

# wetland matters



## OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 66 July-August 1997

### Birdathon Results

About 70 participants in Birdathon '97 spent 24 hours on May 9 and 10 counting as many species of birds as they could in the Birdathon area — roughly a circle with a 50 mile radius centered at the Oxbow Lake. This year one of Oxbow's teams, "The Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild" (Joe Bens, Jay Stenger, Paul Wharton) won the Golden Starling Award by finding a record setting 162 species of birds. Oxbow's Team #1, "The Geriatric Gents and a Junior" (Sanford Cooper, George Laycock, Karl Maslowski, Jerry Meyer) had a successful trip to Adams County, finding 94 species.

Here the participating teams, their sponsoring organization (if any), team members, and total birds reported are presented by category of competition.

#### Golden Starling (most birds by a team in the entire Birdathon area)

- \* Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild/Oxbow, Inc. (Joe Bens, Jay Stenger, Paul Wharton) 162
- \* Close-N-Counters 1/Cincinnati Nature Center (Steve Bobonick, Bill Creasey, Dave Helm, Bob Kemp) 153
- \* No See Ums/Oxbow, Inc. (David Styer, Charlie Saunders, Steve Pelikan) 151
- \* Yeah, I Got That/Raptor Inc. (Jeff Hays, Brian Steege) 132
- \* Bluegrass Buteos/Northern Kentucky Bird Club (Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely, Tommy Stephens) 126
- \* Gear Falcons/Cincinnati Zoo (Doug Feist, Dave Jenike, Dan Marsh, Matt Miller, Stan Rullman) 123
- \* Close-N-Counters 2/Cincinnati Nature Center (David Brinkman, Bill Hopple, Jon Seymor) 120
- \* Close-N-Counters 3/Cincinnati Nature Center (Linda Franklin, Dotti Posillico, Robin Reitz, David Tennant, Dennis Timberlake) 114

#### Solitary Vireo (most birds by an individual in entire Birdathon area)

- \* Solitary Warbler/Gilmore Ponds (Dave Dister) 116.5
- \* Jim Black/Oxbow (104)

#### Fearsome Fledglings (most birds by team under age 18)

- \* Scarlet Teenagers (Jim Harris, Anna Kober, Christine Culler, Casey Cooper-Fenske, Carrie Cooper-Fenske, Tom Kober) 118
- \* The Creepers (Lauren Saunders and Nancy Saunders) 61

#### One County (most birds found in one county in the Birdathon area)

- \* Finneytown's Fabulous Flying Fortune Seekers (Erich Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert, and Wayne Wauligman) 129

#### Non-competing teams

- \* A Catchy Name/Raptor Inc. (Ned Keller, Kathy McDonald)
- \* Bill Bocklage/Oxbow
- \* Birdus Eludes Us (John Eckles, Barb Eckles, Dave Tozier, Vicki Tozier)
- \* Connie McNamee/Western Wildlife Corridor
- \* Geriatric Gents and a Junior/Oxbow, Inc. (Sanford Cooper, George Laycock, Karl Maslowski, Jerry Meyer)
- \* Ross Road-Runners (Holly Daltabuit, Jose Daltabuit)
- \* Sister Marty Dermody
- \* The He-man's Bird Counting Club/Gilmore Ponds (Mike Busam, Gina Garnet, George Humphreys, Jason Hovekamp, Lester Peyton, Morris Sandvig)
- \* Two in the Bush (John Leon, Sarah Leon)

# Calendar

## Meetings

**July 6 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow program at the Cincinnati Zoo's Education Building.** Enter through the employees' entrance off Erkenbrecker Ave. The gate attendant can direct you to the Education Building. Enquire at the gate house if you need directions to the Education Building.

Sandy Schnur will present *The Birds of Yellowstone*, an award-winning video produced by Impact Video.

**August 5 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.** (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.)

This evening's program will be based on *Bridges Across Land and Water*, a video produced by Impact Video. Sandy Schnur will present the program, answer your questions, and provide a copy of the video as a door prize.

## Field Trips

**July 28 (Monday) 6:30 P.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Meet Jay Stenger at the Gardens Alive! parking lot for a summer evening field trip around the Oxbow. The fall shorebird migration should be well under way, and Jay's the person to help you sort out those peeps! For more info, call Jay at (513) 522-4245.

**August 19 (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Leaving from the Gardens Alive! parking lot, Darlena Graham will lead this trip into the Oxbow area.

## Donation

In April Barbara Harding, Principal of the Mason Early Childhood Center, sent Oxbow a check for over \$350 on behalf of the kindergarten students.

The students raised these funds by collecting and counting pennies since Christmas 1996.

She reports that the students found the project fun and educational and that they consider it a privilege to support wetlands preservation.

## Birdathon Thanks

Oxbow thanks **LaRosa's Pizza** of Fairfield, who donated all the pizza and needed to feed the hungry birders at the tally and dinner. And the **Hamilton Count Park District** gave Oxbow free use of the large hall at the Park's Winton Centre.

**Fritz Haas** deserves everyone's thanks, since he's the one who designed the Birdathon '97 T-shirts. Each Birdathon participant received a shirt and already the design has been admired at birding hot-spots from coast to coast.

Thanks to **Anita Buck, Connie McNamee, Greg Mendel, and Steve Pelikan** who performed various essential tasks including the registration of participants; organizing the tally dinner; ordering, picking up, and packaging the T-shirts; and mailing pledge reminders and thank you letters.

And thank you to **Norma L. Flannery, Paul Hellman, and Carol Mundy**, who helped run the tally dinner, called out the bird list, sliced pizza and iced drinks. They stayed to clean up long after most tired birders were on their way home to bed.

Thanks also to **all the participants and their donors**. Their enthusiasm and generosity is what really made Birdathon a success.

## Field Notes

### Morris Mercer

My time afield has been a bit limited since the last Oxbow newsletter. The open heart surgery and recovery have kept me inside much of the time. I met some nurses who are members of Oxbow, and wish to thank them, and the other nurses, the doctor, and my family for all their help. And to thank the many of you for your prayers, cards, flowers, calls and well wishes.

Since I haven't been out much I thought I would share a summer canoe trip from some old field notes dated August 9, 1983. I had loaded the canoe on top of the car. When supper was over I started for the boat ramp at Shawnee after stopping a few blocks from home to pick up Patty and Alan Knue.

We were soon at the ramp and it wasn't long before we had the canoe in the water. Patty took a paddle and the front seat, Alan the binoculars and the middle seat. I pushed the boat out into the river, and jumped in taking a paddle and the back seat. We paddled across the Great Miami and turned upstream in the shade of the high bank.

Luck was with us, we'd picked a summer evening with a cool breeze, a blue sky and puffy white clouds. The river banks were lined with green willows and tall cottonwood trees. We enjoyed the wildlife along the way. The Green Herons, the many Great Blue Herons, the Great Egrets, Kingfishers, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer and sandpipers. On up the river, we approached a little cove and several Mallards flushed and flew out over the willows.

The sun was low as we passed under Lost Bridge. Just a short distance upstream we pulled the canoe out on a big gravel bar. We tightened up the life-jackets as we walked upstream along the swift water. Once above the rapid, we waded out over the slippery rocks toward the island. The water was swift and about knee-deep. When we reached the middle it was time for us to sit down. The first time down was breathtaking. But once wet, you just lie back in the life jacket and let the river carry you away.

I floated over the first wave and the next two waves went over me. From then on the water was swift but smooth. I just lay back in my life jacket, looking up at the blue sky, watching the leaves on the cottonwoods dance in the breeze. Flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds passed over on their way to the big corn fields around the Oxbow. Swallows darted above the swift water. At times I could almost touch them. I could hear the laughter of Patty and Alan as they came through the waves.

We floated past the island and near our parked canoe, put our feet down, and waded out. We walked back up along the gravel bar, and floated down again.

Much too soon the sun had set, and we were back in the canoe on our way home. The afterglow from the setting sun had given us a beautiful sky, the horizon a burnt orange, into a deep red, a dusty haze faded into the soft blue of the evening sky. These colors were reflected in the smooth mirror surface; twilight had come to the river. In the western sky was a bright evening star. It was time to make a wish upon a star.

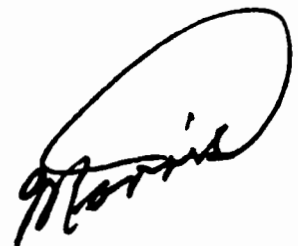
I had the kayak paddle and I told Patty and Alan they could rest on the trip downriver. As the curtain of night fell I paddled fast then, laid the paddle across the gunwales. The canoe moved ever so silently through the water as we listened to the night sounds. First was the sound of water dripping from the paddle. Fish made a splash as they hurried from the canoe. And there were the frogs, crickets, katydids, and other insects. From the wooded shore we heard the soft call of an owl. We passed through warm and cool currents of air. A vapor rose from the water that added to the haunting mystery of night on the river, so different yet so enjoyable.

The trip was soon over and the canoe back on the top of the car. We drove up through Dugans Gap onto Cliff Road overlooking the big north bend of the Ohio and on home. What a great way to spend a summer evening.

Today there is a gravel operation in some of the land between Lost Bridge and U.S. 50. Before the digging began there was a meeting between the gravel people and the Hamilton County Commissioners. I was so sure I heard them say *there would be no digging in the river!*

Last summer I was crossing Lost Bridge and I looked down at where the big gravel bar once was. There was a bulldozer cleaning up the last of what used to be the gravel bar. Now the river is wide and flat. The swift water is no more. But that's progress?

I wonder if the gravel from that river playground could have gone into the concrete for the road to the gambling boat. How much progress can we stand?



# Birdathon '97

Common Loon	✓
Grebe, Pied-billed	✓
Horned	
Double-crested Cormorant	✓
Bittern, American	✓
Least	✓
Great Blue Heron	✓
Egret, Great	✓
Little Blue Heron	✓
Cattle Egret	
Green-backed Heron	✓
Night-Heron, Black-crowned	✓
Yellow-crowned	
Swan, Tundra	
Mute	✓
Goose, Gtr White-fronted	
Snow	
Canada	✓
Wood Duck	✓
Green-winged Teal	
American Black Duck	✓
Mallard	✓
Northern Pintail	
Blue-winged Teal	✓
Northern Shoveller	✓
Gadwall	✓
American Widgeon	✓
Canvasback	
Redhead	
Ring-necked Duck	✓
Scaup, Greater	✓
Lesser	✓
Oldsquaw	
Scoter, Black	
Surf	
White-winged	
Common Goldeneye	
Bufflehead	✓
Merganser, Hooded	✓
Common	
Red-breasted	✓
Ruddy Duck	✓
Vulture, Black	✓
Turkey	✓
Osprey	✓
Bald Eagle	✓
Northern Harrier	✓
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	✓
Cooper's	✓
Red-shouldered	✓
Hawk, Broad-winged	✓
Red-tailed	✓
Rough-legged	
American Kestrel	✓
Peregrine Falcon	✓
Ring-necked Pheasant	
Ruffed Grouse	
Wild Turkey	✓
Northern Bobwhite	✓
Virginia Rail	✓
Sora	✓
Common Moorhen	
American Coot	✓
Sandhill Crane	
Plover, Black-bellied	✓
Lesser Golden	
Semipalmated	✓
Killdeer	✓
American Avocet	

Yellowlegs, Greater	✓
Lesser	✓
Solitary Sandpiper	✓
Willet	
Sandpiper, Spotted	✓
Upland	
Ruddy Turnstone	
Sanderling	
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	✓
Western	✓
Least	✓
White-rumped	✓
Baird's	
Pectoral	✓
Dunlin	✓
Sandpiper, Stilt	
Buff-breasted	
Dowitcher, Short-billed	✓
Long-billed	✓
Common Snipe	✓
American Woodcock	✓
Phalarope, Wilson's	
Gull, Bonaparte's	✓
Ring-billed	✓
Herring	✓
Tern, Caspian	✓
Common	✓
Forster's	✓
Black	✓
Dove, Rock	✓
Mourning	✓
Cuckoo, Black-billed	✓
Yellow-billed	✓
Owl, Barn	
Eastern Screech	✓
Great Horned	✓
Barred	✓
Long-eared	
Short-eared	
Northern Saw-whet	
Common Nighthawk	✓
Chuck-will's-widow	✓
Whip-poor-will	✓
Chimney Swift	✓
Ruby-thrd Hummingbird	✓
Belted Kingfisher	✓
Woodpecker, Red-headed	✓
Red-bellied	✓
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
Woodpecker, Downy	✓
Hairy	✓
Northern Flicker	✓
Pileated Woodpecker	✓
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Eastern Wood-pewee	✓
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied	
Acadian	✓
Alder	
Willow	✓
Least	✓
Eastern Phoebe	✓
Great-crested Flycatcher	✓
Eastern Kingbird	✓
Horned Lark	✓
Purple Martin	✓
Swallow, Tree	✓
Northern Rough-winged	✓
Bank	✓
Cliff	✓

Barn Swallow	✓
Blue Jay	✓
American Crow	✓
Carolina Chickadee	✓
Tufted Titmouse	✓
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	
White-breasted	✓
Brown Creeper	
Sandpiper, Carolina	✓
House	✓
Winter	
Marsh	
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	
Ruby-crowned	✓
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	✓
Eastern Bluebird	✓
Veery	✓
Thrush, Gray-cheeked	✓
Swainson's	✓
Hermit	
Wood Thrush	✓
American Robin	✓
Gray Catbird	✓
Mockingbird	✓
Brown Thrasher	✓
American Pipit	
Cedar Waxwing	✓
Loggerhead Shrike	
European Starling	✓
Vireo, White-eyed	✓
Bell's	
Solitary	✓
Yellow-throated	✓
Warbling	✓
Philadelphia	✓
Red-eyed	✓
Warbler, Blue-winged	✓
Golden-winged	
Tennessee	✓
Orange-crowned	✓
Nashville	✓
Northern Parula	✓
Warbler, Yellow	✓
Chestnut-sided	✓
Magnolia	✓
Cape May	✓
Black-throated Blue	✓
Yellow-rumped	✓
Black-throated Green	✓
Blackburnian	✓
Yellow-throated	✓
Pine	✓
Prairie	✓
Palm	✓
Bay-breasted	✓
Blackpoll	✓
Cerulean	✓
Black-and-white	✓
American Redstart	✓
Warbler, Prothonotary	✓
Worm-eating	✓
Ovenbird	✓
Waterthrush, Northern	✓
Louisiana	✓
Warbler, Kentucky	✓
Connecticut	
Mourning	✓
Common Yellowthroat	✓
Hooded Warbler	✓

Warbler, Wilson's	✓
Canada	✓
Yellow-breasted Chat	✓
Tanager, Summer	✓
Scarlet	✓
Northern Cardinal	✓
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	✓
Blue	✓
Indigo Bunting	✓
Dickcissel	✓
Rufous-sided Towhee	✓
Sparrow, American Tree	
Chipping	✓
Field	✓
Vesper	
Lark	✓
Savannah	✓
Sparrow, Grasshopper	✓
Henslow's	✓
Fox	
Song	✓
Sparrow, Lincoln's	✓
Swamp	✓
White-throated	✓
White-crowned	✓
Dark-eyed Junco	
Longspur, Lapland	
Snow Bunting	
Bobolink	✓
Red-winged Blackbird	✓
Meadowlark, Eastern	✓
Blackbird, Rusty	✓
Common Grackle	✓
Brown-headed Cowbird	✓
Oriole, Orchard	✓
Northern Baltimore	✓
Finch, Purple	
House	✓
Pine Siskin	
American Goldfinch	✓
Evening Grosbeak	
House Sparrow	✓

Yellow headed  
Blackbird ✓

Gray colored  
sparrow ✓

Brewster's  
warbler ✓

total: 192 species

## Oxbow Memorials

Geraldine L. Braun  
Geraldine L. Braun  
Geraldine L. Braun  
Mary Gatch  
Andrew Gelinske  
Al Kiefer  
Niki LaBonge  
Florence T. Wieland

Roy and Jane Bernzott  
Mrs. Avis A. Bright  
Bob and Diane Mysonhimer  
Fred and Peggy Gatch  
Bob and Tina Schlegel  
Fred and Peggy Gatch  
Oak Crest Animal Hospital  
Roy and Jane Bernzott

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial, established in the name of a friend or loved one, 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. Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgment.

### Wildlife Habitat

Oxbow recently received approval from I.D.N.R. and will have 89 acres of its land classified as "wildlife habitat". This land is the forested border along the Oxbow Lake and Wood Duck Slough. The classification of the land as wildlife habitat will provide some extra protection for the land and a small tax advantage to Oxbow. The classification will not reduce the number of acres Oxbow has under cultivation.

### Construction Mishaps

The construction firm hired to regrade the Conservancy District land as part of Argosy's wetland mitigation project has encroached on a number of acres of Oxbow-owned land, first excavating and later compacting crop land with heavy construction equipment. Rick Pope, Oxbow's tenant, will repair the damage as best he can and submit a bill for the work and his losses to the construction company.

### Did you notice...

That Dave Dister (The Solitary Warbler) reported 116.5 species as his total for Birdathon this year? That's because he found a Brewster's Warbler. This is a bird that was originally thought to be a full species of warbler and given the scientific name *Vermivora leucobronchialis* but was later discovered to be a cross between a Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler.

The fact that Dave spotted this hybrid, which has never been common, indicates how careful he was being in his identifications. Many birders, especially when hurried, would pass over such a bird (or its song) as an ordinary Blue-winged Warbler.

Since the bird isn't really a full species, Dave claimed it as half a species, giving him a total 116 and a half. He's correct in doing this because the bird was half Golden-winged Warbler, and he hadn't counted one of these as part of his total.

## Oxbow, Inc.

A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands area known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the existing agricultural floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This is an agricultural area rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

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

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

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

## Corporation Officers

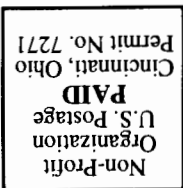
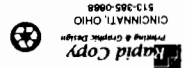
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Recording Secretary,  
Dennis Mason (513) 385-3607  
Corresponding Secretary,  
Suzanne Skidmore (513) 561-5718  
Treasurer, Mark Westrich (812) 637-2175  
Agent, Dave Styer (513) 772-1287

## Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage (513) 922-2445  
Easement Inspection,  
Michael Kluesener (513) 574-1220  
Richard Pope (513) 637-1365  
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Marketing, Connie McNamee (812) 926-2522  
Land Management, Dave Styer (513) 772-1287  
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery (513) 471-8001  
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Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513) 941-2534

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



**Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!**

CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243  
P.O. BOX 43391

