



September—October 2016

No. 181

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

Ready to Raise Some Money

.....by Jon Seymour

We have an opportunity to add property totaling hundreds of acres to the Oxbow protected area. We have the opportunity to link our property directly to property protected by Great Parks of Hamilton County and form a two state protected wildlife area comprising nearly 4,000 acres (over 6 square miles). All in an area just 16 miles from downtown Cincinnati! What an opportunity! All it takes is MONEY!

Details to follow as we negotiate prices and hopefully make a deal, but it looks like Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. (the actual entity of our organization that buys property in Indiana) may need to quickly raise additional funds. This leads to the "GULP!" effect as we contemplate the significance of that challenge. Back in 1990 we raised \$100,000 to purchase easements in the floodplain. That means our last fund raising drive was 25 years ago when the organization was new and enthusiastic from beating back development plans to build a barge port in the Oxbow wetlands.

We will need to publicize our opportunity to gain broader support and new members. We need to inspire our current members to lead a charge to fill the gap between what we have and what we need to have to accomplish the goal of protecting the floodplain. But we have never been closer to accomplishing that goal and we will pull out all stops to try to make it happen.

If you would like to work on this project and help raise the money needed to capture the goal of protecting the floodplain, please contact Jon@oxbowinc.org or call 812-290-2941 (the new Oxbow phone number) to volunteer to help. We will need all the support we can get.

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND

OR

SUNSET IN THE OXBOW

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 & 25

Come out to the Oxbow on Saturday the 24th of September or Sunday the 25th for a walking tour of the Oxbow and an up close and personal view of the wildlife in the Oxbow as it settles in for the evening. Both programs start at 5:30 pm and go to about 7:30 pm. The programs 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. We never know who or what will show up and we have had everything from deer to Bald Eagles, from otters to Avocets, and Osprey to Willets. Come and join the fun and learn why it is so important to protect this beautiful area right here at home.

Meet at the Oxbow parking area just inside the Hardintown entrance to the Oxbow.

(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.)

PARTY

Masterworks for Nature, Adam's Art & Supply and
Oxbow, Inc.

PRESENT

Friday, October 14, 2016, from 5 pm to 9 pm
join the Masterworks for Nature artists, Oxbow, Inc.,
Adam's Art & Supply, and

**The Great Crescent Brewery (Aurora, IN)
For the Grand Opening of the first Oxbow, Inc. Art
Show.**

Our first Art Show ever will be open from Friday, October 14, 2016 to Sunday, October 23, 2016. Join us for the grand opening celebration on Friday, October 14th with a cash bar provided by The Great Crescent Brewery and special activities during the opening weekend. There will also be a closing celebration on Sunday October 23rd. Plan on coming to Lawrenceburg to visit our office and buy those special Christmas presents that warm the heart and the soul. Or maybe you want a special keepsake for yourself—good idea! Tell your friends! Better yet, bring your friends! The art of nature brings the wild to life inside our homes and gives us comfort every time we look on a work of nature art we love.

The show opens on Friday, with a gala opening and meet the artist activities. Browse the show and select a keepsake for your home or a special gift for family or friends. If you would like to try your hand at sketching or painting, or bring the family or a friend who needs encouragement on a project, Adam's Art Supply (our Art Show partner) will be open and ready to serve your needs. Show hours are:

Opening Friday, October 14, 5pm to 9pm

Saturdays 11am to 7pm

Sundays Noon to 4pm

Mon – Fri 11am to 6pm

During the show the door connecting the Art Shop with Oxbow, Inc. will be open and will act as one shop. The Art Store hours will be the hours of the Art Show itself, with some extra hours on the weekends.

Come to downtown Lawrenceburg in October, enjoy the Art Show and spend some time wandering the historic streets and enjoying area shops and restaurants. Drive through the Oxbow and watch the gathering of Herons and Egrets as they prepare to migrate south for the winter. Perfect!



Oxbow hires first employee

.....by Meg Poehlmann

Hi—let me introduce myself. **My name is Meg Poehlmann** and in July, I became **Oxbow's** first employee.

I began **volunteering** for Oxbow some 15 years ago, **servng as editor** of this newsletter. My interest in **volunteering** for Oxbow had to do with **my desire** to preserve the place where my husband asked me to marry him!

I was a member of the Oxbow Board for a few years before resigning in order to obtain my MS while holding down my full time job.

I bring with me 30+ years of experience in office management. I also have experience in **fund-raising** and event management. My goal is to ensure that Oxbow, Inc. will continue into perpetuity.

Some changes have already occurred. We have a new phone system in the office, and we can be reached at 812-290-2941. There is voicemail, so if we are out, please leave a message and we will try to call you back within 24 hours. You can reach me by email at Meg@oxbowinc.org and you can reach Dr. Seymour at Jon@oxbowinc.org.

As we work to set up systems and get 30 years of records organized, if you have something that should be in the office, feel free to give me a call to set up a time to drop the items off OR to set up a time that I can pick up the items and get them to the office.

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Saturday, June 25, 2016
by Wayne Wauligman

John Klein and I gave a tour of Oxbow Inc. property for 20 members of the Sayler Park Garden Club. There was brilliant sunshine and a blue sky when we arrived at the parking area about 10 am. There we met Judy Bramstedt, a garden club friend and the first president of Oxbow Inc. John and I explained the wetland sign posted in front of our two small ponds at the parking area. Wading in and using a daphnia net (a small net with very small holes used for collecting daphnia) we found no mosquito larvae. Aquatic predators of mosquito larvae were present. I begged everyone to find a mosquito, swat it gently, and let me identify it. However, during the trip no one found a single mosquito. A brief history of West Nile disease was explained to the Club members. John passed around Duckweed from the pond, explaining it is the smallest rooted leafy plant. Our program to eliminate invasive plants was also explained to the members.

Our next stop was the bottom of the hill from the parking area. A Prothonotary Warbler called on cue as it was being described. Everyone heard it 'tweeting' although there was only a glimpse of it. Swishing a larger net in Oxbow waters, members were shown a Glass Shrimp and Killifish. Again, no mosquito larvae were present. Of course another name for the Killifish is Mosquitofish. It was remarked they look very much like the aquarium guppies. The three fishermen at this location were having no luck, but it was, "a better day than at work", they said!

Continuing in a caravan along the west side of Oxbow Lake, passenger Sue Hayes and I glimpsed multiple Indigo Buntings flying away and in front of us. Stopping at the cement spillway, we saw Great Blue Herons and Tree Swallows. We watched a Tree Swallow fly full speed into a nest box on the Osprey platform pole. A Kestrel Box placed recently by John Klein was also on the pole. Next to this was an antenna used to track endangered Indiana Bats that have been radio tagged. I explained that last year it had been flooded out of function. We noticed a

Northern Water Snake had lifted his head out of the water to watch us. I slowly moved to grab it when it ducked under. Reaching down I only found a stick. Pulling it fast out of the water and throwing it close to everyone's feet, they moved back quickly! But it was immediately realized to be only a stick snake. There are not many snakes here at the Oxbow property as Great Blue Herons can handle them like spaghetti.

Turning around and facing the Oxbow Lake, we spotted our first Double-crested Cormorant. Of the ones we saw, several were young juveniles. Could they have bred here? Looking at the plants, we found multiple Jerusalem Artichokes mixed in with the Poison Ivy. At our next stop, the "overlook", we found two fisherman. One had caught a Large mouth Bass before we arrived, probably smaller than described. The other fisherman caught a "Yellow-belly" Bullhead. He threw it back before I could show its stinging sharp spines. A club member spotted a male Baltimore Oriole flying into the top of a nearby tree. Placing a scope on it, everyone could see the Oriole nest and hear the male calling. From this vantage using the scope, we could see the Duke Miami Fort Plant smoke stacks. They learned a Peregrine nest box is located on the other side of one of the stacks. This year four eggs were laid and three hatched and hopefully fledged. Another recently placed nest box, for Screech Owls according to John, was on a tree in front of us.

Calling out a Bald Eagle soaring overhead, we watched it come right over us and stay around awhile. The photo (on page 6) shows it was a second year bird as smaller adult primaries have partially come in among the longer juvenile primaries. Perhaps no juveniles were around as they are still being fed by their parents near their nests up along the Whitewater and Great Miami Rivers. Further down the road we stopped at a proposed site for another spillway and the formation of a shallow pond and mud flat. Finding it trashed, Club members went to work cleaning it up. Using a large net, I waded into the Lake to catch anything, especially a snapping turtle among the flooded Silver Maple root balls. Some suggested I 'noodle' with my hands but I said I value my fingers too much. With the scope focused on a log of basking Red-ear Sliders, everyone got to see our released dime store turtles all grown up and colliding with the local gene pool of Yellow-ear Sliders. So much for the evolution of our former local species which has disappeared.

(continued on page 11)

Bird Cash from Birdathon

In the last issue of *Wetland Matters* we listed all the teams and their species counts and the winners of the most species competitions. All the teams brought in a total of \$3,540.50. Now it is time to get down to the serious competition. WHICH TEAM BROUGHT IN THE MOST MONEY IN PLEDGES!

And the winner is the highest scoring team, the Beasts of Birdin', consisting of Joe Bens and Jack Stenger (with Dad Jay in the driver's seat). They amassed a total of \$729 for the cause of HABITAT and ACCESS IMPROVEMENT in the Oxbow. Close on their heels were the First Timers and Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers. So the "Beasts" will have to do even better next year if they want to sweep the Birdathon again.

Support brought in by other teams follows:

- The First Timers, Jon Seymour - \$691
- Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers, Wayne Wauligman and Erich Baumgardner - \$655
- Brian Wulker, Bill Zimmerman, and Brenard Palmer-Ball - \$328.5
- The Lady Nighthawks, Lois Shadix and Chris Moran (sans Sr. Marty Dermody) - \$320
- The X-perts, (not) from Xavier University, George Farnsworth, Alex Thebert, and 3 other students - \$124
- Bill Hull - \$114
- Team Nightengales (18 and under), Lauren Williams and Madeleine Lippert - \$94
- Four in a Bush, John, Sarah, Evan and Carly Leon - \$80
- Team Invasive Species, Bill Stanley, James Wheat, and Richard Amable - \$55
- Charlie Saunders – not competing - \$50
- Team Lipkin – Jerry Lippert - \$30
- Birds Elude Us, Dave Tozier, John Eckles, Barb Knott, and Jen Eckles - \$30
- Team Dept. of Natural Resources, Jason Gantt - \$15

The Tally party itself brought \$235 which, as intended, covered the cost of the Fabulous Fernald LaRosa's Pizza Party at the end of a long 24 hours of birding. Thanks to all the donors and all the teams raising money. Below is a list of all the Birdathon donors including the Tally Party participant donors.

- Richard Amable
- Robyn and Pat Aungst
- Herbert and Wilma Beigel
- Joe Bens
- Jack and Elaine Berninger
- Sr. Ruth Bockenstette and Sr. Victoria Forde

- Judy Bohn
- Penny Borgman
- Eric Burkholder
- Mary Callum
- Susan Clingman
- Tim and Laura Dornan
- George Farnsworth and Vanessa Sorensen
- Jason Gantt
- Jeffrey Grothaus
- William Hull and Dr. Amy Ruschulte
- Ingage Partners
- Brian Keane and Katherine Yutzey
- Karen Larson
- John and Sarah Leon
- Stephen and Geraldine Lilly
- Jerry Lippert
- Madeliene Lippert and Lauren Williams
- Dave and Kani Meyer
- Miami Valley Christian Academy
- Ken Miller and Bethia Margoshes
- Mocking Bird Farm
- Chris Moran
- Chris Moran
- Al and Regeana Morgan
- Sharon and Bobby Morris
- Brenard Palmer-Ball
- Tim and Dee Peters
- Marty Plumbo and Eriko Onishi
- Dave and Ginny Rice
- Joyce Romer
- Doug and Jan Scott
- Jim Scott and Donna Hartman
- Jon and Jackie Seymour
- Lois Shadix
- Judith Squire
- Bill Stanley
- Gary Stegner
- Jack Stenger
- David and Victoria Tozier
- Stephen and Donna Wagner
- Joan Carlson Walson
- Wayne Wauligman
- Jim Weaver
- James Wheat
- Dorinda Whitsett
- Michael and Cindy Williams
- Gale and David Wulker
- Brian Wulker
- Xavier University X-perts Team
- Bill Zimmerman

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 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.

Tuesday October 11, 7:30 PM

Bird Brains

"BIRD BRAIN THE GENIUS OF BIRDS" - Jack Berninger shares the latest research on how understanding the functioning of their neural pathways may give us insights into human learning and malfunctioning afflictions.

Tuesday November 8, 7:30 PM

COMMEMORATIVE TREK CELEBRATING

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHACKLETON'S EPIC JOURNEY ACROSS SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND

Bud Thomas' strenuous and dangerous field experience on the South Georgia Island off the coast of Antarctica will provide us with an exciting evening, even if it is election day!



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)



A young (second year) Bald Eagle soars over the Saylor Park Garden Club to welcome them to the Oxbow. (photo by Wayne Wauligman)

OXBOW & MASTERWORKS FOR NATURE

PRESENT AN ORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ADAM'S ART & SUPPLY



Artwork by Linda Howard Bittner

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

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, Oct. 14, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cash Bar by Great Crescent Brewery

GALLERY HOURS, OCT. 14-23

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon. - Fri.: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CLOSING RECEPTION

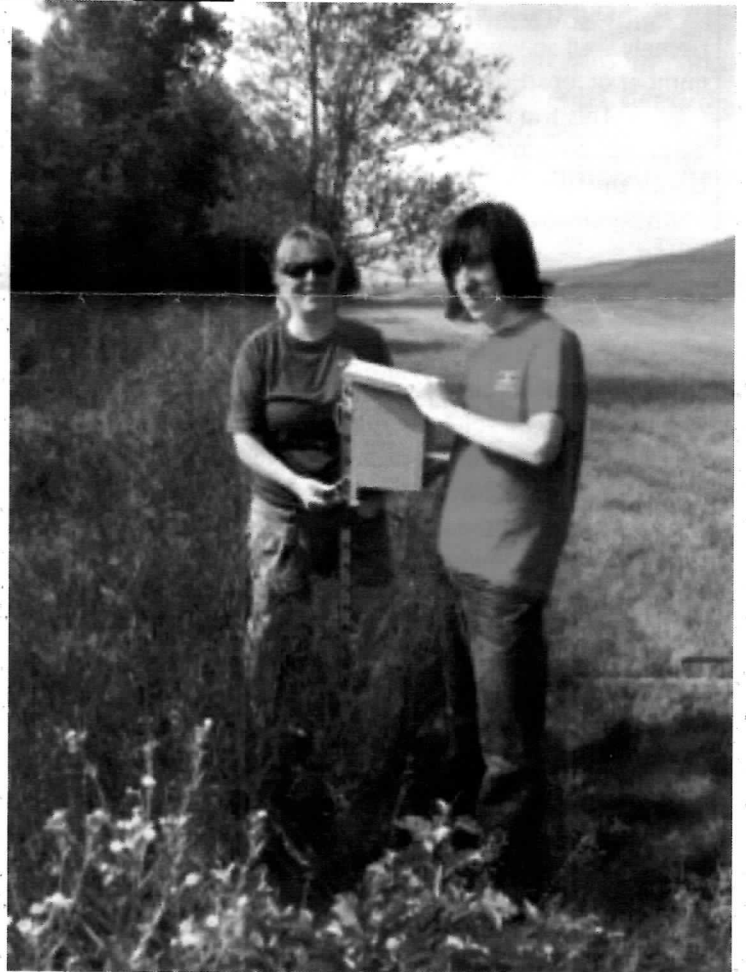
Sunday, Oct. 23, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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



Velda Miller and Jon Seymour show attendees at the Kids Outdoor Expo stuffed bird skins and other items retrieved from nature that occupy the Oxbow area. The Expo occurs once a year and this year was at a new venue, Winton Woods County Park. (photo by Green Umbrella)

Ray Merkt stands with his mother Jenny Merkt while posting one of his many bird boxes built as part of his Eagle Scout project. (photo by John Klein)



Meg Poehlmann, Oxbow's Executive Administrator

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 (left) 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. **NO RESTROOMS IN THE OXBOW** (Several are available at nearby businesses and at Shawnee Lookout Park) If we visit Shawnee Lookout, a Hamilton County Park Motor Vehicle Permit is required (\$3.00 daily, \$10.00 annual) for each vehicle.

Warbler & Shorebird Migration—Saturday, September 17, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Steve Pelikan, (513) 681-2574, pelican@math.uc.edu

The field trip theme will be the fall migration of shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers) and song birds, particularly warblers. Migration for these species will be near peak and the Oxbow area is a great place to find these birds as well as a great diversity of other species, including several species of raptors including Osprey and Bald Eagle, a scattering of waterfowl, terns, herons, egrets and more.

Fall shorebird migration in our area is quite protracted. The first few migrant shorebirds arrive in mid-July and a few remain well into November. September represents the peak of fall shorebird migration. Shorebirds rely on shallow water conditions (exposed shorelines, sand bars and mudflats) so the numbers vary year to year depending on local conditions. On the other hand warblers and other neo-tropical migrant songbirds are fairly wide-spread during the fall. Their numbers peak in September and can be found anywhere in the Oxbow area. Shawnee Lookout is particularly good.

Our trip leader, Steve Pelikan, is an expert birder and skilled naturalist. Steve knows the birds and the Oxbow area extremely well so we can expect a great day. Steve's exact plan will be revealed the day of the trip, but he does expect to visit a number of locations in the Oxbow area to maximize our finding a diversity of species.

This trip will probably end by noon unless, as Steve put it, "the birding is great". And it might be. Expect to drive to a few different spots in the Oxbow area interspersed with some light to moderate walking. While the trip focus is birds, Steve will not ignore the other nature we will see in the Oxbow. Binoculars are necessary if you expect to see birds. Join Steve for a pleasant morning of birding during the peak of fall migration. Contact Steve with any questions.

Fall Migration—Date & Time: Saturday, October 1, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 653-7223, darlena@fuse.net

Much of what I wrote about our September field trip is applicable for this trip. September IS considered the peak of fall shorebird and warbler migration, but the first day of October might as well be September 31st as far as the birds are concerned. Fall migration will still be in full swing and we expect to see a great diversity of species.

Shorebirds and a diversity of migrant songbirds, especially warblers, should be easily found. Water birds such as herons, egrets, and waterfowl and several species of raptors, including Osprey and Bald Eagles can all be expected. The various habitats of the Oxbow and the lower Great Miami River valley are always a great place to see a diversity of species.

Our trip leader, Darlena Graham, is a skilled and expert birder. Darlena knows the birds and the Oxbow extremely well and will likely have us drive to a few different spots in and around the Oxbow area interspersed with some light walking.

This trip will end before noon. While the trip focus is birds, Darlena will not ignore the other nature we will see in the Oxbow. Binoculars are necessary if you expect to see birds. Join Darlena on a crisp early autumnal morning visit to the Oxbow during one of the best birding times of the year. Contact Darlena if you have any questions.

Late Fall Migration in the Oxbow—Sunday, October 23, 2016, 8:00 A.M.

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

Join our field trip leader Gary Stegner on a beautiful autumnal morning visit to the Oxbow. Birds are abundant, as many different species are still migrating throughout the month. By the date of this trip waterfowl migration will be well underway. Shorebirds, various water birds, raptors and a diversity of songbirds are likely to be seen. Some migrant songbirds, especially a number of sparrow species, will be near peak and many of our winter residents are returning in force. 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 an experienced naturalist and birder. Gary is recently retired as Communications Director of Fernald Preserve, where he was instrumental in leading field trips and educating the public on the wildlife in that preserve. Gary also knows the Oxbow area extremely well and plans to lead us to several spots in and around the Oxbow, looking for the "mixed bag" that fall migration can bring.

This morning field trip will end around noon. Expect to drive to a few different spots in the Oxbow area interspersed with some light to moderate walking. While the trip focus is birds, Gary will not ignore other nature we will see in the Oxbow. Binoculars are necessary if you expect to see birds. Contact Gary if you have any questions



Fusings

by Dave Styér

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

In the last issue of *Wetland Matters* I wrote of the Black-necked Stilts that were seen near Lost Bridge on Tuesday, 26, April. This was a new species for the Oxbow Area, and one that I have long awaited. The week turned out to be a feast of new, rare sightings in the Oxbow area, and the Black-necked Stilts were the appetizer. Two days later, on Thursday 28 April Jack Stenger saw and photographed four adult Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at the Oxbow Lake, Indiana. This bird is so rare in the three state area that I never even imagined it would be seen in the Oxbow area. In the 1980s versions of *The Birds of Indiana* and *The Birds of Ohio* the Black-bellied Whistling Duck is not even mentioned. Nor is it in the 1994 *Birds of Kentucky*!

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is a New World species usually seen from Texas and Arizona south through much of lowland South America (but not way south in South America). Since we are locally unfamiliar with this bird, here is an identification guide: If it looks like a duck, and walks like a duck, but doesn't quack like a duck, it might be a Whistling-duck. If it has a black belly, a red bill, and pink legs, that clinches it; it's a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.

I grew up with this species being called the Black-bellied Tree Duck. These birds do nest in holes in trees, but so do some not closely related ducks that have been called Tree Ducks. I suppose that they are now referred to as Whistling-Ducks to avoid confusion. There does seem to be some interesting history here, so let's take a closer look. All ducks, geese, and swans are in the same Family, *Anatidae*, the Waterfowl. Linnaeus was the first person to give the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck a scientific name: *Anas autumnalis* (1758). He named many ducks, and as far as I can tell, if it looked like a duck he put it in the genus *Anas*. Actually, he even put swans in the same genus.

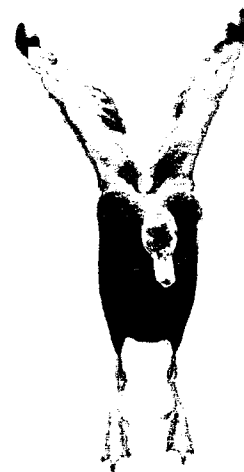
Over time, there has always been the effort to put really closely related species in the same

genus, and to separate more distantly related species into other genera. Thus, the Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*, and its closest relatives are still in the genus *Anas*. By 1803 Bechstein put our swans in the genus *Cygnus*, where they are today. The name, *Cygnus*, has been familiar to me, at least since high school days, when I used to go outside on September evenings to look at the constellations, including, prominently, "Cygnus the Swan."

In 1837 Swainson put the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in the genus *Dendrocygna*. This is a name he made up from *Dendro*, for "tree." And *cygna*, for "swan." Again, I have long been aware that names, such as *Philodendron*, referred to "tree loving" plants. The birds in the genus *Dendrocygna* might have been called "tree swans." I guess they look too much like ducks, and too little like swans.

Here is an idea: The Latin word for "duck" is "anas." What a surprise. Since Swainson was making up names, he could have created the genus *dendro-anas*, "tree duck," instead of *dendrocygna*, "tree Swan." Wouldn't that be a lot better? It turns out that Swainson knew what he was doing. All evidence, modern and older, points to the fact that Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are more closely related to Swans than our usual ducks, such as Mallards and Redheads.

The Birds of North America account of the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (2001) states that it "is showing signs of range expansion in the United States." The Oxbow sighting is way beyond range expansion, but I believe that range expansion is often accompanied with an increase of wandering birds.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUM

Donor Gale & David Wulker Therese Bocklage	In Memory of JoAnne Ponikvar Bill & Jeanne Bocklage
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Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.

Therese Bocklage
Ken Miller & Bethia Margoshes
Melinda and Irv Simon



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.

If you would like to contribute directly to Oxbow's High School Scholarship fund, send your donation to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 and mark it for the "scholarship fund" and we will see it is added.

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME & EXPENSE

	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of IN, Inc.	Combined
INCOME			
Contributed Support	5,560.47	0	5,560.47
Legacies & Bequests	84,854.24	0	84,854.24
Earned Revenue ¹	61,251.78	57,769.50	119,021.28
Investments		10.99	10.99
Special Events		4,416.35	4,416.35
Restricted Funds	2,314.77		2,314.77
Activity			
Cost of Goods Sold	-143.04		-143.04
Capital Gain (Loss)			0.00
Miscellaneous		8.68	8.68
Total Income	153,838.22	62,205.52	216,043.74
EXPENSES			
Grants	5,158.00		5,158.00
Legal & Accounting	6,530.84	497.00	7,027.84
Non-Personnel Exp. ²	210.00	24,810.86	25,020.86
Occupancy Exp. ³	0.00	17,042.50	17,042.50
Travel & Meetings	520.00	90.00	610.00
Miscellaneous	825.00	356.45	1,181.45
Business Exp.	165.00	210.00	375.00
Total Expenses	13,408.84	43,006.81	56,415.65
NET INCOME	140,429.38	19,198.71	159,628.09

BALANCE SHEET

Checking & Savings	1,558,836.14	136,138.76	1,694,974.90
Mutual Funds & Securities	561,325.55		561,325.55
Other Current Assets	1,264.56		1,264.56
TOTAL CURRENT ASS.	2,121,426.25	136,138.76	2,257,565.01
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.	-4,222.20	-3,433.00	-7,655.20
Land Improv.			
Accumulated Depr.	-3,703.00		-3,703.00
Office F. & E.			
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	481,810.78	1,392,681.46	1,874,492.24
TOTAL ASSETS	2,603,237.03	1,528,820.22	4,132,057.25

1- Dues, interest, Cropland Rental

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

3 - Exp. related to office rental & land maintenance, incl. property taxes

ECG, 8/10/16

Tales of Kids EXPO

.....by Jon Seymour

Kids Outdoor Expo put on by Green Umbrella and the Great Parks of Hamilton County moved this year to Winton Woods County Park from Coney Island Amusement Park. I do not think anything was lost by not being on the Ohio River. Winton Woods Lake doubled as a complete match and then some to all the children interested in rafting and fishing. The new location lent itself to easy access to all parts of the Tri-state area with plenty of parking and proximity to bus routes from the inner city.

For several years running Velda Miller and I have presented a little show at a booth at Kids Expo. Velda brings bird skins on loan from Hanover College and I bring skulls, shells, bones, feathers, etc. from animals found in the Oxbow. Over 400 children (out of the 4,000+ attending) and their guardians stopped by to see what we were all excited about and hear stories of the natural history of the animals represented in the collection. Some were probably excited to touch a deer antler, open and close the jaw of a raccoon skull, or stroke the feathers and feel the prick of the talons of a stuffed Great Horned Owl. Wide eyes and lots of questions were the order of the day. The Expo lasts for 6 hours but flies by so fast that the only way to tell time is by the hoarseness of your vocal chords. It is worth every last minute to see the kids gain a little insight into the natural world that surrounds them.

(continued from page 4)

Our last stop was the prairie across from the Casino. Common Milkweed was indeed common and presenting a bonanza for any arriving Monarch Butterflies. Great Spangled Fritillary, Black Swallowtail and Silver-spotted Skippers were nectaring on them. No Monarchs yet! John Klein identified many plants here, including those we don't want. Club President Linda Girten mentioned a long past visit by their members with Morris Mercer, also a Sayler Park resident. They remember him scoping Wood Ducks and being impressed. They were also amazed donors have pitched in with the funds needed to purchase and maintain Oxbow Inc. property. John and I made a good team for showing and explaining Oxbow Inc. to the Club members. We couldn't have asked for a better showing of a Bald Eagle and all the Oxbow residents.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

by John Klein

New Bird Boxes at the Oxbow

On Sunday, June 5th a total of 15 new homes for cavity nesting birds were installed at the Oxbow thanks to Eagle Scout Ray Merkt. Constructing and installing the boxes was his Eagle Scout Project which began early this past spring. Friends who helped Ray construct the boxes included: Tomy Robinson, Sean Bowling, Aiden Coleman, Logan Sydzzyk and Andrew Strimple. Assisting with the installation of the boxes were Jake Yocum (Yo Yo), Brennon Hugenard and Ray's mother Jenny.

The 15 boxes included 12 bluebird size boxes (that can be used by 10 species of small cavity nesting birds) and 3 larger boxes designed for kestrels, screech owls, squirrels and wood ducks. Eleven of the bluebird boxes were installed along the edge of the prairie facing the flood berm and the other was installed at the farm road intersection near the Casino entrance. Two of the Kestrel boxes were installed on trees (including one at the Oxbow Lake Overlook). The third box was installed on the side of the Osprey Nest Pole overlooking Osprey Lake. Before we were finished installing the boxes, tree swallows were already checking them out!

The boxes are very well constructed and should last a long time. They need to be, as some may be under flood waters prior to nesting season each year! Such are the challenges of managing wildlife in the floodplain.



Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.

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

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

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

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