

July—August 2005

No. 114



WETLAND *matters*

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

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

Oxbow, Inc. celebrates 20 years of Success! Let's have a Picnic!!

An Invitation from Jon Seymour, President of Oxbow, Inc.

It is time we celebrated our success. It is time we actually met one another. So we decided to throw a 20th Birthday Party.

I have never met most of you and I would like very much to meet you all. I would love to thank each of you personally for your support whether it has been for 20 years or just one month. You are all part of the success of Oxbow, Inc. While we still have much to do, we have come a long, long way from the time when Karl Maslowski passed his hat around a room full of about 20 people and Oxbow, Inc. was formed. It is time to celebrate what we have collectively accomplished.

What better way then to have a PICNIC. The Board of Oxbow, Inc. invites you, your family and friends to a picnic at Agner Hall at the Dearborn County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceburg, on Sunday, August 14, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are having an "indoor picnic", complete with catered picnic fare. We will have activities for children, lectures and demonstrations for the whole family, displays of Oxbow projects, and Oxbow tours leaving at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Come any time between 1:00 – 4:00 pm for the activities. We will stop serving at 3:30 pm.

We have set prices at \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. If we get 100 attendees we should break even. Any proceeds beyond our expenses will go directly to Oxbow, Inc. We have never tried to get together and celebrate before so this is a new effort for Oxbow, Inc. **We hope you will fill out the reservation included in this newsletter and send it back to Oxbow, Inc. with your check.** Early reservations will determine the amount of food we order and therefore will also determine the number of "at the door" tickets we can sell for those last minute guests.

I am looking forward to this picnic with great excitement. I read wonderful notes about Oxbow from people I have never met. I run into Oxbow members who tell me they have never visited the Oxbow. Some of you last visited the Oxbow several years ago. Now is the opportunity to get out, meet other Oxbow members, and take the time to visit the Oxbow. And of course, **CELEBRATE OUR SUCCESS AND OUR BIRTHDAY!!!**

Birdathon 2005

To the Victor Belongs the Starling!

.....By Jon Seymour

Birdathon 2005 went down in the history books as the year the weather was absolutely perfect. The sky was perfect, the visibility was perfect and the temperature was perfect. But Warblers in large numbers were missing. The cool spring delayed the arrival of the migratory waves and the Birdathon was a week too early to "catch the wave". Still, a lot of great birds were seen during the competition. The Oxbow, Inc. team of Jay Stenger, Paul Wharton and Jack Stenger reclaimed first place, the Golden Starling Award, by winning the Birdathon with 159 species. Two Cincinnati Nature Center teams came in second and third with 143 and 141 species respectively. The Oxbow, Inc. team of Jerry Lippert, Eric Baumgardner, and Wayne Wauligman came in fourth with 140. Other Oxbow, Inc. teams, not participating in the Cincinnati competition, had varied results with illness playing a role. Steve Pelikan was ill and birded separately from the rest of the Midwest No-seeums, Mike Busam, Bob Lacker, and Charlie Saunders who traveled to Magee Marsh (no Warblers there either). Between them they turned in 120 species. Marty Dermody of the Tri-colored Harem (with Katherine Miller and Sarah Krailler) was ill and they delayed bird watching for a week and found 91 species. Karl Maslowski and George Laycock decided to do a less strenuous backyard Birdathon and found 40 species. Not bad for a backyard! As of press time, we have not heard from the No-seeums West, Dave and Jane Styer, but we look forward to seeing their list which always makes us jealous with those wonderful west coast birds. The Junior Gents (Jerry Meyer, Bob Shrimper, Jay Lehman, and Randy Lakes) will also be reporting later.

Those who pledged to support a team will receive notice of what they owe to fulfill their pledge. It is never too late to send in a contribution to support a team. We thank everyone who supports the Birdathon as it is an important source of funding for Oxbow, Inc. Some of you may recall that my team (a

(continued on next page)

Birdathon 2005 (cont.)

Cincinnati Nature Center Team made up of myself, Dave Brinkman, Bob Foppe, and Don Morse) won last year. Like the Cicadas, it will likely be another 17 years before we beat Jay's team again. We came in second with 143 species. However, it was noted that Jay's team drove over 700 miles to attain their 159 species, while we found our 143 species by driving only 268 miles. We feel we won the species per mile competition!

Miss the Prom and Win the Bird-a-thon

.... by Jack Stenger*

All birders know that the month of May is the optimum birding time of the year. I can think of no better way to celebrate spring migration locally, than to participate in the annual Birdathon, a 24 hour big day competition. It takes place on the second Saturday of May and begins at 5:00 P.M. Friday evening and ends at 5:00 P.M. Saturday evening. The object is a fund raising competition to find and identify as many species of birds as possible and to collect donations or "pledges" for each species found.

While this is a challenging birding "game", the point of the Birdathon is to raise money for various conservation organizations. The Cincinnati Nature Center now sponsors the event, which is made up of team's that represent the organization of their choice. My team, which includes my father Jay and my honorary uncles, Paul Wharton and Joe Bens, are one of several Oxbow, Inc. teams. Paul, Joe and my dad have participated in this event since Oxbow, Inc. first began it in 1987, but I am a fairly recent newcomer by their standard, as this was my fifth Birdathon.

Though the Birdathon is only a twenty-four hour event, the scouting for it consumes most of our team's free time beginning in late April. Scouting is the process of "staking out" birds so when Birdathon begins, you know exactly where to look for them in the quickest way possible. We also keep tabs on developing shorebird habitat and grasslands that may be getting their first Bobolinks or Dickcissels at any time. One of the best things about the Birdathon is that it makes you get out and bird during the fleeting spring migration. One missed weekend can cause you to feel like you've missed half of the migration, but scouting for the Birdathon pretty much gets us out almost daily over the last week of April and the first two weeks of May.

As a 16-year-old junior, who is also in the middle of a high school baseball season at the time, this schedule can get a little tight. But as far as I'm concerned I wouldn't miss a second of it. There are sacrifices to be made. For instance I had to miss two days of school this year, one for scouting and one for the Birdathon. That was tough. I actually missed my junior prom as well, breaking a heart or two along the way. Oh well, that's the breaks. As far as the missed school goes, I don't think I was set back any, as I can't imagine learning more than I do on Birdathons. The reasons for this are my partners, Paul, Joe and my dad who make it all worthwhile. Getting the opportunity to spend prime time with three of the best birders anywhere is

always educational. They have a seemingly infinite knowledge of all things natural and humorous. And my vocabulary has grown by leaps and bounds as I have learned all sorts of new words over the past five years from them. Joe Bens was not with us this year, and we missed him. Joe has officially joined the ranks of "professional" birders. He took off this summer for a job conducting a Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Breeding Bird Survey that covers Colorado and Wyoming.

Birdathons are by no means easy, at least if you go all out to win as we do. Our team is lucky if we get two hours of sleep, and lack of sleep can take a toll even if your body is pumped with caffeine (yahoo Mountain Dew) and sugar. We hit at least 20 separate sites covering several hundred miles and do it non-stop. We had decent weather this year, but usually we get rain at some point. If you really think about Birdathon from an outside perspective you can really see just how crazy birders are. Four guys standing in the Oxbow in the middle of the night, sometimes in the rain, yelling "quack" at the top of their lungs might seem a little weird to the uninitiated. But those four guys could care less, especially if they get their Black-crowned Night Heron to call back.

We had a ton of fun and I was lucky to bird with some great people and to top it off, we won. We were fortunate to find 159 total species, but regardless of the outcome, each Birdathon I have participated in has left me with many great memories. I would heartily recommend the Bird-a-thon experience to any young people. Any level of experience is welcomed and there are several levels of competition, like age group or total species from one location etc. The post-Birdathon tally at the Cincinnati Nature Center is also fun. There is a lot of camaraderie, plenty of stories, you find out where other cool birds were found and you get an all you can eat pizza dinner. Even if you don't feel like competing, it's always good to get out and bird.

* Jack Stenger is a Junior at Winton Woods High School and an excellent young birder.



Pictured from left to right: Paul Wharton, Jack Stenger and Jay Stenger. Taken after the 2005 Bird-a-thon on 5/7/05. Joe Bens, another team member, is not pictured.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

With sadness

Dr. Jack Gottschang, a member of the Oxbow, Inc. Advisory Council, passed away on April 23, 2005. Dr. Gottschang led the University of Cincinnati Biology Department. He was an expert on birds, mammals and reptiles. He led bird-watching trips and, in 1981, wrote "A Guide to the Mammals of Ohio", a reference and textbook. Dr. Gottschang spent his entire career of 40 years at the University of Cincinnati, and retired in 1989.



Moving your nest?

Make sure WETLAND MATTERS goes with you!

Name _____

Old Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

MAIL TO:

**Oxbow Inc.
P.O. Box 43391
Cincinnati, OH 45243**

Please mail right away - third class mail is not forwarded!

Donor

In Memory of

Dorothy Bauer	Morris Mercer
Tom & Janet Bolland	Tim Boehringer
Mr. & Mrs. O.F. Clark	Morris Mercer
Bonnie Fancher	Morris Mercer
John Getzendanner	Morris Mercer
Mildred Hellman	Carol Feist
Mary Agnes Hogue	Morris Mercer & Norma Flannery
John & Paige Klein	Morris Mercer
Do and Bill Kuhlman	Norma Flannery
Jack & Joy Leistler	Morris Mercer
Carolyn McManaman	Morris Mercer
Connie McNamee & Greg Mendall	Morris Mercer & Randy Fairfield
David & Kani Meyer	Morris Mercer
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Robert & Diane Mysonhimer	Morris & Francis Mercer
Oak Crest Animal Hospital	Figaro Elson
Oak Crest Animal Hospital	Charlie Vaugn
Oak Crest Animal Hospital	Millie Weinkam
Sally Polk	Morris Mercer
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Norma Flannery
Mary Lou Stevens	Morris Mercer
Dave & Jane Styer	Morris Mercer
Donna and Steve Wagner	Morris Mercer
Gene & Carol Willeke	Morris Mercer

Tributes

Jeanne Bocklage Happy Birthday, Genny Maj

Special Thanks for Generous Gifts to:

Peter and Cam Starrett donated \$1,000.00 in honor of Jeanne Bocklage's move to New Mexico. (See story page 9).

A grant of \$1,000 was awarded to Oxbow, Inc. through the efforts of Dr. George Farnsworth's Xavier University Biology class

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 43391, Cincinnati, OH 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.



Raptors Save the Day

Of Bits and Peeps...

so that others can assist in controlling invasive plants.



... Kani Meyer

Dan Boone ... At Home Among Plants

Botanist Dan Boone described plants found at the Oxbow and other areas of southern Ohio and Indiana at the April 12 membership meeting at the Lawrenceburg Library. His enthusiasm quickly spread and many questions ensued. Yes, plants migrate. Yes, searching for rare plants is like a treasure hunt. Yes, Virginia, Mallow can reach a height of 15 feet and acres of beautiful Smartweed will come almost up to your knees at the Oxbow, hopefully this August.

One plant in particular seemed to interest all: Running Buffalo Clover. It's rare but there is a fine population at the Oxbow. Until 1983 it was considered extinct. It was discovered in Kentucky (and West Virginia and Indiana) where jeeps had churned up the ground. RBC likes disturbed soil and formerly grew along bison trails. Woodland Indians were quick to learn that food and housing supplies could be had where the Running Buffalo Clover grew.

Farming in the Oxbow

...by Carol Molleran

Farming in the Oxbow is a little like performing a balancing act, or so Rick Pope tells us. He came to the March 8 meeting at EarthConnection to tell of his efforts to produce crops and also protect wildlife.

Rick is one farmer who is very aware of the importance of wildlife preservation but he is sometimes disturbed by the large numbers of deer and beaver that have an adverse effect on crops and reproduce unchecked because they have no natural predators.

On the subject of pesticides, he assured us that "poisons" were not sprayed haphazardly around the Oxbow, Inc. fields. He showed us an immense volume of information, rules and regulations pertaining to the use of pesticides, their effect on the environment, their advantages and limitations. Costs and effectiveness are balanced against prevention of harm to the environment.

The Oxbow is unique in that it is seasonally flooded. This causes an influx of debris which can pose problems. Rick Pope has tried some interesting techniques to deal with this influx such as "No Till" planting, aerial seeding and planting rye grass to enhance drainage and discourage weeds.

The partnership between Oxbow, Inc. and the farmer has benefited both. For the farmer it is a source of level, arable acreage as well as income. For Oxbow, Inc., it is also a source of income plus a means of keeping fields open for migrating waterfowl with leftover seeds providing food for the wildlife. Let us hope this happy marriage lasts a long time.

Meyer Aquascapes Pond Tour Raises Money for Oxbow, Inc.

Meyer Aquascapes (www.aquascapes.com) is sponsoring a landscaped pond tour that allows the participants to tour private home water gardens in the Tri-state area. Over 30 gardens are expected to be open on this self-guided tour. Tickets at \$10 per person can be obtained through Oxbow, Inc. with the entire price of the ticket going to Oxbow, Inc as a donation.

The gardens will be open to ticket holders on Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24, 2005 from 9am to 5pm on Saturday and from 10am to 5pm on Sunday. Tickets are good for both days of the event. You can obtain tickets from Oxbow, Inc. by sending a check payable to Oxbow, Inc. and clearly marked that you wish to purchase tickets for the pond tour. Be certain to include your name address and telephone number so we can send the tickets to you and call you if we have questions. Oxbow, Inc needs to receive your ticket order by Saturday, July 16th in order to assure that we can get your tickets to you in the mail. Tickets will be available from Meyer Aquascapes at 11011 Sand Run Rd. in Harrison, OH. on the day of the event. Send your check and ticket order to:

Oxbow, Inc.
Pond Tour
854 Ligorio Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45218

Come help us clean up the Oxbow on Saturday July 23rd and then take the rest of the weekend to tour the gardens.

Clean-up the Oxbow!!! Saturday, July 23, 2005

As part of the Clean-up the Great Miami Weekend we will clean up our part of the River's Floodplain

Everyone's invited. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, gloves and old clothes.

We will have water on hand. The more people that come will mean the more trash we can pick up.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance parking area (Big dumpster which we hope to fill) and we will work until noon.

If you can bring a pick-up truck or trailer to help us haul out trash, call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

This has been a problem in the past since we can pick up more trash than we can haul.





Horseshoe Bottoms Diary May 11, 2005

...by Jon Seymour

I had come to the Oxbow to help oversee the installation of a culvert replacing the blocked culvert that drains the cement plant pond into Oxbow Lake. The operator of the equipment did not show up and a cell phone call to Rick Pope confirmed that he was not likely to start so late in the day. It was 4:00

p.m. and I decided to walk toward the mudflats that are near the washout area of the causeway road. These mudflats always have the possibility of good shorebird watching this time of year. There it was just in front of me, walking slowly in the shallow mudflats along side of the causeway road. It seemed not to notice me. At least it did not seem to care that I was there. I stopped short, the bird was too small! A small white egret only half the size of the Great Egrets that frequent the Oxbow! I raised my binocs and observed a short black bill, yellow lores (between the bill and the eyes), black legs, and feather plumes blowing loosely from the top of the head in the slight breeze. The bird stepped across a low silt bank and the feet came out of the water. The feet were yellow-gold. I was looking at a Snowy Egret. I have seen many Snowy Egrets along the gulf coast where they are plentiful and easily identified by their trailing yellow-gold feet as they fly overhead. Like this bird, they are not particularly concerned with the presence of nearby humans. This was the first Snowy Egret I had ever seen in the Oxbow. Almost immediately I guessed it was one of the few snowy egrets seen in this area. I slowly backed out and tried not to disturb the bird. I could not recall a sighting from any of the teams during the 17 previous Birdathons I had been on. Although the 2005 Birdathon had taken place only 5 days before, no one had reported a Snowy Egret. Rarity of the sighting during previous Birdathons over the past eighteen years sent me to find my handy car copy of Dave Styer's "Birds of the Oxbow" book.

You should get this book!!! I have found it invaluable in examining sightings for both changes in frequency and numbers for species such as Cormorants, Great Egrets, and Bald Eagles. Dave reports that Ron Austing and Robert Vaupel were reported by Karl Maslowski to have seen a Snowy Egret(s) near the mouth of the Great Miami in the summer of 1948. Five more documented Oxbow reports come from Styer's book between 1980 and 1990. This let me know right away that this was something for the hotline. A call to Jack Stenger activated the hotline which notifies about 35 avid Cincinnati area birders of an unusual bird sighting in the area.

As far as I know no one else was able to find the bird. At least I did not see any other reports. I would have loved to share the sight of this magnificent Small Egret with someone but I guess it will have to be one of my own private jewels of a memory. I have several of those in the Oxbow and I have only been wandering its paths on a frequent basis for the last three years. I remember our three American White Pelicans in March of 2004. I was able to share those with many other birders after I posted my sighting on Ned Keller's database. I was impressed with the fact that birders showed up from Dayton

and Oxford to see the birds. The Pelicans were cooperative and hung around for 2-3 weeks before heading to their breeding grounds on the prairies of the midlands.

Now we are in the age of computers and computer databases, which is great. At home I consulted the fountain of all knowledge on Cincinnati area bird watching -- Ned Keller's database at www.cincinnatibirds.com. This gem of a database is the place everyone reports their sightings in the Cincinnati area. We should all thank Ned and his wife Kathy who graciously set up and maintain this database that is so easy to use and yet has real scientific strength only tapped by a few. My search of the database turned up 48 previous reports of Snowy Egrets in the Cincinnati area since 1980. Eighteen of those reports came from the Oxbow. There were seven reports between 1980 and 1991 including the five mentioned in Dave's book (three of those reports were between April 30 and June 7 of 1984) and were probably the same bird. There were two reports a day apart in 1995 that were probably the same bird. Another six of those reports were probably on the same bird that seemed to stay in the Oxbow area from late August to late September in 1997. Three more sightings of single birds were made in the Oxbow in April, May, and August of 1999. Since then, there have been no other reports from the Oxbow. If you look at the reports critically probably no more than 12 birds (the two sighted in 1980, 2 in 1984, 1 in 1986, 1 in 1990, 1 in 1991, 1 in 1995, 1 in 1997 and potential 1-3 in 1999) were responsible for the eighteen Oxbow reports. A number of other reports from nearby areas also were the result of multiple sightings of the same birds. For instance, in 2002 a report of 3 Snowy Egrets at Brookville Lake were matched by a single bird at Gilmore Ponds. The 4 birds were simultaneously present from mid August to mid September and were responsible for 12 separate reports. The last report of a Snowy Egret in our area came from Spring Valley Wildlife Management Area in May of 2003. A review of database indicates that probably about 30 individual birds were responsible for the 48 reports over 25 years of birding in the Greater Cincinnati area.

All this analysis comes down to one thing. I was lucky enough to be in the right spot at the right time and it was beautiful to be there.

Hunters Need to Apply

...by President Jon Seymour

Members of Oxbow who are also hunters may apply to John Getzendanner, our Indiana Agent, for 2005-2006 hunting season permits. Send John a self addressed stamped envelope, along with your request for a hunting permit by September 1, 2005.

John will return to you a memorandum of understanding of Oxbow's hunting rules for you to sign and submit. Upon acceptance of your application John will issue you a hunting permit for Oxbow land. The only Oxbow land open for hunting lies entirely east of I-275 and west of the Great Miami River, and entirely in the State of Indiana. All Indiana hunting regulations apply. If you have questions call John at: (812) 537-5728

Send your request to:

John Getzendanner
21007 Crestview Court
Lawrenceburg, IN. 47025



usings

by Dave Styer

The Red-eyed Vireo: Roots

The Red-eyed Vireo is a common summer resident in the woods of the Oxbow area. It spends much of its time high in the trees where the male sings on and on “look up---where?---in the tree!---see me?---up here---look!---.” This vireo is known for its song, not because of its beauty, but because of its persistence. In 1954 the naturalist Louise deKiriline Lawrence wrote in *Audubon* of a Red-eyed Vireo that sang 22,197 songs during a ten hour period one day. If this record has never been topped it is likely that nobody else has stuck that long with a count. Perhaps Louise, a John Burroughs award winner for her book *The Lovely and the Wild*, should also have been given a Red-eyed Vireo award.

The Red-eyed Vireo we are familiar with, snatching caterpillars off leaves, apparently spends the winter in tropical South America eating fruit. When I was a kid I used to wonder if any of our birds nested in the south during our winter. Generally they don't. Parents can understand this. Raising young through adolescence in half a year takes another half year to recover from. With the Red-eyed Vireo there is something close. In one current view of the species, one group never migrates; they spend all year in tropical South America. Another group, the birds we know, comes north to breed. Yet a third group migrates south to breed in the Austral summer (our winter)! It could be that the North American breeding Red-eyed Vireos never meet the ones that breed in the southern temperate zone. It may be that these three groups never interbreed. Perhaps in ten thousand or ten million years they will be different species.

Thinking of different species, all of our vireo species, e.g. Red-eyed, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, etc., are clearly related. They are in the vireo family, *Vireonidae*, and all family members live in the Americas. The big question is: what are vireos related to? When I was growing up they were put next to our wood warblers. Vireos kind of look like large, heavy-billed warblers. For ornithologists there was another feature, the outer flight feathers of the wings, that is, the *primaries*. The wood warblers, tanagers, blackbirds and orioles, the cardinals and their relatives all have nine primaries on each wing. All of them are strictly New World birds. These are all songbirds, but other songbirds have ten primaries per wing. Vireos have nine well-developed primaries, and one poorly developed primary. Does that mean they are warbler prototypes?

The question about what birds vireos are related to has been kicking around for some time. In 1872 Elliot Coues wrote that vireos had formerly been put in the shrike family because of their shrike-like bills. But other features weren't right, so they were placed in their own family. He also wrote that vireos had been thought to have nine or ten primaries, but that Baird had shown that they all have ten primaries, “only that, in some instances, the first primary is rudimentary and displaced, lying

concealed outside the base of the second quill.” That was written in 1872, not 1972!

With the discovery of the double helix and the role of DNA in inheritance ornithologists have been able to use and develop much more basic tools to study bird relationships. In 1982, Sibley and Ahlquist published the results of a technique called DNA-DNA hybridization that indicated vireos were more closely related to crows and jays than to wood warblers. Subsequent research backs up the Sibley and Ahlquist view that there are several families of birds that are all closely related. These are referred to as ‘corvids.’ Most of the corvid families live in the Old World. In fact, Australia and New Zealand are well represented. Only three corvid families have living representatives in the New World: the crows and jays, the shrikes, and the vireos. Because of this, some modern field guides place the vireos between the shrikes and the crows.

This is not to say that the next time you hear a Red-eyed Vireo you should think that it is a crow or a shrike. Its closest relatives are other vireos. Here in North America the closest relatives to the vireos are the crows and jays and the shrikes. I think some of my closest relatives are Joneses, but that doesn't mean that I am a Jones. I'm just trying to keep up.

Red-eyed Vireo by William Bacon Evans. (Chatterbox)

What's the matter?
Have you dined?
Are you fatter?—
That is kind!—
What is mind?
No matter!
What is matter?
Never mind.
Is he blind?—
As a hatter!—
Do you mind?
Does it matter?
What is mind?
Not matter.
Do I chatter?
Never mind!



Red-eyed Vireo with young

© Ron Austing



An Editor's Rewarding Tale

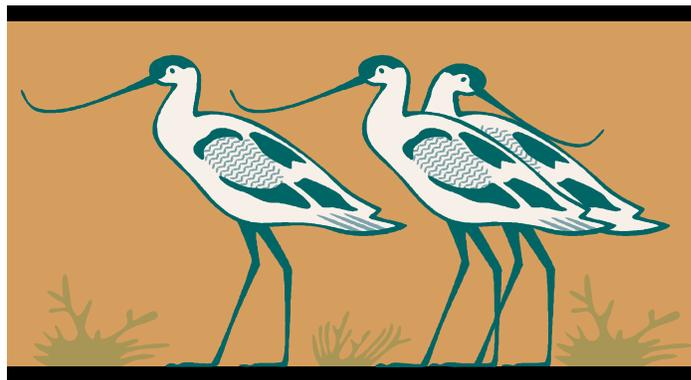
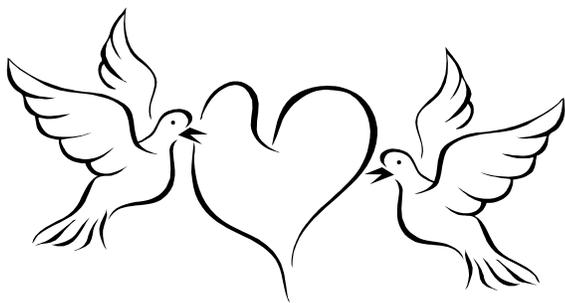
...By Jeanne Bocklage

When you get to the back page of this issue, you will discover that *Wetland Matters* has a new editor — Meg Poehlmann. You'll like her — she's young and peppy and has a way with words, like "senioritis" in her Birdathon copy in the May/June issue.

Towards the end of this year, I will be moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico to live with my daughter, Therese. I'm old enough (82) to do that and Tee's kind enough to have me and since she is an M.D., I'm lucky enough to have my own personal physician.

I will miss my editing job, all the loyal readers, all the gifted writers. Still, I'm leaving *Wetland Matters* in grand style, thanks to my son-in-law Peter Starrett. He encouraged me to have a moving sale (I've been 45 years in the same house and collected everything from shells to spoons to books to bird art) because "Albuquerque won't have room for it all." So my daughters Cam and Paula and Paula's husband Michael flew in to help find new homes for all of my *stuff* and Peter offered to match my proceeds for Oxbow, Inc.

He probably didn't realize the capacity of my McGee closets when he proposed that gift, but he was most generous and his check for Oxbow, Inc. has arrived — \$1,000.00.



"Bird-words" —slang used by Southern California bird-watchers

—R. Daniel Foster

Los Angeles Times Magazine

Burned in the scope *v.* To have captured remarkable detail of a bird while studying it through binoculars

LBJ initials for *little brown job*. Any small brown bird of indeterminate species that the watcher cannot identify. "All I spotted was a pack of *LBJs* in some bushes.

Life list *n.* A list of birds seen during one's lifetime. Many birders also keep state, county, and backyard lists.

Pish *n.* A sound made by birders that is thought to attract birds.

Pisher *n.* One who pishes entirely too much. "That old guy's a real *pisher*; he just spooked that Western Tanager.

Trash bird *n.* A common bird, such as a house finch, that birders ignore

Twitcher *n.* A nervous birdwatcher who rushes from one bird sighting to another. "That *twitcher* hardly looked at that stunning Tricolored Blackbird before hunting down some Great-tailed Grackle!"

Whoopie list *n.* A list of birds seen coupling. Birds often have curious mating rituals — for example, White Throated Swifts climb 200 feet, join and then plunge toward the ground in pinwheel fashion, separating just before crashing.

WNK initials for we'll never know. A glimpse of a bird that shows great promise, but remains unidentified. "It could have been a Hermit Warbler, but to be honest, it was a *WNK*."



by Jon Seymour

Oxbow, Inc. Activities Schedule

PROGRAMS

Tuesday, July 12th, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
EarthConnection, College of Mount St. Joseph

John Cimarosti of the Hamilton County Park District will give us an update on the Lewis and Clark re-enactment group from his recent trip across western North Dakota from Williston to the Montana border, and will tell us where the expedition is now. John will have pictures from his trip and will appear in period dress as John Colter from the original Corps of Discovery. At EarthConnection in Delhi - go south on Neeb Rd past the Delhi Rd traffic light, turn up the second drive on the left.

Tuesday, August 9th, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
Public Library, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Lester Peyton, local naturalist and bird bander, will share the results of years of bird banding studies from his banding station at Shawnee Lookout Park, as part of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory migration monitoring program. Lester will also share breeding bird information from nearby Miami Whitewater Forest, part of Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, published by the Institute For Bird Populations Lawrenceburg Library, downtown at 123 High St. Turn left going west off US 50 onto Walnut St, then right on High St.

Sunday, August 14th, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
Lawrenceburg Fairgrounds, Member Picnic

Naturalist **John Cimarosti** will dress as John Colter, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and show artifacts and equipment like those used on the voyage. This program is suitable for all ages. There will be a touch table of equipment and supplies. John will discuss the military uniform of one of the nine young men from Kentucky who went on the expedition, as well as one of the weapons they used. Lawrenceburg Fairgrounds, Agner Hall, Oxbow membership picnic (See insert)

FIELD TRIPS

Please note new meeting place—the upper Oxbow parking lot (new) near the cement plant

Friday, July 15th, 7:00 p.m.

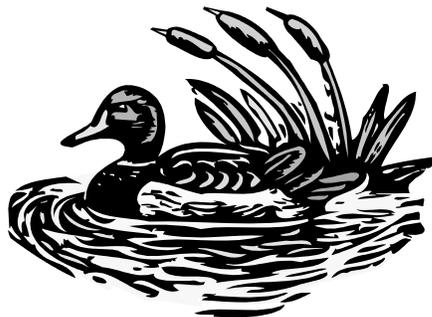
Meet Dan Boone (481-5997 or jerboo@fuse.net) to look for wildflowers blooming in the Oxbow, as well as seeking other points of interest including insects, birds, and more. Dan will walk the Oxbow for 1.5 – 2 hours. Bring drinking water and appropriate footwear.

Saturday, August 20th, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Meet Ned Keller (941-6497) Don't miss this outing with Ned as he helps you find migrant shorebirds and wading birds such as herons and egrets. Plus, you never know what else will show up at the Oxbow!

Several activities in the area of Land Trust cooperation are occurring. The Land Trusts in and around Hamilton County are organizing to allow cooperation and give a greater voice to local Land Trust issues. We are coming together under the organization Green Umbrella, which is reorganizing to accommodate our needs. This will offer us some political and organizational clout that we do not have individually. I look forward to seeing this organization grow in influence and in cooperative efforts among regional Land Trusts. Recently representatives from four of our local Land Trusts, Oxbow, Inc., Western Wildlife Corridor, Hillside Trust, and the Hamilton County Land Trust, met with Representative Steve Chabot and his aide Mike Cantwell to discuss our collective concern for pending congressional review of land conservation easement donations. Representative Chabot indicated that he had gained an understanding of the issues as they affect Land Trusts and would certainly use the information we shared with him in his deliberation of the issues with his fellow Representatives. We were very pleased that Representative Chabot took time to visit with us and attentively listen to our concerns and understanding of the issues.

In Indiana the statewide organization of Land Trusts and other land holding organizations called the Indiana Land Protection Association (ILPA) is organizing as a supportive 501 (c)3 organization (charitable organization) and Oxbow Inc. will be a part of this new body. Most of our land holdings are in Indiana so much of my focus has been getting to know our similar organizations in the State of Indiana. This group is very active with the National Land Trust organization and with The Nature Conservancy. It has a well established interaction with the State legislative bodies and has several state government departments that have a role in conservation. We hope that further formalizing the ILPA as a stand alone charitable organization will allow it to better support the other Land Trust organizations in Indiana. On a similar note the State of Ohio is trying to organize Land Trusts on a state wide level and is holding some initial meetings this summer. Since our holdings in Ohio are minimal, I will probably not spend much time with the new state wide group but concentrate my Ohio interactions through the local Green Umbrella organization.



Oxbow Inc. Board Formalizes its Investment Policy

The Board of Oxbow, Inc. passed a formal fiduciary statement that outlines our spending and investment policies. This serves to formalize our long standing practices as our operating standard. As Charitable Organizations mature they need to formalize and document the practices that have been in place for many years. This provides a basis on which future Board members can make decisions regarding the management of the organization.

Fiduciary Policy of the Oxbow, Inc. Board of Directors

All funds contributed to Oxbow, Inc. are placed in the General Fund of Oxbow, Inc., unless the donor places restrictions on the fund as a condition for the contribution, in which case the contributed funds are placed in a restricted fund.

Money paid to Oxbow, Inc. for leased land and other fees for services provided by Oxbow, Inc. are placed in the general fund.

Oxbow, Inc. strives in any given year to operate the general functions of administration, education, security, and land management within the level of funds collected from leases and fees. Programs that exceed these goals are voted on by the Board as a whole.

The primary purpose of the general fund is to obtain and maintain the land of the floodplain at the mouth of Great Miami and Ohio Rivers.

Securities and other valuables donated to Oxbow, Inc. are converted to cash as soon as the Treasurer of the organization can arrange to make the conversion.

Investments of funds held by Oxbow, Inc. are limited to checking accounts, bank savings accounts, and money market funds. A small standing fund is maintained in the Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. account when the organization is not actively pursuing land purchase.

Agreed on by the Board of Directors, April 28, 2004 and recorded in the minutes of the organization of the meeting of the Board of Directors on this date.

Jon Seymour
President, Oxbow, Inc.

Date

James Poehlmann
Treasurer, Oxbow, Inc.

Date

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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 area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

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

Individual	\$10	Family	\$15
Contributing	\$25	Supporting	\$50
Patron	\$100	Cornerstone	\$250
Sponsor	\$500	Benefactor	\$1000
Organization/Club	\$25		

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