



WETLAND *matters*

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

Have you visited our website? — www.oxbowinc.org

Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

OXBOW & MASTERWORKS IN NATURE ART SHOW

After 35 years of talking about an art show benefiting Oxbow Inc., it is finally coming true! Masterworks in Nature will hold an art show and sale at the Oxbow, Inc. office at 301 Walnut Street in Lawrenceburg, Indiana from Friday, October 14, 2016 to Sunday, October 23, 2016. Art works from the acclaimed artists of the Masterworks of Nature group will be on display and on sale during all the days in-between the opening festivities and the closing celebration. There will be opportunities to meet the artists and discuss their work. There will be presentations associated with the event and raffle drawings for art work provided by the artists.

The show will be co-hosted with Adam's Art & Supply store at 303 Walnut Street, next door to the Oxbow office. Access will be through the Oxbow office door or through the Art Supply store during business hours. Special extended hours for the show will be announced. We are planning some special opportunities for kids to join in and have some fun and recognition. It will be a 10 day celebration of all things natural and the art of bringing that beauty into your own home.

We will be highlighting some of the participants over the next few newsletters so you can get to know a few of these exceptional and award winning artists.

Make plans to attend now. Notify your friends. Get those Christmas ideas early. Plan to give a little nature for Christmas. Satisfy your own craving for great art at the Oxbow & Masterworks in Nature art show.

For more information: call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

BIRDATHON 2016



"Pretend you don't notice him."

For the 30th year the Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon is off to a great start. Yes, the first Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon was held in 1987. There are even a few individuals who participated in the first one still hanging around waiting to see their first Fiamingo on a Birdathon weekend. There are even

a few folks that will have participated in ALL 30 of the Birdathons. We will be celebrating the birds and 30 years of birding the Greater Cincinnati Area and having a fun time doing it. In the process we will raise money to make the Oxbow and better place. What could be better? Join us on May 6-7 for another birding blast followed by the Tally Party at Fernald, at 5:00 pm. on Saturday the 7th, 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 beverages make for the ending of a perfect 24 hour hunt for species. Come join us and tally some birds. We 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 support habitat and access improvements in the Oxbow. HAPPY 30th BIRDATHON TO ONE AND ALL.

Another Successful MMM Night Hike

.....by John Klein

This year's Morris Mercer Memorial Night Hike at Shawnee Lookout Park was attended by 28 hardy souls (which may be a record)! Special thanks go out to Kani Meyer and Velda Miller who were able to change the date on the Oxbow Inc. website and email the change to regular attendees on short notice. With winter storm Jonas forecast to skirt the edge of the Ohio Valley creating a travel advisory, I had to make the call around noon on the day of the hike that it would be postponed until the next day.

As it turned out, our immediate area was spared the snow but the high winds and cloud cover would have made for a more challenging hike. The conditions during the hike the following evening were nearly ideal! Not as much snow as Morris would have liked perhaps, but from an earlier storm enough covered the ground. I have never seen a full moon brighter than it was that night (Jan. 23). The air was so clear from the storm passing the day before, that walking towards the rising moon on Little Turtle Trail was nearly blinding!

As the hike began, two barred owls serenaded the group from the woods to the west. What a perfect way to begin a night hike! There was no need for a flashlight. The shadows cast by the bright moon however, made it difficult to determine the difference between tree shadows and steps on the trail. So we took it slow, stopping to talk about some of the history of the park, geology of the river, native Americans, the story of Ft. Finney and of course Morris. He and I led this annual hike for many years and after his passing, I saw no reason to stop! Morris had more positive qualities than can be listed here. Among them was his gentle nature and ability to tell a story and make you feel like you were right there with him during his trips to the Oxbow. He did this with thousands of school children as Oxbow's spokesperson and in his articles in "Wetland Matters".

I also talked about laying out the route for the trail back in the mid 70's with Warren Wells, former Chief Naturalist for the Parks who also shared many of Morris's qualities. Yes, I am that old! As has become a recent tradition, M&M's were shared at the last stop on the trail since they have Morris's initials on them. Those of us who remember Warren, turned them around to remember him as well!

Oxbow's Christmas Wish List for 2016

During the Christmas Season, like many others, we prepared our Wish List for Santa. In the past Santa has filled several of our wishes so we must have been on the good list. We hope if members know about items and talents that we need, they might realize ways they might be able to help, and may want to play the part of Santa.

- 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 where we can park the truck when not in use so all we need is a donor and a truck that works.
- We need volunteers to help with an Art Show we are planning for late 2016. We have a start and basic plans but will need additional help to pull it off.

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

HOLD THE DATE

Saturday, Sept 10 for Bob Nuhns Oxbow Butterfly count. As usual, we will meet at the Hardentown Oxbow parking area and go for maybe 1-2 hrs or as many as people want to hang out!

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Friday, February 12, 2016

by Jon Seymour

Meg asked me a couple of weeks ago if she could bring her class to the Oxbow for a field trip on Friday the 12th of February. I said yes and added the caveat that it needed to not be underwater. Frankly the Oxbow can be underwater, and frequently is, any time between the end of November and the first of May. A February field trip is always a risk. Dr. Meg Riestenberg retired last year, at least that is what my notes tell me, but she is back leading a class of biology students from Mount St. Joseph University. Hard to tell the difference between working and retired, but who am I to talk.

I pull into the Oxbow entrance at about 10:00 am. and head down the road to gauge accessibility for a 45 passenger bus. It has been a hard cold snap with both nights and days below freezing. My first fear is eliminated quickly as the ground is hard frozen and the temperature prediction is a high in the mid 20's. This should mean that we will be able to access the main overlook half way down Oxbow Lake. I continue past the entrance parking area and down the slope into the main portion of the Oxbow. The water is up a bit, maybe 2-3 feet above normal and I notice that my second fear, that the lakes would be frozen over, is unfounded. Large portions of Juno Pond and the cement plant pond are open and there are American Coots on the cement plant pond and Northern Shovelers in Juno Pond. On Wednesday I had flushed an immature American Bald Eagle out of this area. I could only hope that there might be one hanging around when I come back in a few hours with a bus load of college students.

The drive out to the Oxbow Lake Overlook is a bit slippery because of corn stalks laying on the road from the most recent flood. At the concrete spillway at Osprey Lake I see a dead Muskrat lying in the road. This surprises me a bit since I see very few Muskrats in the Oxbow and have not seen a Muskrat house for several years. I cannot see any cause of death. The specimen is not crushed and shows no sign of inflicted injuries. The fur seems to be in excellent condition and no animals have been gnawing on the carcass. I put the body to the side of the road and plan to use it during the student visit. I head out for the office to await the arrival of the class.

At about 12:30 pm the Mount St. Joseph University pulls around the corner and finds a parking spot on Center St. There are 19 students and Meg. We spend a few minutes talking about land trusts and the history of Oxbow, Inc. The students ask some good questions and it is time to reboard the bus and head for the Oxbow. On entering the Oxbow we stop at the parking area and walk out to the vernal ponds. This is a good lead in to talking about the underlying geology of the Oxbow and the establishment of diverse habitats. Down at the bottom of the hill we walk out to the birding overlook of Juno Pond. The coots and the shovelers are gone from this morning but there are ducks out at the far edge of the open water. I check them out with the spotting scope, and while most are Mallards, there are a few Northern Shovelers and at least one male Common Merganser. Some of the students use the scope to see the birds but Meg points out that several of them are too cold (despite dire warnings to dress for the weather).

On the way back to the bus we find the American Coots along the western shoreline of the cement plant pond. In the bus we discuss some of the land use techniques such as prairie establishment and maintenance and the use of agriculture to provide edge food and an over winter food supply. At Osprey Lake I get out and bring back into the bus my little furry friend from this morning. We talk about Muskrats and other wetland dwelling mammals in the area. The lake is frozen below the Oxbow Lake Overlook but the class gets out to look around anyway. As we talk about recovery from farmland to prairie a large flock of ducks rises from the farmland on the other side of the lake. Then another even larger flock rises and then another still larger flock takes flight. I estimate about 1500-2000 ducks have taken to the air. Now they break into smaller groups and head to various other landing sites, but the air continues to stir with smaller flocks seeking a variety of directions. Some even circle and return to the original location.

It is time to get the students (and the bus) back to Mount St Joseph University. On the way out we see a small flock of ducks on Juno Pond that were not there before and they turn out to be Lesser Scaup. The driver spots a hawk up ahead on the road chasing a squirrel. The squirrel is holding it's own and the Hawk is not making any headway with the Eastern Fox Squirrel. The adult Red-tailed Hawk seems flustered that the squirrel seems ready for battle. The Fox Squirrel, weighing in at two to three times the weight of a Gray Squirrel and about the same weight as the hawk is not pretending to be an easy meal. On the contrary he seems to have an utter disregard for the hawk as he calmly walks off through the underbrush and the hawk gives up and flies to a nearby branch, not to digest a meal but digest the behavior of Fox Squirrels. I have the bus driver pull up near the perch and get out and set up my scope on the bird. A few of the students view the bird through the scope and several digiscope a photo of the bird to take with them as a souvenir.

Reluctantly we part our ways and Meg and the students head back to school and I head back to paperwork.

2016 Election Results

Thank you to all who sent in your ballots for the election of directors for Oxbow, Inc. and for Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.

Elected for a three year term on the Board of Oxbow, Inc. beginning February 2016 ending in February 2019:

- ◆ Ed Gemperle
- ◆ John Klein
- ◆ Michael Miller
- ◆ Jon Seymour
- ◆ Wayne Wauligman
- ◆

Similarly the following were elected to the Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. for a three year term beginning February 2016 and ending in February 2019.

- ◆ Ed Gemperle
- ◆ John Klein
- ◆ Michael Miller
- ◆ Jon Seymour
- ◆ Wayne Wauligman

At our January Board Meeting the following Officers were elected:

Elected for a one year term as officers of Oxbow, Inc., beginning February 2016 and ending in February 2017:

- ◆ President - Jon Seymour
- ◆ Vice-President – Kani Meyer
- ◆ Secretary – Dwight Poffenberger
- ◆ Treasurer – Ed Gemperle
- ◆ Recording Secretary – Dennis Mason
- ◆ Dwight Poffenberger was reconfirmed as our Ohio Agent

Elected for a one year term as officers of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc., beginning February 2016 and ending in February 2017:

- ◆ President - Jon Seymour
- ◆ Vice-President – Kani Meyer
- ◆ Secretary – Dwight Poffenberger
- ◆ Treasurer – Ed Gemperle
- ◆ Recording Secretary – Dennis Mason
- ◆ Ed Gemperle was reconfirmed as our Indiana Agent

"The Train's Been Robbed!"
(a historical depiction)by Jon Seymour

On May 3, 1865 the train carrying the coffins of Abraham Lincoln and his son Willie Lincoln pulled into the station in Springfield, Illinois after a 14 day, 1654 mile journey from Washington, D.C. The funeral would be the next day, May 4, 1865 and the eyes of the nation and indeed the world were focused on the capital/farming community in central Illinois.

Out of focus and nearly overlooked and forgotten were events occurring just outside of Lawrenceburg, IN at that same time. During the day and early evening of Friday, May 5, 1865 several rowboats found their way to the banks of the Ohio River near its junction with the Great Miami River. Between 15-20 men also found their way to the confluence of the two rivers. Some, on those same boats, others possibly on foot, so as not to call attention to themselves.

Well away from prying eyes and covered by dusk and darkness they tore up a section of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad track near the tiny whistle stop known as "Gravel Pit" later known as Finney, where the Fort Hill power plant now sits, the last "stop" on the O. & M. line before crossing the Great Miami River and the only stop between North Bend and Lawrenceburg.

On that same evening the O.&M. Express train pulled out of Cincinnati at 8:00 pm headed toward St. Louis. It never arrived.

On that section of torn up track near Gravel Pit, the Express derailed and was immediately boarded by the gang waiting near the track hidden in the night. Fortunately no one on the train was significantly hurt during the derailment. As the gang boarded the train they pointed cocked revolvers in the faces of the male passengers and ordered them to disgorge their money and valuables. Over 100 men were relieved of their possessions in this manner. The ladies onboard were not accosted and were not asked to part with their valuables. Decorum and chivalry prevailed. The safe of the Adam's Express Company did not fare as well. It was blown open with powder and stripped of its contents.

The scoundrels, villains, ruffians, or perhaps heroes (depending on your viewpoint during the just recently concluded Civil War) made down to the skiffs tied up along the river and pulled toward the Kentucky shore, cutting off any real pursuit. A dozen of the lads were observed that evening in Verona, KY converting some of their ill-gotten gains to alcohol and carousing defiantly and jubilantly at the expense of their victim's money.

Thus ends the story of the FIRST train robbery in the United States, right on the edge of the Oxbow.

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 stop light 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 8, 7:30 PM

Surface Water Chemistry and Creatures Associated with the Lower and Middle Great Miami River: the Health of Water in our Oxbow Lakes and Feeder Streams.

Michael Miller taught Limnology (fresh water biology) at the University of Cincinnati for many years, and in retirement has been using his impressive energy, knowledge and skill in helping to protect our waterways. Michael is a kayaking enthusiast, bicycler, and a member of the Mill Creek Yacht Club!

Tuesday April 12, 7:30 PM

Waterfowl in the Oxbow

Jay Stenger will discuss Waterfowl in the Oxbow. Why does the Oxbow draw so many species of waterfowl? How can we identify the ducks that land here? What rare species have been seen here? When is the best time of day or best season to see waterfowl? Jay will answer these questions and more as he shares expert tips on distinguishing one duck species from another, as well as presents an animated, engaging talk on the amazing diversity of species that make a stop in Oxbow. Jay is a life-long birder who currently serves as board member of Oxbow Inc. and the Ohio Audubon Society, and is the president of the Cincinnati Bird Club.

May 10 - TBA

Tuesday May 10, 7:30 PM

The Alaskan Perspective

Jon Seymour discusses the wonder of nature in Alaska but what do we do after the Oil runs out? By the lucky accident of Jon and Jackie Seymour's daughter Mandy having moved to Anchorage, Jon and Jackie have made several recent trips to the largest state, exploring many areas from Seward to Fairbanks and from Homer to Valdez. Jon will talk about some of the things he learned and experienced on those trips with Jackie.

Tuesday June 14, 7:30 PM

Our Vital and Vulnerable Groundwater

Dr. David Nash will discuss The Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer System (GMBVAS), a sole source aquifer for most of the nearly two million residents in the Great Miami watershed, is a unique, vital, and vulnerable natural resource. Although water quality of both the river and aquifer has improved dramatically since passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, land use can potentially compromise water quality. There are currently more than twelve Superfund Sites on USEPA's National Priority List within the Great Miami Watershed, most directly overlying the GMBVAS. The University of Cincinnati is proposing to build a GMBVAS observatory to monitor ground-water flow, to provide research and act as an educational resource. Dr. Nash is a groundwater geologist and geomorphologist who recently retired from U.C.'s Geology Department where he taught for over 35 years.

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)

OXBOW & MASTERWORKS FOR NATURE

PRESENT AN ORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION

October 14-23, 2016

Oxbow Office, 301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg IN 47025



Featured sculptor **Gary Denzler** has trained birds and directed the Great American Wings of Wonder show at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden since 1983. His art career began in 1979, when he carved a Peregrine Falcon from a piece of white pine. When the Zoological Society of Cincinnati established a conservation award recognizing individuals who have made an impact on preserving our natural world, Gary was selected to design it. He sculpted "Martha" the last passenger pigeon, to represent this annually presented award. The list of recipients include Roger Tory Peterson, Jane Goodall, Richard Leakey and Ted Turner.

The work of featured artist **Ann Geise** reflects a lifetime of loving, observing and learning about nature. She worked for 19 years as Artist and Exhibits Manager for the Cincinnati Nature Center where she illustrated and designed the center's publications and educational exhibits. Ann now paints from her home studio in Batavia, Ohio. She is a signature member of The Society of Animal Artists and the Greenacres Artists' Guild. See more of Ann's work at www.AnnGeiseArt.com





Velda Miller (left-center) presents a grant from the Wiseman-Witte Education Fund to Mary Perkins of the Western Wildlife Corridor. The grant will support WWC's effort to build an educational prairie at their new Kirby Nature Preserve in Addyston. When completed, the Nature Center at the Kirby Nature Preserve will be a jewel in nature education on the western side of Cincinnati. Oxbow, Inc. is thrilled to be able to help WWC, a fellow land trust, develop this project. Jon Seymour, President of Oxbow, Inc. (left) and Tim Sisson, President of Western Wildlife Corridor, (right) join the ceremony. (Photo by John Klein)



The area, currently grass and mulch, to the left of the barn will be planted as a native prairie that will serve as a living outdoor classroom for students to learn about nature close to home. We can already hear all those pollinators buzzing around. (Photo by Velda Miller)

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.

Spring Waterfowl Migration

Sunday, March 20, 2016, 8:00 AM

Meet: at the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow

Leader: Gary Stegner, (812) 667-6433, garyandsally@hotmail.com

March in the Oxbow means ducks, as spring waterfowl migration peaks during March. The Oxbow has historically been a magnet for migrating birds, but especially for waterfowl. As one of Oxbow's long standing motto's states, "The Duck Stops Here". So it is that any March field trip into the Oxbow area is going to focus on waterfowl. The term "waterfowl" implies species of the family Anatidae and includes swans, geese and ducks. At least 34 species of waterfowl have been recorded in the Oxbow over the years and about 25 of those occur regularly. In addition to waterfowl migration many other signs of spring should be noticeable by this date. March is also a peak month for Bald Eagles and the Oxbow may be the best regional location to find these birds. It has become common to have multiple sightings of this species in the Oxbow area on any given day.

Shake off your cabin fever and join our trip leader Gary Stegner for this morning trip. Gary is a long time Oxbow member and an experienced naturalist and birder. You may know Gary as the recently retired Communications Director of 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 general diversity that early spring migration brings.

March also brings rain and potential flooding to the Oxbow bottoms so some areas may become inaccessible. On the other hand, flood waters open up new and temporary areas where water birds can forage, so Gary will adjust his plans of access accordingly on the day of the trip. Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. This is a morning trip that will end around noon. Feel free to contact Gary if you have any questions regarding this trip.

Spring Migration & Wildflowers

Sunday, April 24, 2016, 8:00 AM

Meet: at the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow

Leader: Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, joebens@live.com

By the middle of April spring will be in full swing and the winter weather forgotten. Spring migration in general will be near peak and a diversity of avian species should be found in the Oxbow area. In addition many woodland and wetland plants and wildflowers will be in bloom adding their beauty to the natural scene. The focus of this trip will be both migrant birds and spring wildflowers and our trip leader, Joe Bens, is an ideal leader for this trip. Joe is one of Oxbow Inc's original members and, as many folks know, is an expert birder. But Joe also loves botany and is very strong in that field. Joe's intends to find a great diversity of birds as well as to look for blooming wildflowers which should also be near peak.

There should be a lot to see (and hear). April in the Oxbow coincides with the spring migration of a diverse number of families of birds. Ducks, herons and egrets, shorebirds, terns & gulls, raptors, migrant & returning summer songbirds (including many warblers) are all expected on this date. Joe's plan will depend on the weather, but he expects to cover a few spots in the Oxbow and then to stop at Lost Bridge as we work our way over to Shawnee Lookout where the field trip will end sometime around noon.

So come out with Joe and see nature's great diversity on what should be a beautiful spring day in the Oxbow area. April can be cool and wet so dress appropriately. You can always expect some mud on your shoes when visiting the Oxbow. A Great Parks (Hamilton County Park District) Motor Vehicle Pass (\$10 annual, \$3 daily) is required at Shawnee Lookout. Don't hesitate to contact Joe if you have any questions regarding this trip.



usings

by Dave Styér

Forster's Tern

Forster's Terns have been an infrequent visitor to the Oxbow area during migration. These are slender, graceful birds, with forked tails. I have read that folks on the Atlantic coast call them "Sea Swallows." With respect to shape and flight Forster's Terns really do suggest the familiar, much smaller, Barn Swallow. Forster's Terns are roughly twice as long as Barn Swallows, and eight times as heavy.

Terns are in the same family with gulls, and not closely related to swallows. Both gulls and terns fly around in the Oxbow area, especially after the water has come up. Gulls are more common in the Oxbow area. They are generally heavier, and have a less buoyant flight than terns. The Bonaparte's Gull, which is smaller than the other commonly seen gulls in the Oxbow area, is often noted to be 'tern-like.' Terns often cruise several feet over the water, with their bills pointed straight down. Presumably, they are looking straight down, and when they see a tasty morsel they plunge down to get it. I like the description of Forster's Tern feeding in Bailey and Niedrach's *Birds of Colorado*: "Flying twenty to thirty feet high, scanning the surface, individuals suddenly dart down like so many arrows, plunging into the water with a shower of silver spray." I have never seen gulls fly around with their bills straight down. Of course, gulls look down some, but that's not the same.

Telling one tern from another has not been such an easy task. It wasn't until 1834 that Thomas Nuttall recognized that the most North American of the terns, Forster's Tern, is different from the Common Tern. The Common Tern is, indeed, more common: it breeds in North America and across Eurasia. Back in 1758 Linnaeus gave the Common Tern its scientific name, *Sterna hirundo*. The Latin *Sterna* translates to "tern," while *hirundo* translates in English to "swallow." Yes, the very same resemblance that we mentioned above.

Modern field guides do a great job of pointing out the differences between Forster's Terns and Common Terns, but there weren't likely any field guides back in the 1830s. In 1839 Audubon painted a tern, new to him, and named it Havell's Tern, *Sterna*

havelli, in honor of his engraver for *Birds of America*, Robert Havell, Jr. For over 20 years Forster's Tern and Havell's Tern were considered two different species of North American Terns. However, in 1863 Elliott Coues showed that Havell's Tern is actually Forster's Tern in winter plumage. In my 1872 copy of *Key to North American Birds*, Coues nearly bristles at the mistake: "*Sterna havelli*! Audubon."

I don't find it strange that a single species might be identified as two different species. When early explorers sent specimens to England, how were the museum folks in England to know if a male and a very different-looking female were the same species? Closer to home and to the present, I grew up with the Blue Goose and the Snow Goose being nicely presented in field guides (Peeterson, 1949; *Golden Field Guide*, 1966) as two different species. Then biologists discovered that the difference between Blue Geese and Snow Geese was just one gene. In other words, they were the same, not 2 species. They were no more different than blue-eyed and brown-eyed people. That discovery happened roughly 100 years after Coues discovered that Havell's Terns were just Forster's Terns.

When I wrote *Birds of the Oxbow* (1993), I expressed the idea that an increase in the Forster's Tern population around the Great Lakes might be reflected in an increase of Forster's Tern migrants in the Oxbow area. Now, 23 years later, it would be nice to know what has actually happened

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2016

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2016 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.

For questions contact Denny Mason at 513-385-3607.

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

Ken & Bonnie Borish
 Michael & Tucker Coombe
 Jean A. Kearns
 Judy Kennedy



Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many bird-watchers 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. To get your mind working, here are some possible categories of competition:

- if not the entire Birdathon area then a portion-*
- Most Species seen: in one state, in one county or a river watershed
- maybe it is a small area-*
- Most Species In One Location: like the Oxbow, backyard, 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 make up 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 @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835.** We like to know how many are going to 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 per person to participate which goes to cover the cost of the food at the Tally Party. See you ALL there.

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.*

**Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2016
(May 6-7, 2016)**

Name _____

Address _____

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

My Pledge for Birdathon 2016 is:

Fixed Amount: \$ _____ () Check Enclosed () Bill me after the Birdathon
(Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.)

-OR-

Per Species Pledge: (Circle One, you will be billed after the Birdathon):

\$ 5.00 \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00 \$0.75 \$0.50 \$0.25 Other \$ _____

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

_____ Highest Scoring Team

_____ Team #1 – Joe Bens, Jay Stenger & Jack Stenger

_____ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman & Erich Baumgardner

_____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix,
Katherine Miller & Chris Moran

_____ Team # 4 – Charlie Saunders, Bob Lacker &
Steve Pelikan

_____ Team #5 – Jerry Lippert & Madeleine Lippert

_____ Team #6 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

_____ Team #7 – Brian Wulker, Bill Zimmerman & William
Hull

_____ Team #8 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

**Make checks payable to
Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.**

Note this is a change to allow us to keep better track of the money for the purposes of habitat restoration and improved access. All donations to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are tax deductible.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon acceptance of your application.) **HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2016**

Application and Memorandum of Understanding

I am a member in good standing of Oxbow, Inc. and request permission to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. property east of I-275 as will be shown on the map affixed to the permission slip that must be carried while hunting on Oxbow property.

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

I agree: to hunt subject to the following Oxbow, Inc. rules:

- I will practice good hunting ethics at all times.
- Others may rightfully visit the area and my activity has no priority over that of others.
- During my use of Oxbow, Inc. property I will not litter, remove or damage Oxbow, Inc. property, or cause any habitat destruction.
- I will not leave any structures on the property (ie. hunting stands, duck blinds, etc.).
- I will carry a valid permission slip at all times while hunting on Oxbow, Inc. land.
- I will obey all applicable laws

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

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 _____ Work Phone _____

Return Mail Address: _____ Home Phone _____

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, Ed Gemperle	(812) 539-3666

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Easement Inspection, John Getzendanner II	(812) 537-0481
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Kathy McDonald	(513) 748-0281
Land Management, Kani Meyer	(513) 307-5284
John Klein	(513) 941-4877
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**Need a Speaker?
Give Us a Call!**

www.oxbowinc.org

LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025

P.O. BOX 4172

