



WETLAND *matters*

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

Oxbow, Inc. Activities Schedule

Programs

Tuesday, 13 July, 1999, 7:30 p.m. at the Zoo. In July we think of travel and vacation. For our program this evening David and Suzanne Skidmore will share one of their trips, "Circumnavigating South America." Don't miss this program.

Tuesday, 10 August, 1999, 7:30 p.m. at Lawrenceburg Library. Steve Pelikan will present our program this evening. He will show slides and tell us about "Watching Butterflies and Other Bugs."

Field Trips

Tuesday, 20 July, 1999, 6:30 p.m. Meet Dave Styer (772-1287) at Gardens Alive for a nice evening walk around the Oxbow.

Wednesday, 18 August, 1999, 6:30 pm. Meet Connie McNamee and Greg Mendell at Gardens Alive for a summer evening walk around the Oxbow. (812-926-2522)

Trumpeter Swans Fly Back To Home in Ontario

Last December when Ultralight pilot Wayne Bezner Kerr, acting as a surrogate parent, led four young trumpeter swans on an induced migration route from Sudbury, Ontario, to the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in Seymour, Indiana, he made no plans for a return flight. He felt it would be a bonus to the experiment if any of the trumpeters made the return migration on their own.

In late February or early March the birds disappeared from their winter home. In early May Mr. Kerr reported that one of the females flew "right back to where the training pens were." The swan's leg band confirmed it was one of the Muscatatuck Four. He added that there was also a reliable but unconfirmed report that the three other swans were seen near Sudbury.

Mr. Kerr and his wife, Rachel, began their trumpeter project as part of an effort to reintroduce the huge birds to the eastern half of North America where they were hunted to extinction in the nineteenth century.

The female's return proved that historic migration routes could be taught by humans and that the return is "the first evidence" that swans learn routes from terrain over which they fly. The round trip suggests the returning swans might breed and restore the natural migration cycle. *Excerpts courtesy of reporter Ben L. Kaufman and the Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Birdathon Results

The accompanying checklist is a composite, showing all the species reported by all the teams on Birdathon this year. For such an early date, there were many wintering birds that were missed by everyone (Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Sapsucker, many ducks, Juncos) but very few migrants and residents that were missed.

Oxbow's team #2, "The Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild" broke their previous record by finding 163 species — 1 more than they'd previously found. Perhaps more significant is Jon Seymour's achievement: in winning the Greenback Heron Award, Jon raised a phenomenal \$10.10 in pledges per species.

Golden Starling Award (Most birds by team in entire birdathon area)

1. Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild (163) Joe Bens, Jay Stenger, Paul Wharton
2. Close-N-Counters (150) Cincinnati Nature Center Team #1 — Steve Bobonick, Bill Creasey, David Helm, Bob Kemp
3. Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers (130) Erich Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman
4. The Weekend Warblers (126) Cincinnati Zoo — Doug Feist, Dave Jenike, Dan Marsh, Matt Miller
5. Yeah, I got that (126) Raptor Inc. — Jeff Hayes, Brian Steege
6. Cincinnati Nature Center Team #3 (124) — Jon Seymour
7. Bluegrass Buteos (117) Northern Kentucky Bird Club — Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely, Tommy Stephens
8. The Latté daa's (109) Cincinnati Nature Center Team #2 — Linda Franklin, Ann Geise, David Tennant, Dennis Timberlake
9. Uncommon Loons (77) Jerry Carter, Dave Hatfield

Solitary Vireo Award (Most birds in entire area by individual)

1. Sr. Marty Dermody (106)

Greenback Heron Award (most pledges raised by individual)

1. Jon Seymour (\$10.10 per species)

Non competing participants and teams

1. Birds Elude — Us Barb Eckles, John Eckles, Dave Tozier, Vicki Tozier
2. Geriatric Gents and a Junior, Oxbow, Inc. — Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, Robert Schrimper, Jerry Meyer
3. Ned Keller, Kathy McDonald
4. Connie McNamee
5. I thought I saw a starling — Crista, Holly, José, & Pat Daltabuit
6. No See Ums, Oxbow, Inc. — Steve Pelikan, Charlie Saunders, Lauren Saunders, David Styer
7. Two in the Bush — John Leon, Sarah Leon

Thank You

Nothing as big and successful as Birdathon happens without the coordinated efforts of many people. Oxbow thanks the **Hamilton County Park District** for the use of the Winton Centre for the tally and dinner. **Fritz Haas** designed the Birdathon T-shirt that was awarded to all participants. **LaRosa's Pizza** and **Birdathon backer** provided the food and drink for the tally dinner. **Norma Flannery, Anita Buck, and Connie McNamee** organized the check-in and dinner. **Carol Mundy** helped at the dinner and read the bird list at the tally, while **Anita Buck** and **Steve Pelikan** handled the secretarial jobs (registration, fund-raising, pledge collection) and the T-shirt distribution.

Common Loon	✓
Grebe, Pied-billed	✓
Horned	
Double-crested Cormorant	✓
Bittern, American	✓
Least	✓
Great Blue Heron	✓
Egret, Great	
Little Blue Heron	
Cattle Egret	
Green-backed Heron	✓
Night-Heron, Black-crowned	✓
Yellow-crowned	
Swan, Tundra	
Mute	
Goose, Gtr White-fronted	
Snow	
Canada	✓
Wood Duck	✓
Green-winged Teal	✓
American Black Duck	
Mallard	✓
Northern Pintail	
Blue-winged Teal	✓
Northern Shoveller	
Gadwall	✓
American Widgeon	✓
Canvasback	
Redhead	
Ring-necked Duck	✓
Scaup, Greater	✓
Lesser	✓
Oldsquaw	
Scoter, Black	
Surf	✓
White-winged	
Common Goldeneye	
Bufflehead	
Merganser, Hooded	✓
Common	
Red-breasted	✓
Ruddy Duck	✓
Vulture, Black	✓
Turkey	✓
Osprey	✓
Bald Eagle	✓
Northern Harrier	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	✓
Cooper's	✓
Red-shouldered	✓
Hawk, Broad-winged	✓
Red-tailed	✓
Rough-legged	
American Kestrel	✓
Peregrine Falcon	✓
Ring-necked Pheasant	
Ruffed Grouse	
Wild Turkey	
Northern Bobwhite	✓
Virginia Rail	✓
Sora	✓
Common Moorhen	✓
American Coot	✓
Sandhill Crane	
Plover, Black-bellied	✓
Lesser Golden	
Semipalmated	✓
Killdeer	✓
American Avocet	

Yellowlegs, Greater	✓
Lesser	✓
Solitary Sandpiper	✓
Willet	
Sandpiper, Spotted	✓
Upland	
Ruddy Turnstone	
Sanderling	
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	✓
Western	
Least	✓
White-rumped	✓
Baird's	
Pectoral	✓
Dunlin	✓
Sandpiper, Stilt	
Buff-breasted	
Dowitcher, Short-billed	✓
Long-billed	
Common Snipe	✓
American Woodcock	✓
Phalarope, Wilson's	
Gull, Bonaparte's	✓
Ring-billed	✓
Herring	✓
Tern, Caspian	✓
Common	
Forster's	
Black	
Dove, Rock	✓
Mourning	✓
Cuckoo, Black-billed	✓
Yellow-billed	✓
Owl, Barn	
Eastern Screech	✓
Great Horned	✓
Barred	✓
Long-eared	
Short-eared	
Northern Saw-whet	
Common Nighthawk	✓
Chuck-will's-widow	✓
Whip-poor-will	✓
Chimney Swift	✓
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	✓
Belted Kingfisher	✓
Woodpecker, Red-headed	
Red-bellied	✓
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
Woodpecker, Downy	✓
Hairy	✓
Northern Flicker	✓
Pileated Woodpecker	✓
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Eastern Wood-pewee	✓
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied	✓
Acadian	✓
Alder	
Willow	✓
Least	✓
Eastern Phoebe	✓
Great-crested Flycatcher	✓
Eastern Kingbird	✓
Horned Lark	✓
Purple Martin	✓
Swallow, Tree	✓
Northern Rough-winged	✓
Bank	✓
Cliff	✓

Barn Swallow	✓
Blue Jay	✓
American Crow	✓
Carolina Chickadee	✓
Tufted Titmouse	✓
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	
White-breasted	✓
Brown Creeper	
Wren, Carolina	✓
House	✓
Winter	
Marsh	✓
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	
Ruby-crowned	✓
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	✓
Eastern Bluebird	✓
Veery	✓
Thrush, Gray-cheeked	✓
Swainson's	✓
Hermit	
Wood Thrush	✓
American Robin	✓
Gray Catbird	✓
Mockingbird	✓
Brown Thrasher	✓
American Pipit	✓
Cedar Waxwing	✓
Loggerhead Shrike	
European Starling	✓
Vireo, White-eyed	✓
Bell's	
Solitary	✓
Yellow-throated	✓
Warbling	✓
Philadelphia	✓
Red-eyed	✓
Warbler, Blue-winged	✓
Golden-winged	✓
Tennessee	✓
Orange-crowned	
Nashville	✓
Northern Parula	✓
Warbler, Yellow	✓
Chestnut-sided	✓
Magnolia	✓
Cape May	✓
Black-throated Blue	✓
Yellow-rumped	✓
Black-throated Green	✓
Blackburnian	✓
Yellow-throated	✓
Pine	✓
Prairie	✓
Palm	✓
Bay-breasted	✓
Blackpoll	✓
Cerulean	✓
Black-and-white	✓
American Redstart	✓
Warbler, Prothonotary	✓
Worm-eating	✓
Ovenbird	✓
Waterthrush, Northern	✓
Louisiana	✓
Warbler, Kentucky	✓
Connecticut	
Mourning	✓
Common Yellowthroat	✓
Hooded Warbler	✓

Warbler, Wilson's	✓
Canada	✓
Yellow-breasted Chat	✓
Tanager, Summer	✓
Scarlet	✓
Northern Cardinal	✓
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	✓
Blue	✓
Indigo Bunting	✓
Dickcissel	✓
Rufous-sided Towhee	✓
Sparrow, American Tree	
Chipping	✓
Field	✓
Vesper	✓
Lark	
Savannah	✓
Sparrow, Grasshopper	✓
Henslow's	✓
Fox	
Song	✓
Sparrow, Lincoln's	✓
Swamp	✓
White-throated	✓
White-crowned	✓
Dark-eyed Junco	
Longspur, Lapland	
Snow Bunting	
Bobolink	✓
Red-winged Blackbird	✓
Meadowlark, Eastern	✓
Blackbird, Rusty	✓
Common Grackle	✓
Brown-headed Cowbird	✓
Oriole, Orchard	✓
Northern	✓
Finch, Purple	
House	✓
Pine Siskin	
American Goldfinch	✓
Evening Grosbeak	
House Sparrow	✓

Black-necked Stilt
Cattle Egret
Ruffed Grouse
San diego King
Barn Owl
Surf Scoter

185 species

FIELD NOTES

by MORRIS MERCER

I picked May 30 to write my field notes last year and here I am again writing on Memorial Day 1999. I can't help but think of my brother and so many of our boyhood friends that didn't make it through World War II. It's difficult to believe they would be old men if they could have lived. They have missed having a family, grandchildren, and so many beautiful springs. But in my memories they will be forever young.

What a beautiful spring this has been, and I've enjoyed it so much. It has been so nice around the mouth of the great Miami River, Shawnee Lookout, and the Oxbow area. I've always enjoyed the wildlife here in the Oxbow area. But it seems I've enjoyed it even more than usual this year.

The redbud and the dogwood trees were extra pretty. The small blooms on the paw-paw and the candle-like blooms on the Buckeye trees were so nice too. It's at this time of year we can see how many locust trees are in the area. Some of the wooded hillsides seemed snow-covered, but it was the white blossoms of the locust. On one of the cool spring evenings, I really appreciated the locust as a fragrant breeze came to me from across the blossoms of the locust trees.

Jim Simpson and I have enjoyed spring around the Oxbow. One evening we stopped at the Oxbow as a pair of prothonotary warblers worked in the trees near the water. It was nice to hear the clear, crisp call of the prothonotary. A willow flycatcher sang from the top of a willow. The great and the snowy egrets were so white in the green willows.

Over at Shawnee we saw the beautiful summer tanager and listened to his song for some time. But more musical was the evening song of the wood thrush. The robin joined in the evening serenade as twilight came to the woods. I still enjoy seeing the deer as it fades into the darkness of the woods.

A couple of weeks ago we saw several cliff swallows gathering mud. Yesterday we stopped near Lost Bridge. Jim said he counted more than a hundred gourd-shaped mud nests under the bridge. The cliff swallows have set up house keeping under Lost Bridge above the Great Miami River. That morning was nice, and a cool breeze carried the fragrance of the sweet honey suckle.

I do have so many memories of this time of year. One morning I walked back in along Wood Duck Slough. The still water was covered with the blossoms from the cottonwood trees. A mother wood duck was leading her brood silently across the still water to some heavier cover. It was so nice to be a part of that scene.

I made a trip the other day and found out I can get in trouble just talking about the Oxbow. I can't remember how many years ago it started, but near the end of the school year I've been going to the Loveland-Miami Elementary school. I talk to Ms. Jean Durban's class about the Oxbow. The pupils save aluminum cans and give some of the money to Oxbow, Inc.

This year I took some of the videos I've taken around the Oxbow to share with them. When I walked into the classroom and looked around at all of those shining faces, I thought again of spring.

I wanted to tell them how the Oxbow area is a stopover for some of the migrating waterfowl. To start talking about migration, I asked how many of them had seen the movie, Fly Away Home? As far as I could see every hand went up. I knew then we were on the same page.

We saw the video and had a question time. I had enjoyed being with the class very much, and I got up to go home. I was fine, but the room was making circles around me. I thought it best to sit down before I ended up flat on the floor.

Seemingly from nowhere the school nurse was holding a cool, damp cloth on my forehead. I looked up to see the life squad. I told them I was fine, but the nurse said she thought I should go along for a check-up. I knew she was right, and I was soon on my way to the hospital.

I've always known I can get carried away talking about Oxbow, but this was the first time I've been physically carried away. I did check out OK, and Frances came and bailed me out. Soon I was on my way home. I do want to thank everyone at Loveland-Miami Elementary for being so kind to me. Also the folks in the ER at Bethesda North.

I'm not anxious to see spring come to an end, but summer is coming to the Oxbow. I hope to enjoy some of those beautiful summer evenings in the area. Wherever we spend the summer, we should take time to smell the roses.



Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan Benefits Oxbow, Inc.

The Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan, a project of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, has set up a number of programs to achieve progress in wetlands conservation. One of these programs provides assistance and information to conservation organizations such as Oxbow, Inc.

Last year a Pilot Focus Area was set up to develop a "model" for implementing comprehensive measures through local partnerships. Several dozen focus areas (local area consortiums of people and organizations interested in wetland conservation such as Oxbow, Inc.,) were nominated to be the IWCP Pilot Focus Area. Ten of the areas were finalists for consideration, and Oxbow, Inc., was one of the finalists. However, the award went to *Friends of the Limberlost*.

The Limberlost coordinator and team have taken dozens of actions to pursue wetland conservation at the local level, some of which include physical wetland restoration work, outreach to local landowners, meeting with school groups (elementary through college), communication with media about wetland functions and values, preparation of a study guide for teachers, development of interpretive and educational materials, coordination of a local recycling program, assistance for an aquatic insect and other scientific studies, and application for grants to fund additional conservation work. Oxbow, Inc., of course, is already engaged in many such activities.

IWCP facilitators are working with the Limberlost coordinator and team to develop a Focus Area Sourcebook and Directory, a sort of "cookbook" for other area groups to follow. It is expected that the Sourcebook will be made available soon. Additional information will continue to be sent to all focus areas as it becomes available.

Oxbow Memorials

In Memory of	Donor
Wheel Bross	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine D.V.M.
Wellington Bryant	Oak Crest Animal Hospital, Cheryl Devine D.V.M.
Julie Godsey	Norma L. Flannery

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., PO Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgement.

Hunting on Oxbow Property

Oxbow, Inc., has received numerous calls requesting authorization to hunt its property east of I-275. Some requests have come from Ohio and Kentucky members. If you are current in membership dues, have signed a memorandum of understanding, and hold a valid hunting license, you will receive authorization. However, the hunting area is in Indiana, requiring out of state hunters to also hold an Indiana license.

Guess What We Don't Do!

Are you suffering from Telemarketing Irritation, the disease that strikes most often during dinner hours?

Well, rest assured, your telephone intruder did not get your name and number from us. It is the policy of Oxbow, Inc., not to disclose the membership list to anyone for any reason. We have always adhered to that policy.

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.**
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 Give Us a Call!

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