

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

NO. 38 NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1992

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays



Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays!

CINCINNATI COLOR SLIDE CLUB. "MAUI OF HAWAII."

Mauians consider their 728 square miles of splendor-in-the-Pacific to be the only place in the world to live. It's neatly terraced hillsides, sun-burnished beaches, and elegantly-secluded resorts mark it as the place the poets had in mind when they described Paradise. Framed by the clouds above and the Pacific unfolding all around her, Maui is lightly brushed by winds laden with ginger, jasmine and plumeria.

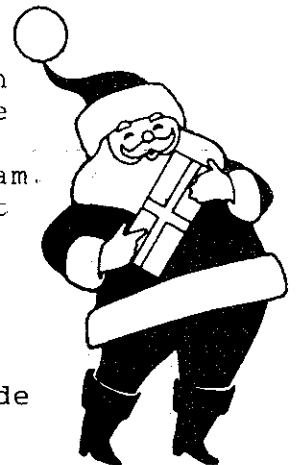
Photo-hobbyists Barbara and Charles Farber of Cincinnati will present their slide program, "MAUI of HAWAII" on Thursday, November 12th at 7:30 P.M. at the Lawrenceburg Public Library on West High Street. The presentation covers the Valley Isle from its natural wonders - volcanos, tropic rain forests, and pristine beaches - to its man made delights - luxury resorts, water sports, and exotic flower gardens.

This is the 11th in the series of quarterly programs sponsored by Elvin Blasdel, a local amateur photographer with the Cincinnati Color Slide Club. There will be a voluntary donation taken for the benefit of the proposed DEARBORN ADULT CENTER. For more information please contact Elvin at 812-537-2602.



Oxbow, Inc. Membership Makes an Ideal Gift

The holiday season is the time for gifts and giving, and here is our suggestion for a multi-purpose gift - a membership in Oxbow, Inc.! First, the price may be of your choosing - ten dollars on up. Second, it's a gift that's guaranteed to please anyone who is interested in nature. Third, it will help us to preserve the Oxbow wetlands through our land acquisition program. Finally, it offers wildlife a gift of unlimited value - habitat protection.



This Christmas, consider a gift membership in Oxbow, Inc. for your family and friends. It's sure to please and it's tax deductible. Fill out the gift membership form below and save yourself a great deal of shopping time and aggravation. Include additional gift memberships on a separate sheet of paper.

PLEASE SEND A GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN OXBOW, INC. TO:

NAME _____	Individual \$10.	Patron \$100.
ADDRESS _____	Family \$15.	Corner-
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____	Contribut-	stone \$250.
DONOR _____	ing \$25.	Sponsor\$500.
	Supporting \$50.	Bene-
		factor \$1,000.

(Circle one).

Make this a MERRY CHRISTMAS for your friends and wildlife!
A note will announce your gift. Make check payable to:

OXBOW, INC.
P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OH 45243

* A Holiday Gift Idea!
now on video
think FUN



OXBOW, INC. is collaborating with **IMPACT VIDEO PRODUCTION** to produce a video cassette of the birds that may be seen in the Oxbow and other wetland areas.

The species name will be shown with the live video of the bird. Background music moves the video along in a pleasing manner. The narration is done by Thane Maynard, Conservation Director of the Cincinnati Zoo.

This 30 minute video is of exceptional quality and has excellent close-up shots of the birds. All of the shots are the work of Jeff Donald and Sandy Schnur. Both are perfectionists, a trait that is reflected in their work.

Cassetts will be available for purchase prior to Christmas and will be a gift you will want to give as well as have for yourself. The price is low for the quality of the work - \$18 for Oxbow, Inc. members - non-members pay \$20. Get a head start on your Christmas list. Mail the coupon and a check and order now. Be sure to tell us where your video is to be mailed.

If you're a member who has only been able to dream about joining Morris on an Oxbow field trip, here is your opportunity to see the birds that stop to rest and feed in our area. Just pop your tape in the VCR, prop up your feet, and enjoy!

think ENTERTAINMENT!
ORDER FORM



PHONE-IN ORDERS
 CALL
 513-471-8001

-----cut on dotted line-----

OXBOW, INC. VIDEO

NAME _____ TELE NO. (w) _____
 (h) _____
 ADDRESS _____ APT# _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NO. of CASSETTS PRINT MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT
 \$18.00 FROM ABOVE:
 \$20.00

POSTAGE & HANDLING - \$2.00 each mailing address
 (10 days for delivery) TOTAL \$ _____

Make your check payable to: Oxbow, Inc.
 Mail to: P.O. Box 43391
 Cincinnati, OH 45243-0391

Holiday Gifts for Young and Old

**WE'VE GOT
SHIRTS!**

If you're shopping for a remarkably attractive, yet inexpensive holiday gift, we can help! Oxbow, Inc. T-shirts and sweat shirts, exclusively designed by Charlie Harper, are available at low, low prices. You can order them simply by calling 513-921-7147. The shirts are also on sale at our monthly meetings at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building and the Lawrenceburg Public Library on West High Street.

The two-color design is printed on a gray-blue background. The characteristic marks of the wood duck are clearly presented in bright white.

Sizes and prices: Youth 6-8, 10-12, 14-16
 T-shirts member \$8. non-member \$9.
Adult S, M, L, XL, XX-L
 member \$8. non-member \$10

Sweat shirts Adult M, L, XL, XX-L
 member \$18. non-member \$20

Add \$2 for all XX-L sizes. Purchase is not tax deductible.



THESE SHIRTS MAKE AN IDEAL GIFT SO MAKE A LIST AND GIVE US A CALL -- NOW!

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial, established in the name of a friend or loved one, 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 and should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH. 45243. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of the donor and those to receive the acknowledgment.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

* * * * *

IN MEMORY OF

DONOR

Betty Boehmer
 Herbert C. Foshag
 Julie Godsey Birthday
 Julie Godsey Birthday
 Julie Godsey
 Opal Melampy
 Mary Jane Nordman
 Mr. Pooh Ober
 Kathryn Parish
 Dulce Shumard
 Winston White, Sr.

Norma L. Flannery
 Barbara and Kent Ross
 Norma L. Flannery
 CMSGT & Mrs. James H. Godsey, Jr.
 Kathleen Pember
 Judith A. Meyer
 Fred and Peggy Gatch
 Oak Crest Animal Hospital
 Mr. & Mrs. William D. Farrell
 Fred and Peggy Gatch
 Frieda White

TRIBUTES

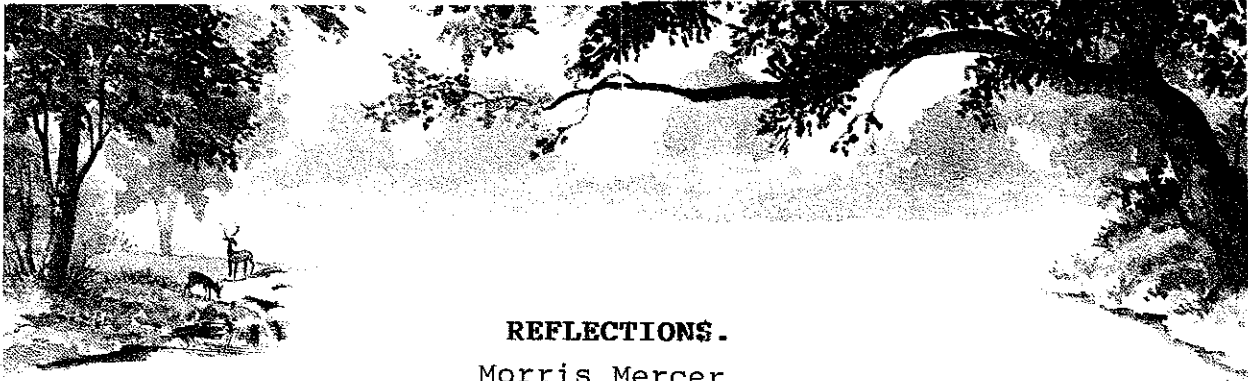
Aunt Norma Thank You
 Dr. David Styer In Honor

Zoe
 Cincinnati Bird Club

* * * * *



FIELD NOTES



REFLECTIONS.

Morris Mercer.

AS I THINK BACK over late summer and early fall trips afield in the Oxbow, I think of the many pages that I've added to my book of memories. It seems to me that we've seen more than the usual number of the wading birds - great egrets, black-crowned night herons, so many double-crested cormorants, and great blue herons! We've seen great blues standing in trees, great blues wading in the shallows, and great blues on the wing across the autumn sky. We watched killdeer skitter along a sandbar and, again, watched her protect her nest, and worried that her brood would not fledge before the fields were worked. We've watched a noisy kingfisher chatter from tree to tree as she worked her way up river. We've seen a great number of wood ducks that are present this fall.

Evening trips have added their own pages to my book. The best time to me is when twilight disappears into darkness. How beautiful the moon as it rises up over the willows to light the night. It is then that the sounds and silhouettes become the only way to identify the wildlife as it moves around you. The soft summer green of the willows is now showing some gold and the top-most limbs of the cottonwoods are almost bare.

The last few weeks have been good for canoeing the Oxbow on the Great Miami river. On a recent fog-shrouded morning, as we pushed off, our grand daughter said,

"This is fun - it's really spooky!"

As the fog began to lift, and we were able to discern the wildlife as it emerged from the mist, we were surprised to see nine great egrets standing ghost-like on a sandbar. Our canoe moved silently down the river. A deer raised its head alertly and we heard the distant slap of a beaver tail echoing through the fog-wisped water.... there is a real peace that comes as you drift silently down the river, much as the fallen autumn leaves float silently to their destiny.

It is my fondest hope that there will always be a safe haven in the Oxbow for both man and wildlife. And so, I eagerly add these new pages to my book of memories and will turn to them when we are not afield gathering others.

warm wishes
for a wonderful holiday
and a happy new year.

PAINT CREEK/ROCKY FORK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

Steve Wagner.



The Paint Creek/Rocky Fork area is located just east of Hillsboro, OH about an hour's drive east of Milford, OH along U.S.50.

I participated in the '89 Christmas count with approximately nine other people. The week prior to the count had snow and severe cold weather. Almost all of the water was frozen, plus, we birded in a thick fog most of the day. Though visually hindered, it was obvious that the area had great potential for my number one birding interest - RAPTORS!

The area includes many farms, some of which have been deserted. There are some unusually large grasslands! Although some are cut each year, the remaining are very good for providing wildlife habitat.

This past February I led an Audubon field trip to this location. Numerous raptors were seen during the day along with ducks, horned larks, and pipits. Pictures were taken of a barred owl. A mature bald eagle was viewed for over ten minutes from South Beach at Rocky Fork Lake. Seven species of raptors were observed over one field; red-tailed hawks, kestrels, northern harriers, rough-legged and Cooper's hawks, an adult bald eagle, black vultures plus dozens of turkey vultures.

Though I have not tried night birding for owls, several great horned, barred, and even short-eared owls, (eight at one time on the '89 count) have been seen. The habitat suggests that short-eared and barn owls should be found in the proper season.

Rocky Fork Lake and Paint Lake, as well as Rocky Fork Creek and Paint Creek, provide habitat for waterfowl. Last winter numerous tundra swans were seen at both lakes.

Bob-white are numerous in the area and during the '89 count a covey of 40 birds were observed. Pheasants are occasionally seen. In summer bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows and numerous meadowlarks are seen. Other grassland species should also be found there. Huge flocks of horned larks and water pipits are here. Late last winter a flock of at least 200 water pipits were seen.

Participation in this Christmas count has diminished. In 1990 only four people participated. Last year an unsanctioned count was conducted by one person. This year that one person (the author) is requesting at least eight birders to assist with this count. The area has much to offer but few people bird the region. When more birders discover PaintCreek/Rocky Fork, more uncommon birds will be found on a regular basis. If you are interested in participating in this Christmas count contact Steve Wagner 513-831-7606.

HUNTING SEASON GETS UNDERWAY.

Oxbow, Inc. wishes to promote a spirit of cooperation between area birders and hunters. We ask our birders to respect the legally licensed hunter's right to hunt during posted seasons and to report observed illegal activities to the proper authorities.



Hunters should contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, for specific regulations and hunting season dates. The DNR reminds hunters that steel shot is required during the waterfowl season.

Meetings

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Building.
Enter through the Exit Gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.

Dr. John Ferner presents a program on the "Philippines Biodiversity Inventory." Don't let that title put you off. JOHN IS BACK filled with exciting and interesting stories from his latest Philippines trip.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library
See December 8th directions.

A Cincinnati Color Slide Club program presented by Elvin Blasdel. Barbara and Charles Farber will present their slide program, MAUI OF HAWAII. (see article)

Elvin Blasdel 812-537-2602

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library.
Turn left off of U.S.50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street,

A video program produced by KERN-TV, Dallas/Fort Worth for the National Wildflower Research Center, narrated by Helen Hayes. "WILDFLOWERS" tells the visually beautiful story of one of nature's great gifts vital to a healthy ecosystem.

Field Trips



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 9 A.M.

A good day for walking off the Thanksgiving day orgy remnants. Meet Steve Wagner at Shawnee Lookout Park's upper boat ramp parking lot. Be sure to look over the impressive Oxbow sign at the entrance.

Leader - Steve Wagner 513-831-7606.

DECEMBER - THE BIRD COUNT MONTH!

We will participate in the Hamilton County Park District's winter bird count. Counts are taken in all of the county parks. Choose your favorite and plan to attend. We will also join in the Cincinnati Bird Club's annual Christmas count. For the park district's count call 513-521-PARK for the date and times. Call Morris Mercer at 513-941-2534 for information on the Bird Club's Christmas count.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH, PAINT CREEK/ROCKY FORK CHRISTMAS COUNT.
(see article) To participate call lonesome Steve at 513-831-7606.

HIKING OHIO

Scenic Trails of the Buckeye State

by Robert Folzenlogen

A guide to over 100 Day Hikes at 64 areas across the State.
Illustrated with maps and photos.

Available at bookstores, nature centers, and outdoors shops;
or send \$14.95 to Willow Press, 6053 South Platte Canyon Rd.
Littleton, Colorado 80123

MOVING?



New Address

City/State/Zip

Effective Date

MAIL TO: Oxbow, Inc. P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Corporation Officers

President, Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
Vice President, Morris Mercer	513-941-2534
Secretary, Earl Thirey	513-528-3371
Corresponding Sec., Suzanne Skidmore	513-561-5718
Treasurer, Jim Rettig	513-561-0211
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage	513-922-2445
Bonnie Fancher	812-438-3641
Easement Inspection, Michael Kluesener	513-574-1220
Richard Pope	513-637-1365
Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Land Management, Dave Styer	513-772-4395
Marketing, Connie McNamee	513-921-7147
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
Programs:	
Ohio, Morris Mercer	513-941-2534
Indiana, Betty Myers	812-537-1631
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers' Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, John Getzendanner	812-537-5728

Editor

Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
-------------------	--------------

Oxbow, Inc.

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

Help us save this unique wetland. You can 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.

Individual	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No 7271