



# WETLAND *matters*

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

## Calendar

### Meetings

**March 10 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Seton Hall, College of Mt. St. Joseph.** (Neeb Road and Delhi Pike; parking is available across Need Road from Seaton Hall.)

Steve Maslowski will present two of the videos he's worked on recently. "Back yard conservation, 1 yard at a time" and "Animal Communication."

**April 14 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meetings at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.** (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The Library is on the right side of High Street.)

This evening's speaker will be Oxbow's attorney, Tim Mara. Tim will present an overview of Oxbow's past successes and future challenges with emphasis on legal questions. At the program he gave for Oxbow's Cincinnati meeting in January, he ended by leading a discussion and question/answer period that many members felt clarified important issues and left them much better informed.

### **May 1,2,3 Indiana Audubon Society centennial celebration**

Indiana Audubon has planned a celebration and weekend program at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, Connersville, IN. There'll be speakers, hikes, and field trips, and more. For more information contact Pamela Keller (765) 349-2972 (email: Keller98@Juno.com) or write to 4435 State Road 252, Martinsville, IN 46151.

### Volunteer

**April 18 (Saturday) 9:00-noon Winton Woods Cleanup**

The Forest Park Environmental Awareness Program and the Hamilton County Park District are co-sponsoring the 11th annual Winton Woods Cleanup.

Volunteers are needed to help remove the trash that has accumulated in Winton Woods Park. Last year, 375 volunteers picked up 11 tons of litter in less than 3 hours!

Volunteers interested in participating should contact the Forest Park Environmental Awareness Program at 595-LAND (5263) for more information.

### Field Trips

**March 22 (Sunday) 8:30 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

Meet master birder Ned Keller at the Gardens Alive! parking lot. There should be waterfowl and a few early migrants in the Oxbow area, and Ned can help us find them. Questions? Call Ned at (513) 941-6497.

**April 11 (Saturday) 8:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

Dave Styer will lead this trip into the Oxbow area starting from the Gardens Alive! parking lot. Many people feel that March and April are the two best months for birding in the Oxbow. Don't miss this chance to get out and see the area with someone who knows it well. If you have questions, call David at (513)-772-1287.

**April 26 (Sunday) 8:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

Jay Stenger, one of the instructors in Audubon's bird watching course, will lead this trip. There should be good birds in the Oxbow area, providing us an ideal chance to pick up some birding pointers from Jay. Meet him at the Gardens Alive! parking lot. If you have questions, call Jay at (513)-522-4245.

## BIRDATHON '98

Oxbow's annual fund raising event is a birdathon. Participants solicit pledges of money for each species of bird they identify and then spend a 24 hour period in early May scouring the Tristate area looking for birds. This year the birding part of the event will be held from 5:00 P.M. Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> to 5:00 P.M. Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Birdathon participants compete in self selected categories, such as "Most birds found in a single county" and "Most birds found without using fossil fuels". The **Golden Starling** is awarded to the team that finds the largest number of birds in the entire birdathon area. Other awards include the **Fearsome Fledglings Award** (most birds by young birder), and the **Solitary Vireo** (most birds by an individual).

Birdathon helps other worthy conservation organizations raise funds too. The Cincinnati Nature Center, RAPTOR, Gilmore Ponds, Cincinnati Zoo, Northern Kentucky Bird Club and Cincinnati Bird Club organize birdathon teams, collect pledges, and split the funds they raise with Oxbow.

Oxbow will enter several teams of its own in the birdathon competition, and we invite members (and others) to pledge money in support of one of these teams. All funds pledged to these teams go directly to Oxbow. You can make a pledge by filling out and mailing the form below. Pledge for you favorite team, or pledge for Oxbow's highest scoring team.

After Birdathon is over, you'll receive an account of how Oxbow's teams did — where they went and what they saw — as well as a memo of what your pledge comes to.

### Oxbow's Birdathon Teams

Oxbow Team #1 Geriatric Gent's and a Junior (Karl Maslowski will assemble a team of his associates and friends.)

Oxbow Team #2 The Fire and Brimstone Birders Guild (Joe Bens, Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger)

Oxbow Team #3 The No See 'Ums (David Styer, Charlie Saunders and Steve Pelikan)

### BIRDATHON '98 Pledge Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

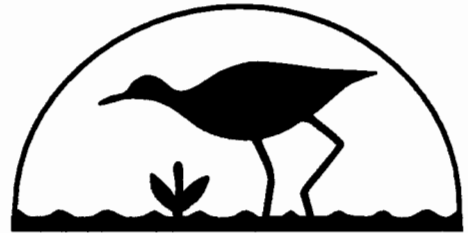
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
PO Box 43391  
Cincinnati, OH 45243



My pledge is per species found:

\_\_\_\$1 \_\_\_50¢ \_\_\_25¢ \_\_\_20¢ \_\_\_10¢ other: \_\_\_\_\_

or for this amount: \_\_\_\_\_

My pledge is for:

\_\_\_Oxbow Team #1 (Geriatric Gents)

\_\_\_Oxbow Team #2 (Fire and Brimstone)

\_\_\_Oxbow Team #3 (No See 'Ums)

\_\_\_Highest Scoring Oxbow Team

## Birdathon Participant Information

Flocks of redwings, grackles, and robins are back, and sparrows are singing more every day. These signs of spring mean that it's time for you to think about Birdathon.

Birdathon '98, Oxbow's annual fundraising competition, will take place 5 p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 8 & 9.

Remember that Birdathon is a great fundraising event, not just for Oxbow Inc. but for all participating organizations. High school and college biology clubs and conservation and natural history organizations of all kinds — not just those that are bird-related — can benefit greatly from Birdathon and have a good time in the meantime.

There are a number of categories in which you can compete. When you register you can select what category you wish to compete in, or you can register as a non-competing participant.

### Teams: 2-6 people

1. Most species, entire Birdathon area
2. Most species in one county of choice within the Birdathon area
3. Most species, traveling by human/animal/solar or non-fossil fuel power. Fossil fuel to point of departure and back permissible, but no birds may be counted at that time.
4. Most species, high-school age and younger. 1-2 older members permitted, but 50% of team must be minors.
5. Most species identified by sight only.

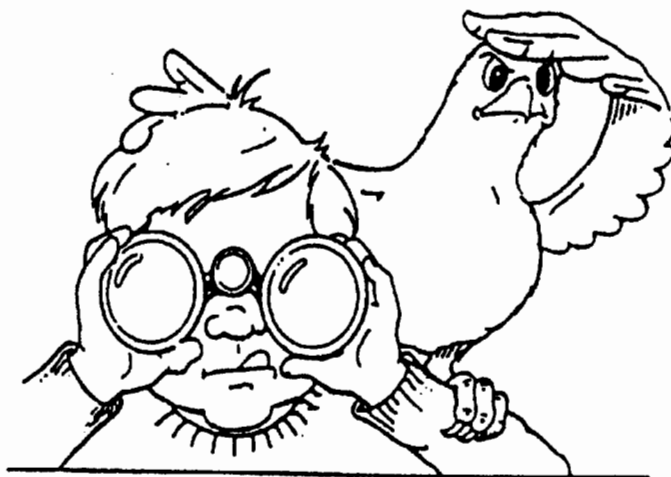
### Individuals

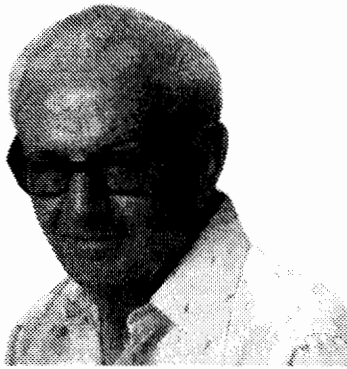
1. Most species, entire Birdathon area
2. Most species in one county of choice within the Birdathon area
3. Most species, traveling by human/animal/solar or non-fossil fuel power. Fossil fuel to point of departure and back permissible, but no birds may be counted at that time.
4. Most species by high school age or younger. Older, non-participating driver permitted.
5. Most species identified by sight only.

### Everyone

6. Most dollars raised per species, open to all, but as individuals. Monies raised as a team via whatever institution sponsors a team do not count. If you wish to compete in this category, personal pledge sheets (please total pledges at the bottom!) must be turned in at beginning of tally. Two trophies: one award given to adults, another to high school aged participants and younger.

If you are interested in Birdathoning this year, either to compete for one of the awards or just to have a good time birding without competing, please call Steve Pelikan or Anita Buck at (513)-681-2574. In mid- to late March we'll send you a packet containing rules, registration information, maps, and pledge forms.





## Art Wiseman

As most Oxbow members have already heard, Art Wiseman died in January after a long illness. A few reminiscences about Art by Oxbow members appear here, but he influenced, taught, and helped so many

people that Art Wiseman stories will be told for many years to come wherever people in the Tristate meet to watch, talk, study or teach about birds or organize to promote conservation and protect endangered habitat.

The course of Art and Jinny's interest in and involvement with birds is a path one hopes any young person's involvement will take: beginner, then expert; later teacher, scientist, and perhaps most important, conservationist.

For Art, it all started with a bird feeder he built and the visit of an unrecognized bird—quickly identified as a Titmouse. Curiosity, backed by mental discipline and a solid scientific/technical background, led to a mastery of bird identification. Upon making trips afield Art and Jinny soon met other birders. One such early encounter was with Ron Austing, in the role of Park Officer, who stopped to investigate an improperly parked car and thus met Art and Jinny who may not have parked where they should, but who *were* studying Eastern Meadowlarks.

Not content to simply watch birds, they became involved with bird rehab, banding, censusing, and bird skinning. These activities lead naturally to opportunities (which Art and Jinny seized) to teach others and interest beginners in the art and science of birding. They also led to scientific publications and long-time association with such organizations as Audubon, the Cincinnati Bird Club, and Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

Art realized that conservation was important and devoted much energy, talent, and time to environmental causes. He served on the boards of RAPTOR and Oxbow.

Official recognitions of Art's many contributions, such as his 1990 election by the Department of Natural Resources to the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame, served as small tokens of the tremendous regard in which he was held by those who knew and worked with him.

I knew Art as a generous person who went out of this way to help me become a better birder. I served on the board of directors of the local Audubon Society chapter with him and saw first hand his dedication to the Audubon principles of protection of the environment. With his leadership also in other environmentally concerned organizations, he was certainly one of the preeminent naturalists of this area. In his final years, I observed how courageously he dealt with his illness, braced by the unstinting, loving care of his wife, Jinny. He was an extraordinary man and will be greatly missed.

—Bill Bocklage

While I was taking a class at the Zoo, the instructor mentioned the wildlife diversity at the Oxbow, near Lawrenceburg. As a lifelong resident of the area I was flabbergasted. Where in the heck was the Oxbow? A few weeks later I read a notice of an Oxbow, Inc. meeting. I was curious what these Cincinnati folks were up to. Besides, I was getting more and more upset with the increasing commercial development in Dearborn County. I enjoyed the meeting and thought what the Oxbowers said made sense. I was glad someone was doing something. As I was about to leave, Art Wiseman introduced himself to me. He said that they were mostly an Ohio group and could use some Indiana people on the "board." He showed me a list of individuals already signed up. I was naïve enough to think that it was an honorary type of thing. I signed up, figured that was it and didn't give it another

thought... until a few weeks later Art called. It was time for my first board meeting and my introduction to birding.

Well, it's thirteen years later and I'm still attending board meetings. Once, on a field trip, I asked Art if he

knew all along of my original belief... that the board position was only honorary... he just smiled. Now, I suppose, I am what is called a birder. I married a birder... we met manning an Oxbow booth. We moved to the country. Bird watching is a major part of our lives. Sometimes when I'm birding I think about the first time I met Art. It's funny how a little thing can make such a big change in one's life. I will be forever grateful...

...thanks, Art.

—Greg Mendell



The early success of Oxbow, Inc. as an environmental organization is attributable to Art Wiseman's ability to convince his many friends and corporate associates that the fate of the Oxbow and its preservation for future generations lay in direct proportion to their involvement and financial support. Their response was at once positive and continues today. With all that Art was, and will be remembered for, add that he was a dedicated salesman whose product was a unique wetland ecosystem called the Oxbow.

—Norma L Flannery  
President, Oxbow, Inc.

### Art Wiseman and the Oxbow

In the mid-sixties Art and Jinny Wiseman used to spend a day a week in the

Oxbow area studying birds near the mouth of the Great Miami River. It was a rich area to immerse oneself in nature and learn about a great diversity of

birds. A couple of their Oxbow area discoveries at the time were the first breeding record of the Tree Swallow, and the first record of a Franklin's Gull in the Greater Cincinnati area.

When the oxbow area was threatened in 1985 with development of barge ports, it was natural that Art and Jinny would be among those ready to step in and help. After several months of meeting as a subcommittee of the

Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club, Oxbow, Inc. became a separate organization. Soon the monthly board meetings were being held at the Wiseman's home, and their address became the address of Oxbow, Inc.

Along with being the first treasurer of Oxbow, Inc., Art was one of the big membership gatherers and fund-raisers for the organization. When Oxbow had its first Birdathon, in 1988, Art was chief organizer and fund-raiser. The decrease in Birdathon funds following Art's decline in health was very noticeable.

The Wisemans are proof that an individual can make a difference. We miss Art, and we hope that the example he set will not be forgotten.

— David Styer

Art Wiseman was a gentleman's gentle man. Always gracious, always helpful. His volunteer activities are legendary. After Art and his wife Virginia retired as registered pharmacists, they devoted their considerable skills and energies to wildlife and conservation efforts. He led field trips, did electrical and carpentry work, taught bird and mammal skinning classes that prepared over a thousand scientific specimens for museums, nature centers and parks, and he still found time for scientific research on cardinals and goldfinches. Art's great dedication to great causes is not likely to be replaced and will absolutely be missed.

— Karl H. Maslowski

My first encounter with Art & Jinny Wiseman was during a presentation they gave for The Young Friends of the Zoo (Cincinnati). These people were different. I was drawn to them because of their undeniable love of birds. They graciously welcomed my interest, accepting me into their "flock." They encouraged me to learn and convinced me that I had something to contribute in the birding community.

Guided by their actions, they lead me away from a money path towards the road of simplicity. This steered me into so many wonderful people, all of whom have continued to give me positive direction. Through them, and Oxbow, Inc., I met my husband. I strive to have a marriage that may only slightly mimic that perfect union between Art & Jinny. I have never known any other couple so dedicated to each other and united in their beliefs & goals.

Art & Jinny Wiseman had extreme patience when they knew that you had the desire to help. They were intelligent enough to realize that good intentions alone don't cut it. Action and involvement were their answer. So many heard their call, and were inspired into taking action. This has resulted in so much good, from so many people.

Our loss of Art is irreplaceable. I cannot begin to fill his shoes. His goals of habitat preservation and study of birds continues on. But we've lost his directness, his ability to motivate people into taking positive action, and being responsible stewards of the earth.

Oxbow, Inc., like many of the organizations that Art & Jinny were devoted to, are in need of people willing to become more involved. Everyone has something valuable to contribute - their time and energy. But the payoff will not be money. The payoff is the privilege of knowing exceptional people like Art & Jinny Wiseman.

— Connie McNamee



It's amazing how interests can grow from one contact. It all started 23 years ago with a bird lying on a sidewalk near the U.C. campus. A very interesting critter, since one of my courses was introducing me to birds of the area. My friend and I dutifully opened our bird books and identified the bird where it lay — but it was too beautiful to leave. After searching some nearby trash bins we found a container to hold the Chestnut-sided Warbler and we were directed to take it to Art Wiseman's.

There a mild interest turned into an obsession. When other friends were buying their first cars, I was investing in my first freezer. With great patience, Art helped us know the birds, literally, inside out. Thursday nights brought together people of many varied backgrounds but all had one common interest — birds — and all were willing to share their knowledge.

Missed is the family atmosphere of those Thursday night bird sessions and Art's positive assurances no matter how hopeless our skills seemed to be at times.



Thursday night sessions ceased some time ago but Art gave me a gift I cannot set aside. With each study skin I produce for educational purposes, I can feel a part of him and the experience of those birding years leading me on. Some people give to others more than can be put in words

by just sharing their talents. Saying thank you is not enough. Although those who come in contact with the study skins that have been produced and those currently being produced may never know Art Wiseman by name, it is hoped they may come to know and appreciate the birds that he so loved. May his spirit live on in all of us who have had the pleasure of sharing time with him and Jinny.

—Velda Miller

## Field Notes Morris Mercer

There won't be any field notes in this newsletter. I want to tell you a few things I remember about our friend Art Wiseman.

On many of my first trips afield in the Cincinnati area — Art Wiseman was there. At Cincinnati Bird Club meetings and trips, at Audubon programs, at bird censuses and Christmas counts — Art was there. Art sure kept us honest about what we had seen! When we came up with birds out of place or around the wrong time of year, he didn't say we were wrong. But I can still hear him say "Are you sure?" By his example and with patience he led us to take that second look, and made us better birders.

It was 1985 when a threat came to the Oxbow area and through the concern of many, Oxbow, Inc. was born. Years of work began, and no one worked harder than Art. But I've only used part of the name here... In the years I've known them, it has always been "Art and Jinny." They took on the jobs of treasurer, corresponding secretary, fund raising, etc. and put in the effort that was needed to make Oxbow succeed. As Oxbow grew, their many jobs became overwhelming and others stepped in to learn from them and to help. But I don't know what would have happened if it hadn't been for Art and Jinny. We owe them so much.

Art has left us and we miss him but we won't ever forget him.



## **Oxbow Memorials**

### **In Memory of**

Tempo Bill  
Joe L. Crawford  
Egon Hasler  
Irma Hasler Moser  
Clarence Hollandsworth  
Snaz O'Shea  
Tibby Stokes  
Art Wiseman  
Art Wiseman  
Art Wiseman  
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Art Wiseman

### **Donor**

Oak Hills Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine D.V.M.  
Joseph J. Staft  
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Oak Hills Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine D.V.M.  
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Bill and Shirley Beier  
Bill and Jeanne Bocklage  
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David, Kathleen and Jason LaDow  
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Oxbow, Inc.  
Louise and Stan Rowe  
Charlie Saunders  
Edward M. Thayer  
Wayne Wauligman, D.D.S.

## **Oxbow Tributes**

### **In Honor of**

Mr. V. Anderson Coombe  
(Merry Christmas)

Norma L. Flannery  
(Happy Holidays)

Normal L. Flannery, President  
and the Board of Trustees  
of Oxbow, Inc. (Thank you)

Barb Guthridge and  
Everett Landen (Wedding)

Paul and Mildred Hellmann  
(50th Anniversary)

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Matthews  
(50th Anniversary)

Oxbow, Inc. (Grant)

Oxbow, Inc. (Grant)

Dr. Aaron Perlman

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Ms. L. Patton Davis

## 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 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 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.

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, Mark Westrich .....(513) 637-2175  
Agent, Dave Styer .....(513) 772-1287

## 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) 926-2522  
Marketing, Connie McNamee .....(812) 926-2522  
Land Management, Dave Styer .....(513) 772-1287  
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery .....(513) 471-8001  
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Newsletter Steve Pelikan .....(513) 681-2574

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Give Us a Call!**

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