



May — June 2011

No. 149

# WETLAND *matters*

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

*Have you visited our website?...[www.oxbowinc.info](http://www.oxbowinc.info)*

**Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835**

## **BARGE PORT.....AGAIN!** *(by Jon Seymour)*

The Oxbow Area is under another threat of development. In 1985 the Save the Oxbow Society organized a letter writing campaign to stop a plan for a Barge Port in the Oxbow put forth by the State of Ohio. In 1995 we held fast to the lands we purchased and negotiated a deal with Hollywood Casino (then Argosy) to minimize impact of the new casino on the Oxbow. Now in 2011, there are plans being made to build another Barge Port, but this time through the auspices of the State of Indiana.

Again it seems we will have to protect and defend the Oxbow floodplain. But we do not protect and defend simply because we own land in the floodplain and the Barge Port project could potentially destroy all that we have worked for in the last 26 years. There are many other important reasons to protect and defend the floodplain:

- Protecting the unique ecosystem surrounding Oxbow Lake where the conditions of the land and water yield a hyper eutrophic ecosystem of abundant food supporting glass shrimp, mussels, water plants, and diatoms (some possibly unique to Oxbow Lake) as the base of the life chain for the fish, mammals and birds that live and spend time in the floodplain.
- Defending the purity of the drinking water for the cities of Lawrenceburg and Greendale.
- Protecting towns, such as Aurora, downstream from the Oxbow, from higher flooding peaks.
- Defending a 6000 year old way of life of man farming and living in harmony with the floodplain, and a 200,000 year old migration path for thousands of ducks, passerines and raptors.

What are we up against? Mostly the perception of dollars.

A barge port would undoubtedly bring a few jobs to the area, but at what expense? The port would destroy the rural nature of the entrance to the Lawrenceburg area (and to the State of Indiana for I-275 travelers) giving it the appearance of an industrial complex. It would require road and railway construction in the floodplain and extreme elevation of the floodplain. Some initial costs would likely be paid by interested companies but they would also get large tax breaks for building and providing the money to build, hence there would be no real benefit to the State or the local taxpayer. The roads would require maintenance and the utilities would have to cross the floodplain and have to be maintained. These maintenance costs would be borne by the local taxpayer. Several years down the road these cost would likely accumulate to a cost greater to the local tax payer than the taxes paid to the State and local governments from the entire operation.

We know from personal experience in our existing cities that the cost of maintaining the burgeoning infrastructure of roads and utilities is not trivial and draws a tremendous tax from the community. If building a brand new industry solved our economic problems, then we should not have any current problems at all due to the number of factories and jobs already located in the community for many years. It is also probable that the bulk of the taxes will go to the State with a low probability that they will be returned to the local community. The community benefit comes down to local purchases. Once the major purchases are made (such as housing) the rest of the day-to-day purchases by the few workers who would buy their daily goods in the area does not amount to any advantage and is certainly not worth the risk involved. Hence, there is no real benefit to the community over time. In the meantime all the other risks encountered could lead to even greater costs of contaminated breathing air, contaminated drinking water, and downstream flood damage could greatly extend the burden on the local tax payer. We are not against having a barge port along the Ohio River but it should be done on land already under use for industrial purposes and not destroy ecologically valuable land that is a unique and irreplaceable part of the natural heritage of the area. It should definitely not be built in an area whose ecological health is of such importance to the humans and animals that live in it and near it.

### **Pledge and Participate in BIRDATHON 2011**

We need you to pledge and/or participate in Birdathon 2011! Birdathon is fun and supports important activities at Oxbow, Inc. To support one of Oxbow's teams with your pledge, fill in the pledge form on page 11 and mail it to the listed address. To participate, fill out the Participation Form on page 9. Help us improve access and habitat in the oxbow floodplain.

# Conservation Corner

.....by Jon Seymour

## Green Umbrella Expanding Role and Function

Green Umbrella was formed out of the Hamilton County Environment Priorities Project of the mid 1990's. Its original intent was to serve as a unifying structure for assembling groups protecting green space in the Cincinnati area and provide them with a "umbrella" structure under which they could cooperate and take advantage of the synergy of size.

Over the years the function of Green Umbrella has ebbed and waned, most recently consisting of providing collaborative services for the Greater Cincinnati organizations interested in protecting and preserving nature. Therefore, it was ready when the most recent opportunity presented itself.

In other municipalities around the U.S. there has been a movement to bring together groups interested in "green" issues coming from a variety of interests. The effort shows the value of linking healthy food production, human health, recycling, preservation of green space, water and air protection, protection of wild areas, protecting wildlife and plants, no waste industrial production, reduced energy consumption, renewable energy production, protection of viewscapes, smart growth, mass transportation, and similar causes under one banner of "sustainability" or my preference, "livability". Any community that can do all these things properly and in balance will become the most desirable place to live and raise children.

We are moving into a future where the need to find answers to the problems represented by the above causes will not just be "nice" but necessary for survival. We are coming full circle from the original Native American concept of living on the land without leaving your footprint, to how can millions live on the land while leaving the lightest footprint possible. We must find the answer and it must be found within the next 25-50 years. Many of us, myself included, won't be here to see it as a reality but I know that we all must work toward achieving the goal.

Recently a meeting at the Zoo hosted over a hundred individuals, representing nearly as many organizations, all committed to the need for some

manner of sustainable living to make Greater Cincinnati the "greenest community" in the United States. Green Umbrella is in the process of mutating again to start to fill the need to coordinate these varied but similarly goaled activities. Grants have been written for staffing and a multitude of supporters from industry to green agriculture are anxious to make this goal a reality. Time will tell if we have the long-term moxy to actually carry out this project but it is one that we must succeed at.

## Oxbow's Wish List 2011

*We need some volunteers to continue the spirit of Christmas into the summer. In the past Santa has filled several of our wishes so we must have been on the good list. We hope that if members know about items and talents that we need, they might realize ways they might be able to help, and may want to play the part of Santa.*

- We need a volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories, on the efforts of other volunteers, for publication in the Wetland Matters.
- We need a volunteer to write the specifications and applications to present to the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources to obtain permission to impound 14 acres of flood water during the winter. There is guidance on the internet for how to fill out the documents. Members of the Board would be available as resources to the volunteer.
- We need a volunteer coordinator to make phone calls and send email messages to the many volunteers who participate in our activities through the course on the year.
- We need someone to donate the year round use of a dumpster in the Oxbow area so that we can take the trash we have on a daily basis there for dumping. (We will still ask Rumpke to donate a dumpster on site for large projects.)
- We need someone to build an invasive plant control program for the Oxbow.

If you can help with any of these needs or think you know someone who can, please call Jon Seymour at **513-851-9835**.

### Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS

*To get to the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 south from the #16 exit off I-275. Pass the Hollywood Casino exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stoplight at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building.)*

**Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 7:30 pm**  
**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**  
**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Waterfowl decoys seem to be exclusively North American in origin. Searches worldwide have failed to find them elsewhere. In 1924, a prehistoric limestone cave was excavated in Northern Nevada which uncovered a bundle of eleven Canvasback Duck decoys made of tule reeds which have been carbon dated at over 2,000 years old. Our speaker, Bob Furia is a waterfowler and decoy carver who has hunted the river corridor below the Oxbow with his handmade decoys for some 30 years. His presentation will touch on the history of the decoy, give a glimpse of how a working decoy is created, and provide a display of some of the gunning decoys he makes and uses on the Ohio River.

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 7:30 pm**  
**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**  
**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Pears on the Loose in our Wetlands: Why, Their Effects, and How to Stop Them  
 The Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), a popular ornamental tree from China commonly known as the Bradford and Cleveland Select, is rapidly invading wetland sites in the Midwest. Dr. Theresa Culley, biology professor at the University of Cincinnati, will discuss reasons why this is happening, their effect on natural ecosystems, and how you can help stop their continued spread.

### Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS

*To reach the upper Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to the end of the road, then left. The lot is on your right.*

#### **May 2011**

There will be no "formal" May Oxbow field trip. However the Board of Oxbow Inc. encourages everyone to participate in the **annual Oxbow Birdathon on May 6th & 7th**. Look for details elsewhere in *Wetland Matters*.

**Friday, June 17, 2011 6:30 PM**

**Meet:** In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main  
 entrance just beyond the cement plant

**Leader:** Steve Pelikan, (513) 681-2574, [steve.pelikan@uc.edu](mailto:steve.pelikan@uc.edu)

The emphasis on this unique field trip to the Oxbow will be insects. Join all around naturalist Steve Pelikan for a pleasant evening stroll in the Oxbow as we look for a variety of insects including beetles, bugs, flies, dragonflies and butterflies among many others. Steve, who is a long time Oxbow Inc. board member, has an intimate knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Oxbow. Steve is also a skilled birder and will be sure to keep his eyes and ears peeled for the abundant avifauna here as well. Come out and enjoy what should be a pleasant summer evening and to hear Steve give us his perspective on the interrelationships of insects birds and plants in the Oxbow. The trip should last until dusk. This is one trip where insect repellent is probably not recommended! If you have any questions feel free to contact Steve.

# Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Thursday, March 31, 2011

by Jon Seymour

I am waiting in the office for Dr. Marie McLean of Thomas More College and her animal behavior class. This is a psychology class as well as a biology class in the Thomas More curriculum. I talked to this class last year and it was fun to talk about the natural behaviors of animals in the wild and to maybe start a few thought about why animals do what they do. During the time with these students I know I will focus mostly on adaptive behaviors and not on social behaviors. This is because we will see more adaptive behaviors in our short period together than we will see of social behaviors.

My interest in this is rather personal. My graduate minor was Zoology and specifically focused on animal behavior. One of my professors at the University of Wisconsin was John Emlen. His best known student was George Schaller of Mountain Gorilla and Serengeti fame and the man who popularized behavioral field studies which are required for a complete understanding of animal behavior these days. Prior to Schaller, most animal behaviors were studied in laboratories or zoos and not in their wild natural state. His worked paved the way for others like Fossey and Goodall. Schaller preceded me at Wisconsin by about 15 years so he was already famous by the time I was listening to Emlen describe bird behavior while the class was gathered in his living room (boy am I dating myself here). So here I am getting ready to take a class out in the Oxbow to talk about observed behaviors. This is just plain fun for me.

Dr. McLean arrives on time with her class of about 13 (they seem to get younger every year or could it be I am getting older) and I spend about one-half hour lecturing on what Oxbow, Inc. is, what it does, and why it exists at all. The class is on a tight time schedule so I have to keep one eye on the clock. With a few last minute trips to the restroom we head for the Oxbow. The river is at 38 feet so the Oxbow Lake road is cut in two at the low spot near the Oxbow Lake overlook. I decide the most productive tour would be to start at the Hardintown entrance.

A brief stop at the entrance allows me to talk about the geology of the area and our designation as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Audubon

Society. As we move past Juno Pond a Double-crested Cormorant decides we are too close and in too great a number as the cars roll by. It starts its' takeoff run which carries it across the Pond leaving a splash trail of cormorant footprints. After about 100 feet of splashing, air speed is achieved, and the bird is finally in flight. We reach the prairie surrounding Osprey Lake and I stop my car. The class pulls their cars in alongside me. I show them a cormorant on the water through the scope and talk about the behavioral adaptations the Double-crested Cormorant has had to make to keep up a cormorant life style. An Osprey sits on a distant tree and we talk about what it is doing there and then about how Osprey's hunt for their food and the behavioral adaptations the species has made to carve out a niche for survival.

I stress the behavior of selection of an area that an animal species will thrive in. Each individual species is looking at the available landscape for suitable habitat. The criteria are food, shelter (safety), and a place to raise young. The habitat that satisfies is selected differently by each species. We are only beginning to learn how an individual of a species makes these selections and what good and poor choices mean to the success of the individual bird.

I talk about edges of habitats (places where one habitat type meets another) as being the most important for biological diversity. The variety of plants at the edge of the habitats usually provide the most opportunities for individuals of a species to find an area that satisfies their search for the three criteria: food, shelter, a place to raise their young.

These, of course, are all behaviors based on adaptation to an environment. The behaviors that are the most difficult to discover are the social and that takes painstaking observation. We do not have time for that today but as we stand there an adult Bald Eagle drifts over us while a juvenile Bald Eagle rises up to meet the adult. They circle for a moment and then circle higher and begin to slide away to the north. The class is thrilled as many have never seen a Bald Eagle in the wild before. I cannot tell them why the adult and immature are circling together during the breeding season. I do not know this behavior. It will have to be something they discover for themselves someday.

### Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

#### Donor

Allan and Anita Beach  
William Gerhardt, M.D.  
Ed & Judy Krautter  
Bill and Do Kuhlman  
Ed & Anita Marks  
Greg Mendell & Connie McNamee  
Alan & Tamar Oestreich  
Stuart & Karen Zanger

#### In Memory of

Aaron Perlman  
Aaron Perlman  
Vic Johansen  
Norma Flannery  
Aaron Perlman  
Aaron Perlman  
Aaron Perlman  
Aaron Perlman

#### Donor

Lisa and Josh Reed

#### In Honor of

Lynn Huff

### Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.

Ed & Judy Krautter  
Walter & Susan McBeath  
Polly Bassett

*Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or relative 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.*

*Tributes are also enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Some tributes are birthday or anniversary remembrances, holiday greetings or gratitude acknowledgements. If so desired, "Happy Birthday!" or the like can be inscribed in the tribute notice.*

*Contributions should be sent to: Oxbow, Inc., P. O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.*

### Director Aaron Perlman, age 96, Passes On

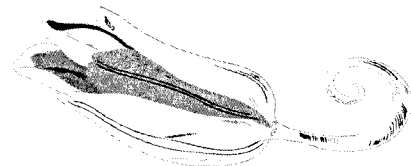
.....by Jon Seymour

Oxbow, Inc. lost a great friend and guide when Director Dr. Aaron Perlman died recently. Dr. Perlman was known worldwide for his years of dedicated work in the children's health community. Cincinnati has recognized him by naming The Perlman Center at Children's Hospital in his honor of his lifelong career in pediatric orthopedics. He taught at the University of Cincinnati until he retired in 1990 at age 75. Right up to the end Aaron went on weekly rounds at the Hospital, such was his dedication to children and learning. With all this honor and prestige he was one of the kindest and most unassuming gentlemen I have ever met.

Less is known by the general public about Aaron's love of nature and his tireless work in support of saving natural places in Ohio and the Cincinnati area. He served as a Director of Oxbow, Inc since the early 1990's and was one of the clear thinkers that helped guide the organization through its early years. Since becoming President of Oxbow, Inc. I knew I could count on Aaron to provide wisdom and guidance with a practiced knack of summing up a situation into its basic principles and options. I valued his advice and counsel.

My most precious memory of Aaron was at the dedication of the sign on Flannery Island commemorating the gift of the east end of the island to Oxbow from the then Cinergy Corporation. The gift was made in memorial to Past President Norma Flannery. Aaron wanted to go along and at age 90, with a little help from the rest of us, scabbled down a steep bank to get in a small boat provided by Cinergy for the trip to the island and managed to climb out of the boat on the shore of the island and do it all over again to get back home. But in watching him do this, and seeing his enthusiasm for being there, you could tell he was the youngest kid on the island. It was a joy to watch him enjoy the adventure.

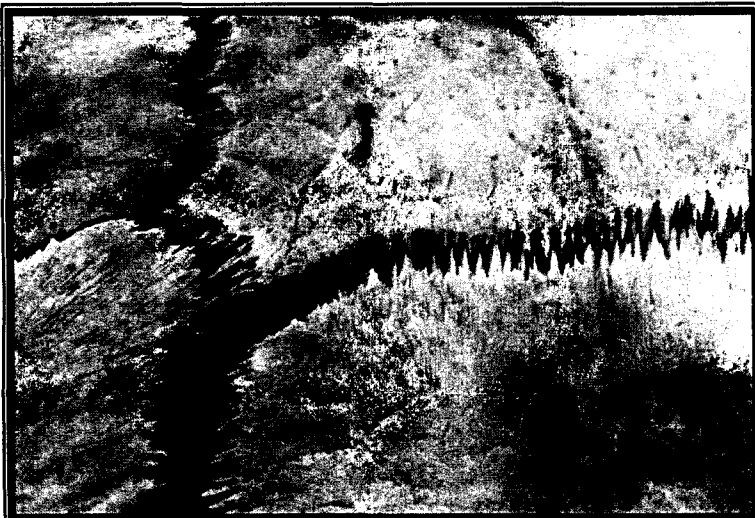
We will miss Aaron, but we are happy in knowing that he was one of those rare individuals for whom there is no doubt that the world was a better place because of his passing through it.





6

Lana Hays captured this photo of a Prothonotary Warbler. The Prothonotary Warbler is a sure sign that spring has returned to the Oxbow and that a new breeding season has begun.



Photographer Tom Uhlman has provided another mystery photo. If you think you know what this photo is send your answer to Oxbow, Inc., c/o Jon Seymour, P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. The winner will be drawn at random from the names of those submitting correct answers. This is always fun so I am looking for a lot of entries. The winner will receive a print of one of our special Oxbow photos.



While adult Bald Eagles are nesting again on the Whitewater there are multiple sightings of immature Bald Eagles such as this bird (photo by Rehikaat Meetei) in the Oxbow area. Maybe this will be a year that we find a second nest in the area.



Oxbow Board member, Dr. Aaron Perlman (center), stands with Board member, John Klein (left) and Board President, Jon Seymour, in this 2005 photo of the Dedication of Flannery Island. Dr. Perlman passed away earlier this year after serving many years as a member of the Board of Directors. (Photo by Chandra Mattingly)



A Little Gull showed up in the Oxbow during March and was seen for about a week by in the flooded fields off of Lawrenceburg Road near Lost Bridge by several observers. Mixed in with Bonaparte's Gull that made it both hard to find and easier to identify. The Little Gull is on the left while the Bonaparte's Gull is on the right. This was the second record of a Little Gull in the Oxbow floodplain. There have been only about a half dozen other Little Gull sightings recorded of this rare visitor in the Greater Cincinnati area. (photo by Allan Claybon)

It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you *do* want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!

~Mark Twain

### Fernald

.....by Kaniaulono Meyer

Just the word conjures up negative thoughts of secrecy, intrigue and danger. At our March meeting, Sue Walpole, community relations manager for the site, presented the history of the Feed Materials Processing Center, which we commonly now call Fernald. The Cold War spurred the United States to establish several centers around the country for the production of high-purity uranium for nuclear weapons. Over 1,000 acres near the town of Fernald were taken by eminent domain and a core area of buildings erected. Production occurred from 1951 – 1989 and over 3,000 people were employed there at the height of production. In 1992 the area became the first Superfund site and billions were spent on the cleanup. Some of the radioactive materials were sent elsewhere in the United States but all the buildings were demolished, cut apart and buried in a single large mound onsite. The government continues to monitor and remediate groundwater onsite but the entire site has been transformed into a wildlife area, replanted to forests and prairies with numerous “potholes” that in actuality were once the cellars of buildings. A new LEED Platinum Visitor’s Center orients visitors to the history of the site and numerous trails wind through the area. What was once a blight on the land has become an area rich in wildlife habitat and a superb community asset.

**Moving your nest?**  
**Make sure WETLAND MATTERS goes with you!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Address:**  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address:**  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:                   Oxbow Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 4172**  
**Lawrenceburg, IN 47025**

**Please mail right away - Wetland Matters is third class mail and is not forwarded!**

**Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2011**

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2011 to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
 C/o John Getzendanner  
 21007 Crestview Ct.  
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed below. Cut out the memorandum (on page 11).

Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelop to John. Once accepted you will receive a permission slip to hunt on Oxbow land designated for hunting, east of I-275. Members must have dues paid current to the time of application. Any violation of the memorandum of understanding will result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges.

**Member Communications Committee:**  
 Jennifer Borneman  
 Joanne Earls  
 Lynda Mason  
 Velda Miller  
 Pat Shanklin  
 Suzanne Skidmore  
 Barb Varland  
 Jim Wilgenbusch

**Oxbow is on Facebook!!!**

Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (or use Google to find Facebook) and search for "Friends of Oxbow" (we come up as the first in the list) and become a Friend to keep current with Oxbow current happenings

### Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers as possible participate in the Birdathon. While there is a basic competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during 24 hours, there are many ways to compete besides most species for the total Birdathon area. To get your mind working, here are some possible categories of competition:

- if not the entire Birdathon area then a portion-
- Most Species seen: in one state, in one county or a river watershed  
-maybe it is a small area-
- Most Species In One Location: like the Oxbow, back yard, or a big sit  
-maybe the type of team-
- Most Species seen: by a family, a group under the age of 20, a school class  
-maybe it can be a special category-
- Most money raised: by a team, an individual, a class  
-or-
- Most birds seen without using fossil fuel, while building a deck, taking the kids for a hike  
-or-
- Most birds photographed

You can even make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will probably accept it.

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. **The way to do it is to have fun birding! Then celebrate all the fun at the Grand Tally Party**

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, please complete the form below. If you have any questions, **you can call Jay Stenger @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835.** We like to know how many are going to be participating on the Birdathon so that we can get the Pizza order right for the Grand Tally Party at the finish of the Birdathon.

**I want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon.  
(Birdathon 2011 Registration Form)**

Organization Represented (IF Any) \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Team Members (or single individual) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

Include a check made out to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. covering the team fee with this application. The team fee is used to cover the cost of the tally party.

**Oxbow, Inc  
9761 Winton Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45231**



**usings**

by Dave Styer

### The Little Gull

The Little Gull that Frank Frick found on March 24<sup>th</sup> is a fine example of one of the things that makes the Oxbow area special. When the Ohio River rises to 56 feet in Cincinnati, as it just had (Jon Seymour), the Oxbow area presents a vast floodplain all under water. This usually happens during water-bird migration and many water-birds take advantage of it. On the one hand, there is so much water that it is really difficult to get close enough to see many of the birds. On the other hand, this isolation provides a greater level of protection from disturbance than can be found in most of the Three-State-Region. As the flood subsides, the river life, such as fish, becomes trapped. The fish become more concentrated and more available. Under these conditions, the Oxbow area becomes a great magnet for gulls. The two Oxbow area Little Gull records occurred under these conditions. On March 29, 1978 Worth Randle and David Russell went to check on an Iceland Gull that I had seen three days earlier. They found the Iceland Gull, and a Little Gull, too. That was before the age of instant photography. Now you can go to [www.flickr.com/photos/nsxbirder/5559849454/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nsxbirder/5559849454/) and see the fine pictures taken by Allan Claybon on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

I likely initially learned of the Little Gull in the second edition of Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Here was a bird sufficiently rare that Peterson had Ludlow Griscom write its account. The first sentence in this account is that it is "a rare straggler from Europe." Under 'range' Griscom gives a more complete account "European. An occasional straggler: in recent years of regular occurrence at favored spots on the coast of New England, Long Island, and the Great Lakes." I had the impression that the Little Gull was common enough in Europe, but since it was just a straggler in North America, I would never see one. I may have been wrong on all accounts. However, I've never seen a Little Gull in the Oxbow area. Although Cornell's web site *All about Birds* states that "the Little Gull is common across Eurasia," *The British Ornithologists' Guide to Bird Life*

states that the Little Gull is "scarce, but regularly seen, year-round." In 1962 Little Gulls were found nesting on Lake Ontario, a first North American nesting record. Ewins and Weseloh's article on the Little Gull in *The Birds of North America* mentions the mystery of this bird in North America: "Some think that the species has always occurred here, albeit in small numbers."

The Little Gull sighting is a reminder of how special the Oxbow area is, as a place where we can often feel the dynamic nature of bird migration. I am reminded of Wordsworth's Ode remembering early childhood, and how as we grow up, we famously lose sight "of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower." Yet, at the Oxbow we often feel this special joy of nature around us. No wonder De Vere Burt has called the river edge near Flannery Island a "cathedral." I believe that there are a few people who never do lose this childhood vision. If Morris Mercer were here he would still glory in the abundance of nature whenever he was at the Oxbow.

#### Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River

May 14, 2011

9am - noon

Meet at the Entrance Parking Lot

#### Ohio River Clean Sweep

June 18, 2011

9am - noon

Meet at the Entrance Parking Lot

**If you have a truck and can participate in either or both of these events, we would be most grateful! Please contact Kani Meyer at 513-948-8630 or [kaniau@yahoo.com](mailto:kaniau@yahoo.com) to let her know if you plan to participate especially if you can bring a vehicle.**

**Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2011  
(May 6-7, 2011)**

Mail to: Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.  
Attn: Birdathon  
P. O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

My Pledge for Birdathon 2011 is: Fixed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Check Enclosed ( ) Bill me after the Birdathon  
(Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.)

**-OR-**

Per Species Pledge: (Circle One, you will be billed after the Birdathon):

\$ 5.00    \$4.00    \$3.00    \$2.00    \$1.00    \$0.75    \$0.50    \$0.25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**My Pledge is to Support the following Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. Team:**

\_\_\_\_ Highest Scoring Team

\_\_\_\_ Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger, and Joe Bens

\_\_\_\_ Team #2 – Jerry Lippert, Erich Baumgardner, and Wayne Wauligman

\_\_\_\_ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Katherine Miller, Sarah Krailler

\_\_\_\_ Team #4 – Dave and Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

\_\_\_\_ Team #5 – Jon Seymour and the First Timers

\_\_\_\_ Team # 6 – Steve Pelikan, Mike Busam, and Charlie Saunders

**Make checks payable to  
Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.**

**Note that this is a change to allow us to keep better track of the money for the purposes of habitat restoration and improved access. All donations to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are tax deductible.**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

*(A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon acceptance of your application.)*

*Application and Memorandum of Understanding*

**I am a member in good standing of Oxbow, Inc.** and request permission to hunt on Oxbow, Inc.

property east of I-275 as will be shown on the map affixed to the permission slip that must be carried while hunting on Oxbow property.

I agree: to hunt subject to the following Oxbow, Inc. rules:

- I will practice good hunting ethics at all times.
- Others may rightfully visit the area and my activity has no priority over that of others.
- During my use of Oxbow, Inc. property I will not litter, remove or damage Oxbow, Inc. property, or cause any habitat destruction.
- I will not leave any structures on the property (ie. hunting stands, duck blinds, etc.).
- I will carry a valid permission slip at all times while hunting on Oxbow, Inc. land.
- I will obey all applicable laws

I understand that hunting privilege will be revoked if any of the above regulations are violated. I understand that I enter Oxbow, Inc. property entirely at my own risk and hold Oxbow, Inc. free of liability for any hazards, known or unknown to it. I HAVE INCLUDED A COPY OF MY VALID INDIANA HUNTING PERMIT and A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

**HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS**  
**SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY**  
**JULY 1, 2011**

**(Hunting permission is granted for one year (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) only and must be reapplied for yearly.)**

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.  
c/o John Getzendanner  
21007 Crestview Ct.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Phone: 812-537-5728

## Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, 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 area 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.**

Prothonotary Warbler	\$ 15	Wood Duck	\$ 25
Great Blue Heron	\$ 50	Green-winged Teal	\$100
Great Egret	\$250	Osprey	\$500
Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
513-851-9835

## Corporation Officers

President, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Vice President, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728
Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason	(513) 385-3607
Treasurer, Jim Poehlmann	(513) 931-4072
Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728

## Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-983
Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Land Management, Kani Meyer John Klein	(513) 948-8630 (513) 941-4877
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*Wetland Matters, the newsletter for members of Oxbow, Inc., is published bimonthly.*



513-851-9835

Give Us a Call

Need a Speaker?

WWW.OXBOWINC.INFO

P.O. BOX 4172  
LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025