

May—June 2016

No. 179



# 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**

## **October Art Show Masterworks for Nature and Oxbow, Inc.**

We are sponsoring our first Art Show ever from Friday, October 14, 2016 to Sunday, October 23, 2016. We need to have everyone come out to Lawrenceburg and visit our office and buy those special Christmas presents that warm the heart and the soul. Maybe you want a special keepsake for yourself—that is also encouraged. The art of nature brings the wild life inside our homes and gives us comfort every time we look on a work of nature art we love.

We will start the show on Friday with a gala opening and meet the artist activities. Browse the show and select keepsakes for your home or that special gift for family or friends. If you would like to try your own hand at sketching or painting, or have someone in the family who needs encouragement or a new project, Adam's Art Supply (our partner in the Art Show) will be open and ready to serve your needs. We hope to have the show open most of the weekend with special activities for the family each day. The actual hours of the show will be posted later and available on our website. During the show the door connecting the Art Shop with Oxbow, Inc. will be open and will act as one shop. The Art Store will be open during the entire Art Show itself. We hope to add some extra hours on the weekends.

During the show we hope to have classes for both adults and children. Of course the Oxbow is always open so you can sit on a bench and sketch or just enjoy the passing wildlife and the plants at your feet. Last month we highlighted the work of Ann Geise and Gary Denzler. In this issue we celebrate the artistry of DeVere Burt and Linda Howard Bittner.

Come to downtown Lawrenceburg in October and enjoy the Art Show and spend some time

wandering the historic streets and taking advantage of other area shops and the local restaurants. Take a drive through the Oxbow and watch the gathering of Herons and Egrets as they get ready to migrate south for the winter. Nothing sounds better to me.

## **BIRDATHON 2016**

Ready your check books and start giving to support the 30<sup>th</sup> Oxbow Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon.

The first Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon was held in 1987. And has been going ever since. With a brief hiatus to the care of the Cincinnati Nature Center in the late 90's and early 2000's, the Birdathon returned to its Oxbow origins and is still going strong. 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 a 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 7<sup>th</sup>, where all will be revealed. "Stories from the Birdathon" is the feature of the party along with the annual review of bird species seen. Plus pizza, snacks (some of them healthy) and beverage make for the ending of a perfect 24 hour hunt for species. Come join us and tally some birds. We have plenty of room for participants.

If you cannot be there send in money to support the hard working (?) teams, and the money goes to supporting habitat and access improvements in the Oxbow. HAPPY 30<sup>th</sup> BIRDATHON TO ONE AND ALL.

## **HOLD THE DATE**

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

## ***Oxbow Vision***

### **Function: Preserve, protect, and improve the flood plain wetland at the mouth of the Great Miami River**

This is an active process that requires land acquisition, land management, and dedication to constant diligence in this stewardship

### **Highest priority to the preservation of the migratory stop over and resting area**

The Oxbow is a flood plain wetland with several permanent lakes, ponds and marsh areas. The main purpose for the existence of Oxbow, Inc. is to preserve the area as a wetland functioning as a major migratory stopover for a large variety of migratory birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, and as a resting/roosting area for a wide variety of waterfowl and wading birds during the summer and fall months. In winter, the area serves as a hunting ground for raptors and a resting area for wintering waterfowl.

### **Active land management is required to preserve the Oxbow Area**

In order to preserve the function of the Oxbow the land must be actively managed. Land management tools such as agriculture, limited burns, control of noxious plants and destructive wildlife may be necessary to preserve the function of the Oxbow area.

### **Multiple uses can coexist within the nature conservancy**

Fishing, hunting, birding, and other activities associated with the enjoyment of nature can coexist in the Oxbow area. Not all uses can be accommodated in every area but through creative management the Oxbow can support a variety of uses while maintaining its main function as a wetland preservation and wildlife conservation area.

### **Accessibility to all encourages ownership and participation**

Members, sponsors, visitors and others dedicated to protection of the environment need to feel close to the Oxbow and to be able to view and participate in the experience provided by interactions with the Oxbow area. Persons with limited mobility should also have the opportunity enjoy the Oxbow experience.

### **The Oxbow is a source of knowledge**

The Oxbow is a classroom for teaching all generations about ecology and the close interaction between wildlife and their habitats. Educational activities for children and adults will bring knowledge to new generations that they may also be encouraged to preserve the natural world. It serves as a model of how a group of dedicated individuals can have a significant impact on the environment by working together with farmers, land owners, businesses, local and state governments, regulatory agencies, and other environmental organizations (both profit and non-profit) to achieve a success.

# Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Wednesday, March 29, 2016

by Jon Seymour

It is just before noon and I am waiting for my friends Ken and Bethia Miller to stop in at the Oxbow office. We are going to lunch and then into the Oxbow. Ken and Bethia both worked with me at P&G and they both recently retired. Their son Ben Miller did a summer (unpaid) internship with Oxbow several years back and personally cleaned much of the honeysuckle and garlic mustard out from beside the parking area and from the area where the vernal pools now reside. Ben completed grad school and is off saving the planet from his new job in Washington, D.C. We wish him well. Heaven knows it needs to be saved.

Ken, Bethia and I pile into my Prius and head for Will's. Now you need to know where Will's is located or you WILL not find Will's. It is the most local of local places. There are no signs on Indiana Highway 1. There are no signs on U.S. Highway 50 but it is there near the intersection and sits quietly behind the Walgreens. It has the best soups and the sandwiches are really good too. Will's is only open 11 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday and closed whenever Bill and Judi Yelton and the crew feel like they could use a vacation. It is the restaurant "Cheers" of Lawrenceburg and Bill and Judi are long term supporters of Oxbow, Inc. You can sit among the antique cars and the statues of the Blues Brothers and just relax over lunch with friends.

Fully satiated we leave Will's and head across U.S. Highway 50 to the Oxbow entrance. Once in the Oxbow I stop to show Ken and Bethia the vernal ponds that were not there when they made their last trip to the Oxbow. The lower pond was breached for a few hours this Winter on the downhill side by the 57 foot flood we had in January. It may not have been long enough or the right conditions to allow fish to enter the pond but if they did and we discover their presence this year we will need to drain the pond to eliminate the fish. The purpose of the vernal ponds, besides educational, is to provide habitat for salamanders and frog to lay eggs. A population of fish would consume the eggs and eliminate their ability to breed in the ponds.

It has been wet and cold and dry and warm. All mixed together and jumbled around a bit this Spring but the roads are in fair condition. Down on the causeway I set up my scope but there is nothing to look at. No birds in any direction except a few

American Coots. Many of the ducks have already gone back north (if you do not believe in global warming just ask a duck). But the astonishing thing is that I cannot even find a Great Blue Heron to set the scope on. While common in the Oxbow they are always a wonderful sight when brought up close and personal by a bird spotting scope. But there ARE none.

No birds, but Ken sees a head plowing through the water in the Cement Plant pond and we all have an unusual midday sighting of a very busy Beaver. He dives as he heads for the tree island at the side of the pond and I wonder if this is the site of a new den for the Beaver family. Back in the car we head down the lake and off to my left I see a large bird with a very white tail swoop across Oxbow Lake and then turn and began to fly up the lake in the same direction we are heading. Both Ken and Bethia locate the adult Bald Eagle and we watch as it clears the trees on the other side of the lake heading for the south end.

At Osprey Lake we again get out and when I locate nothing but Geese I set the scope on some basking turtles, many of which appear to be large representatives of the Eastern Softshell Turtle. They seem happy to soak up some rays just like college students in Florida for Spring Break this time of year. Still no Great Blue Heron! Where the heck are they?

Down at the Oxbow Lake overlook we scan for the adult Bald Eagle we saw but strike out swinging (note nearly Opening Day metaphor). However, we locate an immature Bald Eagle hanging around the south end but it soon flies off toward Jackpot Pond. Surely there is a Great Blue Heron hanging out along the lakeshore. Nope, goose egged again.

A retreat back to the entrance is the better part of valor given the recent rains and the condition of the road in some of the low areas. We swing around to the Hollywood Casino entrance area and come in on Jackpot Pond from the backside. We find one immature Bald Eagle in the trees at the far end and the other side of the pond. Bethia spies another at the far end but on our side and we get good scope looks at both birds. Still no Great Blue Herons and we make our exit from the Oxbow having been skunked on GBHs. I can only remember ONE previous open water trip into the Oxbow that did not turn up any Great Blue Herons. Still, while I am down about not having seen a Great Blue Heron, Ken and Bethia have seen a beaver and 3 Bald Eagles. It is all in the perspective.

Later that evening, hours after Ken and Bethia have parted and I am driving out of Lawrenceburg on the ramp to I-275 on my way home, a lazy GBH comes flying slowly across the road toward Oxbow Lake for an evening's repose. I think I heard it laughing.

*(continued on page 4)*

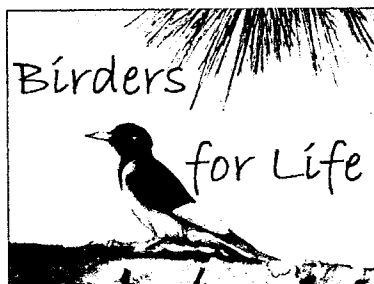
Horseshoe Bottoms Diary (cont'd from page 3)

March 20, 2016  
by Gary Stegner

At 8:00 in the morning, four hardy birders braved the sub-freezing temperatures to enjoy some early morning birding at the Oxbow, Lost Bridge, State Line Pond and Hidden Valley Lake. It appeared the peak of the north bound waterfowl migration had passed so birding was slow. Below is our list of 31 species that we found:

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Northern Shoveler  
Ring Necked Duck  
Bufflehead  
Great Blue Heron  
Killdeer  
Robin  
Northern Cardinal  
Carolina Chickadee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Tufted Titmouse  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red Bellied Woodpecker  
Turkey Vulture  
Black Vulture  
Cooper's Hawk  
Tree Swallow  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Rock Dove  
Eastern Phoebe  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Crow  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Blue Jay

A great but chilly time was had by all.



# wish list

## Oxbow's Wish List for 2016

*We hope that if members know about items and talents that we need, they might realize ways the very real ways they might be able to help.*

- ◆ 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 will need volunteers to help staff the Art Show being held in the Oxbow Office in Lawrenceburg from Friday, Oct. 14 to Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016. If you can give some time to be in the office and available for visitors during the dates the show is open we can work out a time schedule that will be convenient for you. Training will be provided in advance on what needs to be done.
- ◆ 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.

**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 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 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.

**Tuesday July 12, 7:30 PM**

#### **ADAPTATION or EXTINCTION in the Everglades**

Jack Berninger – will present an enticing talk entitled "ADAPTATION or EXTINCTION in the Everglades." The ecosystems here are complex. Jack will emphasize the roles of Bromeliads, Slash pine and Carnivorous plants along with Pythons and other fauna/flora.

**Tuesday August 9, 7:30 PM**

#### **The Breeding Birds of the Oxbow Area and Southwestern Ohio**

Dr Wayne Wauligman – will report on "The Breeding Birds of the Oxbow Area and Southwestern Ohio." Wayne has photos and information on the changes occurring with breeding birds, especially with range expansion or shifts.

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

#### **Effects of Geology on Plant Distribution in Adams County, OH**

Dr Meg Riestenberg, geologist and plant biologist - will present "Effects of Geology on Plant Distribution in Adams County, OH". Plant communities and species distribution are strongly affected by the geology of a region. One of the most dramatic displays of these relationships can be seen in Adams County, Ohio.



# OXBOW & MASTERWORKS FOR NATURE PRESENT AN ORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION

*Ann Geise - DeVere Burt - Linda Howard Bittner - Mary Louise Holt - John Ruthven - Debbie Lentz - Gary Denzler*

Featured artist **DeVere Burt** is an award-winning painter and founder of the artist group Masterworks for Nature, which helps nonprofit organizations raise money for conservation projects. He is a former research biologist and science museum director, inspired by John James Audubon. DeVere's collection of Audubon themed paintings, titled "Audubon's River," is the subject of his current touring exhibition and lecture series.

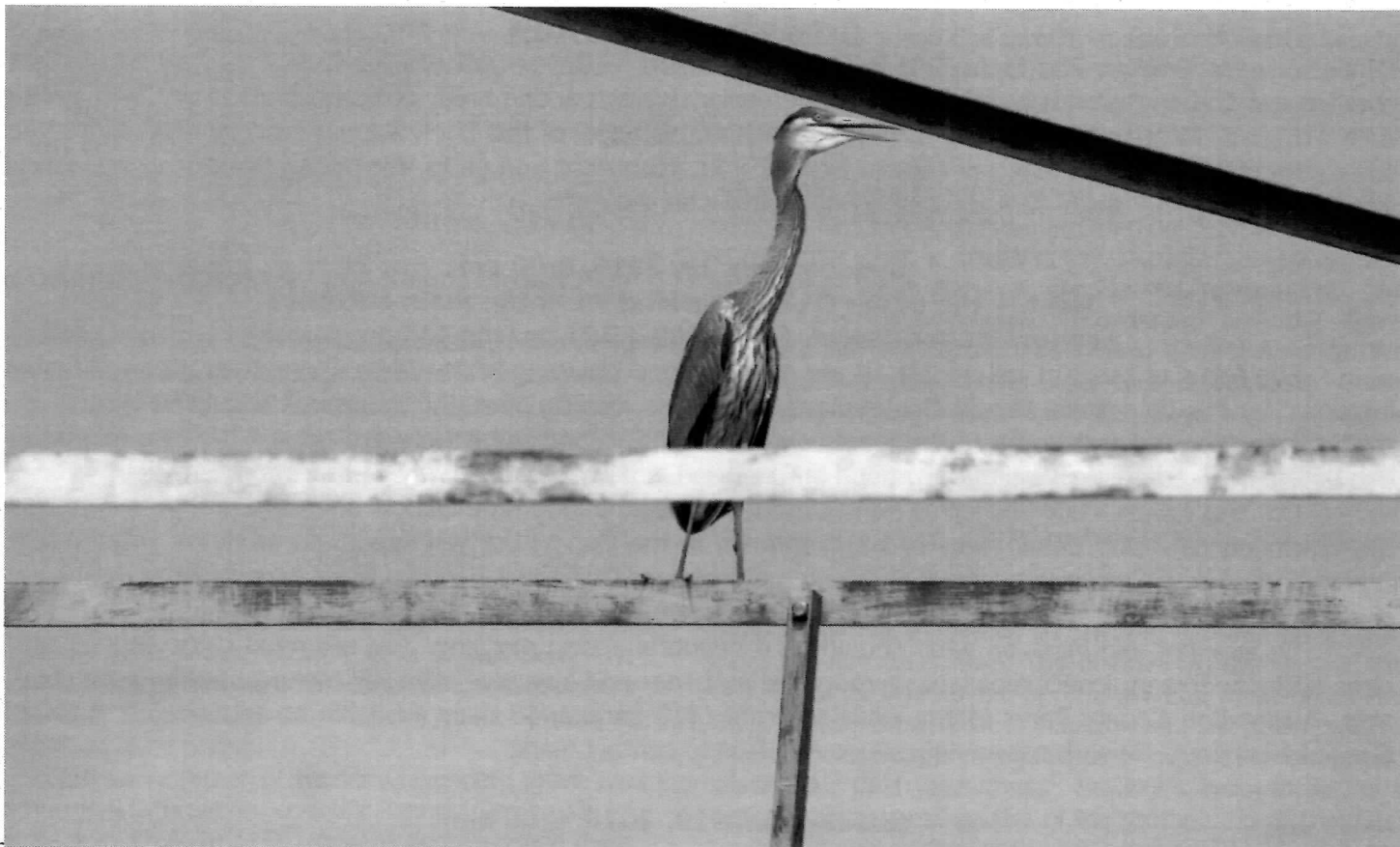


Featured artist **Linda Howard Bittner** has been a professional commercial artist for over 20 years. Linda's work has graced many products including greeting cards, giftware, children's books, toys, games, puzzles and exhibits for zoos, aquariums and nature centers. Linda recently launched

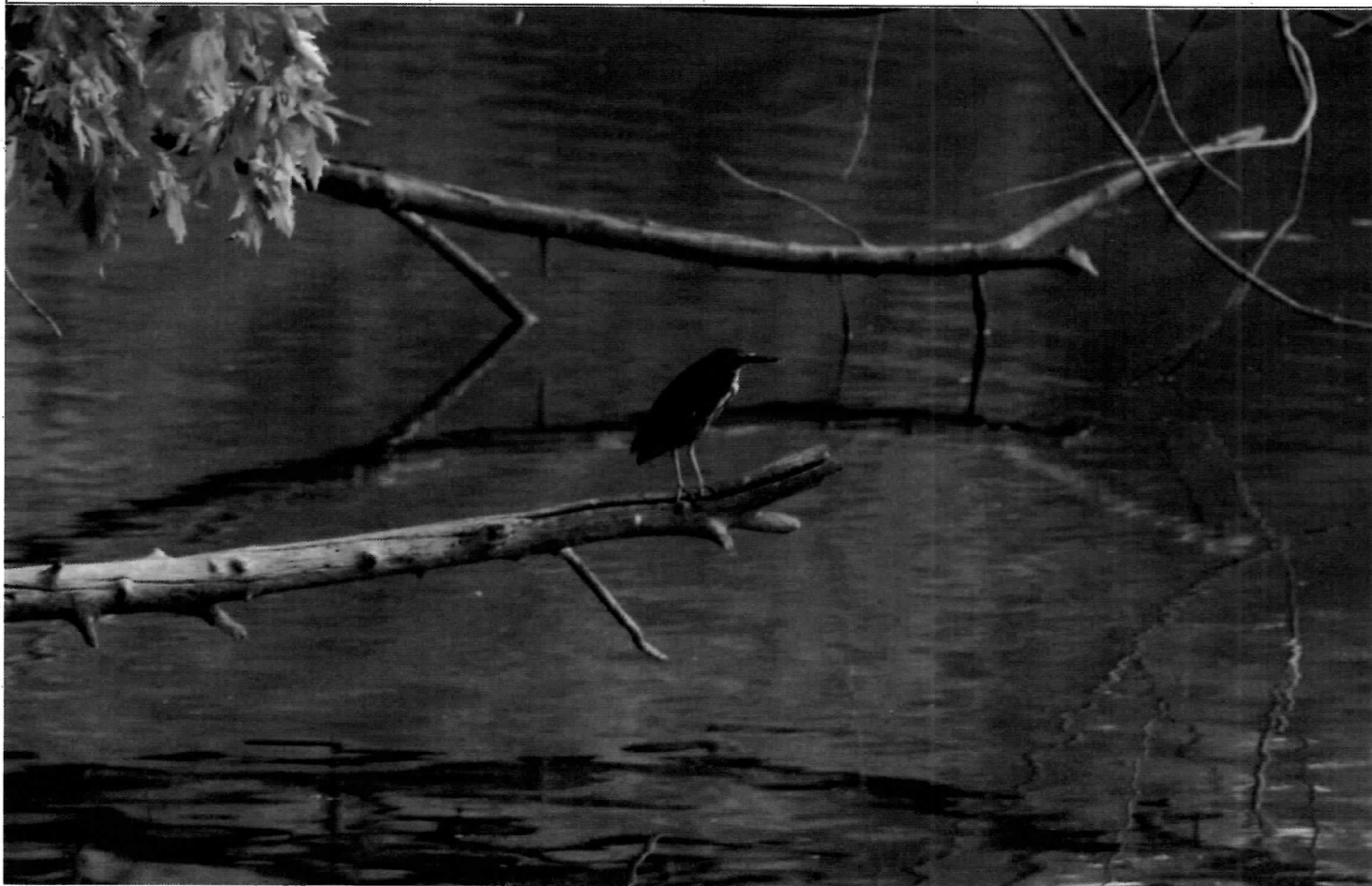
a new adventure-safari business, Wild Art Safaris, providing exceptional opportunities for artists, photographers and those who have a passion for nature to connect with professional instructors and guides in WILD places all over the world.

**October 14-23, 2016**

*Oxbow Office, 301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg IN 47025*



During Ben Miller's tenure as unpaid intern for Oxbow, Inc. he managed to snap some photos of wildlife that came up close and personal. Above a Great Blue Heron hangs out on a skeletal metal structure located near Mercer Pond and below a Green Heron surveys the buffet of swimming dinner passing below its perch.



### **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.

**Sunday, May 29, 2016, 8:00 am**

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

**Leader: Mark Gilsdorf, (513) 253-6062, [markg74@gmail.com](mailto:markg74@gmail.com)**

The focus of this trip will be late spring migrants and breeding birds. While spring migration will be winding down by this date there should still be plenty of species moving through. Shorebirds should be around in decent numbers and in fact some of the least common warblers and flycatchers are notoriously late migrants. By this date our breeding birds will have arrived in force and already be under way with nesting activities.

Our trip leader Mark Gilsdorf is an experienced birder, a long time Oxbow advocate and past President of the Cincinnati Bird Club. Mark plans to begin the day in the Oxbow but will eventually work his way up to Lost Bridge and over to Shawnee Lookout. By visiting a number of different habitats Mark expects to find many birds and a diversity of species.

So why not join Mark on what should be a beautiful spring morning. You will need binoculars to see the birds and sun-screen, insect repellent, appropriate footwear and a water bottle will make your trip more comfortable. A Hamilton County Parks Motor Vehicle Permit (\$10 annual, \$3 daily available at entrance) is required at Shawnee Lookout. If you have any questions feel free to contact Mark.

**Sunday, June 19, 2016, 9:00 am**

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

**Co-Leader: Denis Conover, (513) 513-641-3651, [conovedg@hotmail.com](mailto:conovedg@hotmail.com)**

**Co-Leader: Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, [jackstenger@gnail.com](mailto:jackstenger@gnail.com)**

The focus of this field trip will be two fold; the plants and the breeding birds of the Oxbow. This field trip will be conducted as a joint event with the Cincinnati Chapter of the Audubon Society. Come out and join our trip leaders Dr. Denis Conover and Jack Stenger for what should be a pleasant morning walk in the Oxbow. Denis Conover is an Oxbow Inc. board member, a UC professor, and skilled botanist and naturalist. Denis has conducted vascular plant surveys in the Oxbow since 1997 and to date has identified over 400 species in the Oxbow proper. Jack Stenger is a skilled birder and life-long Oxbow Inc. advocate. He is a Ph.D. student at UC and is also the current Vice-President of the Cincinnati Bird Club. Between the two of them they will have the plants and birds covered.

Denis and Jack plan to spend the morning looking at the diversity of plants found in the Oxbow as well as looking and listening for the abundant bird life that will be nesting by this date. Denis will help us identify a great diversity of plants and answer all of our questions and Jack will be Jack and help us find many birds and also focus us onto bird song and vocalizations.

While the walking will mostly be slow and over flat terrain, Denis says that participants should be prepared for a lot of walking and suggests wearing long pants and boots for walking in tall grass and possibly mud (it is the Oxbow after all). June can be hot, so you might also consider bringing sunscreen and water to insure a comfortable trip. If you have any questions feel free to contact Denis or Jack.

***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)





by Dave Styér

### The Common Yellowthroat and Games Birders Play

The Common Yellowthroat is, indeed, common in the Oxbow area, as well as large portions of North America. In *Birds of the Oxbow*, I report 150 Common Yellowthroat records, while the second most reported warbler, the Yellow-rumped Warbler, comes in at just 75 records. Don't be fooled by these numbers. Although the Common Yellowthroat was reported twice as often, many more Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted. The catch is that one to three Yellowthroats would be detected, while ten to thirty Yellow-rumps would be seen. This may, in part, explain why the Common Yellowthroat is so well-liked. The male is a striking bird, with its Lone-Ranger black mask and its loud, clear witchity-witchity song. But it never is so abundant as to be boring.

Linnaeus, father of modern taxonomy, gave the Common Yellowthroat its scientific name, *Geothlypis trichas*, back in 1766. In 1758 Linnaeus had described three of our warbler species, and he must have gotten the urge to do more, because he named 10 of our warbler species in 1766.

While I was growing up, this species was known as the Maryland Yellowthroat. However, this bird breeds from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the U.S. and Canada, and also in Mexico. Many regional subspecies have been described, and I guess the ornithologists involved must have thought that "Maryland Yellowthroat" best applies to the subspecies Linnaeus described. It must have felt inappropriate to refer to individuals breeding in Baja California as "Maryland" Yellowthroats. Thus, we now have the "Common Yellowthroat."

To get a better perspective, I looked in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW)*. *HBW* lists 9 different yellowthroat species. Since the entire warbler family, Parulidae, is restricted to the New World, these 9 yellowthroat species are, too. What would it take to see all 9 species? This is one of the games birders play. I'll bet there is a birder in the Greater Cincinnati area who is making it a point to see all warbler species that breed in North America north of Mexico. There is probably a birder out there who is trying to see all of the owl species of the world. That would be quite a challenge. You would need to cover all continents, except Antarctica. Thinking of Antarctica, I've read that Roger Tory Peterson's favorite birds were penguins. What do you bet that he made it a point to see all 17 of the world's penguin species? My friend Don wanted to see at least 1 bird from each family of birds of the world. He had to travel the world, but he finally succeeded (won the game!) when he saw Oilbirds, I believe in Trinidad. Of course, this game is not restricted

to birders. My friend Chris wants to see, in Monterey County, CA., every butterfly species known to occur in the county.

OK, now that we get a sense of these games, here is one we can play. Who can get out, and be the first to see all 9 species of yellowthroat listed in *HBW*? To begin with, what would that involve? There is just 1 species widespread and common in North America, the Common Yellowthroat. I see in *HBW* that there is, similarly, just 1 species widespread and common in South America, the Masked Yellowthroat. Two others, the Olive-crowned Yellowthroat and the Gray-crowned Yellowthroat are common in Central America. We could go to birder-friendly Costa Rica to see both. Guess where the Bahama Yellowthroat lives. Even a spouse who is not in on the game could be talked into a trip to the Bahamas. That leaves 4 more species, and they are all Mexican endemics. Gee, I know that you have been wondering where the world center of yellowthroat diversity is, and now you know! To finish the game, a trip to Mexico is in order. In a limited area of central Mexico there's the Hooded Yellowthroat; it is not a threatened species, perhaps fairly common, but not well known. The Altamira Yellowthroat of the Gulf Coast is said to be uncommon and vulnerable. The Black-polled Yellowthroat is a locally common to rare endangered species living in a small area of central Mexico. It gets worse. Our final yellowthroat, Belding's Yellowthroat, is a critically endangered species of the southern tip of Baja California. I hope finding that one won't be like chasing the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. That's it; get ready, get set, go!

#### 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.**

Allan Campbell  
 Bonnie Pence  
 Diane Seiwert  
 Lisa Wharton & Paul Wharton



**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

*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.*

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 @ 513-522-8147 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.



**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
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>	
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) 522-8147
Kathy McDonald	(513) 748-0281
Land Management, Kani Meyer	(513) 307-5284
John Klein	(513) 941-4877
Programs, Dr. Meg Riestenberg	(513) 921-3986
Webmaster, Kani Meyer	(513) 307-5284
Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan	(513) 681-2574
Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Newsletter Editor, Meg Poehlmann	(513) 931-4072
Newsletter Email: meggster@fuse.net	

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Need a Speaker?  
Give Us a Call!

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

