

OXBOW, inc.

Save the Oxbow Society

FANTASTIC!

YOU GAVE \$2,000, AND MORE.

CINCINNATI WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY CHALLENGE-GRANT SUCCEEDS. Art Wiseman, Treasurer

The Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society's challenge-grant is over the top!!! Many donations, both large and small, were received prior to the April 15th deadline to assure success.

Members of the Wildflower group voted in January to match dollar-for-dollar all new Oxbow, Inc. memberships and donations up to a maximum of \$2,000. The offer encouraged donors to "double their money" as they supported the conservation and preservation work of Oxbow, Inc.

The Wildflower Society's offer was announced locally at February meetings of all conservation organizations. The March-April issue of the NEWSLETTER spread the word to all members of Oxbow, Inc. Both forms of publicity were successful. In February, new monies totaled \$1,125 including a two hundred and fifty dollar donation from the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society. In March, though not all monies were designated as matching funds, several members were explicit; one member sent a donation clipped to the announcement from the NEWSLETTER. Others noted it on their checks. The distribution was quite good in March: 17 checks for \$10, eight for \$25, four for \$50 and ten for \$100 each. Donations received up to the April 15th deadline pushed donations over \$3,000, successfully meeting the challenge-grant of the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society.

Oxbow, Inc. is grateful to the Society members for their generosity and cooperation in the preservation of the floodplain and wetlands in the Oxbow area. We also thank them for their special plant survey conducted last summer and for the continuation of this important project this year.

"HERPS" PROVIDES GENEROUS GIFT TO OXBOW, INC.

A generous gift of \$250 from the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society has been added to the Oxbow, Inc. Land Acquisition Fund. A gift of this size from a relatively small group is outstanding and we sincerely appreciate the largess of this organization.

We must also mention our appreciation of the efforts of the members who are conducting a survey of the reptiles and amphibians living in the Oxbow area. Their survey is well under way at this time.

We thank the Society for their donation.

IN APPRECIATION -

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood McIntire wish to convey their thanks and heartfelt appreciation to artist Melinda Bitting for her painting, "Blackburnian Warblers." The painting was done by Melinda and presented to the McIntires by Oxbow, Inc. in appreciation of their \$10,000 challenge-grant.

(Handwritten mark)

WOOD DUCK "HILTON" OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

Thanks to Mark Wolter of super-deluxe wood duck were readied for occu- John Neupauer assembled With the technical Jinny Wiseman, who ground, the boxes were Quilligan, Greg Mendell trees on Oxbow, Inc.'s property.



Oxbow, Inc., six beautiful nesting boxes made by him pation. Tim Sisson and and painted the boxes. assistance of Art and remained standing on the mounted by Dave and Debbie and Jack Dumbacher up in "Wood Duck Slough"

"I hear the rooms are great, Ethel."

At the same time, units, built and donated placed in strategic locations. Bluebirds, chickadees, titmice and tree swallows will be thrilled with these new accommodations.

We thank the volunteers who assisted in this project. Oxbow, Inc. appreciates the time they gave to improve the wildlife habitat in Wood Duck Slough.

seven smaller rustic by Bill Corning, were

TALL TALES FROM PLANT INVENTORY DAYS.

David Styer

Sometimes things get confused in translation. Take that story about Jack and the Beanstalk, for example. From what I heard, it is an old tale of the Shawnee Indians who lived near the mouth of the Great Miami River. They didn't know anything about pole beans. The story was really "Jack and the Giant Ragweed." The early European settlers didn't know anything about Great Ragweed, but the Shawnees did, and that's what the tale was about. Those of us helping Ruth Trosset and the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society on the plant inventory last summer learned about Great Ragweed, believe me. In his classic book Flora of Indiana Charles C. Dean writes of someone who had ragweed eighteen feet tall. Rest assured, it grows taller than that!

Now Jack was both hardy and clever. Jack never got hay fever in his life, but he figured out that the giant did. What better reason was there for the giant to live up in the clouds, but to get above all that ragweed pollen? When the ragweed came into full bloom Jack climbed one of those stalks that disappeared into the mists above, and looted the giant's castle. The giant took such a fit of sneezing when he chased Jack back down the ragweed stalk that he lost his grip and fell. Well, the giant fell into the Great Miami, and the shock of impact turned him into a fish. He tried to leap out but never succeeded. To this day you can see fish leaping; small descendents of the giant of old. Sometimes...virtually always when your back is turned, but sometimes...you hear a truly large fish jump from the water at the mouth of the Great Miami River. The moral of the tale is that for some things hay fever is better than a stone ax.

Now that I have straightened out some of the folklore, we can move on to modern aspects of plant inventory. I guess that the best way to explain things is in terms of football penalties. Yes, we suffered some embarrassment on account of this, but you ought to know about it--so the same thing doesn't happen to you. Many of you are familiar with the clipping penalty. A clip is a low blow from behind to knock a person down (even though he is not carrying the ball). You are likely less aware of the worse penalty, the double clip, otherwise known as the diclip. Worst of all, though, we suffered from dicliptera! After some words of explanation,

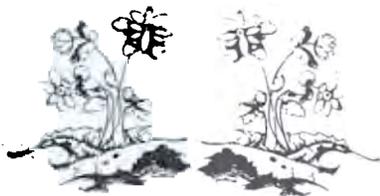
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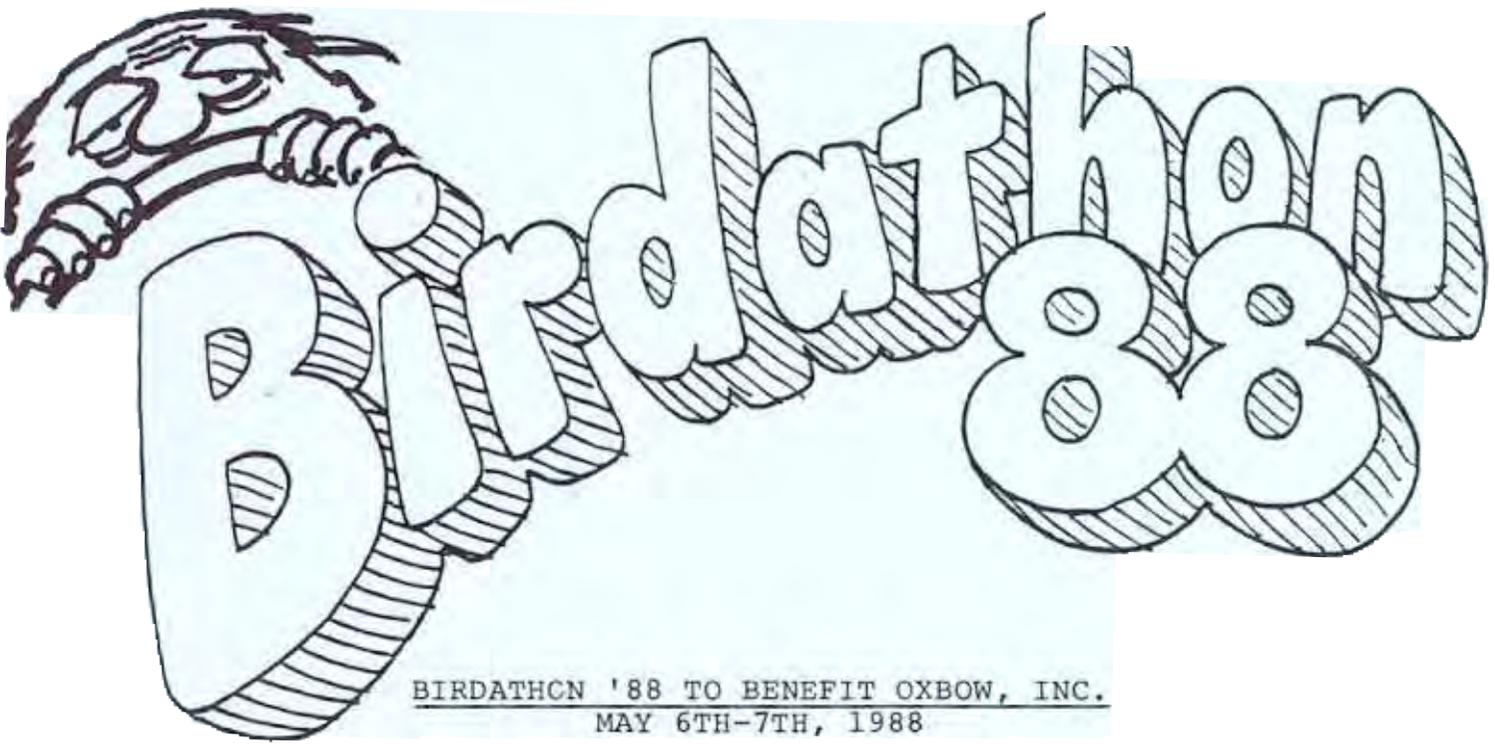
I hope you will better understand what befell us. The following tale is actually one hundred percent true. Since nobody will believe it anyhow, I include it among the tall tales.

On the fifteenth of August, at the end of a hot and tiring day of inventory, I started to drive home, but stopped to look at a plant that looked different. I was pleased to find that it was Wild Senna, a plant new to our inventory. Next to the senna was another interesting plant; one that, to the best of my knowledge, I had never before seen. But I was tired, and the flowers weren't quite in bloom. I tried to identify it, and then more-or-less forgot it. Two weeks later, when Alvin Jose, the Trossets and I were just getting started for the day, Alvin found another group of this unknown plant. It looked just like what I had found. There were many seed pods, several flower buds about to open, but no flower really open. Then we noticed that flowers were falling off without ever really opening, and the seeds developing just the same. Botanists have a term for this phenomenon: They call such flowers "cleistogamous." This was interesting, but none of us knew what the plant was. I got a key (a key is basically an outline that leads one through choices until you end up with one species, presumably the one you are looking at), and Alvin said which option was correct as I worked down the key. We ended up with a plant with a scientific name. Dicliptera brachiata, but no common name. We then looked in the Manual of Vascular Plants by Gleason and Cronquist. Without going through their key, we saw that they mention that Dicliptera is a plant of moist woods that sometimes has cleistogamous flowers. Its range is from southern Indiana, south, and up along the East Coast. There was no indication in any of our books that Dicliptera had ever been found in Ohio, although, of course, southern Indiana certainly is not far away. How exciting; perhaps we had found a plant never before seen in Ohio!

By now you probably know we were in trouble. It is appropriate to mention here two of life's great lessons. The first is that it's bad enough to be in trouble, but it can be twice as bad when you are in trouble and don't know it. This lesson is learned by hard experience. The second great lesson is that no matter how well you learn the first, it does you absolutely no good. We didn't know we were wrong.

The only plant around here that faintly resembles Dicliptera is a very close relative, Ruellia. We knew Ruellia quite well. It is a wildflower that blooms in late spring or early summer, and has lovely violet blossoms about two inches across. The only thing that keeps Ruellia from being a garden flower is that it doesn't bloom enough. At any rate, what we were looking at was blooming abundantly, in the wrong season, and had obscure flowers. For final confirmation we got in touch with Jim Burns, State Botanist. He said that Dicliptera was not on the state list, and that he would come down from Columbus the next day to take a look. When Burns arrived he collected some samples to press, carefully photographed some plants and made a quick inventory, finding many plants. We were on top of the world--we had added a new wildflower to the state list. However, the bubble burst fairly quickly. The next morning Jim Burns called, and informed us that the plant was the common Ruellia. Where had we gone wrong? The key we used didn't take into account the fact that Ruellia has a late summer blooming form that is cleistogamous and blooms abundantly. We likely would have found our error ourselves had we not assumed that we KNEW Ruellia. Ruellia taught us a lesson the hard way. Pretty sneaky, if you ask me! That's what I call being dealt a low blow from behind. Hey, ref, -
CLIPPING, CLIPPING.





Birdathon 88

BIRDATHON '88 TO BENEFIT OXBOW, INC.
MAY 6TH-7TH, 1988

During a 24-hour period beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, May 6th, through 5 p.m. Saturday, May 7th, Cincinnati area birds may feel they're being watched -- which is exactly what will be happening. On those dates, Oxbow, Inc. is sponsoring a birdathon, the purposes of which are:

- to encourage people to "bird" -- or birdwatch, as laypeople call the activity;
- to offer crack birders the chance to compete against each other; and
- to raise funds for the Land Acquisition Fund of Oxbow, Inc.

During BIRDATHON '88, teams representing the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History; the Cincinnati Zoological Society and Botanical Garden; the Cincinnati Nature Center; The University of Cincinnati; Raptor, Inc.; Little Miami, Inc.; and other organizations will compete against the representative team from Oxbow, Inc. to see which team can positively identify, by sight or song, the most species of birds within an area designated as any county in the Tri-state, any part of which falls within a 50-mile radius of downtown Cincinnati (an effective range of about 80 miles).

Depending on the weather, the success of their travel-strategy planning, and the aggressiveness with which they bird (birding or driving throughout the night) the best team may identify anywhere from 100 to 150 species.

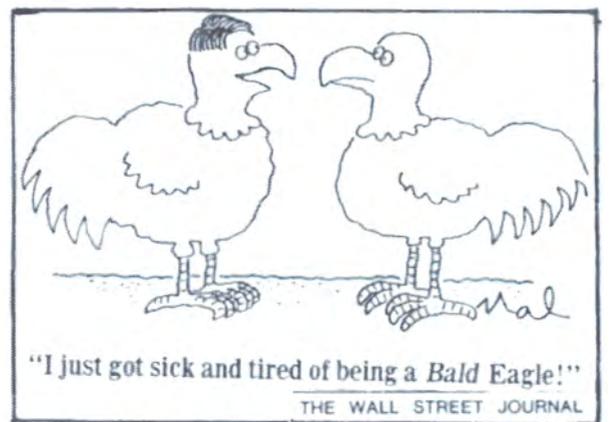
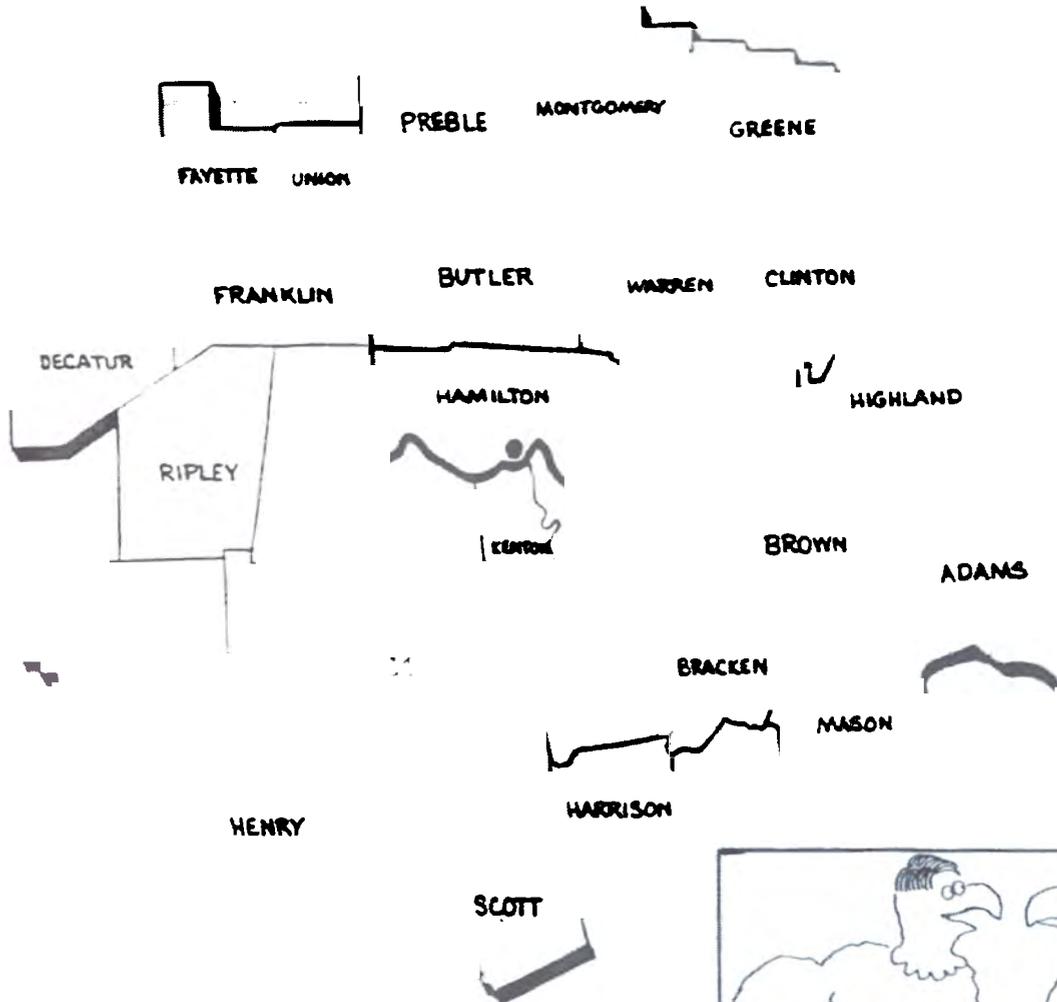
Because BIRDATHON '88 is also a fundraising event, team members will be seeking sponsors to pledge a donation for each species of bird they identify. Individual birders, who are registering for BIRDATHON '88 on a noncompetitive basis, will also be seeking sponsors.

Participants will gather at Farbach-Warner Preserve located at Colerain and Poole Road at 5 p.m. Saturday for the grand finale. It is here that the Champion of the first Cincinnati birdathon will be determined. Bring a bag lunch-dinner, join the rivalry and root for your favorite team.



"Count Area"

includes all counties within, as well as those counties partially within, a 50 mile radius of downtown Cincinnati.



"I just got sick and tired of being a Bald Eagle!"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

OXBOW, INC. TO PARTICIPATE in the Dearborn County 4-H and Community Fair to be held in Greendale, Indiana July 1-8, 1988. In addition to the 4-H activities there will be a midway, amusement rides and grandstand programs.

Carol Foltz is the chairperson in charge of scheduling volunteers to work the Oxbow, Inc. booth. HOOSIER members, here's an event in your area. Call Carol Foltz at 812-744-3770 and sign up. Help spread the Oxbow word to neighbors and friends. Non-hoosier members should call Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck, 513-631-5933.

A William Zimmerman print, "Mallards in Flight", will be raffled off at the fair.

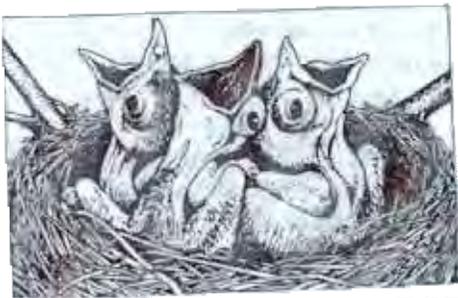
FAIRFAX SCHOOL KIDS PICK OXBOW, INC.

As an all school project for National Wildlife Week, the students of Fairfax Elementary School collected \$90.00, mostly in pennies, dimes and nickels, and chose Oxbow, Inc. as the organization to receive their donation. One second grader, Sam Bosse, donated \$20.00 from a winning lottery ticket to the fund. Teacher, Joyce L. Beck, said the school will continue to support Oxbow, Inc. during future National Wildlife Weeks.

Treasurer, Art Wiseman, in a letter to Joyce L. Beck, thanked the school and the students for their contribution and expressed the appreciation of Oxbow, Inc. for their donation and the spirit in which all worked to make it possible. The money has been placed in the Land Acquisition Fund. When land is next purchased, it will be due, in part, to the students' interest and effort in raising the money. Sam is on our mailing list and will receive his own NEWSLETTER.

"WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS, - "

Now comes the time of year when adult birds begin establishing territory, mating and raising young. To remind you of DO'S and DON'TS, we reprint the following article from The Duncraft Flyer, April, 1988 publication.



OOPS! OUT OF THE NEST?

What to do with a baby bird

popular belief, an adult bird will not reject young touched by humans. Sometimes a very young bird, tipped out of the nest by the wind or a rambunctious sibling, is still covered with soft down and unable to sit by itself. In this case, line a small box with facial tissue and attach this makeshift nest to a branch out of a predator's reach.

It's best to leave the care of growing birds to their parents, who are equipped to deal with their insatiable appetites. During daylight the young are fed about every two to 10 minutes on average. One baby robin can consume 60 worms a day and a pair of blue jays can eat thousands of caterpillars in a season.

It's important to note that it is extremely difficult for untrained persons to care for wounded birds successfully. If the bird you find is wounded, contact your local Audubon Society, which can direct you to a

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local wildlife rehabilitation center.

Finally, if it is a truly abandoned young bird you have found, you may also want to place it with a rehabilitation center. Otherwise, be prepared to provide round-the-clock warmth and feedings and then wean it and teach it to cope with life in the wild. And you should know that, technically, state and federal permits are required to care for young birds."

The Audubon Society of Ohio, located in Cincinnati, Ohio may be reached at 513-481-0305.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SURVEY.

Sue Simon

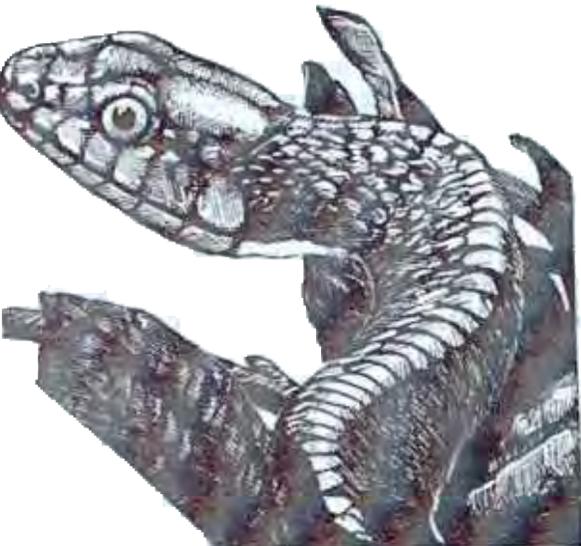


Illustration by Carl Dennis Buell

Who are these strange people lately seen frequenting the Oxbow? They are looking under every rock or rotting log, on their knees in mud and goop, uncovering every creepy, crawly creature they can find. While most visitors to the area are peering through their binoculars toward the trees and skies to observe nesting and flying birds, these folks keep their eyes to the ground. The members of the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society have undertaken to survey the reptiles and amphibians of the Oxbow area.

These natural wetlands provide food and shelter for an abundance of wildlife. Documentation of that wildlife, especially threatened or endangered species, usually incites habitat preservation activities in both private and public sectors. Should the society document the presence of endangered or threatened species of reptiles or

amphibians, the case for the preservation of these lands will be much stronger. In any event, a documented survey of the animals found there will be very valuable to the scientific community.

The value of this study has been recognized by the Hamilton County Park District who has approved a Research Grant for the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society to include the bottomlands of Shawnee Lookout Park in their survey.

The society extends an invitation to the members of Oxbow, Inc. to join them in their research efforts. The study will take approximately one year, with field trips being made at least monthly during three-quarters of the year. Much man/womanpower is needed. Reptiles and amphibians are fascinating creatures with a tremendous variety of form and habitat. You can expect to see turtles swimming in the lakes or dug into the mud. Salamanders and snakes take refuge under rocks and logs. Frogs and toads hop across your path or sing to you at dawn and dusk from the ponds. Take this opportunity to meet and learn something about these often misunderstood animals.

Saturday and Sunday research will be done from May to November. Additional days or nights will be added if conditions are right. If you would like to participate in this scientifically significant project, call Cay Tuck, 513-631-5933, and she will put you in touch with Sue Simon, the society's Conservation Committee Chairperson. You will be asked to attend a brief orientation session held an hour before departure.

Hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED !

Oxbow, Inc. needs your help - as much or as little as you can afford to give. Current projects needing volunteers are:



- The Oxbow Plant Survey, 1988, being conducted by the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society.
- The Amphibian-Reptile research being done by the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society.
- Men and women interested in becoming field trip leaders in the Oxbow area. We will train.
- Booth workers at the Dearborn, Indiana 4-H and Community Fair. July 1-8.

- All members to volunteer your sponsorship of the Oxbow, Inc. team in the BIRDATHON '88. Send in your pledge card.

Spring is here! It's outdoor weather again! Call Cay Tuck, 513-631-5933, and participate in any or all of these projects.



MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, MAY 10TH, 7:30 P.M. The auditorium of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, 1720 Gilbert Avenue. Enter through the side door by the Elsinor Towers. Jim Rozelle, Miami Conservancy District, will speak about the Great Miami River aquifer and the effect of the floodplain on this important water supply.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH, 7:30 P.M. (Daylight Savings Time) Greendale Cabin, Greendale, Indiana. Raptor, Inc. will present a program on "HAWKS!" Live birds from this exciting species will be on display. Don't miss this one!

FIELD TRIPS.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 9 A.M. Meet Dave Styer at the Shawnee Lookout Park boat ramp. Wildflowers and birds are on the program. Park motor vehicle permit required. 513-772-4395.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH, 8 A.M. Meet Steve Wagner at the Shawnee Lookout Park upper boat ramp parking lot. Steve will be looking for birds and whatever else might, or might not, move. Park motor vehicle permit required. 513-831-7606.



MOVING?

Make sure your NEWSLETTER goes with

Name _____

City/State/Zip _____

City/State/Zip _____

Effective Date _____

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

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Vice President, Ned Keller513-941-6497
Secretary, Norma Flannery.513-471-8001
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Speakers' Bureau, Donna Wagner513-831-7606
Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck.	. . .513-631-5933

EDITOR

Norma Flannery	.513-471-8001
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OXBOW, INC.

A non-profit 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 the 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 solicited and encouraged.

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, Ohio 45214
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Oxbow, Inc.
2073 Harrison Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45214

