

September—October 2015

No. 175

# WETLAND *matters*

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

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

Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835



## **PARTY! PARTY! October 24, 2015**

**WHY:** Celebrate 30 years of Oxbow, Inc. progress

**WHERE:** The Lawrenceburg Event Center, 92 Walnut St. Lawrenceburg, IN, Room: Fall Creek A (Parking available on the street and in the Ivy Tech garage across the street from the Event Center.)

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm (food service at 6:00 pm, cash bar)

**WHAT:** Food, socializing, celebration, displays, speaker presentations and a good time to be had by all

**WHO:** You, of course, the members and supporters of Oxbow, Inc.

**RSVP:** To Jon Seymour, 513-375-1025 by October 20, 2015 so we know how much food to have ready. (You can still show up at the door but we would really appreciate knowing in advance.)

October 24, 2015 is "Make a Difference Day" and you are invited to a party to celebrate 30 years of making a difference in the life of the floodplain of the Great Miami River at its confluence with the Ohio River. So, after volunteering to make a difference in the tri-state area on Saturday morning and afternoon, head for Lawrenceburg and the beautiful new Event Center in downtown Lawrenceburg and celebrate 30 years of making a difference in the Oxbow. There will be time to meet with other friends of Oxbow, Inc. There will be displays of Oxbow information and we will have speakers that will take us back in the history of Oxbow, detail its current status and take us into the vision of the future of Oxbow, Inc.

**COME, ENJOY, CELEBRATE  
THE DIFFERENCE YOU HAVE  
MADE!**



## **GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND IN THE OXBOW SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 & 27**

Come out to the Oxbow on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September or Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> for a walking tour of the Oxbow and a look at the Oxbow's wildlife as it settles in for the evening.

Both programs start at 5:30 pm and go to about 7:30 pm. They will consist of a mostly level hike along the Oxbow roads of about 1.2 miles in length (round trip). Come dressed for the weather and have shoes that can get dirty. Sandals are NOT recommended. Remember there are no bathroom facilities in the Oxbow. On the map, the walks both evenings are the same but our cast of animal characters is often VERY different. Meet at the Oxbow parking area just inside the Hardintown entrance to the Oxbow.

*DIRECTIONS: Take I-275 to exit #16. At the end of the exit turn left (south) on US Highway 50 toward Lawrenceburg. In 200 yards turn left over the levee between the Shell Station and the Waffle House. Go to the chain-link fence (2 blocks) and turn right. Go one block to the Oxbow entrance sign and turn left into the Oxbow. The parking area is on the right.)*

## **2015 Birdathon Birding Blitz Brings Bucks**

The Cincinnati Area Birdathon closed with a total of 193 species recorded by all the participating teams in the field, but the story behind the Birdathon is the raising of money to fund habitat and access improvement projects. This year's Birdathon raised \$3,768.20 as of August 1, 2015 from 49 contributors for an average of \$76.90 per donor. The total represents the first turnaround in donations in the last few

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Birding Blitz—continued from page 1)*

years and is a welcome increase in the funds raised for habitat and access improvement. Let's keep it going and make Birdathon 2016 even bigger. Each of the teams participating in the Birdathon contributed some money to the cause. The leaders in the race to raise the most money by each team are listed below:

1. The winning team for the Birdathon area was the Beasts of Birdin' comprised of Jack Stenger and Joe Bens, with Jay Stenger as the designated driver. It was also the money raising leader with \$1069 for the winning total.
2. Jon Seymour, "First Timers", chimed in with \$550.
3. Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman & Erich Baumgardner, "Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers", found a fortune of \$516.
4. The team of Brian Wulker, Bill Zimmerman & William Hull raised \$509.20
5. Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, Chris Moran & Sarah Krailller, "The Ladyhawks", talloned \$345.
6. Rick Lisi & Richard Amable, "The Blind Owls", tapped \$222.
7. George Farnsworth, Nick Baker, Molly McCarrick, Rob Link, Lucas Bevin & Sean Kirby, "Xpert Birders" (representing Xavier University), Xtracted \$183.
8. Don and Brendan Bogosian bagged \$152.
9. Gary Stegner, "Fernald Preserve Team", raised \$145.
10. Miami Valley Christian Academy (3 teams) Tyler Ficker, Cassidy Ficker & Maddie Varius. "Birds of Pray, Team #1" (an age 18 and under team); Alex Byrd, Mathew Hidaman, Colin Hastings, and Joshua Warren. "Birds of Pray #2 (an 18 and under team); and advisor Bill Gill collected \$70
11. Dave and Vicky Tozier, John Eckles & Barb Knott, "Birds Elude Us", captured \$50.
12. Jason Gantt, "The Lone Wrenger", wrangled \$45.
13. Eric Burkholder and Kirk Westendorf raised \$30.
14. Suzanne and Chris Clingman, "The Clermont County Park District Team", raised \$30.
15. Bill Stanley, Jeff Bilsky, and James Wheat, "The Invasive Species", raised \$15.
16. Evan Leon and Carly Ogden, "Two in the Bush", raised \$10

We thank all our participants and their supporters for contributing to support their favorite team. It is not too late to contribute to the Birdathon— send a check in honor of your favorite team to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Help them move up in the standings as the team that raised the most money. They did the work and are depending on you to take them to the top of the money raising board.

### **2015 Birdathon Donors List**

Wanda Apgar	Mark Gilsdorf	Bobby & Sharon Morris
Audubon Society of Ohio	Jeffrey Grothaus	Tim & Dee Peters
Robyn & Patton Aungst	Jeffrey Kapela	Joyce Elaine Romer
Herb & Wilma Beigel	Brian Keane	Jim Scott & Donna Hartman
Jeff Bilsky	Judy Kennedy	Jon & Jackie Seymour
Don & Barbara Bogosian	Karen Larsen	Lois Shadix
Penny Borgman	Evan Leon	Judy Squire
Eric Burkholder	Rick Lisi	Gary & Sally Stegner
Chris & Suzanne Clingman	Jennifer Loggie	Jay & Jack Stenger
David & Karen Cody	Bill McGill	Joan Carlson Walson
Margaret Mary Delaney	Lisa & Scott McHenry	Wayne Wauligman
Sr. Marty Dermody	Francis & Donna Metzler	Jim Weaver
Tim & Laura Dornan	Dave & Kani Meyer	Dorinda & Jeffrey Whitsett
John Eckles	Ken Miller & Bethia Margoshes	Jim & Judy Wilgenbusch
George Farnsworth	Chris Moran	Brian Wulker
Jason Gantt	Al & Regeana Morgan	Gale & David Wulker

*(Bonnie Fancher was a founding member of Oxbow, Inc. and was especially active early in the formation of the organization she loved. Bonnie had many other roles and interests that kept her busy and active for many years. The lives she touched and improved are legion. In 2001, then President of Oxbow, Inc. Norma Flannery, was the recipient of the National Wetlands Award for voluntary leadership. It was Bonnie who gathered all the supporting information and nominated Norma for the award. Velda Miller, a longtime friend of Bonnie's prepared this memorial to her life and her passions. – Jon Seymour)*

### **Bonnie Fancher , Consummate Environmental Educator, 1949 to 2015**

Both the community and the natural world lost a devoted friend with the passing of Bonnie Fancher on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

For 35 years Bonnie was the Science, Chemistry and Physics teacher with the Switzerland County School Corporation. She loved the out of doors and shared that love with her students and friends. She was a founding member of Oxbow, Inc. and served as secretary on the Board of Directors for Oxbow, Inc.

It was always a delight to answer the phone and hear Bonnie on the other end, "You've just got to see THIS!" Off we'd go to visit the latest warbler hot spot she'd discovered during the Indiana Breeding Bird Atlas Project, view an eagle's nest and hunt down another, watch cranes along the backwaters of a stream that flows into the Ohio, and to stare in amazement at the rather flimsy looking stick nests in a Sycamore tree along a meandering creek that served as a heron rookery.

Her students' education often went beyond the pages in a book. In her Advanced Placement Environmental Science Class students took part in monitoring local bodies of water and supplied that data to state agencies as part of the Switzerland County Watershed Project. Bonnie's enthusiasm for the sciences and her hands on approach to teaching led to many awards and a long list of accomplishments. Some of these were: The National Milken Teacher of the Year (1999), Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year (2010) and Runner-up for National Rural Education Teacher of the Year, received a Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship which was used to take part in an Earthwatch Expedition to Foula, one of the North Shetland Islands where she assisted in the banding of puffins and common guillemot, served as the

Southeastern Indiana field person on the Indiana Breeding Bird Atlas Project. She was one of four teachers in the US who were asked to serve on Scholastic Magazine's Editorial Board for Science World. And the list goes on. It took more than a third of the front page of Switzerland County's local paper to list her accomplishments and awards.

Bonnie's life is not defined by the date of her birth and death, June 16, 1949—June 12, 2015, but by all that she packed into the hyphen between the two dates. Her presence and the kind words and knowledge she so willing shared will be missed.



### **THE RETURN OF FISH SPECIES TO THE OXBOW AREA RIVERS AND STREAMS**

*.....by Wayne Wauligman*

One Saturday in the Summer of 1957, my father took me to fish on the Great Miami River near Colerain Avenue. I was excited to be fishing with him, and eagerly looked forward to catching some catfish and anything else. When we arrived I was puzzled to see recently dead fish lining both sides of the River. With blind enthusiasm, I cast out into the current and waited for a strike. While holding the rod and watching the line, a small sunfish jumped out of the water onto the shore and died at my feet! My father said only "Let's go." We returned home and never fished the Great Miami River again. I later learned it was a toxic spill from a paper plant in Hamilton. There were many more such spills and other forms of pollution. The River was essentially 'dead' that Saturday in 1957!

In 1987, I assisted Sue Simon and Paul Krusling with a herpetological survey of the Oxbow area and the lower Great Miami River at Shawnee Lookout. It was surprising and encouraging to see turtles and fish in large numbers. Besides the usual Channel Cats, Drum and Carp, we also caught in our turtle traps and nets Smallmouth Bass, White Bass, Sauger, Longnose Gar and even one hatchling Paddlefish. Hellgrammites, a water quality indicator species, were found in some rocky areas. At the Oxbow itself, Bullhead Catfish and Crappie were present. There were also Killifish and Glass Shrimp. Apparently various fish, turtles, insects and birds had returned.

In 2010 while seining the Whitewater River at Campbell Lakes Park, I showed the catch to members of the Greater Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society during their scheduled hike. I caught several small Blue Catfish, at the time an Ohio Endangered Species. They have since been removed from that list. Also netted were Crayfish, Hellgrammites, Rainbow Darters,

*(continued on page 11)*

## 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's Wish List for 2015

- We need a volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories on the efforts of these volunteers for publication in *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 establish a legacy giving campaign.
- We need a volunteer to coordinate an art show.
- We need a volunteer to help with more media coverage for Oxbow and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.
- We need a truck in good shape that you wish to donate to Oxbow. 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 cost us the opportunity to remove trash from the Oxbow when conditions were right to do so. We have 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. 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, 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.

**Tuesday October 13, 7:30 PM**

**"Geocaching...or using billion-dollar satellites to find Tupperware in the woods"**

Dr Mark Fischer, Professor of Physics, Mount St Joseph University, Mount professor and avid cacher, will present a brief introduction to Geocaching, some background on how GPS actually works, and a walk-through of the [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) website. He will conclude with some tales of some of his favorite finds including great hikes, memorable locations (not limited to North America!), and significant historical sites. Dr. Fischer can be reached at [Mark.fischer@msj.edu](mailto:Mark.fischer@msj.edu) or 513 244-4781 (work)

**Tuesday November 10, 7:30 PM**

**"Frigid friends and frozen foes"**

Dr. R. A. Davis, Professor Emeritus of Biology and Geology, Mount St Joseph University professor, world-famous paleontologist specializing in the study of cephalopods (squids, octopi and their relatives), expert on Ordovician age fossils (those found in our local bedrock), as well as an expert on Ice Age animals and the environment in which they lived — will present a lively, informative, and interactive talk on the mammals that lived right here in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana during the most recent Ice Age. Dr. Davis can be reached by calling his home at 513 751- 3739 (home)

**Tuesday January 12, 7:30 PM— SAVE THE DATE**

**Beer: Past, Present, and Future of the Nectar of the Gods**

Dr. Andrew Rasmussen, Associate Professor of Biology, Mount St Joseph University is a microbiologist, engaging story-teller, and an expert beer-maker! So he'll no doubt regale us with stories about the art of brewing. More information to come....

***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)



Constant rains filled the Oxbow with flood water during crop growing and wildlife breeding season. The flooded woodlands take on their swamp nature as the kayak enthusiast slips through the flooded woodlands. *(photo by Tom Uhlman)*



This baby beaver seeks the high ground after summer floods drown mama's bank level den forcing them out of their shelter. *(photo by Tom Uhlman)*



Rainbow Darter netted in Whitewater River near Campbell Lakes Park 9/25/11. Note red pigmentation in anal fin. Orange Throated Darter does not have red here.  
*(Photo by Wayne Wauligman)*

Rosyface Shiner 6-6-2015 in the Whitewater River.  
*(Photo by John Klein)*



Mooneye caught in the Whitewater River 9/3/2011 near Campbell Lakes Park. *(Photo by Denis Conover)*

Hellgrammites from the Whitewater River at Campbell Lakes Park 10/10/2010.  
*(Photo by Wayne Wauligman.)*



### **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.

#### **Fall Migration, Warblers & Shorebirds — Saturday, September 5, 2015, 8:00 A.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 shorebirds in both locations. Herons, egrets, terns, other water birds and raptors can also be expected. The combined habitats of these two excellent and adjacent birding sites should yield a great diversity of species. Joe plans to bird until around noon. 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. Feel free to call or email Joe if you have any questions.

#### **Join us for the 4th Annual Oxbow Butterfly Count! September 12, 2015, 11 a.m.**

**Trip Leader: Bob Nuhn**

#### **Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow**

The trip will last approximately 2 hours. If there is time, we may visit Shawnee Lookout to look for more butterflies. Beginners welcome! 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 4th 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. May be rocky at times. Water and Sunscreen recommended.

Please RSVP to Kathy McDonald at [mkmcdonald@me.com](mailto:mkmcdonald@me.com) or call [513-748-0281](tel:513-748-0281). Hope to see you there! (Take Route 50 (Eads Parkway) just past the Exit #16 connector to I-275 heading toward Lawrenceburg.

#### **Late Fall Migration in the Oxbow Sunday, October 25, 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)**

Join field trip leader Gary Stegner for what should be a beautiful autumnal morning visit to the Oxbow. October may be the best time of year to be outdoors in terms of pleasant weather and natural beauty. Cool to mild temperatures and crisp air are the norm and fall color is at peak.

Birds are abundant at this season, as many different species are still migrating throughout the month. By this date, waterfowl migration will be well underway. But many other species are still on the move during October. Shorebirds, various water birds, raptors and a diversity of songbirds are all expected at this date. The various habitats of the Oxbow and the lower Great Miami River valley are a great place to see the diversity of these migration patterns.

Our trip leader, Gary Stegner, is a long time Oxbow member and an experienced naturalist and birder. Gary was instrumental in leading field trips and educating the public on the wildlife at the Fernald Preserve. Gary knows the Oxbow area extremely well and plans to lead us to several spots in and around the Oxbow, looking for the "mixed bag" that fall migration can bring. This morning field trip will probably end around noon. Contact Gary if you have any questions.





## usings

by Dave Styér

### The Whimbrel

The Audubon Society field trip to the Oxbow area on 17 May was in for a big surprise: Joe Kappa spotted a Whimbrel in the mud flats by Lost Bridge with around 200 other shorebirds. This was the first Whimbrel ever seen in the Oxbow area. Fortunately, several people got to see it. Thanks to Ned Keller and Jon Seymour, I learned about this sighting.

When I think of large shorebirds that stop in the Oxbow area on occasion, I think of American Avocets. The Avocet must be bigger than a Whimbrel; according to *The Sibley Guide to Birds* the Avocet is 18 inches long, while the Whimbrel is a measly 17.5 inches long. But, surprise, the Avocet weighs 11 ounces, while the Whimbrel weighs 14 ounces! I guess I focused so much on the Avocet's long up-turned bill, and the Whimbrel's long down-turned bill that I failed to notice that the Whimbrel is really the heavier bird.

The scarcity of the Whimbrel in the Greater Cincinnati area and in Ohio, generally, has been cause for surprise. In *Birds of Southwestern Ohio* (1953) Kemsies and Randle write that "it seems strange that there is no authentic record of the Hudsonian Curlew [= Whimbrel] for the Cincinnati area since it has been taken in various other parts of the state." As an aside, while I approve of collections for scientific reasons, I hope that the wording of the quotation represents something of the past. On a statewide scale, in *The Birds of Ohio* (1989) Peterjohn states that "though regularly observed along the north shore of Lake Erie, they are surprisingly scarce in Ohio."

The name, Hudsonian Curlew, for the Whimbrel, as used by Kemsies and Randle, seems quite appropriate. Whimbrels are curlews, one of the large shorebirds with long, down-curved bills. Also, some of them nest near Hudson Bay. So, why the name change? Whimbrels actually live in England, and the name supposedly comes from an imitation of one of the Whimbrel's calls. In England they have likely been called Whimbrels for hundreds of years. Up until sometime, perhaps in the 1940s, Hudsonian Curlews were considered a separate species from the Whimbrels of Eurasia. Back in 1758, Linnaeus gave the Whimbrel the scientific name *Scolopax phaeopus*. Perhaps not long after that the name was changed to *Numenius phaeopus*, and it remains that until this day. Just a little later the Hudsonian Curlew, **our** Whimbrel, went

through several scientific name changes, until it settled on *Numenius hudsonicus*. Sometime, as far as I can tell, in the 1940s, ornithologists decided that Hudsonian Curlews and Whimbrels were really the same species. Since the Whimbrel was given its scientific name first, the scientific name of the Hudsonian Curlew became *Numenius phaeopus*. I suppose that the naming committee of the American Ornithologist's Union decided that we might as well call the bird a Whimbrel, since the British have probably called it that for centuries.

Now there are seven curlew species, although one or two may be extinct. The Whimbrel is the only curlew that breeds in both the New World and the Old World. They all breed in the far north: Alaska and northwestern Canada, by the Hudson Bay, in Scandinavia and Russia, and to a lesser extent across Siberia. Whimbrels are super-migrants. They winter, mostly coastally, from the southern coasts of the United States to the southern tip of South America. You could go to the southern tip of Africa, or southern Asia, or anywhere on the coast of Australia to see Whimbrels. They even show up in New Zealand. Remarkably, the New Zealand Whimbrels have been known to come from America as well as Eurasia. If you think a flight from the U.S. to New Zealand, going 500 miles per hour, is long and tedious, just imagine a Whimbrel flying there. They must have a different sense of long and tedious.

Out here on the central California coast, where Whimbrels overwinter and strongly migrate, if I want to see a Whimbrel, I go to where shorebirds hang out. However, if I want to see a Whimbrel **pronto**, I go straight to the shore, where the Sanderlings run in and out with the waves. There, Whimbrels are almost guaranteed. That indicates to me that Whimbrels really do favor the shore when not breeding.

When adult Whimbrels are ready to leave their Arctic breeding grounds, they leave the young to migrate on their own. This is a marvelous thing, showing that the young are hatched with the ability to migrate appropriately when the time comes. When the adults leave the wintering grounds to breed in the Arctic, the young are said to stay behind. They do not normally go north again until their second or third year. Thus, if you want to see a Whimbrel on its breeding grounds, you had better go during the breeding season. If you just want to see a Whimbrel, you could go to the "wintering grounds" at any season. You might, at least, see immature birds. This also means that the lucky people who saw a Whimbrel by Lost Bridge likely saw an adult bird heading towards its breeding grounds.

ECG, 8/1/15

**2014 FINANCIAL REPORT  
INCOME & EXPENSE**

	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of IN, Inc.	Combined
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contributed Support	25,624.66	0	25,624.66
Legacies & Bequests	104,430.05	0	104,430.05
Earned Revenue <sup>1</sup>	62,999.53	57,769.50	120,769.03
Investments		-39.54	-39.54
Special Events		3,359.20	3,359.20
Restricted Funds Activity	2,970.86		2,970.86
Cost of Goods Sold	-239.76		-239.76
Capital Gain (Loss)	-92.50		-92.50
Programs		565.95	565.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>195,692.84</b>	<b>61,655.11</b>	<b>257,347.95</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Grants	6,500.00	0	6,500.00
Legal & Accounting	18,098.72	550.25	18,648.97
Non-Personnel Exp. <sup>2</sup>	1,110.00	21,784.17	22,894.17
Occupancy Exp. <sup>3</sup>	0.00	16,406.40	16,406.40
Travel & Meetings	435.00	1,076.87	1,511.87
Miscellaneous	935.00	306.12	1,241.12
Business Exp.	160.00	0.00	160.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>27,238.72</b>	<b>40,123.81</b>	<b>67,362.53</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>168,454.12</b>	<b>21,531.30</b>	<b>189,985.42</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
Checking & Savings	1,533,026.00	116,533.05	1,649,559.05
Mutual Funds & Securities	452,043.61		452,043.61
Other Current Assets	1,456.80		1,456.80
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASS.</b>	<b>1,986,526.41</b>	<b>116,533.05</b>	<b>2,103,059.46</b>
Land	245,551.60	1,383,982.86	1,629,534.46
Easements	231,963.28	0	231,963.28
Land Improvements	8,438.10	11,631.60	20,069.70
Office Furn. & Equip.	3,783.00	0	3,783.00
Other Assets		500.00	500.00
Accumulated Amort.	-3,536.00	-2,522.00	-6,058.00
Land Improv.			
Accumulated Depr.	-3,649.00		-3,649.00
Office F. & E.			
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>482,550.98</b>	<b>1,393,592.46</b>	<b>1,876,143.44</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,469,077.39</b>	<b>1,510,125.51</b>	<b>3,979,202.90</b>

1- Dues, interest, Cropland Rental

2 - Office exp., Fundraising, Special Events, Postage, Printing

3 - Exp. related to renting office &amp; maintaining land, incl. property taxes

**2014 INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

The income & expense report and balance sheet for Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are presented here. Net income was more than double the prior year. Under contributed support, we received one gift of \$10,000, plus several in the \$1,000 to \$3,000 range, and quite a number of smaller memorials. There was also a catch-up grant from the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District. Under Legacies & Bequests, we received two payments from the Witte Trust, one in January and one in December, both of about \$50,000 accounting for more than one half of the increase. Earned Revenue included about \$10,000 in dividends from our mutual funds. Other income items were similar to the previous year. Expenses were up about 5% from the previous year, with the biggest increase coming in legal expenses related to land acquisition efforts, the Valcor spill, rezoning our land, and the Whitewater Flour Mill.

The balance sheet shows our fixed assets have stayed the same (except for depreciation and amortization) since we have acquired no new land in 2014 and completed no major improvements in that period. Our current assets increased about \$220,000 over 2013 year end assets, due to the increase in income noted above, and an increase in the value of our mutual fund portfolio.

Ed Gemperle, Treasurer, August 1, 2015

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

Ken Miller & Bethia Margoshes  
Kathryn Shahani

**Donor**

Therese Bocklage

**In Memory of**

Bill & Jeanne Bocklage

**Donor**

Don & June Reynolds

**In Honor of**

Ed & Judy Kreutzer's  
50th Anniversary



*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 acknowledgment.*

*(Return of Fish Species—continued from page 3)*

Banded Darters, Madtoms, Warmouth, and Northern Rockbass. Although not the Great Miami River, it is a tributary. The return of fish species to the Great Miami basin is looking better!

On September 2011 Denis Conover sent me a photo of a fish he caught and released (using barbless hooks) in the Whitewater River near Campbell Lakes. Researching it in Milton Trautman's *The Fishes Of Ohio*, I identified it as a Mooneye. With its slab of small silvery scales, a large eye, and canine teeth only, my interest was piqued. In 2004, I remember seining Harker's Run, a small stream in Oxford, finding a young two inch long Mooneye. However, I didn't know at the time what it was. Trautman describes it as weighing up to two pounds and fifteen inches long. He writes, "It was common in the Ohio River before 1900 but has decreased greatly since." He notes one sighting in the Great Miami River near the Ohio between 1955 and 1980. Recently fishermen have caught them. So another species is returning to the ecology.

John Klein sent me photos of a Smallmouth Bass and a Blue Catfish from the same area. Another photo showed a Shiner John had never seen before. Oxbow Inc. Board member Mike Miller identified it as a Rosyface Shiner. John said they were numerous in a Whitewater River riffle. Again quoting Trautman's *The Fishes of Ohio*, "Since 1938 it has decreased markedly in numbers, or has become extirpated in such streams ...as the lower portions of the Great Miami River." So, with the Rosyface Shiner back or remaining in the Whitewater River, has it already spread into the Great Miami? Will the Great Miami once again support a diverse list of species of fish and invertebrates?

The Oxbow area's ecology depends upon the return of these species. The last nesting Bald Eagles disappeared at the mouth of Indian Creek with the Great Miami in the early 1950's, timed with the fish poisoning from paper mills in Hamilton. Only recently are Bald Eagles again nesting near the mouth of Indian Creek as well as near Campbell Lakes along the Whitewater River. Osprey are seen migrating these rivers, catching fish along the way. One photo at Campbell Lakes shows an Osprey with a Sauger in each foot! If these rivers stay clean, Bald Eagles and Osprey will be nesting at Oxbow Inc. property soon!

If you fish the Great Miami and Whitewater River area in Hamilton County, and catch and release, try using barbless hooks for much easier handling. Catch a Softshell Turtle? Cut the line and the turtle can work it out easier than a barbed hook. Catch anything unusual, send a photo and location to [wrwpgw@aol.com](mailto:wrwpgw@aol.com). Check the new Oxbow Inc. fishing regulations and enjoy catching and observing these new species.

## **Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.**

A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands ecosystem known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This agricultural area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. Make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource. **Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is encouraged and solicited.**

Prothonotary Warbler	\$ 15	Wood Duck	\$ 25
Great Blue Heron	\$ 50	Green-winged Teal	\$100
Great Egret	\$250	Osprey	\$500
Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
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Indiana Agent, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800

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

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