



March—April 2012

No. 154

WETLAND

matters

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

Have you visited our website?...www.oxbowinc.info

Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

Birdathon 2012, May 11-12

.....by Jon Seymour

Get out the binoculars and birdlists, warm up your checkbook and pen and let's all get ready to participate and support the fundraising efforts of the Birdathon teams. If you have participated before you know how much fun it is, if you have contributed before you know how satisfying it is to encourage your favorite team.

The Greater Cincinnati Birdathon will be held May 11-12, 2012. Last year nearly 20 groups, over 50 participants, and over 70 donor individuals and groups completed another successful fund raiser/fun raiser and located 199 species in the Greater Cincinnati Area and had a wonderful time doing it. Wow! That means we will do it again. Maybe this time we will reach 200 species!

The Birdathon is the only fundraiser that we sponsor and the money raised goes to habitat improvement and access improvement. Habitat changes we made in the last ten years have led to increases in the biodiversity of the area. Plant species numbers increased over 10% in our most recent survey. We have added 8 new species of birds to our extensive bird list in the last 10 years. This year we will continue our butterfly surveys and hopefully start a dragonfly/damselfly survey. Adding these additional surveys is an indication of the enhanced biodiversity that corresponds to enhanced micro environments within the Oxbow.

See page 9 for a listing of the Oxbow teams. For the contribution form for your favorite team, see page 9. If you have never participated before and would like to give it a try, contact Jay Stenger (513-522-4245) to enter a team. If you are not sure about a team and still would like to try the experience, contact Jon Seymour (513-851-9835). Jon will take any first timers out that wish to try their first Birdathon.

The Wiseman-Witte Grant Funding at Work at Cincinnati Waldorf School

.....by Velda Miller

As a follow-up to the fall funding period for the Wiseman-Witte educational grants, I visited the Cincinnati Waldorf School on Wednesday, February 8. I'll probably try to sneak back in the late spring or summer to see the area when it's greened up, but it was wonderful being with the students and hearing about the work that went into their play/nature area.

Unlike most schools, the same teacher stays with the students from 1st through 8th grade. In the third grade the students build something. The students decided they wanted to take a wet grassy area and turn it into a play area/nature area. It was the students, these third graders, under the guidance of adults that did most of the work. Much of the fescue where the water flows was dug up. Sedges were planted in this area. At a location in Mt. Airy forest, dirt was being hauled in and dumped as fill. The students rescued (dug up) the sedges from that site and replanted them at their site. Other plants, such as native sunflowers, swamp rose, and bergamot, have also been added to the surrounding area. Although the plants have not yet sprouted this year, most students knew and were very willing to point out where they had dug and placed them.

In order that the play/nature area could be easily accessed, the students built a board walk. Again, it was these third graders that carefully measured the boards (two times as I was often reminded), used hand saws to cut them the proper length, nailed it all together, and put it in place. All accomplished with a lot of planning, a lot of sweat and hard work, one broken finger, and a few bruises and minor cuts.

Soon the warmth and longer days of spring should bring forth the rewards of all their efforts. The

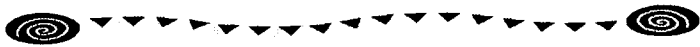
(continued on page 2)

cattails, touch-me-nots, and willow that already call this area home, will be joined by the other native plants so carefully placed by the students. These will serve as an invitation to other wildlife to come join them in their special area, and hopefully call it home. Already, a crowdad has made this small wetland its home. Last year, a pair of mallards built a nest among the logs of a large fallen tree that has been left in this area. Unfortunately, due to all the hard work going on nearby, they abandoned the site. But, there is hope this year that they will return and find the site even more inviting.

And there is still more to be done. As fourth graders, they are planning on adding nesting boxes for birds.

So much has been gained through the students' efforts. Not just a wetland/play area, but the knowledge and organizational skills it takes to plan such a project, the patience and proper use of tools to put it all together, and now their observational skills as they see first hand, the rewards of a job well done.

(The Wiseman-Witte Education Grants are awarded to teachers K-12 and for special educational projects. You may contribute directly to the fund by designating a special donation, memorial or honorarium for use by the fund.)



Election Results 2012

The following persons were elected at the Annual Members meeting of in January.

Denis Conover, Dennis Mason, Kani Meyer, Meg Poehlmann and Rick Pope were elected to the Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. and, in a separate election, to the Board of Directors of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.

At the January Board meeting the following officers were elected by the directors of both the Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. organizations.

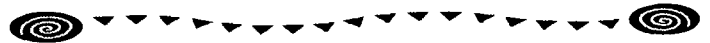
President of Both: Jon Seymour
 Vice-President of Both: Kani Meyer
 Recording Secretary for Both: Dwight Poffenberger
 Corresponding Secretary for Both: Dennis Mason
 Treasurer for Both: Jim Poehlmann

At the same meeting Ed Gemperle was appointed to the Board of Directors of both organizations to fill an unexpired term on the Board.

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami 2012 Saturday, May 19, 2012 9 a.m. to Noon

**Meet at the entrance parking lot.
 We will provide, bags, water,
 gloves and a T-shirt**

**Anyone with a truck we can use please
 email Kani Meyer kaniau@yahoo.com
 or call at 513-948-8630**



What's Up under Your Trees? Understory Workshop

June 23, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
 Earth Connection - \$8.00 (includes lunch)

Join us to learn more about plants naturally occurring under the canopy layer of Eastern forests. We will focus on the middle layer, which includes small shrubs to 15' understory trees. You will learn what shrubs work well in home landscapes, what to plant to provide food for butterflies and other wildlife, and how to eradicate invasive species and what to plant to replace these plants. We'll also talk about conservation and local efforts of monitoring our state nature preserves and how you can help!

Speakers: Chris McCullough, Christine Hadley, and Debi Wolterman. Hikes to see shrubs in native wooded habitats will be led by Tim Sisson. Presented by Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, Greater Cincinnati Wild Ones, Midwest Native Plant Society and Western Wildlife Corridor, CCCV (Connecting Community Conservation Volunteers).

RSVP Kathy McDonald by calling 513-941-6497 or by email at Kathy@cincinnatibirds.com

REMINDER! SAFETY! REMINDER!

Hunting Season in Indiana lasts well into the Spring. While only small portions of Oxbow Land are open to hunting, it is still wise to be aware of the potential for encountering hunters. Also the small portions of land still in private hands in the Oxbow may also have legal hunters. It is a good idea to wear bright colored clothing while wandering Oxbow trails during hunting season.



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 acknowledgment.

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Donor	In Honor of
Westwood Methodist Merrimates	Wayne Wauligman
Jay & Macie VanRensselaer	Charlie Green & Constance Lighthall
Donor	In Memory of
Jane Bernzott	Roy P. Bernzott
Raymond & Audrey Boehringer	Roy P. Bernzott
Bob & Emma Hartkemeier	Roy P. Bernzott
Kemp Jaycox & Cynthia Fink	Phyllis Kadel
Joan & Dean Sampson	Roy P. Bernzott
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Norma Flannery and Morris Mercer
Vicki Shepherd & Ron Gough	Dr. Ed Pelikan

Thanks to Alice Ann Carpenter
for her memorial to John Leininger for
the Wiseman Witte Education Fund

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

Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Coombe

Charles Noe

Kelly Riccetti

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS



To reach 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, March 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg

The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Those of you who have visited our online photo albums of the Oxbow may have noted a great many excellent photographs by Oxbow member, Caveman Etris. Now is your chance to see Caveman present these and more that he has made over the years in the Oxbow, including frogs, turtles, birds, plants, flowers, and insects as well as scenic vistas of our favorite places. Maybe, if we're lucky, he'll even explain the origin of his name.

April 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg

The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Dr. Wayne Wauligman will speak on the "Results of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas 2006-2011". Maps of individual species can be shown and compared to the previous atlas from 1982 to 1987. Along with the maps will be photos of breeding bird nests, fledglings or singing males.

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, March 17, 2012 8:00 a.m.

St. Patrick's Day Waterfowl

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

Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, nedkeller49@aol.com



Many signs of spring should be noticeable by this date and mid-March is the peak for spring waterfowl migration in our area. While waterfowl will be the focus of this visit, a number of other spring migrants and lingering winter residents should also be present. Bald Eagles reach peak numbers during March and Sandhill Cranes are also a good bet. Shake off your cabin fever and join Ned Keller for this St. Patrick's Day morning trip. Ned, an expert birder, has birded the Oxbow for over 30 years. March also brings rain and potential flooding so some areas of the Oxbow may be inaccessible. Ned will adjust his plans, if necessary, on the day of the trip. Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. Feel free to contact Ned with any questions.

Ned will also observe a tradition begun many years ago by three of Oxbow Inc's founding fathers (and Cincinnati nature icons), the late Morris Mercer, George Laycock and Karl Maslowski. Every St. Patrick's Day Morris, Karl, George and various friends and family would visit the Oxbow together and bring packages of Lorna Doone cookies with them. Not a single cookie was eaten until the first Green-winged Teal was spotted in honor of the day. Sooner or later Green-winged Teal were always found and St. Patrick's Day was commemorated with the opening of the cookies. Ned promises to have lots of Lorna Doones on hand. Green beer was also mentioned, but I'll believe it when I see it. Get your St. Paddy's day rolling by seeing a variety of birds (including Green-winged Teal) and other wildlife.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 8:00 AM

Birds & Herps

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

Leader: Paul Krusling, (513) 471-2954, pkrusling@afuse.net

During the second half of April, Spring should be well advanced. Depending on the species of bird, spring migration will be either near peak, just beginning or just winding down. In other words, a great diversity of species should be found in the Oxbow area on this date. Waterfowl, herons, shorebirds, raptors and migrant songbirds are all expected. Additionally the warming weather will see a variety of herps (reptiles & amphibians) become active and the Oxbow and lower Great Miami River is a great place to see them as well. On this trip we will have to look both up and down, as we will focus on birds and herps.

Paul Krusling is an excellent birder, but is also one of the few reptile and amphibian experts in the Cincinnati area. He is always confident that he can find, and in many cases catch, specimens including turtles, snakes, skinks, frogs, toads, and salamanders. On this trip Paul will visit both sides of the Great Miami River, the Oxbow and the riverbanks on the Shawnee Lookout side, as we seek a diversity of wildlife. Because April also brings rain and potential flooding, some areas may be inaccessible. Paul will adjust his plans accordingly on the day of the trip. Dress for early spring and expect some mud on your shoes. Feel free to contact Paul if you have any questions.

Oxbow's Christmas Wish List for 2012

During the recent Christmas Season, like many others, we have prepared our Wish List for Santa. 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 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 an irregular basis there for dumping. (We will still ask Rumpke to donate a dumpster on site for large projects.)
- If you have a truck that is in good shape that you are no longer using and wish to donate it to Oxbow, we are interested.

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



Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2012

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2012 to:

**Oxbow, Inc.
c/o Denny Mason
10210 Scull Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45252**

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed on page 11. Cut out the memorandum. Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelop to Denny. 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.

Sixth Annual Wildflower Festival

Friday, April 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

College of Mount Saint Joseph

Sponsored by the Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC)

This family event will feature nature games and activities for children, a wildflower plant sale, a painting class, and presentations by local environmental organizations. Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 or rsison654@zoomtown.com to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

Saturday, April 28, half day or all day

Eighth Annual Flower-a-thon Fundraiser

Sponsored by the Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC)

In this fun event, participants compete to identify the wildflowers of the region. Beginners can join an experienced team to learn more about wildflowers. Each participant solicits pledges from friends, relatives, neighbors, businesses or corporations for each species found during that day.

You can begin your day at 8 a.m. with a breakfast around the fire at Embshoff Woods Park, or join us at 1 p.m. at the gravel pull-off on Bender Road. Teams will explore the Ohio River valley to search for and identify wildflowers. A dinner catered by Arnold's and a raffle cap off the day. The team identifying the most wildflowers will receive the event's coveted Golden Trillium Award. To register, (fee of \$15 per person required), contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Member Communications Committee:

Jennifer Borneman
Joanne Earls
Lynda Mason
Velda Miller
Jackie Seymour
Pat Shanklin
Suzanne Skidmore
Barb Varland
Jim Wilgenbusch



This photo took second place in our 2010 photo contest. The photo is by Malina Scrobosinski. Smartweed Caterpillar or Smeared Dagger Moth, Noctuidae *Acronicta obliqua*. According to Wagner's CATERPILLARS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA, it is "highly variable in coloration but is nearly always some combination of black, yellow, red, and white, with black usually dominating. Consistently with yellow lateral blotches that form broad interrupted spiracular stripe. It lives in barrens, marshes and swamps from southern Canada to Florida. It is widely polyphagous, eating many forbs including smartweed." The moth is totally nondescript brown with white under-wings. (The description is provided by Wayne Wauligman)



Fourth Grade students from Cincinnati Waldorf School stand in the middle of the natural play area that a grant from Oxbow, Inc. Wiseman-Witte Education Fund helped to fund. The play area was a project started by this class as third graders and they will continue to build upon it until they become 8th graders. Their teacher Lydia Kelley stands behind the group with teaching assistant and playscape designer Luke Schelly. Notice that the kids have collected a lot of mud on their clothes. Now that is getting close to nature! (photo by Velda Miller)



Winter habitat in the Oxbow is often a mixture of water and farm fields. Flooded corn fields are a particularly rich source of food for wintering ducks and Geese. Thousands can be found in the Oxbow during the winter months. The attraction is enhanced by the standing wildlife crops left for winter food by the farmers that lease our land. Contracts have been signed for 5 years starting in 2012 for leasing 380 acres of Oxbow land for farming. The income from our farm leasing basically runs the day to day operations of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. (photo by Jon Seymour)

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

.....by Jon Seymour

(Thursday, February 9, 2012)

Here and There and All Over

There were over 100 people in the room for a seminar on the care of land. Three of the attendees are on the Board of Oxbow, Inc. Kani Meyer and John Klein, Oxbow's land managers, are there and I am too. They are the important ones. The affair is sponsored by Green Umbrella's Land Team and folks from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio are in attendance. Listening to the problems that most other open lands owners have in this area reminds just how unique the problems of land management in the floodplain are. After the morning seminar I head for the Oxbow.

Just last week the water had been at 46 feet in Cincinnati and the entrances into the Oxbow had been cut off by high water. This would be the third time this week that I would drive the Oxbow Lake road from Hardintown to Hollywood. Five years ago this would have been an impossible thought. Now even puddles in the road are safe to drive through as there is a gravel bottom under the water. We still have to work with the roads each year but each year it gets easier to drive the "Shell to Slot" route in wet weather.

On Monday the 6th as I drove into the Oxbow, the first thing I noticed was an immature Bald Eagle perched in the top of a tree on the causeway across Juno Pond. It was being shadowed by its own noisy guard of American Crows. This is often a good way to locate a Bald Eagle in the Oxbow. Listen for agitated crows and locate the source of the sound. Monday is foggy in the bottoms so the eagle seems content to ignore the crows and stay where it is.

A little further down the road I met a bulldozer tractor coming up the road at me. This strikes me as a bit unusual but then I notice that it has a vehicle in tow. I know that for the past 6 weeks an insurance company has been trying to retrieve a stolen vehicle that was driven out into the Oxbow and abandoned under the I-275 bridge. It has been underwater for much of the last few weeks. Now Hardintown Salvage had decided the time and conditions were right to retrieve the vehicle. I stopped to talk with one of the Salvage folks and he confirms my thoughts. He surprises me with a story that they also found a van stuck on the abandon portion of Oxbow Lake road that it had been there overnight. They had freed the occupied vehicle and the driver had hightailed it out of the Oxbow along the RR road exit. While I did say the road was drivable I want to make it clear – ONLY the roads we gravel.

On Tuesday the 7th I had ridden along this road with the Director of the Dearborn County Visitors Bureau and two other tour people looking at the possibilities of including a visit to the Oxbow in tours that come to Dearborn

County. We were in the Chamber of Commerce van but we sailed on through with no difficulties. Now on Friday I was headed back in again, this time to count birds. The American coots are numerous as well as Mallards. In the fields behind Oxbow Lake I can see 11 Great Blue Herons fishing the flood pools sharing them, probably reluctantly, with a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls.

Heading south along the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District road, a glance to my left shows me a large bird coming at me over the harvested field from the railroad track area. It is only 30-40 feet in the air as it cruises slowly toward me. Almost immediately I can see the white head. I stop the car and decide to remain inside until the bird passes by. As the Bald Eagle draws even with me the white tail becomes obvious. As the eagle passes I slip out of the car door and raise my binoculars to get a look and to watch where it goes. It continues toward the trees that line the ridge that lies south of Osprey Lake and separates the terrace of the lake from the old river bottom below. The target now becomes evident as the binoculars show me an immature Bald Eagle already occupying the tree tops. My thought is that the adult would pull up next to the juvenile and they would occupy the area together. Wrong!!! The adult comes into the same perch rising up in a sweep and talons are raised. The juvenile appears to be taken by surprise and is knocked off the perch and actually seems to jump out of the way before getting its wings open to fly. The adult occupies the perch and the juvenile heads north and circles Juno Pond before descending to a perch in the trees along Oxbow Lake road.

Again I have been privileged to see a moment in the drama of nature. This drama movie is playing all the time and whenever we enter the Oxbow we get to see whatever current episode is showing. We do not write the script and as I just learned – again – we cannot even predict the script.

Remember I came into the Oxbow to count some birds. Here is the list:

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2012

Location: Oxbow, Lawrenceburg

Reporter: Jon Seymour

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • 250 American Coot | • 2 Turkey Vulture |
| • 400 Mallard | • 1 Northern Harrier |
| • 40 Gadwall | • 1 Red-tailed Hawk |
| • 5 Canada Goose | • 2 Bald Eagle |
| • 17 Great Blue Heron | (1 adult, 1 immature) |
| • 15 American Crow | • 35 Ring-billed Gull |

It shows exactly what I saw but gives nothing of the real story. For the show you have to be in the Oxbow.

(Listings of the sightings of birds in the Oxbow are posted on our website www.oxbowinc.org or www.oxbowinc.info and sometimes are talked about and mentioned on the Facebook page where photos of some of the birds seen are shared)

Birdathon 2012 Pledge Form

(May 11-12, 2012)

Name _____

Address _____

My Pledge for Birdathon 2012 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.)

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, Inc. Team

_____ Highest Scoring Team

_____ Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, & Joe Bens

_____ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman, Erich Baumgardner, & Jerry Lippert

_____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, & Chris Moran

_____ Team #4 – Steve Pelikan, Bob Lacker, & Charlie Saunders

_____ Team #5 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

_____ Team #6 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

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

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

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, **please 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.

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



usings

by Dave Styer

The Northern Goshawk

In keeping with recent tradition, this article is a follow-up to the recent addition of the Northern Goshawk to the Oxbow bird list. Last October 27, Dan Lindeman and Ron Dressman saw the Goshawk at the Oxbow, and Ron has written in *Wetland Matters* about the sighting.

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is the largest of the three *Accipiter* species of North America, north of Mexico. The other two, the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk, are seen fairly regularly in the Greater Cincinnati area. Goshawks are seen maybe a few times in a decade, and I never saw one in the area. The immature *Accipiters* have brown-streaked breasts. The adult Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks have red-barred breasts, but the adult Goshawk has a gray-barred breast. The Goshawk that Dan and Ron saw was evidently an adult, and that gray-barred breast makes the identification relatively easy. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* provides a good idea of the size of a Goshawk. The (average) length of a Goshawk is 21 inches, while the average length of a Red-tailed Hawk is 19 inches. Certainly the Goshawk is a large bird. However, the wingspan of a Goshawk is around 41 inches, while that of a Red-tailed Hawk is 49 inches. As compared with a Red-tailed Hawk all our *Accipiters* have a relatively longer and narrower tail, and a shorter wingspan.

Our *Accipiters* are bird eaters, but the large Goshawk likely eats more mammals than do Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawks. As Ron's *Wetland Matters* article notes, Goshawks come south when Snowshoe Hares and grouse are scarce, and this scarcity happens in about 10 year cycles.

The hunting of the Goshawk must be dramatic. The publication on the Northern Goshawk by John Squires and Richard Reynolds in *The Birds of North America* states:

As an aggressive North American hunting hawk, Goshawks eagerly crash

through brush when capturing prey or readily strike intruders approaching their nests.

The same article states that the Goshawk, which also lives all across Eurasia, has been used in falconry for many centuries. Also, "revered as symbols of strength, a Goshawk adorned the helmet of Attila the Hun." Perhaps writing was a little more flamboyant earlier in the 20th century. The following paragraph is an excerpt from *Birds of Massachusetts*, by Edward Howe Forbush (1927):

Among all the fierce raptors that inhabit the continent of North America, there is not hawk handsomer, braver, fiercer, or more powerful than the Goshawk. Its attack is swift, furious and deadly. In the death grapple it clings ferociously to its victim, careless of its own safety until the unfortunate creature succumbs to its steely grip. Its stroke is terrible. It is delivered with such force as sometimes to tear out most of one side of its victim, and its wing-power is so great that it can carry off rabbits and full-grown fowls. The Goshawk is a bird of the great northern coniferous forests, but in winter when pressed by hunger it hunts over all kinds of territory.

It sounds as if the Oxbow School mascot should be the Goshawk. Let's hear it for the Goshawks! This reminds me of one of Worth Randle's favorite lame jokes. Many a now middle-aged Junior Zoologist spent some time afield birding with Worth. On looking skyward and seeing a jet plane, Worth would exclaim "there goes a Gashawk!"



News of Dave Styer
go to:

[http://www.thecalifornian.com/
article/20110116-](http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20110116-)

[NEWS01/201160319/At-Carr-Lake-Salinas-birds-feather-count-together">NEWS01/201160319/At-Carr-Lake-Salinas-birds-feather-count-together](#)



Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School Nature Outdoor Lab

Report from Nancy Lillie, Sunman-Dearborn Teacher

We had a dedication of the Outdoor Lab on Tuesday, Oct. 18th. Travis Stoelting from Indiana Wildlife Federation and the Schoolyard Habitat certification and Susan Knowles of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (biologist at Muscatatuck) presented the certification/sign. The Outdoor Lab committee was made up of five teachers: Jean Schmeltzer, Beth McClamroch, Christie Andres, Carla Daughtery, and me. Other school partners include Tom Beck, school corporation maintenance, and Mike Ireland, intermediate school custodian. Norb Goessling, assistant principal at S-DIS when the Outdoor Lab was begun and currently Principal at Bright Elementary, was instrumental in starting the lab. He worked closely with Vicky Smith of the DCSWCD and Heather Wirth with Tanner Creek Watershed, who were involved in the planting of the warm summer grasses in the prairie and the development of the lab. Mrs. Vennemeier, the current principal at S-DIS, is supportive of our work on the lab.

The signs that the Oxbow purchased are now up. Roy Johnson and his Ag. Landscaping class at East Central High School did the work to design and build the frames, as well as put them up at the site. It is wonderful to have such dedicated partners at the high school. Mr. Johnson does great things with the FFA and Ag classes. Some students who helped were: Haley Nailer, Sean Kaeser, Jeff Stacey, and Ashley Brothers.

We planted a butterfly garden in honor of Sydney Carpenter's young brother who was killed when he was hit by a truck. Girl Scout Troop 40059 stepped in, and with their help we weeded the area, tilled it, planted the plants donated by Sydney's classmates, and then decided that it really needed mulch. The hottest day of the summer, they put down landscaping cloth and hauled wheelbarrow loads of mulch to the garden. They also paid for the mulch. This garden could not have been what it is without their unselfish help. Their hours also contributed toward the hours needed for a grant through U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The troop included: leaders Julie Becker and Andrea Hartman and girls Lindsay Bischoff, Shelby Flynn, Bailey Hartman, Felicity Hendren, Kalea Huber, Shelby Lake, Meredith Struewing, and Kara Bushmeyer (from a different troop).

Other people who helped with the garden or with other phases of upkeep of the outdoor lab include: Lori and Miranda Wilson, Haley Snook, Michelle Paquette, Ruth Ann Batta, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bishoff, and the Bright Christian Church volunteers (led by the Tewksbury and Smith families).

I feel so fortunate to have so many people that have worked toward making the outdoor lab what it is. I appreciate the grant opportunity from Oxbow Inc. that allowed us to have training and planning time, as well as the signs.

(Oxbow Inc. is proud to administer the Wiseman-Witte Nature Education grants that made Oxbow's participation in the above project possible. Grant applications are on the Oxbow website: oxbowinc.org or oxbowinc.info)

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(A hunting permission slip with confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned on acceptance of your application.)

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HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2012

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

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A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands ecosystem know 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.

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Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level) \$25			

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