries, instead. Perhaps our bird should have been named the "Poison Ivy Warbler."

What makes the Myrtle Warbler so abundant? I have not found this question addressed explicitly, but I think it has been answered implicitly. In winter they certainly are numerous throughout the Southeast, not just where Wax Myrtle berries are common. On Christmas Bird Counts in Florida, the folks doing the counting become satiated with Myrtle Warblers, and wish they would turn into something else. A few other warblers do overwinter in the Southeast, but none approach the Myrtle Warblers in abundance. The Myrtle Warbler breeding range is huge, running in a wide belt from New England and the upper mid-west across Canada and most of Alaska. This is an evergreen or mixed forested area north of most agriculture. Because of their plasticity, even timbering operations don't seem to set them back seriously.

Imagine an alternative breeding range: suppose Myrtle Warblers had been restricted to tall grass prairie. In that case they might be nearly extinct today. [Or, they might be common, and known as the "Corn Field Warbler."]

Out of the breeding season no other warbler species is less restricted to any one habitat. As mentioned above, they may be seen from the ground to the tree tops. I've seen Myrtle Warblers not just in woods and shrubby areas, but even in fields. Myrtle Warblers eat insects, when available, and fruits when the insects can't be found. Altogether, Myrtle Warblers have a large breeding range, and they are highly adaptable. That is likely why they are so common.

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 ways to compete besides most species for the total Birdathon area. Here are some other 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

You can even create 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. 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**

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, **please call Jay Stenger @ 513-522-8147 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835.** We like to know how many will 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. There is \$5.00 fee person

Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2015 (May 8-9, 2015)

Name _____
 Address _____

Mail To:
 Oxbow of Indiana, Inc
 P.O. Box 4172
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
 Attn: Birdathon

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

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

- _____ Highest Scoring Team
- _____ Team #1 – Joe Bens, Jay Stenger, and Jack Stenger
- _____ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman and Erich Baumgardner
- _____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, Katherine Miller, and Chris Moran
- _____ Team # 4 – Charlie Saunders, Bob Lacker, and Steve Pelikan
- _____ Team #5 – Jerry Lippert and Madeleine Lippert
- _____ Team #6 – Jon Seymour and the First Timers
- _____ Team #7 – Dave and Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

My 2015 Birdathon pledge is:
 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 \$ _____

Make checks payable to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. This change allows 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.

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2015

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2015 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.

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 _____

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.

c/o Denny Mason

10210 Scull Rd.

Cincinnati, OH 45252

Phone: 513-385-3607

Return Mail Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

(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, 2015

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,
 John Getzendanner II (812) xxx-xxxx
 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

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