HELP WANTED

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

It's Not Too Late to Pledge Birdathon Support

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

To pledge, clip and return this form:

*********************************************************
Birdathon Pledge

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________

Team ____ Amt. per Species Found __

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

Oxbow, Inc.
Activities Schedule

PROGRAMS

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

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

Spring comes to the Oxbow. We are looking forward to the beauty of spring and all that brings to the Oxbow; the willows will soon be green and blowing in the cool breeze. But before the big change comes about, I'm thinking back over the last few weeks of winter.

Saturday, 13 March '99, I had agreed to make a field trip into the Oxbow area with a group from Audubon of Indiana. I had been feeling puny, and I wasn't sure I could make the trip. I called Paul Wharton and asked him if he would lead the field trip. Paul was kind enough to help me out. I do want to thank Paul for helping me, and for leading a great field trip.

Jim Simpson and I caught up with the group from Indiana near Jackpot Pond. There were several ducks on the water, and some in the air. We saw a Marsh Hawk hunting above the field near Wood Duck Slough. There were several Great Blue Herons in the area. Paul told about seeing so many birds in the snow-covered fields near Kilby Road and U.S. 50. There were hundreds of birds. The largest number were Horned Larks, then Lapland Longspurs, and some Snow Buntings. That was really something to see, and I was able to stay close to the car.

Paul gave the folks from Indiana a fine all-day trip. Their trip took them over near the C.G.&E. power plant where they saw a Black Vulture and the Peregrine Falcons. When Paul arrived home, he gave us a call to tell us he had found another field full of Larks, Longspurs and Buntings. Jim and I had to check that out. So it was down toward the Oxbow again. We turned in and went by the little cemetery on to the underpass of I-275. This was the same field that was flooded back in January, full then of ducks, geese, and gulls.

The evening was overcast with a cold west wind blowing across the snow-covered fields. The birds were easy to find. Every few minutes a flock of birds would take off into the wind. It looked as if they were leaving the area. Then all the birds seemed to turn in unison and come back into the field near where they had taken off from. The birds seemed to be feeding on weed seeds. It was something to see so many Horned Larks, and there were more Lapland Longspurs than I had seen in my life time, many of them in spring plumage. The snow was gone in a few days, and the birds seemed to melt away with the snow.

Wednesday, March 17, '99, and it was time for our annual St. Patrick's Day field trip to the Oxbow. I really don't know how many years we have made the trip, but it has been several. Making the trip this year was the same group as last year: Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, Jim Simpson and I (we were Irish for a day). The rules were same as last year. Karl had the box of Lorna Doone cookies but we wouldn't get a cookie until we found the Green-winged Teal.

This year Jim found us a flock of Green-winged Teal very early. The Teal were in the shallow water and in the mud. It was fun to see some of them run on those little short legs. The light from the morning sun did show off the color on those beautiful birds. There were many other ducks. I enjoy seeing a flock of ducks fly by the water hole, turn sharply, and come in on fixed wings. It seems to take me back to my boyhood days in Illinois. That was a long time ago, but it looks as if I'm stuck with my love for the migrating water fowl. When we got back in the car, Karl opened the box of Lorna Doone cookies, and Jim got the first cookie.

We saw 14 species of ducks, the three species of Mergansers, the Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted. We saw a Loon in spring plumage, a Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Coots, and Gulls. And I saw my first Meadowlark this season.

It was getting along toward noon, and everyone was ready to eat. It was fun to talk over the morning we had just shared. Jim was a big help with us old WW II vets. How the years hurry on. I remember when I was in the Pacific, and it seemed the war would never end. We used to dream "The Golden Gate in Forty-Eight," then came the A-Bomb, and we changed to "Back Alive in '45". But you couldn't help but think of all those that would never go home.

The beauty of Spring is coming to the Oxbow. Hope you get to enjoy the season and the Oxbow.
**Oxbow Memorials**

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<tr>
<td>Hydra Becker</td>
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<td>Tiger Buckmaster</td>
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<td>Jackson L. Clagett III</td>
<td>David and Suzanne Skidmore</td>
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<td>Dazer Cottengin</td>
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<td>Neil MacNeale</td>
<td>Carolyn R. Shine</td>
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<td>Jimmie Wiseman</td>
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<td>Dan Riesterberg</td>
<td>Jimmie Wiseman</td>
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<td>Kit Kat Sykes</td>
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**Oxbow Tribute**

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<td>Don and Irene Diehl, 50th Wedding Anniversary</td>
<td>Jim and Betty Heinold</td>
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**Ted Turner to Speak in Zoo Conservation Lecture Series**

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

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

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

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**Muscatatuck to Sponsor Migrating Bird Festival**

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

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

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

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

For information about the festival, call (812) 522-4362.

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**Healthy Wetlands Can Reduce Mosquito Populations**

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

New Jersey has been controlling mosquitoes “the natural way” by using a technique called Open Water Management. This technique controls mosquito larvae by eliminating areas where water pools and by increasing natural enemies of mosquitoes.
Oxbow, Inc.
A nonprofit organization formed by conservation
groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana
for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands
ecosystem known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown,
or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development
and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the
Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area
for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This
agricultural is rich in geological, archaeological, and
anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. Make
your state a richer place in which to live by helping us
preserve this precious resource. Membership in
Oxbow, Inc. is encouraged and solicited.

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Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.
P.O. Box 43391
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391
513-471-8001

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Corresponding Secretary,
   Suzanne Skidmore ..........(513) 561-5718
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Ohio Agent, Dave Styer ..........(513) 772-1287
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   Michael Kluesener ..........(513) 574-1220
   Richard Pope ..........(513) 637-1365
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Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer ..........(513) 941-2534
Newsletter Bill Bocklage ..........(513) 922-2445

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