OXBOW, INC. BIRDATHON '90 A SUCCESS.

Would you believe: a Bald Eagle, Franklin's Gull, Ruffed Grouse, a Peregrine Falcon that got away, all within a 50 mile radius of the Oxbow? These rarities were spotted among the 200 species recorded on BIRDATHON '90.

The weather left a lot to be desired. Friday, May 11th was great but Saturday was a soggy day-long drizzle. Only the participants' spirits remained undampened. Unfortunately, the inclement weather and poor visibility cut down on the number of species seen and heard by each group. Most team totals were down five to ten species from last year. But, in spite of everything, the wet birders returned after their 24-hour ordeal still smiling, knowing full well that all of the birders had endured the same miserable conditions.

For the second time the University of Cincinnati team walked away with the TOP HONORS with 154 species. The Oxbow #2 team came in second with 147 species. Close behind was the Cincinnati Bird Club's, "Birds-R-Us" team with 145 species. Congratulations to ALL for a job well done!

A slow-cadence drum roll was ceremoniously tapped out on the table tops as Joe Bens and Paul Wharton reluctantly delivered the coveted Golden Starling Award over to the U.C. team from whom they had taken it last year. All the other teams were saying:

"Wait 'til next year."

More than 100 birders participated in BIRDATHON '90. Fifteen teams competed, some "out for blood", and a few for fun. Non-competitors were also important and here are a few of their highlights: Sister Marty Dermody took pledges on her trip to Crane Creek (Ohio). Thomas More College changed dates and birding times because of a conflict with graduation, but still supported Oxbow, Inc. with pledges. The Northern Kentucky Bird Club took pledges on their trip to Arizona. (You should see their list!), and the non-competing RAPTOR #2 team had to be content with reporting their Merlin but not having it officially recorded.

It is still too early to hazard a guess as to the financial results of BIRDATHON '90 but as of mid-June Oxbow, Inc. has received $9,200 with nine more groups, and a few individuals, still expected to report. It is felt that the weather will drop the overall results by about 5%. Nevertheless, the total should not be too shabby and all the participants reported having had a good time.

Art Wiseman.
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<tr>
<th>ACCIDENTAL SPECIES</th>
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<th>NAME OF BIRD</th>
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<td>Rose Finch</td>
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<td>Black-throated Green Warbler</td>
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<td>Yellow-rumped Warbler</td>
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<td>Mourning Dove</td>
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**INCIDENT:**

**DATE:** 8/12

**LOCATION:** Central Park

**DESCRIPTION:**

- Rose Finch
- American Redstart
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Northern Cardinal
- Mourning Dove

**REMARKS:**

- Several birds were seen feeding on the ground near the lake.
- A Rose Finch was spotted near the south gate.
- Eastern Yellow Robins were heard chirping in the distance.

**EVIDENCE:**

- Images of all birds observed.
- Detailed notes on bird behavior and habitat preferences.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Contact local bird watchers for further information.
- Report any unusual bird sightings to the Audubon Society.

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**AVIARY**

- **Date:** 10/14
- **Location:** Central Park Aviary
- **Description:**
  - A Blue Grosbeak was seen perched on a branch.
  - Red-winged Blackbirds were singing from the fence.
  - Eastern Kingbirds were flying overhead.
- **Evidence:**
  - Photographs of the birds in flight.
  - Video footage of the Blue Grosbeak.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Review bird feeding patterns.
- Monitor bird activity for signs of illness.

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**CITY STATION**

- **Date:** 7/24
- **Location:** City Hall
- **Description:**
  - American Goldfinches were feeding on the lawn.
  - White-throated Sparrows were perched on the windowsill.
  - American Kestrels were hunting near the park.
- **Evidence:**
  - Photographs of the birds in various poses.
  - Audio recordings of bird calls.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Implement bird-friendly landscaping.
- Conduct bird surveys in local parks.

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**REFERENCES:**

- Audubon Society
- National Geographic
- Nature Conservancy
DETAILS

The teams and Participants are listed here in the order in which they finished. Each species is marked with the NUMBER OF TEAMS reporting it. When three or less teams reported a bird, the TEAM NUMBER (as below) is listed AFTER THE SPECIES.

2. Oxbow Team #2 - "Fire and Brimstone Birder’s Guild" - 147 sp. Paul Wharton and Joe Bens.
4. Lebanon "Cedar City Waxwings" - 130 sp. - William McGill and Sue Utterback.
11. RAPTOR, Inc - Team #1 - 95 sp. - Fritz Haas, Debbie Quilligan, Susan Wilkinson and David Axt.
12. Oxbow Team #1 - "Geriatric Gents and Junior" - 95 sp. - Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, Will Harbaum and Jerry Meyer.

REPORTING NON-COMPETITIVE PARTICIPANTS:
RAPTOR Team #2 - 87 sp. - John & Barb Eckles and Jeff Eller.
The Leons - 71 sp - John and Sarah Leon.
"The Parrot Patrol" - 50 sp. - Don, Barbara, Brendan, Gavin, and Aidan Bogosian.
Bill Bocklage - 50 sp.

Compiled by Jinny Wiseman.
A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL.
Art & Jinny Wiseman

It was the interest, support and cooperation of many that made BIRDATHON '90 such a tremendous success. May we thank The HAMILTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT for the use of the barn at Farbach-Werner in which to meet, eat and tabulate the results. WANNA APCAR, for contributing Cincinnati Nature Center checklists. RAPTOR, INC. for the use of their copier. FRITZ HAAS for his original T-shirt BIRDATHON '90 design. TAMMIE STANLEY for executing and managing the T-shirts, and MADER'S SPECIAL-TEES for printing the shirts.

Our picnic dinner was put together by JUDY BRAMSTEDT who contacted local merchants and collected their many donations for the feast. The following businesses were donors:

AURORA I.G.A. GROTE BAKERY MERRIE FOOD CLEVES BAKERY HILVERS CATERING and THE HY'S I.G.A. CLEVES KROGER KOPP'S BAKERY RISING SUN I.G.A.

A special thanks goes to PARTRIDGE MEATS who donated all of the hot dogs and napkins.

Home-baked Brownies and other cookies were provided by JUDY BRAMSTEDT, BONNIE FANCHER, VELDA MILLER and TAMMIE STANLEY.

KEN FULMER, our chief-cook-and-bottle-washer, manned the kitchen, grilled the hot dogs and oversaw the entire "feast" from start to clean-up. NORMA FLANNERY was Ken's very able assistant.

We also wish to thank all of the participants - the most important segment of BIRDATHON'90. We had great support and backing from organizations and individuals alike. And to all of you who so generously pledged, because, THIS IS WHAT THE BIRDATHON IS ALL ABOUT, THANK YOU ONE AND ALL! 1 !

Oxbow, Inc. wishes to thank Art and Jinny for organizing the BIRDATHON program. Each year the Wisemans oversee the entire BIRDATHON from entry blanks to the final compilation of the recorded bird species, to bookkeeping the pledge results.—Ed

FAIRFAX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Once again the Mariemont City School District's Fairfax Elementary School children have chosen to support Oxbow, Inc. during National Wildlife Week.

In a letter to Treasurer, Art Wiseman, teacher Joyce L. Beck writes:

"All of the children at Fairfax Elementary donated lots of pennies, dimes and nickels to make a contribution of $100. With an additional check of $25 from Ann Lindell, our total contribution this year is $125. Each year we seem to come up with a larger contribution!"

Oxbow, Inc. sincerely thanks the children of Fairfax Elementary School and Joyce Beck for their continued commitment to the Oxbow and issues them an open invitation for their own field trip with Morris Mercer to see what their pennies, nickels and dimes are helping to preserve for future generations of Fairfax school children.
A HISTORY OF THE OXBOW AREA.
Don Bogosian

PART THREE - LATE WOODLAND and FORT ANCIENT PEOPLE.

Around 500 AD., after the Hopewell and before the Mississippian Fort Ancient Culture, there was a Late Woodland Culture locally called the Stone Mound People. Their way of life was less elaborate than the Hopewell, but their large village sites indicate an increase in population. At the Oxbow, seven habitation sites have been found on the terrace which extends from Elizabethtown to Lawrenceburg and the Haag Site, extensively excavated in the 1970's, is almost adjacent to the Oxbow lake. Recent research has revealed a complex hunter-gatherer subsistence pattern utilized by the Stone Mound People and they apparently relied on 50 species of mammals, birds, fish, and shellfish and over 100 species of plants, as well as salt from nearby licks.

The Stone Mound People had a distinctive burial pattern. Their mounds are made of stone, and many have been found on the hills above the Oxbow - five in Indiana and six on Shawnee Lookout Ridge, including the Point Stone Mound at the end of Miami Fort Trail, overlooking the Oxbow.

Around 1000 AD., a new type of culture was introduced into the Ohio Valley from the Mississippi Valley. It was based on corn cultivation and deer hunting with bow and arrow, as well as some subsistence gathering. This way of life was perpetuated from the Fort Ancient times, as the Mississippian Culture was called in Ohio, up to the historic tribes of the Ohio Shawnee, etc. The new subsistence strategies allowed for further population increases, with large villages spread out along the terraces near the Great Miami and, also, modest burial mounds and large cemeteries for common burial.

Seven habitation sites on the Indiana side of the Great Miami, and four sites on the Ohio side have been found along the river. The most important site is the State Line Site near Elizabethtown, and it is on the National Register. Extensive excavations there in the 1980's have helped to establish pottery motif chronologies used to date early, middle and late Fort Ancient sites. Other findings were the distinctive Fort Ancient food pits. These storage pits have been useful for researchers determining what the Fort Ancient people relied upon for food. The corn, wild game and plant material all indicate reliance on floodplain species common to the Oxbow.

Next - Historic Tribes of the Oxbow area.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

In Memory Of:

Richard Firestone
Stephen C. Novakov
Sherman Palmer
Max Stacy

Donor
Nancy Sue Ulmer
Pat Scharf & Mildred Cleary
Mrs. Lowell P. Leland
Walter & Irene Lindsey
HAMaLTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT UPDATE.

In a letter to Oxbow, Inc. president, Norma Flannery, Jon Brady, director of the Hamilton County Park District, reports the following update on the Park's involvement with the Ohio portion of the Oxbow area:

"...We are pleased to give you an update on progress made by the HCPD in purchasing conservation easements in the Ohio portion of the Oxbow area of the Great Miami River.

Thus far, the Park District has purchased and closed on conservation easements on 392.13 acres from four separate owners in the Oxbow area. In addition, we expect to acquire easements from three more land owners on another 156.15 acres. If we are successful, the addition of these three parcels will bring our total to 548.28 acres.

In addition to the above, the park district is currently negotiating for purchase of addition conservation easements on several other parcels.

As continued progress is made in preserving this significant wetland, the news media and public will be kept informed through issuance of new releases and inclusion of articles in the EVERGREEN magazine which periodically appears in the Cincinnati Enquirer."

This is exciting news! Conservation easements are legal documents that prohibit future development of the property, but allows the land owner to keep and use his land as it has always been used. The easement becomes part of the deed and is binding upon all future heirs and/or owners. Once under conservation easement, the land is protected for all time.

Oxbow, Inc. thanks the HCPD and Commissioners for their commitment to the preservation of the Oxbow and to the property owners for their desire to maintain the land for the enjoyment of future generations.

WISEMANS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME.

Joseph J. Sommer, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, has announced the induction of Art and Jinny Wiseman into the 1990 Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame have shown a lifetime of dedication to the cause of conservation. The award is limited to persons born in Ohio or those who have carried out most of their life's work in the state.

Art and Jinny were recognized at a ceremony at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fountain Square Complex in Columbus.

Congratulations to the Wisemans from the Board of Trustees, all the members of Oxbow, Inc., and the many friends they've garnered during their years of dedicated volunteer work with numerous local conservation organizations and the Cincinnati Museum or Natural History!
SPECIAL PROGRAM TO BENEFIT OXBOW, INC. 

Thursday, August 30th, 7:30 P.M., at the Lawrenceburg Public Library on High Street, David and Virginia McNeil of Wyoming, OH will present "RUSSIA TODAY", a color slide program of their trip to Russia. David McNeil is a member of the Cincinnati Color Slide Club. He is a retired superintendent of Wyoming High School. His wife, Virginia, is a piano teacher.

This program was arranged by Elvin Blasdel of Lawrenceburg, IN. A free-will donation will be accepted after the program to benefit Oxbow, Inc. A previous program arranged by Mr. Blasdel, in which Charles and Barbara Farber showed slides of their Alaskan travels, raised $128.50 for Oxbow, Inc.'s land acquisition fund.

Thanks to Charles and Barbara Farber, David and Virginia McNeil and Mr. Blasdel for donating their time and interest to the Oxbow cause.

Mr. Blasdel will be the guest speaker at the August 14th Oxbow, Inc. membership meeting in Lawrenceburg. (see meetings)

VOLUNTEERS – FRONT AND CENTER!

It's time for our volunteers to step forward once again. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden will have its fourth annual WILDLIFE WEEKEND August 25-26, 1990.

The Zoo has donated a booth to Oxbow, Inc. and workers will be needed Saturday and Sunday from 10 A.M to 4 P.M. Come join us and spread the Oxbow story.

Experienced veterans who have worked a booth before know what fun it is! Those who haven't, now have the opportunity to experience this delightful pastime. For your moral support, a board member will be present in the booth with you.

Volunteers call Ned Keller, 513-941-6497. Call early to get the time slot of your preference.

SEE YOU AT THE ZOO!

NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Welcome to John Getzendanner, Jim Rettig, Suzanne Skidmore and Earl Thirey who have been elected to the Board of Trustees of Oxbow, Inc. Mr. John Getzendanner lives at Hidden Valley Lake, Lawrenceburg, IN. He is a dispatcher for the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. Mr. Jim Rettig lives in Cincinnati, OH and is the payroll master for the Cincinnati Technical College. Mrs. Suzanne Skidmore is also a Cincinnatian. She, and her husband David, are active in conservation issues, particularly the Indian Hill Green Belt and Oxbow areas. Mr. Earl Thirey is also from Cincinnati. He holds the position of School Program Coordinator at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. Mr. Thirey has accepted the office of Secretary.

We look forward to a long and fulfilling association with these new members of the Board.

Trustees who retired from the Board were Vice President Rick Bramstedt, Rising Sun, IN., William and Barbara Corning, Versailles, IN., Harold and Carol Foltz, Moores Head, IN., Past President John Miller, Rising Sun, IN., and Cay Tuck of Cincinnati, OH. These Trustees contributed much to the corporate qualities of Oxbow, Inc., and their talents and individuality will be missed. Although no longer holding office, they shall continue to work towards advancing the goals of the organization. We thank them for the many hours they have devoted to the preservation of the Oxbow.
As I write these notes, summer is just nine days away yet the Oxbow looks more like late winter or early spring. Spring usually finds the young corn plants covering the fields around the Oxbow. Today most of the large fields around the lake are still under water. The tall wading birds, great blue herons and great egret, look right at home wading in the middle of what should be a corn field. Caspian terns and black crowned night herons were there too this evening.

On Monday evening, May 14th, 25 of us took a walk with Jay Stenger into the Oxbow area. The day had been mostly clear, a welcome after so many rainy days. The evening was so pleasant - mud was easy to find, but you could walk around it if you didn't wish to walk in it. The water was settling out of the big field but there remained a large, shallow water hole which was being used by several species of birds. Killdeer could be seen and heard as we started on our walk.

Near the old gravel pit we saw least and spotted sandpipers. Black crowned night herons were resting on the old stumps out in the Oxbow lake. The all-white great egret was easy to see in the shallow water as it walked among the green willow trees. As we approached, a double-crested cormorant swam away from us. Most of the cormorant's body was under water, making the long neck and head look more like a periscope than a bird in the water. Wood ducks moved out, their calls identifying what duck had just flown.

We walked toward the shallow water hole in the big field. Several great blue herons were seen, some striding slowly at the water's edge while others stood quietly resting. A pair of blue-winged teal were busily feeding in the shallows. Several ring-billed gulls were competing to see who could swallow the largest fish. Herring gulls came in to show us how much larger than the ring-billed gulls they were.

A birder pointed out a couple of cattle egrets that had come in unnoticed. The gold of their breeding plumage was so pretty in the evening sunlight. To our left was the borrow pit. Cormorants enjoyed this deeper water that they shared with a couple of mallards. More black crowned night herons rested in the willows. It was nice to stand here in the floodplain of the Great Miami and enjoy the wildlife on this beautiful spring evening.

For some it was time to turn toward home. Five blue-winged teal flew over and barked in the evening light. It was easy to see how they came to be called "Blue-Winged." Near the old gravel pit a flight of 15 black crowned night herons flew over just above the trees - and here we came too near to a couple of green-backed herons. The startled herons had to move after being settled in for the night. In the Oxbow twilight a night hawk made its crazy overhead flight searching the air for insects.

Once again, as so many times before, I had enjoyed an evening at the Oxbow with old friends and other nice people I haven't known quite as long.

Oxbow, Inc. plans a field trip into the area every month, and it's a nice way to spend a few hours afield.
TUESDAY, JULY 10TH, 1990 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.

Kani Meyer, Executive Assistant, Program Division of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History will be the guest speaker. Carbon dioxide is in the news a lot lately, mainly due to its contribution to the greenhouse effect. Yet the ancient atmosphere was composed primarily of carbon dioxide. What changed the atmosphere four billion years ago? Where is all that carbon dioxide now? This talk will address these questions as well as present slides on the remarkable complexity of coral reefs and their role in the carbon dioxide cycle.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library. Turn left off of U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.

Elvin Blasdel presents "SERENDIPITY". A slide program that will demonstrate that you do not always get what you see. Mr. Blasdel is an accomplished photographer and a member of the Cincinnati Color Slide Club who has conducted a number of programs for Oxbow, Inc.

SPECIAL PROGRAM — THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library.

David and Virginia McNeil present their color slide program, "RUSSIA TODAY." (See article.)

Field Trips

SUNDAY, JULY 22ND, 8 A.M. Monthly field trip to the Oxbow. Meet Ned Keller at the boat ramp parking lot at Shawnee Lookout Park. Ned Keller 513-941-6497

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 7 P.M. Shore birds should be on their way South. Meet Dave Styer in the Fifties Root Beer parking lot. Dave Styer 513-772-4395

MOVING?

Make sure your WETLAND MATTERS newsletter goes with you.

Name ____________________________ New Address ____________________________

Old Address ____________________________ City/State/Zip ____________________________

City/State/Zip ____________________________ Effective Date ____________________________

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Ave Cinti, OH 45214

* Please notify us immediately so we can update our records. The post office does not forward third class mail.
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 area known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from future industrial development and to preserve the existing agricultural floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This is an agricultural area rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland. You can 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 | Organization/Club | $25 | Cornerstone | $250 |
| Family     | $15 | Supporting        | $50 | Sponsor     | $500 |
| Contributing | $25 | Patron            | $100| Benefactor  | $1000|

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc., 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Need A Speaker? Give Us A Call!