



# WETLAND *matters*

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

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## Masterworks for Nature Art Show

.....by Jon Seymour

I am sitting in our refurbished meeting room at the Oxbow office on a weekday during our first ever art show. The last couple of days have been slow but we hope to have a big finish on the final weekend. Never the less, even being a bit slow we have managed to sell something each day, plus today I arranged for two future sales based on requests from customers to “think about a purchase” and come back later.

For the last few days I have had the pleasure and the honor of sitting between the magnificent oil painting and wildlife prints of the fabulous John Ruthven and the equally amazing wood carved raptors of Gary Denzler. I have a Peregrine Falcon at my back and it feels good. But these are only two of the locally and national renowned talents that grace the art show with their creations. We are blessed to have the works of Linda Howard Bittner, Debbie Lentz, Ann Geise, Mary Louise Holt, and Devere Burt. Which hang around me in a shower of foxes, turtles, birds, and natural landscapes, sometimes as might have been experienced by the native peoples of the Ohio River valley.

We opened the exhibition last Friday to a packed crowd of at least 145 people. Our cosponsor, Adam’s Art Supply, hosted the generous folks from the Great Crescent Brewery in Aurora, Indiana, who donated free beer to the event and provided the bartender and all required licenses. The door connecting Adam’s Art Supply to the Oxbow, Inc. office was open and guests circulated freely back and forth and availed themselves to snacks served in the back room of the Oxbow office. Our meeting room has been renovated to an art gallery. Kate Ball, Oxbow’s volunteer curator of the show, and Adam Gilliam (of the Art Supply) had worked diligently to paint the walls white (the better to

show the art, my dear). Adam and our electrician, Jeff Davis, installed the new trac light system for our long walls which, as I sit here, is beautifully illuminating the magnificent art work hanging from the adjustable AS Hanging System Adam installed. We are now set to do another art show at the drop of a hat. Well Kate would tell me I am crazy because there is so much more to it, and she would be right. But the physical transformation of the room to display art would be fairly rapid.

We knew going in that our expenses to prepare for our first art show would be high as we were starting from scratch. Hopefully the profits to Oxbow from the show will more than cover the expenses and we will be in much better financial position for future shows to turn better fund raising profits. While fundraising is a goal from these shows, the major benefit to Oxbow is to become acquainted with people in the community that are otherwise unaware of Oxbow and its efforts to preserve nature. Quite simply the art show attracts a different crowd. Future art shows can be designed to attract even different demographic populations. For example, an art show of children’s works would attract the young parents of the children and their family members. While attending such a show they could be

*(continued on page 2)*

### Important Notice Important Notice ELECTION

All Oxbow Members are asked to vote for the 2017 slate of candidates for the Boards of both Oxbow, Inc. and for the Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. The Ballot is found on Page 11. Cut it out, vote, and send it in to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. We need everyone to vote!

*(Masterworks in Art—continued from pg. 1)*

made familiar with the Oxbow area and the impact we are making on the floodplain. Already this art show has resulted in several new memberships from the patrons of the show. As the one responsible for growing the membership, this is of particular importance to me.

None of this could be possible without the intrepid group of volunteers that braved some moments of sheer panic while at other times waded through hours of sheer boredom. I would like to thank the following for braving the many hours that we were open to help sell art for Oxbow and often played major roles in the development of the show.

- Kate Ball (Curator, artist/graphics extraordinaire, and Oxbow's Art Show manager)
- Adam Gilliam (Construction manager & Art designer)
- Jackie Seymour
- Velda Miller
- Ed Gemperle
- Meg Riestenberg
- Cliff Dase
- John Miller
- Meg Poehlmann (finance engineer, she made it possible for us to accept credit cards)
- Gayle Ostenbeck
- Carol Nance

Oxbow, Inc. has been talking about sponsoring an art show for 30 years— this is the year we pulled it off. As we closed up Friday night after the opening and all the guests had left, there were just 3 couples left in the office. They were John and Velda Miller, Judy and Rick Bramstedt, and my wife Jackie and myself. John, Judy and I had all been Presidents of Oxbow, Inc. In fact we were all of the surviving Presidents of the organization (John Getzendanner and Norma Flannery having passed on). It struck me how the art of nature and the nature of art had brought us inadvertently together at that moment which to me seemed very special.

## Steve Pelikan Leads an Oxbow Hike

September 17, 2016

.....by Velda Miller

While Steve is showing birds and trees to everyone I thought I'd take a few photos of some of the little but amazing things seen during the hike. Birds were not the only winged creatures observed. The Jerusalem's Artichokes blooming along the roadway seemed to almost glow in the sunshine. On many of the flowers, tree crickets/bush crickets were biding their time. These crickets are active at night and one of a number of creatures, great and small, that add their voice to the evening's chorus this time of year.

Steve introduced everyone to a plant not too often seen--Ammannia. It likes to grow in ditches and muddy areas. Not growing right next to the roadway, but a bit off the beaten trail in a muddy area, it's small pinkish or rose-purple flowers go unseen. Another common name for this plant is Scarlet Toothcup and refers to the boxy looking seed capsules that turn reddish as they ripen. This plant is a source of food for waterfowl.

Steve found another plant that masquerades as just another weed. This plant resembles giant ragweed, a close relative, in many ways—but it is so much more. It was a source of food for the Native Americans before their introduction to maize a little more than 1200 years ago. It is considered to be among the first crops cultivated in eastern North America 4000 years ago—long before the arrival of Europeans. It is thought that the larger seeds were spread and let grow, producing a variety (macrocarpa) with larger seeds than the plants growing wild. That variety is now extinct and known only from remains at archeological sites. Possible reasons for its demise? 1. Maize (corn) being introduced into the area—a crop that produced a higher yield for the effort put out to harvest. 2. Like its close relative, the ragweeds, the pollen can be an allergen. And the name of this plant? Sumpweed or Marsh Elder (*Iva annua*)—not just another weed!

## Coastal Maine Bird Studies Camp for Teens, 2016

.....by *Ethan Rising*

*(Ethan Rising is a young birder from the Cincinnati Area who is representative of the quality of the young people who are passionate about learning from nature. Oxbow, Inc. helped sponsor his trip to the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens nature camp as an investment in future leaders who will understand and protect the natural world.)*

My name is Ethan Rising. I'm 14 years old and I'm in the middle of three boys in my family. I go to the Seven Hills School in Cincinnati, and my world life list is over 770. I've been a birder for as long as I can remember, and my first birding trip was to Hawk Mountain in eastern Pennsylvania at the age of 5. I wanted to go to Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens because I was interested in the immense amount of conservation effort that comes from Hog Island (and of course, puffins). I would like to thank Oxbow Inc., Cincinnati Audubon, and the Ohio Ornithological Society for funding my adventure. I learned a lot about bird conservation and I hope to use that to make the world better for the birds.

Out of the three young birder camps I've been to, I would say that Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens (CMBS) is a great first camp to attend. There are lots of campers (over 20 when I went) and 2 sessions of the camp, so there's a lot of open spots (you just have to get the jump on the registration). The camp is not a rigorous camp and is appropriate for young birders of all skill levels. Some of the best birders and researchers in the country are leaders of the camp.

The main attraction for young birders that go to this camp is the puffins. Referred to by many a birder as the "American penguin", these animated birds have made an inspiring comeback in the state of Maine, and they were one of the highlights of my summer. By 1972, there was just one pair of breeding puffins in the state of Maine when a young conservationist named Stephen Kress had the idea to translocate birds from Newfoundland. After several years of doing this, puffins started to breed on Eastern Egg Rock Island. We boated to the island from camp (we were based at Hog Island, a large island that you could swim to from the mainland). However, there are many bird species living on the island that should not be overlooked by birders who haven't actually been to this region. There's the Black Guillemot, the Razorbill, another possible alcid at camp, and tons of other seabirds you see when you're on Eastern Egg Rock Island. Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns are constantly flying around, there are Laughing Gulls everywhere, and most of the time the interns who live on Eastern Egg Rock

will take a Leach's Storm-petrel out of their burrow to show campers. While in the state of Maine Atlantic Puffins are endangered, globally speaking they are the fifth rarest bird on Eastern Egg Rock Island. Roseate Terns have a maximum global population of 82,000 birds globally, Black Guillemots have a maximum global population of 700,000 birds, Razorbills at a maximum of 1 million birds, Arctic Tern populations are estimated globally at around 2 million birds, and Atlantic Puffins are at a minimum of 4 million birds.

So while I agree that the puffins on Eastern Egg Rock are marvelous to watch, other birds on the island are often overshadowed by these comical birds. Once you step onto the island, you are surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of terns and laughing gulls, with puffins and guillemots whipping by with fish in their bill to feed their young. We had a large group at camp, so everyone got an hour and a half in the blinds on Eastern Egg Rock. My blind was in between a Roseate Tern colony and several puffin burrows. One of the most memorable moments of my summer was not knowing where to look.

Being so close to so many interesting birds was incredible. The blinds were excellently built and placed in effective areas where I could view the birds and their actions. I was able to have a window into the non-human biased world of avian behavior.

CMBS was a quality-over-quantity camp for me. We took several trips to the mainland to look for birds like bobolink and alder flycatcher, but because I'm from Ohio, I only got 6 life birds from this camp, but those birds were some of the coolest in the country.

Also at CMBS, we took advantage of the songbird density on Hog Island and did some targeted bird banding. We decided to target Northern Parulas first, which proved unsuccessful. We next tried Blackburnian Warbler. Almost immediately after we played the call, a young male warbler flew into the nets. Targeted banding was a new form of banding I had never tried, and I had a lot of fun.

We also had the opportunity to look at many bird skins. These skins varied from the tiny Least Tern to the huge Great Black-backed Gull. On our second to last day, a few other campers and I got to make wing mounts on raptors. I made a display of a Merlin wing, which was really fun because I don't often get the chance to see these birds. Using equipment from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, all of the campers had the chance to record the songs of many different birds, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Swainson's Thrush.

### That Dam Road

.....by Jon Seymour

Ten years ago we started talking about building a dam to impound 15-16 acres of water seasonally on a low farm field. The plan stems from the observation of thousands of ducks and geese use this field under natural flood conditions and the ability to hold an impounded body of water at an attractive location would improve winter habitat for the migrating waterfowl. This is a dynamic situation as impounded water is provided by flood waters and the low level dam created by the road would merely trap and hold back a shallow lake of water. Being the Oxbow, the lake would not be a stable condition and the without further charging by other floods the water in the impoundment would eventually drain out through the soil seeking the ambient water table. This is a slow process so the dam would likely be able to hold water in place for the waterfowl for a good portion of the winter season. The culvert under the road has been constructed so that 2"X6" boards can be slid into place to create an impoundment of a variety of depths and removed when the impoundment needs to be drained.

In order to maintain the land for proper agricultural usage we would probably only intentionally impound water from mid-November through early April. This would cover most of the wintering waterfowl season and maybe some of the early shorebird migration in the Spring, while at the same time allowing for a normal farming operation.

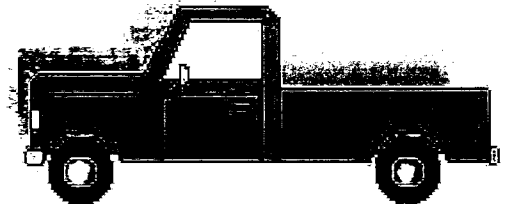
While we can raise the road and create a spillway and culvert in order to make our own farm road passible and useable more days out of the year, actually dropping the boards into the culvert to create the impoundment requires a permit from the Indiana Division of Environmental Management (IDEM). So as soon as the road is completed and flood tested to withstand the flooding condition along Oxbow Lake, we will make and application to the IDEM for a permit to create the impoundment.

The costs for the building of the road/dam are in part covered by a gift from Jinny Wiseman (Witte) and in part from Birdathon contributions accumulated over the last several years. Photos of the progress on the road are included on page 7.

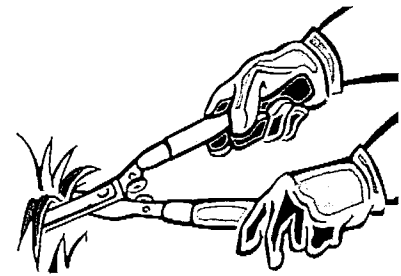
### Oxbow's Wish List for 2016

*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.*

If you have a truck in good shape that you are no longer using and wish to donate it to Oxbow, we are interested. Having a truck available to use, when we have to haul something in or out of the Oxbow, is a valuable necessity. Lack of a truck has more then once caused us to lose the opportunity to haul a piece of trash out of the Oxbow when conditions were right to do so. We have an offer of a nearby location where we can park the truck when not in use so all we need is a donor and a truck that works. As a 501(c)(3), your donation may provide you with a tax deduction.



We need someone familiar with both plants and GPS to do an invasive species map of plants on Oxbow property. We would like to use this type of map to help us direct efforts to eradicate invasive species in the Oxbow.



**If you can help with any of these needs or think you know someone who can, please call Meg Poehlmann or Jon Seymour at 812-290-2941.**

### **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, November 8 , 2016 – Bud Thomas—Commemorative Trek Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Shackleton’s Epic Journey Across South Georgia Island**

Bud’s 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!

#### **Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m. – Backpacking in Hong Kong**

Timothy Hardesty will speak in January. He has an amazing personal history, as he has volunteered in the Peace Corps in Swaziland, Africa, taught in China, and has worked professionally in the medical field in Seattle, Memphis and Cincinnati. Tim has hiked in what we might call "exotic places." However, to Tim, they are hiking trips and so, in his mind, not all that exotic when you get right down to it! He has hiked the *Camino de Santiago* across Spain, the *Coast-to-Coast* route across northern England, and the *Lantau Trail* and *MacLehose Trail* in the New Territories of Hong Kong. In addition, he will be hiking the Haite Route in the Alps in Autumn 2016. Since he has great pictures of the Hong Kong trip and because people do not usually think of Hong Kong as a place to hike, Tim thinks it is one of the unknown gems that only locals seems to know about! So prepare yourself for a real treat via a virtual trip to Hong Kong.

#### **Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m. – Total Eclipse of the Sun, Coming Soon!**

Dr. Mark Fischer of North College Hill, Ohio, is a Professor of Physics at Mount St. Joseph University where he teaches physics, forensics, and astronomy. His research has involved the physics of fungal spore launch mechanisms. His free time is filled with family, music (two bands), and geocaching - which you may know from a previous Oxbow presentation. This time around, Dr. Fischer will tell us about the upcoming total eclipse of the sun, as well as introducing the physics of eclipses, and presenting us with information about historic eclipses and how they were viewed and interpreted.

#### **Tuesday, March 14 , 2017, 7:30 p.m. - The Skeletons in Cincinnati’s Closets: The Bones of Music Hall and Washington Park.**

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Murray will discuss the Commingled human skeletal remains discovered beneath Cincinnati's Music Hall in 1988 have provided a biological snapshot of the lives and deaths of some of Cincinnati’s early citizens. Excavations at Washington Park in 2010 exhumed other individuals who were contemporaries of those once buried beneath Music Hall, but who likely occupied a different social status. This presentation will compare Dr. Murray’s analyses of the two skeletal populations, as well as discuss ongoing research involving the remains.

Dr. Murray is a Professor of Biology at Mount St. Joseph University, and is one of only approximately 75 anthropologists currently certified by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA). Dr. Murray has participated in hundreds of forensic investigations since 1986. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and is on the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport’s Disaster Committee. Since 2009, Dr. Murray has served as a consultant to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). Her doctoral work at UC involved the analysis of several hundred pounds of human bone discovered in 1988 entombed beneath Cincinnati’s Music Hall. More recently she analyzed the remains of additional early Cincinnatians interred beneath Washington Park. She has authored of several science books for grades 7-12.

***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)



Art work by 7 artists of the Masterworks for Nature group enlivened the Oxbow office from Oct 14-23 drawing over 200 people to a week of fine nature art. Work by nationally and locally recognized artists John Ruthven, Devere Burt, Ann Giese, Linda Howard Bittner, Debbie Lentz, Gary Denzler and Mary Louise Holt graced our "refurbish for art" office meeting room all to benefit Oxbow, Inc. (photo by Jon Seymour)



The Oxbow office set up and ready to be our very first art show. What a way to start with Masterworks for Nature leading the parade.



Jack Stenger, Kate Ball (Oxbow's volunteer curator for the art show) and artist Mary Louise Holt share good times at the Art Show Opening celebration. (photo by Jon Seymour)



A common eastern butterfly the Silvery Checkerspot is often overlooked but not on an Oxbow hike. (photo by Denis Conover)



The Jerusalem's Artichokes blooming along the roadway almost glow in the sunshine. On many of the flowers, tree crickets/bush crickets were biding their time until night when they are active and add their voice to the evening's chorus this time of year. (Photo by Velda Miller)



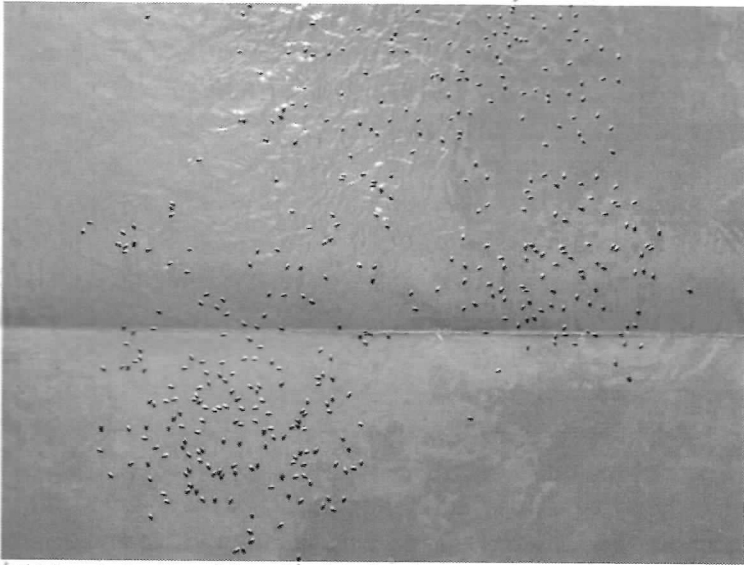
A plant not often seen-- Ammannia, grows in ditches and muddy areas off the beaten trail in a muddy area, its small pinkish or rose-purple flowers go unseen. A common name for this plant is Scarlet Toothcup and refers to the boxy looking seed capsules that turn reddish as they ripen. This plant is a source of food for waterfowl. (Photo by Velda Miller)



Fall brings a certain serenity to Oxbow Lake.



The large culvert box under the new raised road/dam. The square box behind the outlet contains the water control structure.



Whirly-gig Beetles on Juno Pond during the Great Outdoor Weekend hike. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Concrete spillway with rip-rap cover on the sides for erosion protection. (photo by Jon Seymour)



Broad-headed Skink seen on an Oxbow tour. (photo by Denis Conover)

**Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS** ((Contributed by Jay Stenger)

**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.

**Fall Waterfowl Migration**

**Date & Time: Sunday, November 20, 2016, 8:00 a.m.**

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

Some people may think of November as cold and dreary but I think late autumn is a beautiful time of the year and the subtle hues of the landscape interspersed with brilliant fall colors offer up a stark beauty. It will be against this backdrop that our trip leader Joe Bens will lead this morning visit to the Oxbow. Joe is an exceptional naturalist and expert birder and will surely find a diverse number of seasonal birds. When birders and naturalists think of the Oxbow during November the first thing that usually comes to mind is waterfowl. The peak of fall waterfowl migration occurs in our region during November and the Oxbow offers a great refuge for them.

Waterfowl will be the primary focus of this trip, but Joe will not ignore the many other species that can be found here at this season. Bald Eagles and other hawks will be seen and there is a good chance we will see migrating Sandhill Cranes. Late migrant and winter songbirds should also be abundant and the weedy fields will abound with sparrows of many species. We can expect a diverse number of species as Joe plans to visit several spots in the Oxbow area including a stop at Lost Bridge over the Great Miami River. Join Joe for a beautiful autumnal visit to the Oxbow. Remember, the Oxbow can be muddy in places at this time of year and November weather can be cold & wet, so prepare accordingly. Feel free to contact Joe if you have any questions.

**2016 Ohio River "Oxbow" Christmas Bird Count (29<sup>th</sup> Annual)**

**When: Saturday, December 17, 2015, 7:45 am.**

**Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Supported by Oxbow Inc.**

**Where: Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Park upper boat ramp parking lot.**

**Compiler: Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, [jackstenger@gmail.com](mailto:jackstenger@gmail.com)**

No "regular" Oxbow field trip will be held in December. The annual "Oxbow" Christmas Bird Count provides everything and more than a normal monthly field trip does. Come get your monthly Oxbow fix by joining count compiler Jack Stenger on this annual holiday bird count (known locally as the Oxbow Christmas Bird Count) which censuses winter bird populations in a 15-mile diameter circle, which includes the Oxbow area, Shawnee Lookout Park and most of Dearborn County Indiana. Everyone may participate regardless of skill level at no cost. You can request the area you would like to census. You can participate all day, for a few of hours or by staying home and counting the birds at your feeders if you live in the count area. Christmas Bird Counts are fun and always turn up some interesting finds. The data collected from this citizen/science effort goes into a historical database used in many bird related projects. For questions contact Jack. To participate, please contact Jack and let him know to expect you (for coverage and planning purposes).

**Christmas Bird Counts: Other local National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts. If interested contact the compilers.**

Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count (69<sup>th</sup> Annual) - Monday, December 26, 2016

Co-Compiler Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147, [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

Co-Compiler Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, [jackstenger@gmail.com](mailto:jackstenger@gmail.com)

Western Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count (50<sup>th</sup> Annual) - Sunday, December 18, 2016—Compiler Ned Keller, (513) 349-3369, [nedkeller49@gmail.com](mailto:nedkeller49@gmail.com)

East Fork Christmas Bird Count (33<sup>rd</sup> Annual) - Monday, January 2, 2017- Compiler Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, [joebens@live.com](mailto:joebens@live.com)

Hamilton-Fairfield Christmas Bird Count—Saturday, December 17, 2016—Compiler Mike Busam, (513) 755-0057, [mbsam@gmail.com](mailto:mbsam@gmail.com)

For more information on Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts visit the following website:  
<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>





**usings**

by Dave Styér

### Wilson's Snipe

Birding this morning at Struve Slough in Watsonville, CA, we saw eight Wilson's Snipe. That had me thinking of the Oxbow area, where Snipe are one of few shorebird species seen regularly as late in the year as November. The Snipe is such an interestingly shaped and beautifully patterned bird that we always want to see them when we can. There is another sort of experience with Snipe: the first time I saw one, I unexpectedly flushed it. I jumped in surprise, and my heart raced. My 1930s National Geographic Society *The Book of Birds* describes it. "They frequent grassy marshes, where they are usually invisible until flushed, when they rise with a startling bleat and fly swiftly on a zigzag course." It is reported that Snipe have relatively large pectoral muscles **that must aid a sudden burst of flight.**

We have all heard of the summer camp "game" where naïve youngsters are taken out at night to find snipe, and they are left in the dark without knowing that snipe do not really exist. Birders enjoy the irony that the more experienced campers who know that snipe don't exist are the ones who are wrong. However, there is a surprisingly similar problem in serious ornithology. Is Wilson's Snipe, *Gallinago delicata*, a species? You won't find Wilson's Snipe in *Birds of the Oxbow*. You will find Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*, there. In England, and, in fact, across Eurasia there is a common snipe. In England they call it the Snipe. We call it the Common Snipe. When I wrote *Birds of the Oxbow*, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) considered our snipe the same species as the one in Eurasia, the Common Snipe. The AOU is pretty much the official scientific organization that determines the classification of our birds. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century our snipe was treated as a separate species from the Common Snipe, and it was called Wilson's Snipe. For example, my 1901 edition of Chapman's *Handbook of Birds* treated our snipe as a different species from the Common Snipe. By 1950, our snipe

was considered a subspecies of the Common Snipe. According to the AOU, the decision to "lump" Wilson's Snipe with the Common Snipe was largely influenced by a 1921 paper by Harry Oberholser, a sometime Cleveland, OH resident. However, in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Supplement to the AOU Checklist, published in 2002, the AOU reversed its decision, largely based on information in publications of 1969, 1972, and 1976.

So there we are, faced with a fundamental problem: when are two different populations actually two different species? I want a simple and clear answer, but that doesn't fit the nature of the problem. Are species the same generation to generation? The transmission of DNA to the next generation is, like Mary Poppins, "practically perfect in every way," but it is not absolutely perfect. I certainly believe that the bird species Audubon saw in Cincinnati nearly 200 years ago are the same as what you see. The differences over that time span are too small to matter. OK, Audubon saw Passenger Pigeons and you haven't. But, hey, Audubon didn't likely see a Starling in Cincinnati, and you have!

**Why are we sharing this? If you do Christmas shopping on Amazon, please consider starting at AmazonSmile and supporting Oxbow of Indiana while you purchase those special items for your family and friends. Thank you!**

Did you know that Oxbow of Indiana has a unique AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support your organization?

**What is my organization's unique link?**  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1390071>

**What does my unique link do?**

When customers click on your organization's unique link, they skip the process to search for a charity to support among over 1 million eligible charities. Instead, they're taken to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and are automatically asked if they want to support Oxbow of Indiana.

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUM

Donor

In Memory of

Tom &amp; Betsy Metz

Persis M. Long

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

Ben & Kristina Miller  
Bonnie Pence  
George & Jean Perbix Charitable Fund  
Diana & Timothy Peters



## CHANGES

.....by Meg Poehlmann

Oxbow begun to transition all member and donation records to a new system. With all the changes, it is inevitable that we will have errors.

Please bear with us as we attempt to consolidate all the data that is being incorporated into our new system. You can help by carefully reviewing your mailing label and advising of any errors so we can correct our records. To do this, you can call and leave a message at (812) 290-2941 OR you can email me at meg@oxbowinc.org.

Thanks so much for your help and patience.

*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.

## Moving your nest?

Make sure **WETLAND MATTERS** goes with you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Oxbow Inc.

P.O. Box 4172

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Please mail right away - *Wetland Matters* is third class mail and is not forwarded!

Important NoticeImportant Notice**Ballot of Election of Directors**

Our corporation regulations call for the election of the Boards of Directors by ballot with the deadline for receipt of that ballot to be January 1, 2017. The Directors serve a 3 year term and about 1/3 of the directors are elected each year.

Here are the candidates for election to the **Board of Oxbow, Inc.** Vote for 3 candidates:

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Pelikan  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dwight Poffenberger  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Jay Stenger

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in

Here are the candidates for election to the **Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.** Vote for 3 candidates:

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Pelikan  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dwight Poffenberger  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Jay Stenger

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your signature

After voting for both Boards, Cut the ballot out and send it to **Oxbow, Inc. P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, 47025** by January 1, 2017. **First class** postage will be required.

**Butterfly Walk in the Oxbow 9-10-16**

.....by Bob Nuhn

Despite a very humid, warm, partly cloudy day, and inexplicably not being listed in the Oxbow Newsletter on-line, we had 4 people walk a total of two miles starting at nearly 11:00 am till almost 1:30 pm. A total of 111 butterflies comprising 23 species were seen. Five species were new for the hike: the Common Roadside Skipper, which actually is not all that common or perhaps it is easily overlooked as it is a very diminutive, brown skipper flying rapidly just above the ground! The other four new species were the Silvery Checkerspot, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, and Common Checkered Skipper. Our species total for 5 years of walks now stands at 38. The list of butterflies seen is as follows:

- Black Swallowtail (1),
- Tiger Swallowtail (1)
- Cabbage White (5)
- Clouded Sulphur (1)
- Orange Sulphur (3)
- unknown albino sulphur female (1),
- Cloudless Sulphur (10), including an uncommon female albino
- Little Yellow (7)
- Sleepy Orange (6),
- Eastern Tailed Blue (13)
- Summer Azure (2)
- Variegated Fritillary (1),
- Silvery Checkerspot (1)
- Pearl Crescent (18)
- Question Mark (3)
- Eastern Comma (2)
- Red Admiral (1)
- Red-spotted Purple (10)
- Hackberry Emperor (11)
- Monarch (5)
- Silver-spotted Skipper (3)
- Wild Indigo Duskywing Skipper (1)
- Common Checkered Skipper (4)
- Common Roadside Skipper (1).

At 11:00 am, some of us observed a Summer Azure laying an egg on a Wingstem leaf near the flower buds. Azures, like some others in the blues, hairstreak family, feed on flowers/buds as larvae, not leaves. Later, at 12:30 pm we saw a Cabbage White lay at least 2 eggs on a small unknown species of crucifer (mustard). Overall, it was a really interesting hike on which several photos of butterflies were taken. A hike will be scheduled again next year, sometime in late August or early September after the Labor Day weekend. My thanks to Tracey, Jacob, and Pamela for their participation!

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

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

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

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

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
812-290-2941


## Corporation Officers

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Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason	(513) 385-3607
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