

# wetland matters



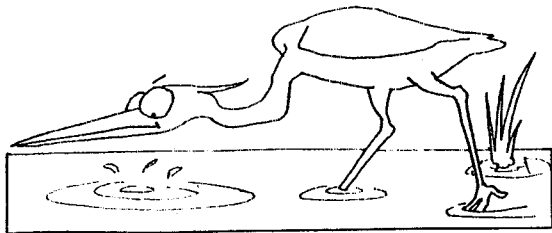
## OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 46, March-April 1994

### Elections to Board of Trustees

At the January meeting 8 members of the Board of Trustees were re-elected to 3-year terms. They were Jerry Johnson, Mike Kluesener, Frank Marnell, Dennis Mason, Greg Mendell, Kani Meyer, Richard Pope, and David Styer.



### Birdathon '94

What follows is a synopsis of the rules and procedures for Birdathon '94.

**Registration:** If you are planning to participate as an individual or organizing a team, you should phone Steve Pelikan for a registration packet including registration forms, pledge sheets, a map and the complete set of rules. Call Steve at (513)-681-2574. Leave a message on voice mail if there is no answer. Include your **name, address, and phone number**. The deadline for returning registration forms is April 20th.

**Time and Date:** 5 p.m. Friday, May 6 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 7.

**Where:** You may start anywhere in the official Birdathon area (see the map). Any mode of transportation except airplane is allowed. All contestants must finish at the tally point with their totals ready to submit by 5 p.m. May 7th. Contestants lose 1 species from their tally for each minute they are late.

**The Region:** includes any county of Kentucky, Indiana or Ohio, any part of which overlaps a circle of radius 50 miles centered at the Oxbow lake.

**Ethics:** Participants should maintain good birding ethics and etiquette at all times. The safety of the birds is of prime importance so participants must minimize activity near nests. No tape recordings of birds are allowed, but participants are free to imitate calls to the best of their ability.

**Categories of Competition:** Most categories are available for both team competition (2 to 6 members) and for individual competition.

- 1) Most species, entire Birdathon area.
- 2) Most species in one county of the Birdathon area.
- 3) Most species traveling by human/animal/solar or non-fossil fuel power. Fossil fuel to point of departure and back, but no species can be counted at that time.
- 4) Most species, high-school age and younger. Teams may have 1 or 2 older members, but 50% of the team must be minors. Individuals may be accompanied by an older, non-participating driver.
- 5) Novice, any age. Most species identified by sight only.
- 6) Most pledges raised per species. One prize for under 18, one for everyone else. Money raised as a team through sponsoring institution doesn't count.



## **Oxbow, Inc., Yesterday and Tomorrow**

A Retired President's Reflections

Norma L. Flannery

### **Looking Back**

I came early, as a charter member, into the initial battle to stop state legislation designed to convert the Oxbow floodplain into an industrial port facility. As did many others, I wrote letters of protest to state senators, federal representatives, national conservation organizations, and anybody and everybody for whom I could obtain a mailing address. It was my first exposure into the role of "ACTIVIST." The success of defeating the legislation was heady stuff for a beginner. However, the flush of success lasted only long enough to realize that the threat to the Oxbow was not over — it had only begun.

Numerous meetings culminated in the formation of Oxbow, Inc. as an Ohio non-profit conservation organization. Oxbow's first elected president, Judy Bramstedt, led a loose coalition of environmental caterpillars through their metamorphosis. I was selected to become the editor of the newsletter—a position I was extremely qualified to hold as I had never before done anything remotely connected to writing, typing, layout, assembly, or editing. I also did not possess a computer. Ruth Trosset compiled the first newsletter and had, thankfully, given me a copy with annotations as to how, if I paid attention, there might be a second issue. 36 issues and six years later, "Wetland Matters" passed into the hands of Steve Pelikan, a much more qualified editor, who, if I'm lucky, will leave his editing pencil behind his right ear and will print these thoughts as presented.

### **Setting Goals**

It has long been my belief that when faced with a new challenge it is necessary for success to set high goals and work long and diligently to achieve them. I honored that belief when I became your president and the goals set then have been realized.

- Working closely with the Hamilton County Park District on a conservation easement program, 1,169 Ohio-Indiana acres of habitat has been protected. The conservation easement, which becomes a part of the deed, allows the property owner to continue agricultural use of the land but prohibits any future development.

- In what proved to be a bench-mark of cooperation between state agencies, the Directors of the Ohio and Indiana Departments of Natural Resources

were successfully encouraged to work together for the purchase of Oxbow property that crosses the state line.

- Conservation easements purchased by Oxbow, Inc. coupled with land purchased, has increased habitat protection from 225 to 605 acres in Indiana.

- Oxbow, Inc. continues to grow in stature and respect. It has been recognized as a conservation organization whose work entitles it to receive a portion of moneys from out-of-court settlements from litigation brought against violators of the Clean Water Act.

- Oxbow, Inc., Hamilton County Park District, Ducks Unlimited, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are combining to restore the silted, three-acre Goose Pond to its original three-acre size. The purpose of this project is to encourage migrating waterfowl to stay and nest in this pond as they once did.

- A land use program is in place and working to protect the Oxbow lake and provide food for wildlife. A 66-foot buffer zone between the crop field and the lake is planted with corn and millet. The corn is left unharvested but knocked down.

- Farming practices now have limited, or non-use, of fertilizers and weed control chemicals to lessen the toxicity of water runoff into the lake.

- A \$1,500 yearly grant has been established out of crop income to fund qualified college students interested in wetland research.

- Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. has been founded as an Indiana non-profit sister corporation to Oxbow, Inc.

- An environmental assessment survey is in progress which will specifically pinpoint critical habitat areas and delineate wetland parameters.

The accomplishment of any of these projects could and would not have occurred without the cooperation of the Board of Trustees. I thank them for what they have done.

An important and large part of our success is due to the support and financial assistance of the cumulative members of Oxbow, Inc. A total of 605 Indiana acres of wetland habitat has been protected at a cost of \$607,500. Not a dollar has been borrowed nor a cent of interest paid. I can make that statement because we have never come to you as a member and asked for support but that you did not give it. I ask that you give yourselves a great big "THANK YOU" and accept my sincere appreciation for your continuing dedication to the preservation of this unique Oxbow habitat. I've enjoyed meeting and speaking with you at our membership meetings. I will miss that personal contact between us.

## Looking Forward

This March, as Oxbow, Inc. celebrates its eighth anniversary, we may say that much has been done. But there are many goals still left to be set and met. Threats to the area still persist. Ultra-light airparks and riverboat casinos continue to add gray hairs to this head. Challenges to our ability to maintain the Oxbow as a safe migratory stopover grow stronger every year as Greendale and Lawrenceburg look to development for increased revenue with always covetous eyes on the Great Miami River "undeveloped" floodplain.

Your new president, John Getzendanner, while not as pretty as I, will prove to be a strong leader and will go forward with his own agenda to meet these challenges.

I do not leave Oxbow, Inc., but will continue to work for the growth and development of a vigorous organization that knows only how to succeed. I thank you for the opportunity and the honor to have served as your president.

John, I wish you well!

# HERE IT IS!

**This is a Static-Cling decal.  
If you wish to change locations,  
simply move it from one place to  
another—NO MESS!**



Attending an Oxbow field trip will show you interesting places to visit in the Oxbow area. Here birders, led by Jay Stenger, are enjoying one of spring's first Phoebes.

# Calendar

## Meetings

**8 March (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building.** (Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.)

This evening's program will be given by Kani Meyer who returned recently from a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Kani will share the beauty of "Yellowstone in Winter" and tell us about what has been happening at this famous park.

**12 April (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.** (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn Right on High Street. The Library is on the right side of High Street.)

We will get an update with the latest information about proposals for riverboat gambling development in Lawrenceburg, and then enjoy a presentation by Kani Meyer about her recent trip to Yellowstone National Park.

## Field Trips

**13 March (Sunday) 8:30 A.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Meet Jay Stenger at 50's Root Beer. The Sunday field trip is in response to members' requests for one—let us know how you like it! Migration should be in full swing, and Jay is just the person to help you see some good birds. For more information, call Jay at (513)-522-4245.

**16 April (Saturday) 9:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Dave Styer will lead us on a walk through the Oxbow area, which can be an exciting place in April. For more information, call Dave at (513)-772-4395.

## Volunteer

**23 April 9:00 to 12:00. Winton Woods Cleanup**

The Forest Park Environmental Awareness and Recycling Program is sponsoring the 7th annual Winton Woods Cleanup. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help remove the accumulated trash and debris that threaten the scenic beauty of Winton Woods Park. For more information call 595-LAND (5263). Volunteers will meet at the Kestrel Point picnic shelter near Winton Road at 9 AM. After the cleanup volunteers will be rewarded with a cookout, prizes and awards. This is always a fun event with enthusiastic participants. Give it a try, and tell 'em you're from Oxbow !

## Tanners Creek Awareness Workshop

John Grace is organizing the Tanners Creek/Ohio River Valley watershed Impact Awareness Workshop. Discussion of the impact of planned and potential development will be discussed. Representatives from private corporations and government agencies have been invited. Tentatively, the workshop is planned for April 6th at the Lawrenceburg City Council building. For more information, call John at (812)-537-5648, or write to him at 28 Countryhill Ct. Lawrenceburg IN 47025.

## Correction

The correct address at which you can inquire about membership in the Indiana Audubon Society is:

Indiana Audubon Society  
c/o Ms. Shirley A. Keller  
2505 E. Maynard Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46227-4962

## Moving?

Please send your change of address information to

Oxbow, Inc.  
P.O. Box 43391  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243-0391

Wetland Matters is not sent as first class mail, so the Post Office will not forward it.

## Oxbow Birdathon Teams

### Pledge Now!

Birdathon raises money not only for Oxbow, but for other nonprofit organizations. If an organization sponsors a team, they split the team's pledges with Oxbow. Last year there were teams from the Cincinnati Nature Center, Cincinnati Zoo, Raptor Inc., Gilmore Ponds Conservancy, the Cincinnati Bird Club, Northern Kentucky Bird Club, the Hamilton County Park District, and the Tri-State Wildlife Center. Oxbow is pleased to help such worthy organizations raise money, and appreciates their support and help as well.

Oxbow sponsors several of its own Birdathon teams and asks Oxbow members to pledge for one or more of them. All money pledged to these teams goes directly to Oxbow. Members can pledge their support for one of the teams, or for the highest scoring Oxbow team. Most people pledge some amount for every bird species identified by the team. Others prefer to simply pledge a fixed amount in support of a team. Whichever team and method of pledging you select, you can make your pledge by mailing in the form below. After the Birdathon you'll receive a letter telling you how your team(s) did, where they went, and the good birds they saw, along with a memo advising you of your pledge total.

Oxbow's strength, and the reason for its success in protecting habitat is its members and their generosity. Thank you in advance for your pledge supporting Oxbow's Birdathon teams.

Oxbow Team #1: "Geriatric Gents and a Junior." Karl Maslowski has agreed to reassemble his team of expert birders to compete in Birdathon '94. Last year this team concentrated on Adams County and found near 100 species of birds. They were the first team ever to record a Western Meadowlark on a Birdathon.

Oxbow Team #2: "Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild." Joe Bens and Paul Wharton. Last year Joe and Paul found 141 species. They promise to try harder this year.

Oxbow team #3: "The No-See-Ums": David Styer, Charlie Saunders, and Steve Pelikan. Last year this team tied for 2nd place with Joe and Paul. Dave Styer says they may try something radically different this year.

## BIRDATHON '94

### Oxbow Team Pledge Form

YES! I want to pledge per species: \_\_\_\$2 \_\_\_\$1 \_\_\_75¢ \_\_\_50¢ \_\_\_25¢ \_\_\_10¢ other \_\_\_  
to support Oxbow's Birdathon teams(s).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- My pledge is for Oxbow team #1, "Geriatric Gents"  
 My pledge is for Oxbow team #2, "Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild"  
 My pledge is for Oxbow team #3, "No See-Ums"  
 My pledge is for the highest scoring team.

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

## Field Notes

Morris Mercer

Early in the week we received a 7 inch snow fall, and winter blew in with temperatures as low as 24 below 0. On that morning I went to check on the wildlife. I found the water hole almost iced over, but one spot remained open and was loaded with ducks and geese. Most of them were sitting on the ice with their heads beneath their wings and their breasts to the wind. Others bathed in the open water.

I set up the scope for a better look. The temperature had warmed up to 9 below 0. There were several hundred Canada Geese, Mallards, Black Duck, American Widgeon, Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. I'm sure there were others, but it was hard to see since a fog rose from the open water and the cold, wet wind was blowing in my face. I moved on to visit the Sycamore where the Great Horned Owl nested last year. There she sat on her nest. I left quickly so I wouldn't disturb her.

Tonight was the evening of the winter walk at Shawnee Lookout Park. Each year I schedule an Oxbow field trip there, usually in January. In years past we've had all kinds of weather: mild, cold, cloudy, rain, and some very nice evenings, but not the perfect winter night. Tonight was the perfect night. Inside again, I feel the warmth of the glowing fire. The music from the CD player is soft and sweet as I ponder the evening and the last few real winter days. I want to write the memories before sleep closes my eyes.

I looked out this morning to find we'd received an inch of new snow. I could hardly wait for evening. It was about 6:45 P.M. when I stopped at the Klein's. John was ready and we were on our way down along the river and up Cliff Road. From Cliff Road we could see the big north bend of the Ohio. It was choked with floating ice.

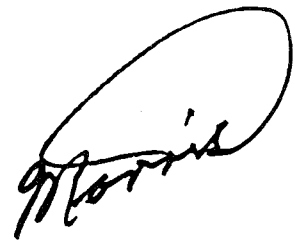
On through Dugan Gap, we turned down along the Great Miami River. The river had been iced over when the snow fell, and tonight it was a wide, white ribbon winding across the valley towards the Ohio. We passed the owl on her nest in the Sycamore. The trees cast dark shadows across the white snow as the moon illuminated the wooded hills and the valley below, a study in black and white.

We drove down to check the road and parking place at the head of the Miami Fort trail. A large doe came out of the brush and crossed just in front of us. We found that the road was open and that there was room to park several cars. We turned and headed back to our rendezvous location, where we saw a deer standing in a snow-covered field in the moonlight. Watching this beautiful scene, I couldn't help but think that in another month the Woodcock will be back showing off for the girls in the same field and winter will be on its way out.

Tonight it was winter, though. The temperature is up to 9 above 0 and from beneath our boots comes that great squeaky crunch that is made only by really cold snow.

We waited until starting time, and then waited a bit more. The only car we saw was the ranger's. Yes! Mother Nature had decorated for a winter party, but no one came.

The beauty of the night didn't go to waste. We saw many deer, including 3 as they bedded down in the snow near some evergreen trees. We saw a Red Fox glide across a snowy field. (I wondered if it was the fox whose den I'd watched last summer.) We'll try again next year, but I'm sure we'll never have a more perfect winter night than tonight.



## Oxbow Memorials

Julie Godsey  
Mike Kalvin  
George R. Kinsler  
L. D. Lane  
Robert Lonsdorf  
Edna Maslowski  
Edna Maslowski  
Veronica Miller  
Worth Randle  
Worth Randle  
Worth Randle  
Worth Randle  
Clem Rettig  
Alfred Schlomeus  
Emmitt Spears

CMSGT James and Mrs. Godsey, Jr.  
Pat Shanklin  
Mr. and Mrs. William Farrell  
Gary and Jenny Cecil  
Jane and Ray Bernzott  
Adelaide Farney  
George and Ellen Laycock  
John and Velda Miller  
Indian Hill Garden Club  
Karl Maslowski  
Dr. David Styer  
Roz and Pete Thayer  
James Rettig  
Dr. and Mrs. R.T. Gary  
Mr. and Mrs. William Farrell

## Oxbow Tributes

Art and Jinny Wiseman  
Suzanne Skidmore

Anonymous  
Jane Church

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. Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgment.

## Treasurer's Report

Oxbow, Inc. and its sister corporation, Oxbow of Indiana, Inc., were able to preserve an additional 121 acres this year at a cost of \$200,000. This purchase is on the northern edge of our current property and includes the eastern side of the Oxbow lake. Our members can be assured that some real bargaining and tough decisions went into this purchase. This purchase was made at the end of the year and our funds need to be rebuilt. No easements were purchased this year.

Dues are down somewhat from last year. We need to reverse this trend since members are important to us. Donations, memorials and Birdathon income remains steady compared with last year. Land acquisition funds are up. Sales of videos, shirts and books raise some extra money, but more importantly help get our message to others. Crop income will go up next year since more land will be under lease.

Total expenses have increased. Newsletter, postage and office supplies have remained nearly the same. The increase is primarily in costs associated with ownership, i.e. increased property taxes, licenses, insurance, filing fees and legal fees. Now that we have property it is very important that we protect and defend these assets properly.

Assets have increased about \$90,000 in the last year. Oxbow, Inc. transferred \$200,000 to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. to complete the above mentioned purchase.

Two statements are presented to give a full and clear accounting of the financial transactions that occurred in 1993.

James W. Rettig  
Treasurer, Oxbow, Inc.  
Treasurer, Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.

**Oxbow, Inc.**  
PO BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243  
Statement of Operations  
as of December 31, 1993

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	\$22,922.00	Newsletter	\$1,424.85
Donations	25,196.28	Postage & Phone	1,127.19
Land Acquisition	22,500.00	Office Supplies	2,132.15
Interest	3,731.24	Fund Raising	1,008.42
Memorials	4,997.50	Taxes Insurance Legal	4,371.81
Crop Income	5,680.00	Miscellaneous	1,884.93
Bird-a-thon	15,499.25		
Shirt Sales	214.00		
Fund Raising	0.00		
Video Sales	975.00		
Book Sales	141.70		
Miscellaneous	0.00		
Total Income	\$101,856.97	Total Expenses	\$11,949.35



### Balance Sheet

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$1,932.34	Liabilities	\$0.00
Gradison Fund	4,021.43		
Land	175,551.60		
Easements Owned	231,963.28	Retained Earnings	417,196.63
Equipment	357.75		
Shirts	2,067.73		
Videos	1,250.00		
Books	52.50		
Total Assets	\$417,196.63	Liabilities &	
Retained Earnings	\$417,196.63	Retained earnings	\$417,196.63

### Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.

PO Box 43391

Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243

Statement of Operations as of December 31, 1993

INCOME			
Dues	\$0.00	Newsletters	\$0.00
Donations	4,186.08	Postage & Phone	0.00
Land Acquisition	200,000.00	Office Supplies	5.32
Interest	6.54	Fund Raising	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	Taxes, Insurance, Legal	123.00
Total Income	\$204,192.62	Total Expense	\$128.32

### Balance Sheet

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$4,064.30	Liabilities	0.00
Gradison Fund	0.00		
Land	200,000.00		
		Retained Earnings	\$204,064.30
Total Assets	\$204,064.30	Liabilities &	\$204,064.30
Retained Earnings	\$204,064.30	Retained Earnings	

## 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	Family	\$15
Contributing	\$25	Supporting	\$50
Patron	\$100	Cornerstone	\$250
Sponsor	\$500	Benefactor	\$1000
Organization/club	\$25		

Mail to. **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 43391  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391  
**513-471-8001**

## Corporation Officers

President, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001  
Vice President, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534  
Recording Secretary, Dennis Mason (513)-385-3607  
Corresponding Secretary,

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

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,

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

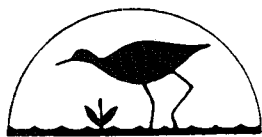
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Volunteer Coordinator,

John Getzendanner (812)-537-5728

Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513)-681-2574

## Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243



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