



September—October 2011

No. 151

WETLAND *matters*

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

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Great Miami River Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program

*.....by Nate Hoelscher
(Executive Director, Rivers Unlimited)*

Until last year, the lower Great Miami River watershed never had a public water quality monitoring program. Thanks to the efforts of a handful of groups, including Oxbow, Inc., and a couple dozen volunteers, the GMR Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program now collects and analyzes samples from about 60 sites throughout the watershed in Hamilton and lower Butler Counties. Citizens take samples on the third Saturday of each month, from March through November at designated points along the streams and river of the Watershed. The samples are brought to the University of Cincinnati's Center for Field Studies where they are analyzed for 6 parameters that allow us to better understand the water quality picture in the lower Great Miami watershed.

The lower Great Miami watershed is threatened by various sources of impairment. Run-off from over-fertilized farmland and lawns can result in high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen. Wastewater treatment plants and failing septic tanks can cause excess amounts of phosphorous and bacteria. Inadequate erosion control plans for new development can increase the amount of sediment that enters the water. Yet despite these and other threats, the Great Miami is an incredible natural, recreational and economic resource. It is utilized by

paddlers, anglers, birders and many others who have come to know it as one of the region's premier natural assets. In order to improve and protect water quality--as well as the health of those who enjoy it--good water quality data is imperative.

There are costs to generating useful water quality data. The process by which samples are tested for various pollution parameters requires a wide range of equipment and supplies. Chemical reagents are needed to evaluate nutrient levels. Special filter pads and broths are necessary for us to count the colonies of bacteria for each sample. As the program grows in size, we are using more of these supplies every month. Thanks to a generous grant of \$2,000 from Oxbow, however, a shortage of supplies will not prevent us from generating this important data. We are very excited to have the support of such a strong ally in our work to document and improve water quality.

Oxbow dollars are being leveraged to the hilt. The program is a success because it enjoys support from several different groups. The Hamilton County Storm Water and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have contributed equipment and funds for outreach. The University of Cincinnati provides prime space at its Center for Field Studies. Rivers Unlimited provides program coordination, administration and volunteers, and the Friends of the Great Miami also provide volunteers and administrative support. Dozens of volunteers are giving their time and energy. Together, these contributions create a cost-effective and collaborative program that is able to generate and disseminate data very efficiently.

With land directly on the Great Miami, and 1,200 acres in its floodplain, Oxbow has a unique interest in the river's water quality. When speaking of river pollution, many of us have heard the phrase, "We all live downstream from someone." When it comes to the Great Miami River, however, Oxbow lives downstream from *everyone*. As Oxbow, Inc. President Jon Seymour recently pointed out to me, all of the water of the Great Miami and Whitewater Rivers flows through Oxbow property. "We

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Please be certain to change the address on any legacy gifts, memorials, or standing donation directives to:

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

(continued on page 2)

see ourselves as the final recipient of all the water in the two watersheds before they are emptied into the Ohio River," Jon notes. "All sources of pollution are, therefore, of keen interest to us as a function of protecting our property."

What does the path to better water quality look like? 2010's program data indicated that the lower Great Miami is impaired by high levels of phosphorous. Phosphorous encourages the growth of plant life. When in the river, this growth takes the form of algal blooms. Large blooms of algae often occur in the late summer when the temperatures are high and the river levels are low. As the algae dies and decomposes, it consumes the oxygen that would otherwise be used by aquatic life, stressing fish populations and in turn harming the entire ecosystem.

To get a handle on this problem, we need to know where the problem areas are, and then work collaboratively to address them. One of the near-term goals of the Citizens' GMR Water Quality Monitoring Program is to obtain Level 2 Credible Data status with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Data that has been granted this status automatically receives consideration from the OEPA, making it possible for the agency to follow up when our data points to a situation that needs to be addressed. With more sampling sites across the lower Great Miami watershed, it will be easier for the program to hone in on problem sites and work with various stakeholders to prevent pollution and implement the best management practices that can lessen the impacts of storm-water run-off.

The first step, however, is generating a baseline of water quality data against which changes--both positive and negative--can be tracked. Thanks in part to Oxbow, Inc.'s support, we are able to do just that. There is, however, another important way that Oxbow members can contribute to the program. We are always looking for volunteers who would like to take water quality samples on the third Saturday of each month, from March through November. We'll work with you to pick a convenient sampling site, and give you the bottles and instruction you need to start taking samples. If you're interested, you can even spend a couple hours at the lab and learn how to run one of the tests to analyze samples. Please email us at info@riversunlimited.org if you'd like to get involved.

(Oxbow, Inc. encourages members that would like to volunteer to take samples to contact Rivers Unlimited at the above email address. This can be a great ongoing project for troops of boy or girl scouts and any group or individual interested in protecting the environment.)

Oxbow, Inc. Awards Scholarships to Three Area Seniors

Oxbow, Inc.'s Board of Directors recently established three \$500 scholarships to be awarded to one college bound senior in three area high schools. This year's winners are **Margaret Waller**, East Central High School, **Eva Loveland**, South Dearborn High School, and **Michelle Abbott**, Lawrenceburg High School. Each winner was selected by the high school's Science Department for their interest in and intention to continue in college in a study field related to nature.

The Board of Directors believes that in this day of indoor activities, such as movies, games, and interactive computer simulations it is important to encourage the study of nature and through that, a belief in the need to protect nature as we find it. It seems harder than ever to find young people with a knowledge and interest in the outdoors and in the natural world. Organizations like Oxbow can only succeed in the future if there is a new generation that appreciates the value of nature and is willing to be part of preserving our heritage for generations to come. By offering these scholarships, Oxbow, Inc. can help young scholars along the road to their dreams and that can only add to our ability to pass our natural heritage on to future generations."

Margaret Waller has had a life long interest in nature and animals and will be attending Thomas More College studying in the fields of Environmental Science and Organismal Biology. **Eva Loveland** will be attending Indiana University on partial scholarship and intends to study mathematics with a possible minor in geology. **Michelle Abbott's** interest in animals started very young with a special relationship to a pet cat. Volunteer work with animals and a passion for caring for animals will lead her to NKU (Northern Kentucky University) and a possible future in the study of wild animals. You can see photos of the three recipients on page 6.

Oxbow, Inc. wishes all these seniors and all the other 2011 graduates the best of luck in all their future endeavors.



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, October 11, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg (The Oxbow, Inc. Office)

Dr. Jill Russell, Professor of Biology and co-founder and executive director of the Avian Research and Education Institute, a non-profit bird conservation, education and advocacy organization will speak on **"Birding the Ice Truckers Highway"**. One of the venues for the TV show Ice Truckers is the Dalton Highway--414 miles long--starting about 70 miles north of Fairbanks, AK and ending at Deadhorse, AK (Prudhoe Bay) over 300 miles above the Arctic Circle. The road is a brutal gravel, semipaved, frost heaved/pot-holed paved, and dirt highway that passes through boreal forest, over the Brooks Mountain Range, and across 100 miles of tundra of the North Slope of Alaska. Coveted North American species including Northern Wheatear, Gyrfalcon, Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Spectacled Eider are encountered among the hoards of nesting shorebirds and waterfowl. This is also the only place those of us from the "outside" can witness the last great large animal migration across North America, the caribou migration.

Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg (The Oxbow, Inc. Office)

Fakahatchee Fever is what grips the people that visit and explore the only neo-tropical area of continental U.S. It is the rare plant capitol having more ferns, orchids, bromeliads and endemic plants. We will explore this magical place with **Jack Berninger** as research continues to discover new organisms.

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.



Saturday, September 24, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.

Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

Fall migration, well under way during September, will be the focus of this month's field trip. Warbler (as well as other songbirds) migration peaks during September and shorebirds continue to move south throughout the month. Raptors are also on the move at this season. The Oxbow area is a great place to see all of this avian diversity so come out and join us for what should be a great morning afield. Our trip leader, Ned Keller, is a skilled veteran birder and has birded the Oxbow area for many years. We will start out in the Oxbow but at some point Ned will likely take us over to the Shawnee Lookout side of the Great Miami River to give us the best shot at finding a diverse number of species. Feel free to contact Ned if you have any questions.

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:00 a.m.

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

October is a beautiful time of the year and fall color should be near peak by mid-month. October is also an interesting season from a birding perspective as fall migration will be in full swing. Various species or families of birds migrate at different times during the protracted fall migration. Depending on the species this could occur anytime from August through mid-December. October is interesting because so many of these various movements overlap or converge during this month. Waterfowl migration is just getting started while shorebird migration is beginning to wind down. Some summering and migrant songbirds (such as warblers) are still lingering and at the same time many of our winter residents are returning in force. Raptors (hawks & eagles) are on the move throughout the month.

The various habitats of the Oxbow and the lower Great Miami River valley are a great place to see this diversity. Our trip leader Darlena knows the birds and the area very well so come out and join her as she leads a crisp autumn walk through the Oxbow looking for this "mixed bag" of migrants and residents. Feel free to contact Darlena if you have any questions.

Everyday Birding Inspires

.....by Jon Seymour

Dan Striley, the Outreach Education Coordinator for the Cincinnati Museum Center, brought several bird skins from the Museum's collection that represented the common feeder birds found at winter feeders in the Cincinnati area. Dan told stories about how he fell in love with observing birds and used the skins to illustrate some common misconceptions and mistakes made by ordinary bird watchers. Differences between Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were explained in detail with the help of the skins. Birds have inspired Dan to think about his world and their world in interactive ways and he shared several poems that he had written inspired by his observations of birds. Everyone left inspired to keep watching and observing the birds.



New Parking Area Taking Shape in the Oxbow

Volunteers have been busy putting in a new parking area in the Oxbow. With Rick Pope coordinating efforts and running the grader, a new parking area south of the Oxbow Lake Overlook and along the Oxbow Lake Road is under creation. This parking area should be useful for those that wish to park and walk from there to view the area around Wood Duck Slough or down to the wetland areas of the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District. We are hoping that this will serve a need for folks who want to get out of their cars and explore the southern end of the Oxbow area.



Twenty-One Birdathon Teams Raise \$6560 for Oxbow

In the last Issue of Wetland Matters (#150 July-August 2011) we listed the teams by their species count in all the various categories of the Birdathon. Now the all-important tally is in for the amount of money raised by the teams. The total for 2011 is \$6560 which will go for the improvement of habitat and access in the Oxbow. We are thrilled that the teams took the initiative to raise money for Oxbow. Some teams are more successful than others, and some teams have more opportunities to raise money than others, but ALL contributions of any size are important and welcome. For a list of the individual contributors see page 8.

The leading team for 2011 was Oxbow Team #1 the "Beasts of Birdin'" consisting of Paul Wharton, Jay

Stenger and Joe Bens. The pledges for the Beasts of Birdin' totaled \$1574.00. Congratulations to Paul, Jay and Joe for a job well done.

The other teams raising money for Oxbow are as follows:

- The First Timers (Jon Seymour & Dave Yelton): \$1257.00
- Close 'N' Counters & Teacher! Teacher! Teacher! (Cincinnati Nature Center Teams #1 – Bill Creasey, Dave Helm, Steve Bobonick and Team #2 Dave Brinkman): \$785.00 (*This represents 1/2 of the money raised as the other half went to the CNC*)
- The C-Notes (Charlie Saunders, Steve Pelikan & Bob Lacker): \$566.00
- The Ladyhawks (Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix & Chris Moran): \$495.00
- The Cardinals (Hamilton County Park District Team – Madeline Lippert & Jerry Lippert): \$402.50
- Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers (Wayne Wauligman, Erich Baumgardner & Matt Stenger): \$323.00
- Birds of Pray #1, Birds of Pray #2, Birds of Pray Too & Northern Ficker (Miami Valley Christian Academy – Cassidy Ficker, Tyler Ficker, Mathew Hildeman, Lauren Goodman, Megan Williams, Cooper Scanlon, Renee McGill & Bill McGill): \$240.00 (*this represents a portion of the money raised as money was also raised for the MVCA Bird Club*)
- The Team with No Name (Ned Keller): \$161.00
- The Flying Monkeys (Bill Hull & Bill Zimmerman): \$160.00
- Xpert Birders (Not!) (Xavier University Team – Tyler Infeld, DeAngelo Rankin, Katie Goetz, Brian Carlson, Nina Bertaux-Skeirik & George Farnsworth): \$148.00
- Blue Ash Trash (Brian Wulker & Gale Wulker): \$135.00
- The Fernald Preserve Team (Gary Stegner): \$95.00
- Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seeker (Jerry Lippert): \$48.50
- Two in the Bush and Son (John Leon, Sarah Leon & Evan Leon): \$45.00
- Birds Elude Us (John Eckles, Dave Tozier & Vicki Tozier): \$30.00
- The Clermont County Parks Team (Chris Clingman & Suzanne Clingman): \$20.00

Birdathon 2011 was again very successful for both the birding and the amount of money raised. And to think, everyone involved had a wonderful time doing it! What could be better?

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Donor	In Memory of
Chuck & Linda Austin	John Getzendanner
Gale Banta.....	John Getzendanner
Jeanne Bocklage	John Getzendanner
Jeanne Bocklage	Aaron Perlman
Jeanne Bocklage	Margaret Seymour
Therese Bocklage.....	John Getzendanner
Therese Bocklage.....	Aaron Perlman
Therese Bocklage.....	Margaret Seymour
Craig Brown & Kathryn Hacker	John Getzendanner
Dorothy Cook	John Getzendanner
Douglas Cook	John Getzendanner
DBAdirect, Inc.....	John Getzendanner
John Fruin	John Getzendanner
Tim & Janet Gates	John Getzendanner
Irene Gray	John Getzendanner
Gutzwiller Construction.....	John Getzendanner
Jim Hamill.....	John Getzendanner
Mildred & Teresa Hellmann	John Getzendanner
Hidden Valley Lake POA	John Getzendanner
Joana Jarvis	John Getzendanner
Terry and Carol Johnson.....	John Getzendanner
Ellen Keese	John Getzendanner
Darin & Beth Kroger	John Getzendanner
Gayle & Jim Lightner	John Getzendanner
Jennifer Loggie	Aaron Perlman
Chuck & Mary Anne Martz	John Getzendanner
Clayton & Joan McGranahan.....	John Getzendanner
Greg Mendell & Connie McNamee	John Getzendanner
David & Kani Meyer	John Getzendanner
Lois Mueller.....	John Getzendanner
Emmy Myers.....	John Getzendanner
Gary & Stephanie Niemeier.....	John Getzendanner
Terry Potraffke.....	John Getzendanner
Bob & Tina Schlegel.....	Authur Pfirman
Jim Scott & Donna Hartman.....	John Getzendanner
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Margaret & Gene Seymour
Valley Rural Utility Company	John Getzendanner
James Walsh	John Getzendanner
Shirley & Donald Wittekiend	John Getzendanner
Bill & Judith Yelton.....	John Getzendanner
Judy Ziepfel	John Getzendanner

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.

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

Madeline & Jerry Lippert
Kelly Riccetti
Suzanne & David Skidmore
E. W. Marshall Tucker
Whit & Bon Wharton
David & Margaret Yelton

Legacy gift from the Estate of Aaron Perlman

2011 Oxbow, Inc. College Scholarship Winners



Maggie Waller of East Central High School poses with some of her own wildlife. Maggie is headed for Thomas More College to study Environmental Science and Organismal Biology.



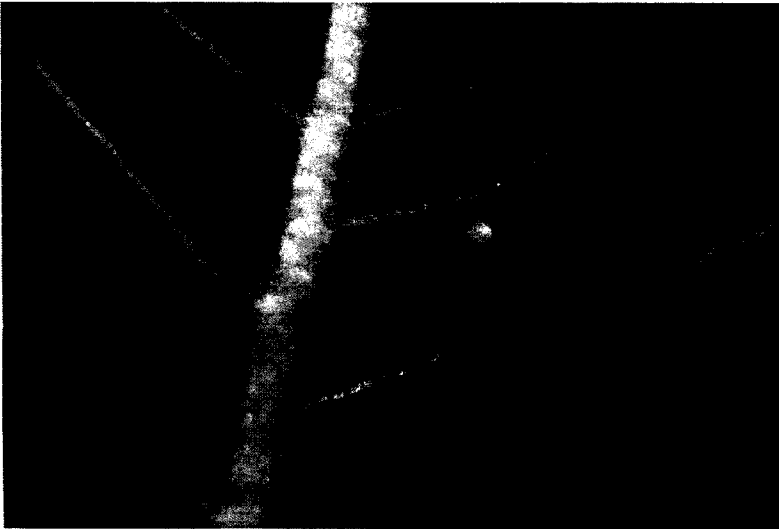
Shelly Abbott of Lawrenceburg High School poses with her parents, Tony and Dee Abbott, after having received the Oxbow, Inc. scholarship at the school's Awards Night ceremonies. Shelly is headed for Northern Kentucky University to pursue her passion for wildlife and nature.



Eva Loveland of South Dearborn High School is on her way to Indiana University at Bloomington on a partial scholarship. Her love is mathematics which she hopes to apply to the study of nature and natural things.



What better representative of summer in the Oxbow than the American Goldfinch. This common bird is often bypassed by local birders as too "common" to spend time admiring. If this bird was found only in Brazil we would all be anxious to see one of the "most beautiful" birds in the world. They are here in our back yard so spend a little appreciation time admiring them. (photo by Paul Ice)



Monarch Butterfly egg on milkweed. You have to keep your eyes open and observant to find these little guys but if you see folks searching the underside of several varieties of milkweed leaves for eggs, at least you know they are not crazy. (photo by Velda Miller)

Monarch Butterfly fourth instar caterpillar still feeding on milkweed and soon to blossom into a full "blown" butterfly. (photo by Velda Miller)



Monarch Butterfly first instar caterpillar. The female Monarch seeks out the plants in the milkweed family to lay their eggs. Milkweed plants are the food for the caterpillars. Butterflies often require certain types of plants on which to feed while laying their eggs on an entirely different set of plants. The 475 different species of vascular plants found in the Oxbow allow for a selection that attracts many different species of butterflies. (photo by Velda Miller)

If you wonder what "instar" means, here's the definition: The stage in the development of an insect or other arthropod between any two molts.

A traveling group from Twin Towers visited the Oxbow on one of our string of hot days this summer. Heat, mobility, and walkers were accommodated for a very satisfying experience for all the safari members led by Dr. Bill Gerhardt (far left in photo). (photo by Jon Seymour)



Birdathon 2011 Sponsors give over \$6000

Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. (*We have assigned the Birdathon to the Indiana Corporation which is most closely associated with the stewardship of the land we own.*) wishes to sincerely thank all the generous donors that made Birdathon 2011 a financial success. Money raised by the Birdathon is dedicated to protecting and improving the land owned by Oxbow of Indiana, Inc and by Oxbow, Inc. Specifically, the money from the Birdathon is used to improve habitat and access. Some examples of past habitat improvement projects are: planting prairies, bush-hogging fire breaks, tree removal in prairies and trash collection. Some examples of the recent projects for improving access are: Culvert installations, gravel for all weather roads, spillway construction, and security for visitors safety. Thanks to all the supporters listed below for helping us raise \$6560 this year.

- Robyn and Pat Aungst
- Herbert and Wilma Beigel
- Jeanne Bocklage
- Therese Bocklage
- Robert and Eveline Branan
- David Brinkman
- Philip F. Brode III
- Cincinnati Nature Center
- Chris and Susan Clingman
- Kathleen Corneil
- George and Marion Crabtree
- Steve and Kathy Culver
- Barbara DeNamur
- Tim and Laura Dornan
- John Eckles
- Herman and Frances Eckstein
- George Farnsworth
- Joan Franchi
- Jeffrey Grothaus
- Marie Holscher
- Bill Hull
- Mary and Stephen Imfeld
- Kathryn Jackson
- Ned Keller
- Bob and Patricia Lacker
- John and Sarah Leon
- Lawrence Lippert
- Jennifer Loggie
- Wendell Long
- Dave and Kani Meyer
- Miami Valley Christian Academy
- Ken Miller and Bethia Margoshes
- Chris Moran
- Al and Rageana Morgan
- Ed and Faith Pelikan
- Kelly Riccetti
- Dave and Ginny Rice

- Edward Rosenthal
- Paul and Phyllis Sadler
- Charlie and Mary Saunders
- Jim Scott and Donna Hartman
- Jon and Jackie Seymour
- Carl and Lois Shadix
- Peter Shadix
- Sisters of Charity - Sr. Marty Dermody
- Gary and Sally Stegner
- Jay and Paula Stenger
- Thomas More College Behavior Class 2011
- Dave and Vicki Tozier
- Joan Carlson Walson
- Wayne Wauligman
- Whit and Bon Wharton
- Dorinda and Jeffrey Whitsett
- Wesley Wieman
- Jim and Judy Wilgenbusch
- Gale and David Wulker
- Brian and Gale Wulker
- David and Margaret Yelton
- Bill Zimmerman

(If you donated to Birdathon 2011 and your name is not on this list we apologize. Please let us know so we can make the correction.)

Combined Butterfly Hike and Survey

.....by Kathy McDonald

Twenty-five people braved a steamy July day to take part in the first Oxbow Butterfly Census. We had a leisurely walk beside the lake in the shade of some nice cottonwoods on one side, alternating with soybeans and prairie on the other. Although the number of individual butterflies was not high, we had a good variety, with fifteen species total. Besides the adult butterflies, we had some nice looks at Monarch caterpillars and eggs on common milkweed.

We did some birding as well, and had great looks at the Great Egrets in the Oxbow, among the other abundant bird species usually found in the area. An afternoon thunderstorm brought the count to an early end. Thanks to Jeff Eller for helping to lead the group, and Yvonne Mohlman for sharing her knowledge and butterfly ID skills. Next year, the Oxbow census will include Shawnee Lookout as well, and will be included in the North American Butterfly Association's official Western Hamilton County count circle.

(Oxbow, Inc. would like to thank Kathy for all the great work she did that put Oxbow on the "butterfly map". Anyone taking a walk along the prairies or forest edges during the summer months knows that we belong on that map.)

Oxbow, Inc. 2010 Treasurer's Report

.....James W. Poehlmann, EA, Treasurer

While the economy overall didn't see much improvement, Oxbow, Inc. has weathered the economic storm fairly well. Gross profit saw a four percent increase over 2008, while expenses increased eight percent. On the profit side, earned revenues, which don't tend to fluctuate, saw a 6 percent increase. Other categories of revenue fluctuated from the previous year, which is to be expected, given the nature of one-time donations. Donations of all sorts are what keep Oxbow going.

Where our expenses decreased in 2009 by eight percent, 2010 saw an increase in expenses of eight percent. This category has stabilized from the figures seen in 2009 over 2008, which increased precipitously when our permanent office in Lawrenceburg was established. Frankly, given the price increase of almost everything in 2010, an eight percent increase in total expenses is low.

2010 saw a donation of the Corning property, bringing total acreage protected to over 1,100 acres. Roads were again improved in 2010 with the application of gravel and leveling of low spots.

In the coming year, more roads will be improved while we continue to pursue additional property to purchase. None of this can take place without the continuing support of our members. Oxbow, Inc. is a 100% volunteer organization—no salaries or expense accounts are paid by the organization. We are beholden to the generous support of the membership and the public. The IRS tax return Forms 990 for Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. may be inspected at www.guidestar.org.

Profit and Loss

Category Per Report	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.	Combined Figures
Contributed Support	\$29,359.75		\$29,359.75
Legacies & Bequests	\$40,126.65		\$40,126.65
Earned Revenues (1)	\$70,274.27	\$72.75	\$70,347.02
Special Events	\$9,792.10		\$9,792.10
Restricted Funds Activity	\$0.00		\$0.00
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total Income	\$149,552.77	\$72.75	\$149,625.52
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00		\$0.00
Gross Profit	\$149,552.77	\$72.75	\$149,625.52
Grant & Contract	\$0.00		
Program Expenses-Ed.	\$0.00		
Security	\$9,380.00		
Legal & Accounting	\$13,140.60		\$13,140.60
Non-Personnel Expenses (1)	\$13,928.06		\$13,928.06
Occupancy Expenses (2)	\$13,206.30	\$1,685.55	\$14,891.85
Conference & Meeting	\$390.00		\$390.00
Depreciation	\$962.00		\$962.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,251.52		\$5,251.52
Business Expenses	\$150.00	\$200.00	350
Total Expenses	\$56,408.48	\$1,885.55	\$58,294.03
Transfer to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.	(\$75,000.00)	\$75,000.00	
Net Income	\$18,144.29	\$73,187.20	\$91,331.49

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2010

Category Per Report	Oxbow, Inc.	Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.	Combined Figures
Checking/Savings	\$1,355,210.05	\$40,271.23	\$1,395,481.28
Other Current Assets	\$8,919.95	\$0.00	\$8,919.95
Total Current Assets	\$1,364,130.00	\$40,271.23	\$1,404,401.23
Land	\$245,551.60	\$1,350,738.36	\$1,596,289.96
Easements Owned	\$231,963.28	\$0.00	\$231,963.28
Land Improvements	\$6,734.10	\$0.00	\$6,734.10
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$3,783.00	\$0.00	\$3,783.00
(Less) Accumulated Amortization-Land Improvements	(\$1,478.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,478.00)
(Less) Accumulated Depreciation-Office Furniture & Equipment	(\$3,144.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,144.00)
Total Fixed Assets	\$483,409.98	\$1,350,738.36	\$1,834,148.34
Other Assets	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Total Assets	\$1,848,139.98	\$1,391,009.59	\$3,239,149.57
Net Worth	\$1,848,139.98	\$1,391,009.59	\$3,239,149.57

(1) Earned Revenues consist primarily of Dues, Interest and Cropland Rental

(2) Non-Personnel Expenses consist primarily of Office, Fundraising, Special Event, Postage and Printing Expenses.

(3) Occupancy Expenses consist of expenses related to renting our office and maintaining our land.



usings

by Dave Styer

The American Robin

Perhaps the most famous treatment on the American Robin is that in the first edition of Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* (1939). After giving one or two names in English and a scientific name, his total treatment follows: "The one bird that everybody knows." How's that for brevity? In the 1939 edition Peterson added a description of the song: "a clear, whistled caroling, often long continued." By the mid-1950s, when I bought the third edition, Peterson's treatment of the American Robin was much the same as his treatment of any other bird. Perhaps it had been pointed out to Peterson that bird watchers visiting from other countries were using his field guide, and that some of them did not know the American Robin.

I, for one, have been surprised by the number of people who did, indeed, know a robin when they saw it in their lawn, but did not know that they ever heard a robin sing. Most of these people have perfectly good hearing, and they grew up with robins caroling in their yards. This speaks to our ability to tune out extraneous sounds.

If we think of the typical nesting bird as a pair of birds with a nest and territory from which they exclude all others of their species, apparently the American Robin doesn't fit. The usual reason given for an exclusive territory is to ensure that there is enough food available to feed the young. For many birds, the size of their territory increases as the density of food supply decreases. According to the *Handbook of the World* (HBW):

The breeding territories of American Robins can be tiny, but this is because they are essentially only for mate-guarding, as the adults range more widely to forage in a communal, undefended area up to 300 m away.

Many of you are quite familiar with the large flocks of robins we see in the fall, especially where the non-native Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera mackii*) has spread and produced a large fruit crop. Flocking behavior in American Robins is stronger than I realized. According to HBW, adult males "roost in groups" throughout the year. They are joined "by adult females once nesting is completed," and by "their offspring as soon as" they "reach independence."

Compared with Belted Kingfishers that defend their large territories against all others, the American Robin can support a far larger population. Of course, the

robin's food supply is much more widespread and available.

Availability of food is different in winter than in summer. For example, when the local Amur Honeysuckle fruit crop is eaten up the robins move on. According to the HBW the American Robin is strongly nomadic "at least in the non-breeding season." They don't have winter territories, but wander to where there is available food. If that means going to different places in different winters, that's what they do.

The Great Robin Controversy

We are all familiar with the sight of American Robins hopping around the yard, pausing, and watching (or is it listening,) and then pulling up an earthworm. Until I started reading things for this article I didn't realize that there is a controversy over whether robins primarily use sight or sound to find the worms. Cornell University's website, *All About Birds* states that it "looks as if the bird is intently listening, but scientists believe the birds find worms by sight, watching for signs of digging." On the other hand, the HBW cites an experiment where robins were deprived of sight, and the robins foraged perfectly well, so I turned to another website to see if I could find out what was going on.

Kimberly Weiss reports on birds in Bella Online. Weiss mentions an experiment where Frank Heppner put dead earthworms in worm holes. The robins could, apparently, see little bits of the worms, and "ate away." In another experiment the person found the ambient noise to completely drown out the noise made by earthworms. On the other hand Robert Montgomerie and Patrick Weatherhead prevented four robins from seeing, but the robins could feed perfectly well on the mealworms they put out. Weiss points out that mealworms are beetle larvae, not earthworms, and they may make more noise than earthworms. It appears that robins use both their eyes and their ears for foraging in the lawn. What a surprise! Can robins actually hear real earthworms? Who knows. If it were important enough to us we likely would know by now.

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Editor's note—Kani Meyer does a great deal for Oxbow, Inc. She is the organization's Vice President, Land Manager and Program Manager. And those are just the tasks for which she has titles! The article below, originally run in the May 18 Hilltop Press, is rerun here courtesy of the Cincinnati Museum Center. Thanks for all you do for us and others, Kani!

Finneytown Local Channels Passion into Volunteering

by Stephanie Lowe, Cincinnati Museum Center

Kani Meyer of Finneytown is passionate about paleontology. Meyer has dedicated 25 years to the Museum of Natural History & Science at Cincinnati Museum Center—over half that time serving as a volunteer.

Meyer helps to manage the paleontology lab in the Museum of Natural History & Science. She spends her time cleaning and preparing bones, organizing the vertebrate paleontology digital catalog, and training other volunteers. Meyer is also currently working to extract a dinosaur vertebrae from a rock recovered at the Montana site- a project she finds exceptionally exciting.

Meyer began volunteering at the Museum of Natural History & Science in 1982, and later joined the staff in 1986. During this time, she helped facilitate the museum's move to Union Terminal. After working for 10 years in the Museum of Natural History & Science, Meyer took a few years off from Museum Center until rejoining as a volunteer in 2000 with the opening of the paleontology lab.

Meyer was awarded the Mercedes Spiegel Award for Dedication to Volunteering at Cincinnati Museum Center's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 6. The award recognizes the dedication of volunteers who have clocked 400+ hours of service in a single calendar year.

Meyer has a master's degree in biology from the University of Connecticut, but her love of paleontology comes from her husband, a paleontologist and professor of geology at the University of Cincinnati.

When she's not cleaning dinosaur bones, Meyer enjoys spending time with her grandsons, traveling and gardening.

Museum Center extends its gratitude to volunteers like Meyer whose passion and hard work account for more than 112,320 hours of service and 54 full time positions.



GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND is almost here!

September 24-25 is the date of the next Great Outdoor Weekend. Start planning now to set aside the weekend and pack it full of exciting, entertaining and educational events. The Great Outdoor Weekend is an initiative of Green Umbrella, the local organization that encourages cooperation in groups supporting sustainability and livability in the area surrounding the city of Cincinnati. As in past years, there are more than 40 providers presenting more than 70 programs designed for the whole family. It is more important than ever to get the children outdoors and let them experience the challenge of learning from the world around us. So plan to take children and grandchildren, and you will find joy in bringing the kids to the Great Outdoors.

We know some kids are rather large and of undetermined age. We are certain they are also in danger of having fun.

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
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Great Egret	\$250	Osprey	\$500
Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

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