

May—June 2017

No. 185



WETLAND *matters*

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

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Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

Birdathon 2017

.....by Jon Seymour

Birdathon is late this year, occurring on May 12-13. Like recent Birdathons, finding species of ducks will be difficult and teams will range far and wide to add to their species lists. This year, as in the past, the Birdathon proceeds go to stewardship of the land, land acquisition, or to improved access. The IMPORTANT thing is to support the Birdathon. Over 20 teams will be in the field searching for every species of bird they can locate in the Tristate area. There are always surprises, there are always disappointments and there is always fun.

There are three levels of fun for me. The first is the scouting and the planning. This is the upfront work a team puts in to decide where they will go, when they will go, and importantly, how long will they stay. Surprisingly the latter decision is one of the most important in a BIRDATHON. If you want a large number of species you have to cover a lot of different habitats. You cannot do this if you stay too long in one habitat. It is the hardest because it grinds hard against what you like to do while birding which is to explore a given habitat to find out what is there. It just feels wrong to get up and run to the next location before you have all your target species in the current location.

The second fun aspect is the actual birding. Besides the birds, with over 20 teams in the field, it is not uncommon to run into another team on your route. Sometimes you are arriving/they are going, sometimes the opposite, and sometimes everyone descends on the same location at the same time. You are not supposed to share information when

you meet another team but none of us really wants any of our fellow birders (friends) to miss anything unusual that you have just seen. It seems petty, at least to me. The very best meeting involves you driving up to an overlook where another team has a target bird in their scope and they invite you to take a look. Now that is birding at its hardest.

The third fun aspect of the BIRDATHON is the Tally Party. We get together, eat pizza, and share BIRDATHON stories with one and all. It really doesn't matter who wins or how many species the team has seen, the fun is in sharing the stories.

YOU can participate by DONATING to the teams and encouraging their efforts. You know the money goes to a great cause.

OXBOW & The Southeastern Indiana Art Guild present An Exhibition of Artwork by local artists, highlighting local wildlife. June 23 & 24. Further details coming soon. A portion of the proceeds benefit Oxbow, Inc. Watch our Facebook page and website (www.oxbowinc.org) for the latest information.

Record Crowd at MMM Night Hike!

.....by John Klein

If you weren't at the most recent Morris Mercer Memorial Night Hike on February 10th, you may be the only one who wasn't! Or at least it seemed that way. We had a record crowd of 58 attendees! When this annual hike had to be postponed a month, I had no idea how lucky we would be with the weather as temperatures made it into the 60's that day! In addition, there was a partial lunar eclipse of the Snow Moon as well as a green comet that was potentially visible that night.

As regular hikers mentioned, it wasn't a typical "Morris Hike" as he would have liked to see some snow on the ground. It did, however, tease us that morning as snow flurries fell but quickly melted. I'm sure Morris had something to do with that!

We hiked the Miami Fort Trail at the end of the road in Shawnee Lookout and had to use the Columbia Terrace Lot for overflow parking. The trail was dry and in good shape and the eclipsing full moon allowed plenty of light to hike by. It was a most pleasant night to be in the woods!

From the overlook of the Oxbow we could hear some geese that were staying up late and some deer and other critters scurrying around. How the Oxbow got it's name was discussed and we talked about some of the earliest human inhabitants of the area and even some more recent ones. The theories on what Miami Fort was actually used for as well as the treaty signing at nearby Fort Finney in 1786 was also discussed. Another interesting fact is the very first train robbery in U.S. history occurred just upstream in nearby North Bend, Ohio on May 5, 1865. About a dozen men tore up tracks to derail the train coming from Cincinnati. They robbed more than 100 passengers of cash and jewelry and blew open safes that were said to contain thousands of dollars in U.S. bonds. They were followed across the Ohio River into Kentucky but were never captured. Many suspected that Frank and Jesse James were the ring leaders but that is deemed highly unlikely. This site may be visible from Shawnee Lookout as well!

As Morris would always say, "The history is so thick, it just drips from the trees out here". It was good to see the hike enjoyed by so many people. Many of the regular faces and many new ones as well!

Trees Planted in the Oxbow

.....by Kani Meyer

The week of April 9, Oxbow, Inc. was offered bare-rooted trees that need to be planted immediately. So a quick email was sent out to our faithful volunteers and some were able to show up the day before Easter to help get the new trees into the ground. We met at 9 a.m. and assisted by John Klein (who actually fetched the trees), Vicki Shepherd, Ron Jandacek, Alex and her father Chris Powell, and my husband Dave got about 80 trees into the ground within an hour. The damp ground made things relatively easy and John gave us a good demonstration on how to do the planting properly.

Easter promised rain which did happen and the following week forecast more rain so, if they don't drown, we may have diversified our tree area behind the entrance parking lot with a variety of oak (Shumard, White, Red, and Bur) and Black Walnut. We planted about half the trees on either side of the Oxbow Lake lookout, another high area. None of the species we received can tolerate flooding so we were limited in where they could be planted. So if you see some small trees adorned with yellow-green tape, then those are our new Oxbow inhabitants.

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!

Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers 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, back yard, or a big sit

-maybe the type of team-

Most Species seen: by a family, a group under the age of 20, a school class

-maybe it can be a special category-

Most money raised: by a team, an individual, a class

-or-

Most birds seen without using fossil fuel, while building a deck, taking the kids for a hike

-or-

Most birds photographed

You can even make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will likely 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 Tally Party.**

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 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.

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.**

Pledge Form for Birdathon 2017 (May 12-13, 2017)

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

Name _____

Address _____

My pledge for Birdathon is:

Fixed Amount: \$ _____

() Check Enclosed (Payable to Oxbow of Indiana)

() Bill me after the Birdathon

(Please pick a team to support - 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, Jack Stenger & Jay Stenger

_____ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman, Erich Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert & Madeleine Lippert

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

_____ Team # 4-John and Sarah Leon and Evan and Carly Leon

_____ Team #5 – Kirk Westendorf and Eric Burkholder

_____ Team #6 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

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

_____ Team #8 – John Eckles and Dave & Vicky Tozier

_____ Team #9—Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

Make checks payable to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. Note this change allows 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.

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Friday, April 14, 2017, Good Friday

by Jon Seymour

It just seemed like the place to be on Good Friday. Easter would have been better but I know that will not be possible so being at the Oxbow Lake Overlook on Good Friday will have to substitute. The weather is perfect and it turns out that this trip into the Oxbow is giving me a chance to think about the Oxbow in a way that I do not usually take time to share with everyone else. The key to this observation is how everyone enjoys the Oxbow in their own way.

I have driven through the Oxbow twice today simply because it was the place I wanted to be for a while. Earlier this morning I stopped to talk to a man in a truck who was looking around and enjoying the view. He had been in the Oxbow before due to his daughter's interest in birds and he had a friend who was a member of Oxbow and a dedicated photographer who had taken many photos in the Oxbow. He was not a member so I handed him a brochure (I keep a stack in the glove compartment – aside: does anyone still keep gloves in the dash storage box anymore???) which he seemed happy to receive. He seemed content to hang around and to see what happens next.

It is mid-April and most of the ducks are already in Canada. The ducks know that global warming is changing everything in terms of migration, breeding cycles, and critical food availabilities. Behavioral and evolutionary adaptations to these changes will be the major challenge to natural systems for at least the next century. If you are observant you can see it all here in the Oxbow.

As I drive slowly down the length of Oxbow Lake on my way to the Overlook, nesting Canada Geese are patrolling the shore line while Great Blue Heron stand on submerged logs just out of sight below the surface of the lake. One Great Blue Heron stands perched atop the large Osprey nest box pole overlooking Osprey Lake. Last week I saw a Great Blue Heron perched atop the shorter Osprey pole on the other side of the Lake. On trees fallen into Oxbow Lake several Double-crested Cormorants are lined up on the branches remaining above the water level trying to dry their water soaked feathers.

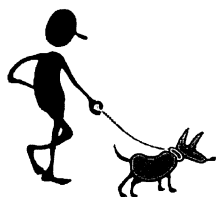
In my first pass through the Oxbow early this morning there were two cars in the Oxbow Lake overlook parking area. Each seemed to have been driven by

a single individual. I surmised this because I saw two men sitting on one of the benches at the Overlook. They were talking to each other casually and seemingly exchanging their observations on life and the day, not necessarily in any order. Of course, that is an impression, but it seemed as if two strangers may have driven into the overlook area separately and hopefully will leave as friends. The Oxbow brings people together.

Now I am on my second pass of the day in early afternoon. I see the vehicle of one of our regular fishermen along the road and pulled to the side. I have stopped and talked with him many times before but today I will not disturb him. He loves to fish but if you do talk to him you will find he is really part of the landscape. If you stopped to talk to him he would tell you about the large birds that have flown by while he has been fishing, or maybe you would hear a story about the large Snapping Turtle he had to disengage from his line, or more likely a chronology of the fish catch lined up on his string. He is observing, interacting, shaping and enjoying the Oxbow.

Down by Osprey Lake on this pass I encounter a lady with her small dog. It is not on a leash and appears to be part dachshund and part beagle. Cute! I bring my car to a stop as squashed dog is not on my list of adventures for the day. The dog walks by me and gives me a short approving glance. Accordingly, I think I have passed his doggy test and under his doggy code he has decided I have the right to be there. His owner is a little less certain and immediately assures me that he is under whistle control in case they encounter a rabbit. I thank her for that as we do not want the dogs disturbing the wildlife, but if they behave themselves, dogs are welcome to also enjoy the Oxbow. In the case of the owner of the dog she is enjoying a casual stroll in an interesting place with her "best friend".

Today I have made two passes through the Oxbow and encountered 5 different people. None of them were actively bird watching, none of them were "botanizing", and no one was tracking butterflies. All were enjoying the Oxbow in their own very different ways. Ways that were not the usual ways people claim to enjoy the Oxbow. It has been my fortunate experience to observe that there are about as many ways to enjoy time spent in the Oxbow as there are visitors to the Oxbow. Each individual interacts with the Oxbow in their own way and draws from that interaction their own particular pleasures and memories.



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, May 9, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Amy Stross—Forest Gardens

An edible forest garden is a food production strategy that mimics a woodland ecosystem. Protect and improve biodiversity while getting a productive yield! Learn about the history of this approach to food cultivation, how to set up a forest garden for yourself, and resources for further study.

Amy Stross is the author of *The Suburban Micro-Farm: Modern Solutions for Busy People*, and specializes in permaculture gardening, writing, and education. Edible gardening is her second career. A former high school teacher with a Masters in Education, Amy worked as a professional edible landscaper and was the administrator for community supported agriculture projects (CSAs) before transforming her 1/10-acre suburban yard into a productive landscape.

She went on to start a community food forest at Mount St. Joe University with residents of Delhi Township. Amy has reached hundreds of thousands of people with her adventures and expertise on her website, *TenthAcreFarm.com*. She lives in the suburbs of Cincinnati with her husband and farm cat. Their current adventures include transforming their 3.3-acre suburban property into an edible and biodiverse micro-farm.

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

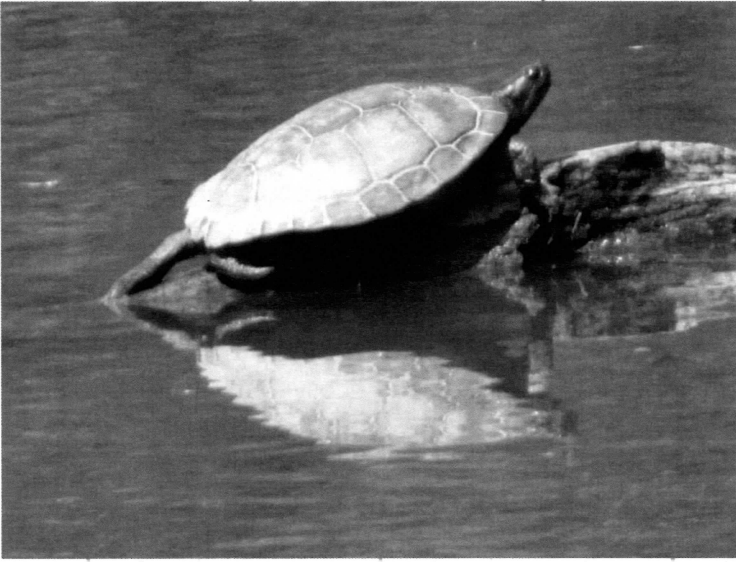
Dr. Dave and Kani Meyer—Cuba, past and present

Oxbow board member, Kani Meyer and her husband Dave, emeritus professor of Geology at UC, will present a talk on Cuba based on Kani's trip in 2003 and Dave's dive trip there in June 2016. In many ways Cuba seems caught in the late 50s, with wonderfully kept cars and elegant but crumbling buildings but the people are very warm and welcoming. In 2003 most of our time was spent in Havana with a short excursion east to a small village. Dave spent most of his time in the Jardines de la Reina off the southern coast of Cuba. This area has been long protected from fishing and has regulated diving activities so that the reefs are some of the best in the Caribbean.

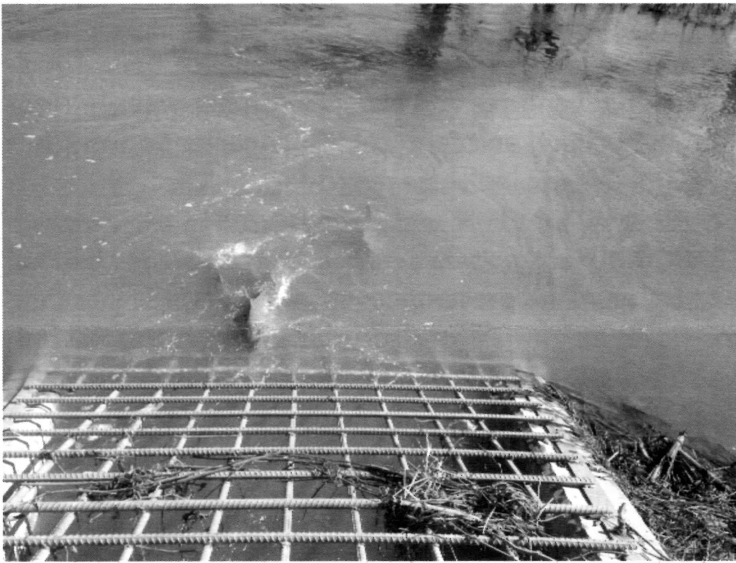
Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Tom Borgman - Missing pieces of the habitat puzzle

Great Parks of Hamilton County protects over 17,000 acres. Some of the natural areas need to be restored to become quality habitat for wildlife. We will explore ways Great Parks restores the wetlands, forests and prairies to provide a better place for wildlife to live and park visitors to enjoy. Tom is a Natural Resources Manager for the Great Parks of Hamilton County. He is responsible for controlling invasive species and habitat restoration in the park districts more than 17,000 acres. He has worked for the park district for 31 years. Tom has been part of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council and Taking Root since their inception and is also active in other local conservation organizations.



A n Eastern River Cooter turtle enjoys the sun and warmth of a mid-April day in the Oxbow. (Photo by Meg Poehlmann)



Big "bad" carp swim "upstream" into the culvert vent draining the flooded farm field under the recently constructed portion of the Oxbow Lake Road. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



New life clings to a cavity in the driftwood trunk of a long dead tree. The tree could be from West Virginia or Pennsylvania but we will never know. What we do know is that a Silver Maple seed sprouted in a cavity in the trunk and confidently reaches for the sky. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



A dead snag reaches for the sky, looking as if its best years are behind it. What I noticed moments earlier was a Prothonotary Warbler entering the snag through a side cavity where it was nesting and bringing the snag a whole other purpose in death. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



Spring floods leave behind flood pools in the low farm land areas of the Oxbow. The water does not drain towards the lakes but stays behind in pools that eventually drain through the soil. These flood pools attract migrating shorebirds who will feed in the shallow waters. (Photo by Jon Seymour)



A Palm Warbler in the trees along the Oxbow Lake near the overlook, enroute to northern Canada to breed. Now is a great time to see them at the Oxbow and many other places. (Photo by Wayne Wauligman)



OXBOW & The Southeastern Indiana Art Guild present: An Exhibition of Artwork by local artists, highlighting local wildlife. June 23 & 24. Further details coming soon. *Photo: Oxbow early Morning by Terri Keller.*



Two different turtle species share a basking log in the Oxbow. The turtle on the right is a Red Ear Slider. This is the species released in the 1970's when mothers became worried their child's pet carried Salmonella. So they were released all over the country, including here.

The other large turtle is a male Eastern River Cooter, *Pseudemys concinna*. It is old because there is only the one dominant yellow facial slash. Younger ones have about four. Note too the darker eye of this species. *(Photo by Meg Poehlmann)*

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.

OXBOW INC. ANNUAL BIRDATHON 2017

Begins: 5:00 pm, Friday, May 12, 2017—Ends: 5:00 pm, Saturday, May 13, 2017

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details and more information or contact Jon Seymour or Jay Stenger directly. Jon Seymour, 513-851-9835, jlsjks@hotmail.com, Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Peak Spring Migration—Saturday, May, 21 2017, 8:00 AM

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

Leader: Dave Helm, (513) 403-4519, helmmd@icloud.com

May is the best overall month for birding in our region, probably the rest of the USA. During May the greatest diversity and the most species are present. Spring migration peaks for many species and summer residents have returned. The Oxbow and lower Great Miami River valley is a great place to find them. Birds will be the focus of this morning trip.

Dave Helm, our trip leader, is a skilled veteran birder, naturalist and long-time Oxbow advocate. Dave knows the Oxbow well. His experience will come in handy as birds will be abundant and vocal. We should see raptors (eagles, osprey, and hawks), herons and egrets, terns, shorebirds, and migrant and resident warblers and many other songbirds during the morning. Dave plans to bird around Oxbow Lake, but will likely spend a good portion of the morning at Lost Bridge and the Shawnee Lookout side of the river to take full advantage of the diverse bird life moving through the area.

Much of this trip will be on foot, walking will be easy to moderate and at a birders pace. Be prepared for muddy spots, especially if conditions have been wet. You may want to bring water, sun screen and insect repellent. Binoculars are necessary for seeing small birds. A motor vehicle permit (\$10 annual, \$3 daily) is required at Shawnee Lookout (Great Parks). Restrooms are available at Shawnee Lookout or nearby businesses. Contact Dave if you have any questions.

Breeding Birds & Summer Nature Walk—Saturday, June 17, 2017, 8:00 AM

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

Leader: Chris Moran, (513) 481-6058, vstlib@yahoo.com

Join our trip leader Chris Moran for a early summer nature walk with an emphasis on summer resident and breeding birds. Chris is a veteran birder, knowledgeable naturalist and conservationist and a regular visitor to the Oxbow. Chris, a long time Oxbow Inc. advocate, is also the Secretary of the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

During June, birds abound in the Oxbow area and most of them are involved in nesting and breeding activities. Nearly a hundred species of birds regularly breed within the Oxbow area or nearby. Chris will begin our trip exploring around Oxbow Lake, but will likely move to Shawnee Lookout as the morning ends to take full advantage of the diverse habitats found in the Oxbow area. Between the Oxbow, Lost Bridge and Shawnee Lookout we can expect to see and hear several species of water birds, raptors and a host of warblers, vireos, orioles, tanagers, flycatchers, grosbeaks and buntings, cuckoos and more. June is also the peak singing period and we can expect a chorus of bird song, giving us a great chance to track them down and get a look. Chris will not overlook the other wildlife we are sure to run across during our walk.

Most of this trip will be on foot, but walking will be easy to moderate and at a birders pace. Remember that June can be hot by mid-morning. You may want to bring water, sun screen and insect repellent. Binoculars are necessary for seeing small birds. Restrooms are available. Shawnee Lookout, a Great Park, requires a Motor Vehicle Pass (\$3 daily, \$10 annual). Contact Chris if you have any questions.

Participants in 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)



Musings

by Dave Styér

The Gray Catbird

The Gray Catbird is not only a summer resident in the Oxbow area, but it is frequent wherever there is thick shrubbery or tangles. This bird may well show up in your yard or neighborhood, and you needn't go to the Oxbow to see it. Since we have but one catbird, I'll not bother with the word "gray." In Mexico there is a relative, the Black Catbird. The Catbird is in the family, *Mimidae*, of Mimic Thrushes, along with the local Brown Thrasher and Northern Mockingbird.

All three of our Mimic Thrushes are versatile singers. Of course, the Mockingbird is the most famous. It is loud, it typically repeats each note several times, and when it gets really wound up it sings all day and night. The Brown Thrasher usually goes to the top of a shrub to sing. It sings each note twice, loud and clear, but I'm not aware of it keeping people awake at night. All three of our Mimic Thrushes nest in thickets, but the Catbird is the most retiring. It more quietly sings from within the shrubbery, it doesn't often repeat notes, and it frequently intersperses its song with a "cat-like mewing" call. Although the Catbird gets its name from the mewing call, I have always thought it sounded more like a Catbird than a cat.

There is an unusual feature about the scientific name, *Dumetella carolinensis*, of the Catbird. Many times the scientific name of a species is misleading, at best. For example, Linnaeus named our Common Milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*, because he mistakenly thought it came from Syria. That was the first scientific name this milkweed was given, so that's what it has to be. In contrast, *Dumetella* means "little thicket," and *carolinensis* refers to the Carolinas. Both names are totally appropriate, but that's not really the unusual thing: in Ernest Choate's *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*, 1973, he notes that the name "*Dumetella*" was given by the anonymous *S.D.W.*, and that it is the *only* scientific name among all of our birds for which the author is anonymous.

That's not the end of the story. How often in ornithology do we encounter missing person detective work? Our detective here is the American ornithologist Storrs L. Olson, and after an extensive investigation he found that *S.D.W.* was actually Charles Thorold Wood, an English ornithologist. Olson published this in *The Wilson Bulletin* in 1989. The entertainment value of this is sufficiently great that, in the general Mimic Thrush family treatment in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, they devote a page to Olson's solution to the mystery.

In recent years I was in for a surprise about the Catbird's closest relatives outside of the Mimic Thrushes. Mimic Thrushes are all New World birds, while the Thrushes (Wood Thrush, Robin, Bluebirds, etc.), family *Turdidae*, are pretty much worldwide in distribution. Although both bird families have notable singers, I never felt they were especially close. In contrast, the Wren family, *Trogloditidae*, is nearly restricted to the New World. In general shape, I see Mimic Thrushes as over-sized Wrens. This would be a reasonable feature of closely related families. Furthermore, I view the birds of both families as sharing a similar, thick brush habitat. For example, I can imagine both Catbirds and House Wrens sneaking around in the shrubbery, and occasionally pecking holes in other bird's eggs. For Catbirds we'll ask if the egg pecking is just aggressiveness, or is the egg a source of food. An answer may be found in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and Their Allies*:

Edwin Dixon (1930) states that a catbird was found robbing a chipping sparrow's nest. It ate the contents of one egg and picked holes in the other two. Proof that the egg was eaten was obtained by shooting the catbird.

That's how they did it in the old days. But, I digress. Modern research on DNA, led by Charles Sibley and Jon Ahlquist, completely upset my idea of Mimic Thrush relatives. In Sibley and Monroe's *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* (1990) the Catbird, and all Mimic Thrushes are put in the family, *Sturnidae*, the Starling family. More recent work confirms this relationship. So, aside from Mimic Thrushes, the closest relative in the Cincinnati area to the Catbird is the European Starling.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUM

Donor	In Memory of
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Norma Flannery
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Morris Mercer

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

Larry & Jane Austing

Allan & Dorothy Campbell Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Andrew MacAoidh Jergens

Ed & Judy Krautter

Walter & Susan McBeath

Wayne and Paula Wauligman

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.

Please note: Memorials and Honoraria are not counted toward membership dues or renewals.

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.

Eastern River Cootersby Meg Poehlmann

On page 7 of this issue there are photos of Eastern river cooters. I knew nothing about this turtle, so I did some research to learn more. I found the information below on Wikipedia.

The river cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*) is a freshwater turtle native to the central and eastern United States, from Virginia south to mid-Georgia, west to eastern Texas, Oklahoma, and north to southern Indiana. River cooters live in a wide variety of freshwater and even brackish locations. Rivers, lakes, ponds and marshes with heavy vegetation provide ideal habitat. Large webbed feet make the river cooter an excellent swimmer, capable of negotiating moderately strong river currents of major river systems. They will collect in large numbers on peninsular floodplains associated with a river oxbow.

River cooters enjoy basking on logs or sun-warmed rocks, and are frequently found in the company of other aquatic basking turtles (sliders and painteds) sometimes piled up on top of each other. All are quick to slip into the water if disturbed. Diurnal by nature, these turtles wake with the warming sun to bask and forage. They can move with surprising speed in the water and on land. It is not unusual for them to wander from one body of fresh water to another, but many seem to develop fairly large home ranges, which they may never leave. They sleep in the water, hidden under vegetation. While those that live in areas that are quite warm remain active all winter, river cooters in cooler climes can become dormant during the winter for up to two months, in the mud, underwater. They do not breathe during this time of low metabolism, but can utilize oxygen from the water, which they take in through the cloaca. River cooters prefer to be well hidden under aquatic plants during the winter dormancy period.

While the species is highly omnivorous, river cooters will eat anything, plant or animal, dead or alive. Diet seems to be determined by available food items. While some writers feel that these turtles will not eat meat, predatory behavior has been observed. Although this animal cannot swallow out of water, it will leave the water to retrieve a tasty bug or worm, returning to the water to swallow. Cooters will also enthusiastically chase, kill and eat small fish. They have also been observed eating carrion found along the river's edge.

On a final note, In Indiana the river cooter is listed as an endangered species.

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2017

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2017 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.

If you have any questions contact Denny Mason at 513-385-3607.

OXBOW PAPERWORK WANTS TO COME HOME

If you have Oxbow paperwork or other items from volunteer activities, please give us a call at 812-290-2941 or email meg@oxbowinc.org so we can coordinate getting that paperwork into the office and in the appropriate files. If we don't happen to be in the office on the day you call, please leave a message and we'll call you back. If you prefer, you can always drop it in the mail to:

Meg Poehlmann
Oxbow Inc.
P. O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Think how clean your house will look after we take those Oxbow files off your hands!

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon acceptance of your application.

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.

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

I understand that hunting privileges 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 _____

Return Mail Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

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

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

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2017

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	\$1,000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

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

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Vice President, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
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Treasurer, Ed Gemperle	(812) 539-3666
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**Need a Speaker?
Give Us a Call!**

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