



# WETLAND *matters*

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

## HELP WANTED

Volunteers needed to assist Mike Kluesener, who is working on improving Oxbow property. If you can spare a morning, an afternoon, or a full day, give Mike a call at 513-574-1220. He would like to finish before spring planting.

## It's Not Too Late to Pledge Birdathon Support

Three Oxbow teams will be in the field May 7 and 8 for the '99 Birdathon. Team #1, Geriatric Gents and a Junior, consists of Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, and an associate; Team #2, Fire and Brimstone, consists of Paul Wharton, Joe Bens, and Jay Stenger; Team #3, No See 'Ums, consists of David Styer, Charlie Saunders and Steve Pelikan.

To pledge, clip and return this form:

\*\*\*\*\*

### Birdathon Pledge

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Team \_\_\_\_ Amt. per Species Found \_\_\_\_

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Oxbow, Inc. Activities Schedule

### PROGRAMS

**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999, 7:30 P.M.,  
OXBOW MEETING AT THE CINCINNATI  
ZOO EDUCATION BUILDING.** Scott Menze and Jeff Davis have been making a study of the "Toads and Frogs of Ohio." Scott will present our program and tell us about their studies.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1999, 7:30 P.M.,  
OXBOW MEETING AT THE  
LAWRENCEBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Our speaker this evening will be Dr. Gene Kritsky from the Biology Department of the College of Mount Saint Joseph. Gene will present a slide show based on his recent trip to "Darwin's Islands."

### FIELD TRIPS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999, 9:00 a.m.** Meet Steve Wagner at the upper boat ramp parking lot at Shawnee Lookout Park. Lots of birds should be back from their winter in the south. Steve will help you find them. **STEVE WAGNER, 831-7606.**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1999, 6:30 p.m.** Meet Darlene Graham at Gardens Alive! for an evening walk around the Oxbow. "What is so rare as a day in June?" Darlene will help you find some of the wildlife, and it should be a great evening for a walk. **DARLENE GRAHAM, 581-2227.**

# FIELD NOTES

by Morris Mercer

- ◇
- ◇ Spring comes to the Oxbow. We are looking forward to the beauty of spring and all that brings to the Oxbow; the willows will soon be green and blowing in the cool breeze. But before the big change comes about, I'm thinking back over the last few weeks of winter.
- ◇
- ◇ Saturday, 13 March '99, I had agreed to make a field trip into the Oxbow area with a group from Audubon of Indiana. I had been feeling puny, and I wasn't sure I could make the trip. I called Paul Wharton and asked him if he would lead the field trip. Paul was kind enough to help me out. I do want to thank Paul for helping me, and for leading a great field trip.
- ◇
- ◇ Jim Simpson and I caught up with the group from Indiana near Jackpot Pond. There were several ducks on the water, and some in the air. We saw a Marsh Hawk hunting above the field over near Wood Duck Slough. There were several Great Blue Herons in the area. Paul told about seeing so many birds in the snow covered fields near Kilby Road and U.S. 50. There were hundreds of birds. The largest number were Horned Larks, then Lapland Longspurs, and some Snow Buntings. That was really something to see, and I was able to stay close to the car.
- ◇
- ◇ Paul gave the folks from Indiana a fine all-day trip. Their trip took them over near the C.G.&E. power plant where they saw a Black Vulture and the Peregrine Falcons. When Paul arrived home, he gave us a call to tell us he had found another field full of Larks, Longspurs and Buntings. Jim and I had to check that out. So it was down toward the Oxbow again. We turned in and went by the little cemetery on to the underpass of I-275. This was the same field that was flooded back in January, full then of ducks, geese, and gulls.
- ◇
- ◇ The evening was overcast with a cold west wind blowing across the snow-covered fields. The birds were easy to find. Every few minutes a flock of birds would take off into the wind. It looked as if they were leaving the area. Then all the birds seemed to turn in unison and come back into the field near where they had taken off from. The birds seemed to be feeding on weed seeds. It was something to see so many Horned Larks, and there were more Lapland Longspurs than I had seen in my life time, many of them in spring plumage. The snow was gone in a few days, and the birds seemed to melt away with the snow.
- ◇
- ◇ Wednesday, March 17, '99, and it was time for our annual St. Patrick's Day field trip to the Oxbow. I really don't know how many years we have made the trip, but it has been several. Making the trip this year was the same group as last year: Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, Jim Simpson and I (we were Irish for a day). The rules were same as last year. Karl had the box of Lorna Doone cookies but we wouldn't get a cookie until we found the Green-winged Teal.
- ◇
- ◇ This year Jim found us a flock of Green-winged Teal very early. The Teal were in the shallow water and in the mud. It was fun to see some of them run on those little short legs. The light from the morning sun did show off the color on those beautiful birds. There were many other ducks. I enjoy seeing a flock of ducks fly by the water hole, turn sharply, and come in on fixed wings. It seems to take me back to my boyhood days in Illinois. That was a long time ago, but it looks as if I'm stuck with my love for the migrating water fowl. When we got back in the car, Karl opened the box of Lorna Doone cookies, and Jim got the first cookie.
- ◇
- ◇ We saw 14 species of ducks, the three species of Mergansers, the Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted. We saw a Loon in spring plumage, a Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Coots, and Gulls. And I saw my first Meadowlark this season.
- ◇
- ◇ It was getting along toward noon, and everyone was ready to eat. It was fun to talk over the morning we had just shared. Jim was a big help with us old WW II vets. How the years hurry on. I remember when I was in the Pacific, and it seemed the war would never end. We used to dream "The Golden Gate in Forty-Eight," then came the A-Bomb, and we changed to "Back Alive in '45". But you couldn't help but think of all those that would never go home.
- ◇
- ◇ The beauty of Spring is coming to the Oxbow. Hope you get to enjoy the season and the Oxbow.



---

## Oxbow Memorials

In Memory of	Donor
Hydra Becker	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.
Tiger Buckmaster	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.
Jackson L. Clagett III	David and Suzanne Skidmore
Dazer Cottengin	Oak Hills Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.
Neil Macneale	Carolyn R. Shine
Neil Macneale	Jinny Wiseman
Cornelius Mees	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.
Benji Meiners	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.
Dan Riestenberg	Jinny Wiseman
Kit Kat Sykes	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.

## Oxbow Tribute

For	Donor
Don and Irene Diehl, 50th Wedding Anniversary	Jim and Betty Heinold

---

## Ted Turner to Speak in Zoo Conservation Lecture Series

Ted Turner, the well known vice-chairman of Time-Warner Co., the founder of CNN, and owner of the Atlanta Braves, will speak on "Our Common Future" Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the Rockdale Temple, 8501 Ridge Road, Amberley Village. His appearance is part of the 1999 Barrows Conservation Lecture Series sponsored by the Cincinnati Zoo.

An ardent conservationist, who has established the Turner Foundation, a private organization providing grants to conservation groups focusing on population and the environment, will receive the 1999 Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Wildlife Conservation Award.

Tickets may be obtained at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Dept. For information, call (513) 559-7767.

## Muscatatuck to Sponsor Migrating Bird Festival

The Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge will hold its first annual Migratory Bird Festival May 15 and 16.

The festival, which is part of the refuge celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, will have something to interest both veteran and beginning birders and wildlife watchers of all ages.

A feature of the festival will be Saturday and Sunday morning field trips to view wetland birds of the refuge and unusual grassland birds of Jefferson Proving Ground. Saturday afternoon sessions will be held at or near the refuge visitor center and will include wildflower walks, kids' programs, a birds of prey program with live birds, guided refuge tour, and programs on butterflies, Trumpeter Swans, and Copperbelly Watersnakes. Evening programs will include a woodcock watch and an owl hoot.

The refuge will sponsor its first annual bird-a-thon Saturday, May 15, from 5:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

For information about the festival, call (812) 522-4352.

## Healthy Wetlands Can Reduce Mosquito Populations

According to a fact sheet produced by the Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan, a healthy wetland provides habitat for many unique animals including natural enemies of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become a problem, however, in areas that have standing water, yet do not support the beneficial animals that feed on mosquitoes. Most any kind of wet area or standing water makes a good breeding site for mosquitoes: old tires, cans, and other containers that collect rainfall; even hollow logs that hold water, and low spots in the ground where water pools. And because these types of places do *not* provide good homes for those beneficial insects and other kinds of wildlife that feed on mosquitoes, the mosquitoes quickly reproduce out of control.

New Jersey has been controlling mosquitoes "the natural way" by using a technique called Open Water Management. This technique controls mosquito larvae by eliminating areas where water pools and by increasing natural enemies of mosquitoes.

## 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  
Ohio Agent, Dave Styer .....(513) 772-1287  
Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner .....(812) 537-5728

## Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage .....(513) 922-2445  
Easement Inspection,  
Michael Kluesener .....(513) 574-1220  
Richard Pope .....(513) 637-1365  
Fund Raising, Anita Buck .....(513) 681-2574  
Land Management, Dave Styer .....(513) 772-1287  
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery .....(513) 471-8001  
Programs, Morris Mercer .....(513) 941-2534  
Research, Meg Riestenberg .....(513) 921-3986  
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer .....(513) 941-2534  
Newsletter Bill Bocklage .....(513) 922-2445

*Wetland Matters, the newsletter for members of Oxbow, Inc., is published bimonthly.*

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

Printed on Recycled paper by  
Rapid Copy Printing, Cincinnati, Ohio  
513-385-0888

**513-471-8001**



**Need a Speaker?  
Give Us a Call!**

P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

