



# WETLAND *matters*

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

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## Cincinnati Area Birding Blitz - Birdathon 2015 plus Whimbrel

The Cincinnati Area Birdathon came to an end at the Tally Party held for the first time at Fernald on Saturday, May 9. Eighteen teams filed cards in the friendly competition. Our winner was the Beasts of Birdin' – Jack Stenger and Joe Bens, with Jay Stenger as the designated driver. These perennial winners came in with 149 species while right on their tails were Brian Wulker, Bill Zimmerman, and Bill Hull with 148 species. SOOOOOO CLOSE!!!!!!!

The weather was good for the Birdathon but most of the waves of migration had passed through the Cincinnati area. Ducks were very hard to find with five species being found by only one team. Although the warblers were in migration, many species were seen by less than half of the teams in the field. The other bird migrations such as shorebirds and gulls/terns also were weak in reported species sightings. Even so the final tally of all the species seen by all the teams was 193. Not near the 200 we have flirted around these past few years but pretty darn good. Fifteen of the reported species were seen by only one team. Thirty-four of the reported species were seen by every team. Some species that fell one short of the "every team" qualification were: House Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Scarlett Tanager, Great-crested Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Rock Pigeon, and Great Blue Heron. Can you imagine missing a Great Blue Heron, Rock Pigeon or a Red-winged Blackbird? I assure you that it can be a lot easier than you think, although the Red-winged Blackbird is hard to figure. Maybe the owners of this particular list just forgot to check that box.

A full thirteen of the eighteen teams contributed at least one species to the overall list that no other team found. That is one thing I love about the Birdathon. No matter what your species total

you have a good chance of seeing something that all the other groups will envy. As with many other Birdathons the bird of the month showed up a week later up at Lost Bridge just in time for an Audubon tour to drop by and identify a Whimbrel. The Whimbrel is new bird for the Oxbow and represents species number 288 in our listing. Listed below are participants and group totals.

1. The winning team for the Birdathon area was the Beasts of Birdin' comprised of Jack Stenger & Joe Bens, with Jay Stenger as the designated driver. They led all totals with 149 species.
2. Coming in a close second with a total of 148 species were the team of Brian Wulker, Bill Zimmerman, and William Hull.
3. Evan Leon & Carly Ogden. "Two in the Bush" – 144 species.
4. Tyler Ficker, Cassidy Ficker, and Maddie Varius. "Birds of Pray, Team #1". An 18 and under team entry and winner in that category – 135 species.
5. Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman, and Erich Baumgardner. "Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers" – 131 species.
6. Bill Stanley, Jeff Bilsky, and James Wheat. "The Invasive Species" – 119 species.
7. Eric Burkholder & Kirk Westendorf. – 116 species.
8. Suzanne & Chris Clingman. "The Clermont County Park District Team" – 115 species.
9. George Farnsworth, Nick Baker, Molly McCarrick, Rob Link, Lucas Bevin, and Sean Kirby. "Xpert Birders" (representing Xavier University) – 113 species.
10. Alex Byrd, Mathew Hidaman, Colin Hastings, and Joshua Warren. "Birds of Pray #2 an age 18 and under team – 106 species.
11. Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, Chris Moran, and Sarah Krailller. "The Ladyhawks" – 100 species.
12. Don and Brendan Bogosian. (Limited to Shawnee Lookout and Fernbank Park) – 76 species.

(continued on pg. 2)

*Cincinnati Area Birding Blitz (cont'd from pg. 1)*

- 13. Rick Lisi & Richard Amable. "The Blind Owls" – 72 species.
  - 14. Dave and Vicky Tozier, John Eckles, and Barb Knott. "Birds Elude Us" – 72 species.
- Our Individual competitors or Solitary Vireos:
- 15. Gary Stegner. "Fernald Preserve Team" – 136 species.
  - 16. Jon Seymour. "First Timers" – 117 species
  - 17. Bill McGill. "Birds of Pray – Individual" – 108 species
  - 18. Jason Gantt. "The Lone Wrenger" – 82 species.

We thank all our participants for their efforts and NOW we look forward to their supporters contributions in support of their team. **Pick your favorite team and make a donation supporting them to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025.** Help them rise to #1 in the competition to raise the most money. They have done the work and now they are depending on you to fill their stockings and take them to the top of the money raising board.

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

- Tim & Laura Dornan
- Michael & Martha Dourson
- Ed & Judy Krautter
- Walter & Susan McBeath
- Ken Miller & Bethia Margoshes
- Irwin & Melinda Simon



**Oxbow's Wish List for 2015**

- 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 to put together a legacy giving campaign.
- We need a volunteer who would like to coordinate an art show.
- We need a volunteer to help with more media coverage for Oxbow and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.
- 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 then 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 where we can 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 think you know someone who can, please call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.**

*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

by Jon Seymour

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

It has been a long wet month that has settled deeply over the Oxbow (about 50 ft. Cincinnati deep) for two weeks and more (58 ft. Cincinnati) before that. But it is EARTH DAY! The clouds have cleared, it has stopped raining, the sun is beaming down, the wind is gusting to 40 mph, and all is right with the world. The river is going down and is currently at 36 feet Cincinnati. I can finally reach the Bat Telemetry Tower to install the computer.

I already know that this could be a bit disappointing. I had told the Fish and Wildlife Service leader of the project that I knew we were safe up to 46 feet Cincinnati. But as mentioned above, we went to 50 ft. Cincinnati and stayed there. I have a small hope that the container for the battery might float, but that is iffy. Now I am going to find out. The approach via the Oxbow Lake Road is easier than I anticipated. The flood had just receded and that often means soft areas or at least some pesky flood debris draped across the road. I encounter exactly none of this.

I pull into view of the box and the tower and everything appears normal but slightly "dirty". My brain, still hopeful, registers a "NOT Good". As I walk up to the box it seems a bit twisted and the brain ticks off another "NOT Good". The only hope left is if it floated. I open the box and it contains water – good old dirty Great Miami River water. All the terminal connections are dirty and the solar powered batter connections are corroded. It was under water and probably for a long time.

I pull out my cell phone and dial Dr. Jennifer Krauel of Southern Illinois University, the project leader, to give her the bad news. We both have i-phones so we move to Facetime and I am able to show her immediately, in detail, close-up and in full color exactly what the condition of the unit is. Her assessment is that the battery will need to be replaced. Fortunately it is not the most expensive part of the unit. The expensive part, the computer, is safe in a box in my car. The sad news is that we lost the signal post for the Spring migration but we should be ready for the Fall migration.

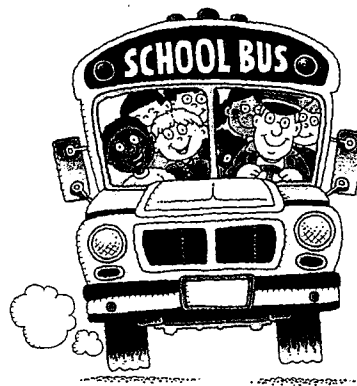
*Wednesday, May 20, 2105*

Nancy Lillie, a teacher at Bright Elementary in Bright, Indiana has 50 fifth graders and about 10

other teachers and parents in a bus and they are headed for the Oxbow. That same bus had taken them to the Red Wolf Sanctuary this morning, brought them to lunch and now is headed our way. Ready to receive them are myself and Jack and Elaine Berninger. Fortunately it is not raining and the roads are dry and the Oxbow is not underwater. All these things are possible, but nothing like this is happening at the moment. The weather is good!

This is the fourth year (I think) that Nancy has brought her classes to the Oxbow. Our task is to divide the group and take them to three separate areas and talk to them about the wildlife and the ecosystem of the Oxbow. We have three separate ecosystems picked out. Jack and Elaine will handle the vernal ponds and Juno Pond, I will handle the prairie area around Osprey Lake and the Oxbow Lake overlook. The key is to move the kids between the areas and then bring them back together again so they can make it back to the school on time. Jack and Elaine are finding insects, plants, and shrimp from the ponds to show the kids. I am finding Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants to show the kids through the bird spotting scope. I have a box of treasures to share with the kids and we talk about the animal skulls, snakeskins, and other nature items that have been collected from the oxbow over the years.

We have about 40 minutes with each class and now they are on their way home with an appreciation of nature in their backyard. Jack and Elaine and I are wearing big smiles and agreeing that the kids asked great questions and were very interested in what we had to show them. It feels like success.



## Revised fishing rules for Oxbow waters

Oxbow, Inc. 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. Over the last few years there have been a few strange encounters that 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 anyway. 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 that fishermen currently using the area will have time to become aware of the changes and comply. Rules statements will be available at the leaflet station at the entrance parking area. The Sheriff's Deputies employed for security will have access to the rules and for a period of time will only issue warnings to fishermen found fishing in restricted areas.

**The new rules will go into effect July 1, 2015 and begin with actual enforcement 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 for the next arrival.)

## Oxbow Clean-Up, April 25, 2015

.....by Kani Meyer

Why is it that whenever we schedule a clean-up in the Oxbow, the weather schedules rain? In the past we've always escaped the worst of it but this time it only held off until about 10:30 am and by 11 am it really started to mean it. But by then the eight of us had already covered most of the area north of Osprey Lake which was surprisingly clean after the high floods. Wayne and I pulled garlic mustard, a perennial task as the seed bank remains in the ground for seven years. Lots of small honeysuckle coming up and we'll have to tackle that in the fall with glyphosate. Even though pizzas were offered at LaRosa's only four of us were left to partake. Jon Seymour and Wayne Wauligman needed to leave early and Tom and Carol Wick had a truckload of cut honeysuckle at home to unload. So John Martens, Phil Summersell, Bob Schlegel and I had plenty of pizza to put away! Once again, our neighbor, Best Way, provided a roll-off for all we collected and for that we thank them wholeheartedly!

**Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS**

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

**Be a Force for Wildlife! Kathy McDonald**, Midwest Native Plant Society, will advise us on how to provide a habitat in your own backyard for monarchs, other butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife! Join a growing community of wildlife gardeners nationwide creating habitat where they live, work, play, learn and worship. Learn how using tips from National Wildlife Federation backyard certification program, and Monarch Watch Waystation program.

**Tuesday, August 11, 2015 @ 7:30pm  
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg  
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

The widely accepted legacy assigned to the passenger pigeon is one grounded in loss and remorse. While the loss of what was perhaps once the most abundant avian species on the planet is profound and the regret of this loss is reasonable, it has limited utility today. It also has the danger of framing the perception of individuals so that no other possibility for this species lasting legacy can be envisioned.

Join **Dan Marsh** (Director of Education and Volunteer Programs at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden) as he shares a more positive legacy. One in which this extinction event is considered as a turning point in our history that led to broad and systemic wildlife and resource conservation action 100 years ago. A legacy that continues to fuel conservation action today.

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015 @ 7:30pm  
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg  
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

**"The Tears of Re: Beekeeping in the Past and its Promise for the Future."**

Dr. Gene Kritsky, Professor of Biology at Mount St. Joseph University and a world-renowned entomologist, will talk about his observations and experiences involving bees and beekeeping in Egypt, Slovenia, Greece and East Africa in the past and in present time. His beautifully illustrated presentation will emphasize the importance of insects to the foods we eat and to the common good.

Dr. Kritsky's research has been featured on the ABC Evening News, Good Morning America, CBS Evening News, Cable News Network Science News, as well as Scientific American, the New York Times, and Nature, among others. His book, *The Tears of Re*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

***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)

One of the glass shrimp from Oxbow Lake makes the rounds of many curious hands. (photo by Elaine Berninger)



Jack Berninger leads part of the 5th grade class of Bright Elementary on a mission of discovery in the Oxbow. (photo by Elaine Berninger)

NOTE: A printable photo of East Central High School winner, Paul Elliot, was not available at press time.

Flood damage to the interior of the battery box for the bat monitoring station. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Flood damage to the exterior of the battery box for the bat monitoring station. (photo by Jon Seymour)





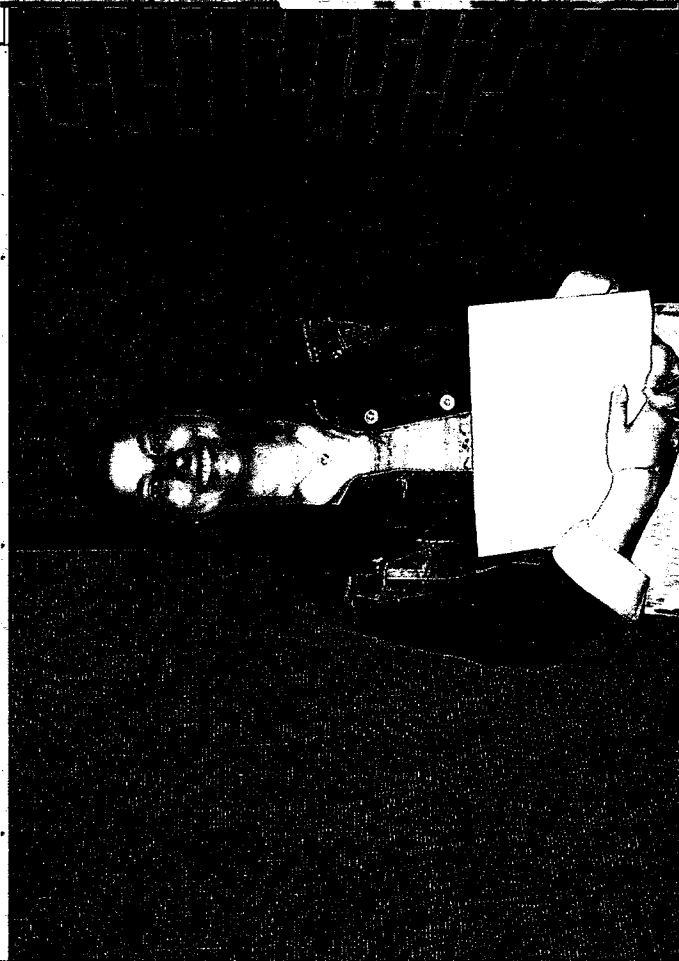
Jenna Lyons, Taylor High School winner, and her parents Nancy and Chris Lyons (photo by Ed Gemperle)



Katie Lofton, William Henry Harrison High School winner, and her parents Teresa and Ed Lofton (photo by Jon Seymour)



Carley Ochs, South Dearborn High School winner, and her parents Steve and Layonne Ochs. (photo by Velda Miller)



Morgan Cady, Lawrenceburg High School winner. (photo by Jon Seymour)

### **Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS**

**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.

**Wetland & Prairie Plant Walk—Saturday, July 11, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow**  
**Leader: Denis Conover, [conovedg@hotmail.com](mailto:conovedg@hotmail.com)**

Meet Denis Conover at the Oxbow for a "Wetland & Prairie Plant Walk". This unique area is home to wetland and riparian river bottom plants, as well as prairie species. Denis will help us explore the diversity of this wonderful area. Some species we expect to see are: native riparian trees, as well as various prairie forbs and grasses, as well as wetland plants growing on the margins of ponds and rivers. Denis has been involved in various types of botanical research since 1981. He is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati, where he teaches botany and biology. He is also a long time environmental advocate. Denis has interests in other aspects of natural history as well, so he will be sure to point out the birds, butterflies and other fauna we encounter during our walk. Restrooms are not available here. Walking is level and usually dry in the summer, but can be rocky. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Bring along your camera and binoculars too. If you have any questions feel free to contact Denis.

**Summertime in the Oxbow — Sunday, July 19, 2015, 8:00 A.M.**  
**Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow**  
**Leader: Gary Stegner, (812) 667-6433, [garyandsally@hotmail.com](mailto:garyandsally@hotmail.com)**

Don't take the Oxbow for granted during mid-summer. While there are no doubt fewer water birds present in the Oxbow at this season, there is still plenty of wildlife to see and discoveries to make. Our trip leader, Gary Stegner, a long time Oxbow member and an experienced naturalist and birder is also the recently retired Communications Director of Fernald Preserve, where he was instrumental in leading field trips and educating the public on wildlife in that preserve. Gary also knows the Oxbow area extremely well and plans to lead us to several spots in and around the Oxbow looking for the general diversity that summer brings. Gary may also find the first "fall" shorebirds of the season on this trip. To make your morning trip a little more comfortable Gary suggests bringing sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and water along. This trip should end before noon. If you have any questions feel free to contact Gary.

**Early Fall Migrant Shorebirds & Waders—Friday Evening, August 21, 2015, 6:30 PM**  
**Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.**  
**Co-Leader: Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, [jackstenger@gmail.com](mailto:jackstenger@gmail.com)**  
**Co-Leader: Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147, [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)**

**NOTE: This is an evening field trip.** The focus of this trip will be birds, specifically early fall migrants through the Oxbow. Join our trip leaders, father and son team Jay and Jack Stenger, for a pleasant summer evening in the Oxbow. These skilled and veteran birders know the area inside and out. In addition to several species of shorebirds, we expect that we will find numerous Great Egrets and herons including Great Blue, Green and Black-crowned Night-Herons. This is also a great time of year to find an unusual or rare species such as Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret (but not guaranteed). Purple Martins and other migrating swallows can "stage" in large numbers in the Oxbow during this month and terns, Osprey, Bald Eagle (year round) and other early migrants are possible. With most of our summer residents still present, we should find a good diversity thru the evening. Jack and Jay plan to hit several spots in and around the Oxbow including Lost Bridge over the Great Miami. The trip will end around dusk (9:00 PM?). It will likely be hot and we suggest bringing sunscreen, insect repellent and water to make your visit more comfortable. Feel free to contact Jack or Jay if you have any questions.

**Fall Migration, Warblers & Shorebirds — Saturday, September 5, 2015, 8:00 P.M.**  
**Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.**  
**Leader: Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, [joebens@live.com](mailto:joebens@live.com)**

Fall songbird (warblers) and shorebird migration should be in full swing and these species will be our primary objective on this field trip. Our trip leader Joe Bens, an expert and veteran birder and long time Oxbow Inc advocate, doesn't miss much and we will find a wide variety of birds. We will meet in the usual spot in the Oxbow, but Joe will probably move us over to Shawnee Lookout to focus on migrant songbirds, especially warblers. By mid-morning we will head to the Oxbow, stopping at Lost Bridge on the way. If water levels are favorable (low) we should find some shorebirds in both locations. Herons, egrets, terns, other water birds and raptors should also be expected. The combined habitats of these two excellent and adjacent birding sites at this time of the year should yield a great diversity of species. Joe plans to bird until around noon, maybe a little longer if things are still hopping. We'll walk a bit at Shawnee, but it will be generally easy and at a comfortable birding pace. Restrooms are available. A Hamilton County Park Motor Vehicle Permit is required (\$3.00 daily, \$10.00 annual) for each vehicle. Please feel free to call or email Joe if you have any questions.





by Dave Styér

Birdathon with Bradley

As Mother's Day, that is, Birdathon Weekend approached Jane and I found ourselves in Brazil with our expert guide Bradley Davis. Bradley grew up in an ornithological family in Toronto, but moved to Brazil to marry his Brazilian sweetheart, Jessica. Now he knows nearly all of Brazil's birds by sight and by sound, and he leads birding tours throughout the country under the tour name "Birding Mato Grosso."

I told Bradley about Oxbow's Birdathon, and that I would like to do something of a "big day" on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Then he told me that Cornell University's eBird was planning its first Global Big Day the very same day, and that he is eBird's official record keeper for Brazil. This was a "win-win" situation. We were not in the Amazon River basin, but in the Atlantic rainforest in the state of Sao Paulo. In a formal sense, it was not spring, but fall south of the Equator. I'm not sure if it made any difference where we were. We had just come from southern Brazil, and it was definitely fall-like there. We were staying at the Fazenda Bacury, an exceedingly nice ranch and lodge with a forest preserve, next to a dammed up portion of the Piracicaba River. Although the dam was built just fifty years ago, the marshes formed are so extensive and rich with wildlife that people are starting to call the area the "Little Pantanal." For Bradley, the Bacury and the river were a new location; he was exploring it for the first time, but certainly not the last.

Like big day bird counts nearly everywhere, we birded forest first, when the birds were most active and vocal. Then we birded the lake later, where we could see the birds, even though they may not have been as active as earlier in the day. By evening we had tallied 164 bird species. That's not fabulous by tropical standards, but it isn't bad for a "fall" count in a location new to us. Had I been counting by myself, I would likely have identified around 100 species. That reminds me of the New England birders of 100 years ago. Their big day effort would be to find 100 bird species, and they would refer to it as "going for a century run." No, no! I wasn't there at the time; I grew up in Pennsylvania.

Now that the Oxbow Birdathon has gone international, we should look at how much the bird list is affected. There was likely an overlap between what we saw and the classical Oxbow Birdathon area sightings of no more than 10 species. We saw Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures, Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets. There were American Kestrels. There were House Sparrows but no Starlings, and we missed the Rock Pigeon. The Pied-billed Grebes we saw were the same. One of the first birds we saw was a House Wren. Clement's *Checklist of the Birds of the World* counts this as the very same species that is common enough around Cincinnati. The *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (2005) counts the South American version of the House Wren as a different species, the Southern House Wren.

We saw 8 duck species. None of them occur in the Oxbow area, but 3 of them show up in Texas. Strikingly, we saw no sandpipers. The bird checklist Bradley made for us included 18 sandpiper (family) species. We saw none! Most of the sandpipers on the list could be seen in the greater Cincinnati area in May. That was our problem; they had all gone north.

Did we see anything really South American? Sure. How about 8 hummingbird species, including gems such as the Sapphire-spangled Emerald and the Strip-breasted Starthroat? We saw Toco Toucans and identified 3 parrot species. We identified "typical Antbirds" and "Ovenbirds." This group includes Antwrens, Woodcreepers, Foliage-gleaners, Spinetails, and more.

Another group of birds notable for us is the Tyrant Flycatchers, a New World family of birds. *Birds of the Oxbow* lists 10 species of these flycatchers, from Olive-sided Flycatcher to Eastern Kingbird. The Oxbow Birdathon usually counts most of these birds. However, the real center of distribution of these flycatchers is in the tropics. We tallied 27 species of Tyrant Flycatchers on our little Birdathon, while missing most of them. Bradley's list of flycatchers we might have seen included more than 100 species!

On eBird's Global Big Day, 13,664 people participated, and they recorded a total of 6,013 species! Records were sent in from all seven continents and many of the world's islands. I don't doubt that some participants in the Oxbow Birdathon were also contributors to the eBird Global Big Day

P.S. Jon has emailed me that a new bird, the Whimbrel, has recently been added to the Oxbow area bird list. More on the Whimbrel in the next *Wetland Matters*.

2	BCD	Hermit Thrush
16	AAAAA	Wood Thrush
18	AAAAA	American Robin
18	BAAAA	Gray Catbird
18	BBBBB	Northern Mockingbird
16	ABBBB	Brown Thrasher
18	AAAAA	European Starling
2	EEE	American Pipit
13	DCBBB	Cedar Waxwing
13	BBBBB	Blue-winged Warbler
15	DDDEE	Golden-winged Warbler
2	BAAAD	Tennessee Warbler
2	DDD	Orange-crowned Warbler
12	BABC	Nashville Warbler
16	CCDD	Northern Parula
18	AAAAA	Yellow Warbler
8	CBBD	Chestnut-sided Warbler
7	DCBBC	Magnolia Warbler
7	CBCE	Cape May Warbler
4	DCCD	Black-throated Blue Warbler
1	AAABE	Yellow-rumped Warbler
8	AAABD	Black-throated Green Warbler
10	CBBD	Blackburnian Warbler
17	BBBBB	Yellow-throated Warbler
4	CCDD	Pine Warbler
13	CCCC	Prairie Warbler
9	BBBCD	Palm Warbler
8	DCBBD	Bay-breasted Warbler
12	DCBBD	Blackpoll Warbler
14	BBBBB	Cerulean Warbler
8	BBBCD	Black-and-white Warbler
14	DCBBC	American Redstart
16	CCCCB	Prothonotary Warbler
3	DDDD	Worm-eating Warbler
9	BBABC	Ovenbird
3	CCDD	Northern Waterthrush
9	BCCCC	Louisiana Waterthrush
12	CBBBB	Kentucky Warbler
2	EEE	Connecticut Warbler
2	DCCD	Mourning Warbler
18	BAAAA	Common Yellowthroat
9	BBBBC	Hooded Warbler
1	EDCCD	Wilson's Warbler
1	DCCC	Canada Warbler
15	DCBBB	Yellow-breasted Chat
16	CBBBB	Summer Tanager
17	BAAAB	Scarlet Tanager
16	AAAAA	Eastern Towhee
18	BBBBB	Chipping Sparrow
18	AAAAA	Field Sparrow

3	EEEE	Vesper Sparrow
8	CCDD	Savannah Sparrow
10	DDDD	Grasshopper Sparrow
3	EEEE	Henslow's Sparrow
18	AAAAA	Song Sparrow
4	EDDE	Lincoln's Sparrow
4	BCCE	Swamp Sparrow
7	AABCD	White-throated Sparrow
7	CBCE	White-crowned Sparrow
13	DDD	Dark-eyed Junco
18	AAAAA	Northern Cardinal
13	BBBBB	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
10	EEDDD	Blue Grosbeak
18	BAAAA	Indigo Bunting
13	EDDD	Dickcissel
3	ECCDD	Bobolink
1	AAAAA	Red-winged Blackbird
11	BBBBB	Eastern Meadowlark
1	DDE	Rusty Blackbird
8	AAAAA	Common Grackle
8	AAAAA	Brown-headed Cowbird
9	BBBBB	Orchard Oriole
10	BAAAA	Baltimore Oriole
17	DDE	Purple Finch
17	AAAAA	House Finch
1	DDDE	Pine Siskin
18	AAAAA	American Goldfinch
1	EE	Evening Grosbeak
18	AAAAA	House Sparrow
2		Greater Scaup
1		Lark Sparrow

[Key XXXXX represent each of the five weeks of May  
A → E is abundant (A) to rare (E)]

# CinCheck

Cincinnati Birding Checklist  
cincinnatibirds.com

Date: May 9, 2015

Birders: All Teams (18 cards)

Location: Greater Cincinnati  
(oxbow birdathon)  
Area

Notes: 193 Total Species

15 Species seen by only one team

34 Species seen by all the teams

13 Teams found species not see by any other teams

18	EEE	Snow Goose
18	AAAAA	Canada Goose
4	DD	Mute Swan
16	BBBBB	Wood Duck
4	DDD	Gadwall
1	CDDE	American Wigeon
1	DDEEE	American Black Duck
18	AAAAA	Mallard
16	BBCCC	Blue-winged Teal
1	CDDDD	Northern Shoveler
1	DD	Northern Pintail
1	CD	Green-winged Teal
4	E	Redhead
4	CCDDD	Ring-necked Duck
10	CDDE	Lesser Scaup
1	DEE	Bufflehead
10	DDDDD	Hooded Merganser
5	DDDE	Red-breasted Merganser
7	DDDD	Ruddy Duck
1	EEEE	Ring-necked Pheasant
13	CCCC	Wild Turkey
6	CCCCB	Northern Bobwhite
5	DDDD	Common Loon
1	BCCCC	Pied-billed Grebe
2	EE	Horned Grebe
16	CCCC	Double-crested Cormorant
1	DDDD	American Bittern
1	DDDD	Least Bittern
17	BBBBB	Great Blue Heron
10	DDDDD	Great Egret
1	EE	Snowy Egret
1	EEEE	Little Blue Heron
1	EEEE	Cattle Egret
15	CBBBB	Green Heron
1	CCCC	Black-crowned Night-Heron
1	EEEE	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
15	DDDDD	Black Vulture
8	AAAAA	Turkey Vulture
8	CDDDD	Osprey
15	DDDEE	Bald Eagle
1	DDEEE	Northern Harrier
1	DDEEE	Sharp-shinned Hawk
10	CCCC	Cooper's Hawk
14	CCCC	Red-shouldered Hawk
1	CCCC	Broad-winged Hawk
18	BBBBB	Red-tailed Hawk
12	BBBBB	American Kestrel
1	EE	Merlin
7	DDDDD	Peregrine Falcon
4	DDDD	Virginia Rail

8	CCDD	Sora
1	DDDD	Common Moorhen
15	BCCCC	American Coot
1	EEE	Sandhill Crane
1	DDDC	Black-bellied Plover
13	DDCC	American Golden-Plover
18	AAAAA	Semipalmated Plover
1	EE	Killdeer
1	EE	American Avocet
16	BBBBB	Spotted Sandpiper
16	BBCCE	Solitary Sandpiper
8	BCCDD	Greater Yellowlegs
1	EEE	Willet
10	BCCDD	Lesser Yellowlegs
1	EEEE	Upland Sandpiper
1	EEE	Ruddy Turnstone
10	DCCB	Semipalmated Sandpiper
12	CCDD	Least Sandpiper
1	DD	White-rumped Sandpiper
6	CCDD	Pectoral Sandpiper
9	ODDD	Dunlin
1	EDDD	Stilt Sandpiper
4	DDDD	Short-billed Dowitcher
1	E	Long-billed Dowitcher
3	CDD	Wilson's Snipe
8	CCDD	American Woodcock
1	EEEE	Wilson's Phalarope
2	DDDEE	Bonaparte's Gull
13	CCCC	Ring-billed Gull
3	DDDD	Herring Gull
11	DDDEE	Caspian Tern
1	DDDD	Black Tern
1	DDDEE	Common Tern
1	DDDD	Forster's Tern
17	AAAAA	Rock Pigeon
18	AAAAA	Mourning Dove
15	DCBBB	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
16	DDDE	Black-billed Cuckoo
1	EEEE	Barn Owl
5	CCCC	Eastern Screech-Owl
4	CCCC	Great Horned Owl
14	CCCC	Barred Owl
5	EDCC	Common Nighthawk
1	EEEE	Chuck-will's-widow
1	DDDEE	Whip-poor-will
18	AAAAA	Chimney Swift
16	DCCBB	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
7	BBBBB	Belted Kingfisher
8	CCCC	Red-headed Woodpecker
18	AAAAA	Red-bellied Woodpecker

18	CDE	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
18	AAAAA	Downy Woodpecker
13	BBBBB	Hairy Woodpecker
16	AAAAA	Northern Flicker
16	BBBBB	Pileated Woodpecker
1	DDD	Olive-sided Flycatcher
16	DCAAA	Eastern Wood-Pewee
1	EEE	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
16	ECBBA	Acadian Flycatcher
1	EE	Alder Flycatcher
17	DDCBB	Willow Flycatcher
4	CBBCD	Least Flycatcher
16	BCCCC	Eastern Phoebe
17	BAAAA	Great Crested Flycatcher
18	BBBBB	Eastern Kingbird
1	EEEE	Loggerhead Shrike
14	BBBBB	White-eyed Vireo
5	EEE	Bell's Vireo
14	BBBBB	Yellow-throated Vireo
5	BCDE	Blue-headed Vireo
17	BBBBB	Warbling Vireo
16	DDCCD	Philadelphia Vireo
16	BAAAA	Red-eyed Vireo
18	AAAAA	Blue Jay
18	AAAAA	American Crow
7	CCCC	Horned Lark
12	CCBBB	Purple Martin
17	BBBBB	Tree Swallow
17	BBBBB	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
11	CCCCB	Bank Swallow
12	DDDDD	Cliff Swallow
18	BBBBB	Barn Swallow
18	AAAAA	Carolina Chickadee
18	AAAAA	Tufted Titmouse
1	DDDE	Red-breasted Nuthatch
18	BBBBB	White-breasted Nuthatch
1	DD	Brown Creeper
15	AAAAA	Carolina Wren
1	EEEE	Bewick's Wren
18	AAAAA	House Wren
1	EE	Winter Wren
1	EEEE	Sedge Wren
3	DDDD	Marsh Wren
1	DD	Golden-crowned Kinglet
3	ABCD	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
18	BBBBB	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
16	BBBBB	Eastern Bluebird
7	ECCE	Veery
3	DCCCE	Gray-cheeked Thrush
13	BBAAB	Swainson's Thrush

## Scholarships 2015

Each year Oxbow, Inc. grants five \$500 scholarships to seniors from each of the five area high schools that surround the Oxbow area. The winners are selected by the high schools' science and guidance departments based on the criteria that the seniors are college bound and are planning a course of study involving nature. In the years that we have been doing this we are nearly the only organization in the area that encourages the study of the natural world in this manner. This year's winners from each high school are listed and described below, some in their own words (edited for space constraints).

### **East Central High School—Paul Elliott**

I'm attending Washington University in St. Louis to study Environmental Sciences. I love participating in our school's ECHO recycling club because I get to meet new people and help the environment (We saved 191 trees this year!) I like to read, play video games and volunteer at PAWS animal shelter in Dearborn County. I want to thank Mrs. Nancy Burkhard for getting me interested in the field of Environmental Biology.

### **Taylor High School —Jenna Lyons**

The scholarship winner from Taylor High School is Jenna Lyons. Her parents are Nancy and Chris Lyons of North Bend, Ohio. Jenna plans to attend Bowling Green State University, majoring in Conservation Biology, with a minor in Environmental Science. She wants to preserve and protect the flora and fauna of our planet. She has a 3.85 GPA, and has been active in sports, student council, newspaper, and other organizations. She is a volunteer at Red Wolf Sanctuary, and has participated in a number of community-service events through school and church.

### **Harrison High School —Katie Lofton**

My name is Katie Lofton. I am 18 years old, a senior at William Henry Harrison High School. I will be attending The University of Toledo in the fall as an Environmental Science major. I have hopes of working with the National Park Service upon graduation from college.

While in high school, I have been a participant in Spanish Club, Key Club, Ecology Club, Free-Form Jazz Appreciation Club, the Track and Field team, Academic Team, Marching Band, concert band, jazz band, pep band, Show Choir, concert choir, Madrigal, and the Creative Arts Theatre. I have chosen an Environmental Science major for many reasons, including the fact that I have a passion for the environment. When I am outdoors, I simply feel happier than I do when I'm cooped up inside. To help myself reach this goal, I have taken Advanced Placement courses such as chemistry and biology, in addition to general education-level physical science, biology, chemistry, and physics courses in high school. I have also attended conservation education summer camps to help prepare myself for a career.

### **Lawrenceburg High School—Morgan Cady**

My name is Morgan Cady and I am an 18 year old senior at Lawrenceburg High School. I plan on attending Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences in upstate New York. My course of study will be toward a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, photography and just being outdoors. Nature preservation and wildlife are very important to society and the economy. Preserving our natural habitats helps keep humans in touch with the world around us. By protecting and preserving the wildlife and plant-life in the world, we are able to protect the species of animals or plants that may be endangered. It also gives us a place and ability to research and study any animals and plants that may be in certain region so that we may learn more about how to protect them, not only from the natural world itself but from us as humans.

### **East Central High School — Carley Ochs**

I have chosen to major in Biological Sciences and I could not be happier with my decision. I will be attending NKU in the fall of 2015 and my main goal at the end of my four years of study will be to have a degree in Zoology and work at a zoo or aquarium.

## **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			

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Give Us a Call!**

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