

Wild Ohio

Fall 2004

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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Division of Wildlife Mission Statement

We are dedicated to conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and promoting their use and appreciation by the people so that these resources continue to enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans.

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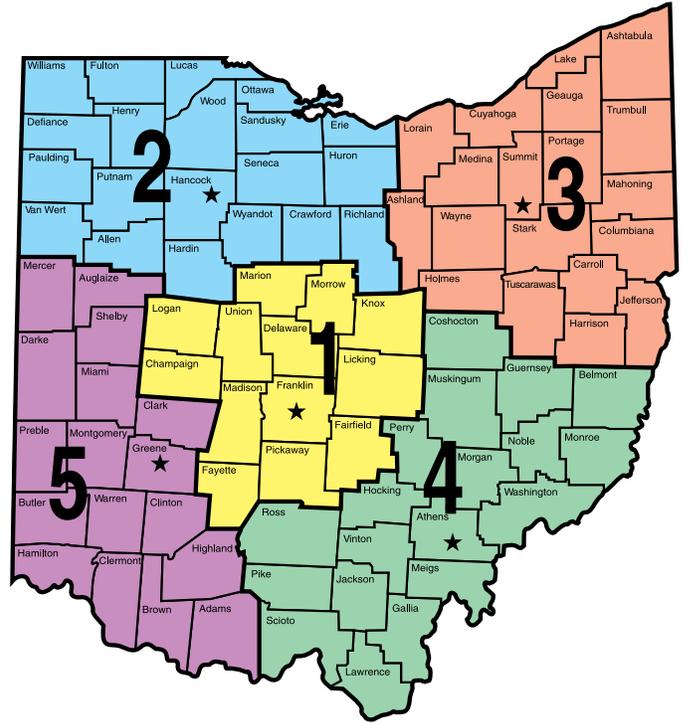
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On the Wildlife Calendar for Fall . . .

- September 1** Opening day of hunting season—squirrel, early Canada goose, teal, dove, rail, moorhen, and snipe
- September 25** National Hunting and Fishing Day; For more information call (203) 426-1320 or go to www.nhfd.org.
- September 25–26** Lake Erie Waterfowlers Festival, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- November 28** Wooden Feather Day, Sportsmen’s Migratory Bird Center, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; noon–4 p.m.



Features



6 The Roosevelt Game Preserve

Wild Ohio takes readers on a trip to the past to visit Ohio's first wildlife area and the early beginnings of

Ohio's wildlife management program.



8 Youth Deer Season Photos

A picture says a thousand words. Wild Ohio shares some of the many photos sent in by

readers highlighting Ohio's first youth deer season in 2003.



11

Ohio's 2004-2005 Hunting and Trapping Season Set

New regulations provide for a three-deer zone for the 2004-2005 season.

On the Cover:

The hooded merganser got its name by its distinctive "hood." This small but handsome waterfowl can be seen on wooded ponds, marshes, rivers, and lakes during the fall migration. (Photo by Tim Daniel)



Young Hunters Take to the Fields

This fall issue of *Wild Ohio* magazine is dedicated to the many Buckeye youth who experience the outdoors and the hunting tradition through Ohio's wealth of hunting opportunities. Ohio has special youth deer, turkey, and upland game seasons, as well as many special youth hunts for a variety of game organized throughout the state. Photos of some of Ohio's happy young hunters submitted by *Wild Ohio* readers are included throughout this issue.



14 "Promises to Keep"

Excerpts from a motivating speech by Rob Keck, chief executive officer of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Accept his challenge: keep the promise—answer the call for conservation.

Departments

Watchable Wildlife	<i>Peeps and Probers</i>	4
Wild Things		16
Outdoor Skills	<i>First Youth Deer Season Stats</i>	18
Wildlife Law Enforcement	<i>Field Notes</i>	19
Backyards for Wildlife	<i>Q & A</i>	20
For Wild Kids	<i>Building Bird Blinds</i>	21
Wild Game Gourmet	<i>Fall Game Dishes</i>	22
Wildlife Reflections	<i>Wildlife Moons</i>	23



semi-palmated plover

killdeer

Watchable Wildlife • *Fall Sho*

Stuck in the Mud . . . Peeps and Probers story and photos by Tim Daniel

I can remember a steamy July morning on the Lake Erie shoreline about 15 years ago when I made my first attempt at photographing shorebirds. I knew these birds preferred a type of habitat known as a mudflat, but what I didn't know is that the mudflats that are solid ground for the shorebirds, can be like quicksand to a photographer. If you have ever heard the expression "It seemed like a good idea at the time," then you know where I am going with this. To this day I give credit to my tripod for helping me get out of the mud and back on the shore. The entire experience reminded me of the dinosaurs in the tar pit scenario, but I managed to get some pretty good photos for my effort.

Since that day I have been fascinated with the idea of spending time in the field in late July or early August to view and photograph shorebirds during Ohio's fall migration. Most birds make the trip from breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic on the way to wintering grounds in South America. It is not unheard of for these birds to fly non-stop for days traveling over 2,000 miles before resting.

Shorebirds are opportunistic and may stop wherever mud is available. Ohio is an ideal area for migrating shorebirds as some of the most used rest stops are in managed marshes. These are areas where water levels are manipulated resulting, in part, in an abundant food supply of aquatic insects, critical in carrying shorebirds through the rest of their migratory journey. During their stopovers they will go into a feeding frenzy in which they could gain 50 percent of their weight in body fat before moving on. While this refueling stop is essential to the survival of shorebirds, it also provides exceptional opportunities for viewing and photography. They may use a mudflat along the way for a few days and then move on to the next.

Location and appearance will help you identify shorebirds. Don't let their common group name mislead you. Shorebirds are not simply birds found at the shore. Many of these birds are found along ocean and major lake coastlines, but they are also found inland.

Shorebirds include the families of plovers, sandpipers and related birds that are part of the Order charadriiformes. These birds are characterized by their long bills and large eyes. Most have thin legs with plump bodies.



greater yellowlegs



least sandpiper



American avocets



lesser yellowlegs

rebirds



These birds will vary in plumage from bold to the very subtle patterns, and exhibit drab or dynamic color. During fall migration most shorebirds are not in breeding plumage, which makes it even more difficult to identify them by species. This is when a good spotting scope, field guide, and a little patience will come in handy. Attempting to identify shorebirds can sometimes be a very humbling experience, but the challenge will keep you coming back.

Some shorebirds are known as “probers” because they feed by pushing their long bills deep into the mud for aquatic insect larvae. Prober feeders include dowitchers, dunlin, and many of the sandpipers. Others like the American avocet exhibit a more graceful movement by stalking through shallow water while skimming their bill from left to right.

If you see a shorebird with shorter legs and bill it will most likely be looking for insects in the extreme shallows and simply pluck them out of the mud. These short-legged varieties are commonly known as “peeps.” Peeps include birds such as the least sandpiper and semipalmated sandpiper. These defining aspects that most shorebirds display can be quite comical to watch as they routinely probe the mud or scurry up and down the edge of the water looking for their next meal.

Viewing Opportunities

The shoreline along Lake Erie is a good place to start with a late summer or early fall outing to seek shorebirds. Some public areas include the wetlands at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County. Other inland spots would include public areas such as Big Island Wildlife Area in Marion County, Spring Valley Wildlife Area in Greene and Warren counties, and Grand River Wildlife Area in Trumbull County. These areas have managed wetlands that are “drawn down” during the summer and early fall. The areas that are drained create short-term mudflats and shallows that shorebirds can take advantage of during the early part of their migration.

While most shorebirds you see will be migrating from their nesting grounds in the Arctic there are some like killdeer and spotted sandpipers that will nest in Ohio. No matter where the birds are coming from you are sure to find their antics entertaining and their identification challenging. So make sure to take advantage of this viewing opportunity because there is never a dull moment, and maybe someday you will find yourself stuck in the mud as well as with a new outdoor hobby.

Looking Back... The Theodore Roosevelt Game Preserve – Ohio's first public hunting area

by Mike Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist

A significant milestone in the history of the Division of Conservation, now known as the Division of Wildlife, was the purchase of land for Ohio's first game preserve in 1922. The Roosevelt Game Preserve was the birthplace of Ohio's system of wildlife areas, a cornerstone for wildlife research programs, and provided an outdoor respite for thousands of hunters and other visitors each year.

The legislature authorized the establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Game Preserve under section 1435 of the General Code of Ohio. The game preserve was located on nearly 9,000 acres of forests in the rugged terrain of Nile Township in Scioto County, in part of what was referred to as the "Little Smokies." The majority of land—6,367.5 acres—was purchased by the state from Simon Labold on April 7, 1922 at a cost of \$31,835.45—only \$5 per acre! Additional purchases of smaller tracts occurred over the next four years. The legislature mandated that the preserve would be closed to hunting until at least 1933 to allow for the recovery of game populations that had been decimated during settlement and the market hunting era.

Bringing Back the Whitetail

The Roosevelt Game Preserve was instrumental in the reestablishment of the white-tailed deer herd in southern Ohio. The last wild deer disappeared from Jackson and Scioto counties in 1904. From 1922-1930, the Division of Conservation purchased at least 200 deer from private individuals within Ohio and surrounding states. These deer were released into an 800-acre "corral" at the Roosevelt Game Preserve. Unfortunately, few records were kept and little is known about the sex or age of the deer that were released into the enclosure.

Over the next 10 years the deer herd inside the corral increased to an estimated 1,000 animals. The enclosure had deteriorated and some 100 deer had escaped by 1932 when the remaining animals were released into the surrounding forest. Just 11 years later, in 1943, the first modern-day deer season was held in Adams, Pike, and Scioto counties. A total of 8,500 permits were sold, but only 168 deer were taken in that first year.

Many other wildlife research investigations were conducted at the Roosevelt Game Preserve in the 1930s under the direction of Floyd Chapman and Lawrence Hicks of the Ohio Wildlife Research Unit.

- The introduction of semi-wild domestic turkeys was attempted in 1922-30, but failed.
- Extensive studies of the life history and habitat requirements of ruffed grouse were conducted from 1935-38.
- The effect of hunting on gray squirrels was completed during the same time period.



Kevin Bradbury

Dedication plaque at Shawnee State Park placed there in 1938 with the opening of the Roosevelt Game Preserve.

- A breeding bird survey was completed on the Roosevelt Game Preserve in 1937, in which 109 breeding bird species were recorded. Several species including the golden winged-warbler, pine warbler, and the ruffed grouse were reported as being more numerous on the game preserve than anywhere else in Ohio at that time.
- The game preserve housed a small zoo that featured seven black bears which were eventually released into the wild when the zoo closed in 1932.

First Hunting Preserve

In the early 1930s, much discussion occurred within the Division of Conservation on how the game preserve should be managed and when public hunting would be permitted. It was recognized that more game protectors were needed to protect the newly established deer herd from poaching. In the end, it was decided to use the game preserve system in Pennsylvania as a model. On September 26, 1935, the Roosevelt Game Preserve, along with three other newly-created preserves, was officially dedicated as Ohio's first public hunting preserve. Only squirrels, cottontail rabbits, and foxes were legal game.

The recreational area around Roosevelt Lake was transferred to the Division of Parks in 1949 and the remainder of the Roosevelt Game Preserve was integrated into the Shawnee State Forest in 1951 through an agreement between the

The Roosevelt Game Preserve was instrumental in the reestablishment of the white-tailed deer herd in Ohio. Taken on the Roosevelt Preserve, this is the first buck registered of 168 taken during the first modern-day deer season in December 1943.

The Ohio Conservation Bulletin





The Ohio Conservation Bulletin, June 1938

The CCC constructed many miles of truck trails, hiking trails, picnic and camping areas, shelter houses, and other public facilities.



The Ohio Conservation Bulletin, Jan. 1941

Roosevelt Lake and shelter house in 1940; Roosevelt Lake and shelter house 2004. The shelter house was built of hand-hewn chestnut beams and native stone.



Kevin Bradbury

newly established Division's of Forestry and Wildlife. Today the area which originally supported Ohio's fledgling deer herd is used for many different recreational pursuits including hunting, fishing, backpacking, trail riding, and viewing the spectacular fall foliage.

The Roosevelt Game Preserve was the precursor to the modern-day network of wildlife areas enjoyed by thousands of Ohioans every year. Since the early 1900s, the Division of Wildlife has made incredible strides in providing public hunting and fishing opportunities throughout Ohio. In cooperation with our many conservation partners, the Division of Wildlife has established more than 150 wildlife areas encompassing nearly 175,000 acres in 70 counties.

The source material for this article was obtained from Chapman, Floyd B., 1938. The wildlife resources of unglaciated Ohio. Dissertation, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA.



The Ohio Conservation Bulletin, Jan. 1940

Pioneer relicts like this old log cabin were part of the landscape at the Roosevelt Preserve.

“Roosevelt Park”

(Excerpts from *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin*, June 1938)

“CAUTION – DEER CROSSING”

“At several places along Route 125, north and west of the little town of Friendship, in Scioto County, the motorist will pass highway markers bearing the above legend. To many persons the fact that deer can be found in a state as highly populated as Ohio comes as a distinct surprise...Deer and other species of wildlife are attracting sportsmen and nature lovers in increasing numbers to the Roosevelt Game Preserve in this southern Ohio hill country.”

“Down Roosevelt Way”

(Excerpts from *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin*, January 1940)

“...Probably the outstanding and most valuable of these properties is the Roosevelt Game Preserve near Portsmouth... A part of the region now owned by the state is being developed as a forest reserve and recreation area, interspersed with wilderness areas or sanctuaries where the forest will grow up unaltered by man and where wild things may dwell...”

“...At the opening of the squirrel season in Ohio this year, Conservation Commissioner Don Waters announced that approximately 100,000 acres of state and federal-owned land had been opened for controlled hunting, under supervision of the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources. Much of this land included the beautiful Roosevelt Game Preserve and adjacent forest land in the “Little Smokies” section of Ohio...”

“...Experiments made in wildlife management in the Roosevelt and Shawnee forest areas are proving beyond a doubt the practicality of a multiple use program designed for these forest lands. Recreation development is well underway.”

If smiles are a measurement for success,

then Ohio's first-ever Youth Deer Season in 2003 was truly a giant victory!

See for yourself in the photos on the next three pages. Young hunters bagged over 5,300 deer during Ohio's first Youth Deer Season November 22 and 23, 2003.

Shortly after the 2003 youth season, notices were posted in *Wild Ohio* magazine and on the ODNR Web site (www.Ohiodnr.com) requesting photos of youth with deer taken during the Youth Deer Season. With an overwhelming response of over 200 photos, limited space in the magazine prevents us from publishing every photo we received. Names of the photographed hunters were put into a pool and randomly selected. We only regret that we could not publish all of the photos submitted.

Photos show hunter name(s) and county where deer was taken.



Brandon Hawk—Logan County



Kyle Shellhorn—Medina County



Nic Gebelle—Coshocton County



David Combs—Stark County



Tiffany Krimm—Miami County



Kyle Dettra with dad Tim—Ashland County



Jamie Morris—Richland County



Chris Seich—Portage County



Janelle Grine—Wood County



Son Rodney, father Tim, and grandfather Stanley Wendell—Carroll County (each took their first deer on this same property)



Chris Bursall—Clermont County



Ceaira Powell—Meigs County



Jenna and Caitlin Smith and Kevin Konscol—Harrison County



Right and below: brother and sister, Brad and Allyssa Brown—Richland County



Clayton Smart—Perry County



continued on next page



Joel Etgen—Auglaize County



Elizabeth Latta—Athens County

Physical Challenges Don't Stop These Kids!

Zach Grooms, age 13, is blind, but that doesn't stop him from hunting. Shortly after scoring a 98 percent on the hunter education course, Zach bagged a four-point buck in Pike County during the 2003 Youth Deer-Gun Season. Zach was hunting with the aid of his father when his dad spotted the deer. Zach grunted to make it turn and his dad helped him aim his gun. Along with hunting, Zach enjoys being in the woods and hearing the sounds of nature.



Zach Grooms



Morgan Wright—Clermont Co.



John Lavender (right) and hunting guide Ken McFann—Meigs County

Austin Robertson, age 9, is paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair, but he badly wanted to hunt during Ohio's first youth deer hunt last November. He practiced his shooting, and family members scouted their property in Pike County for a good spot for Austin to hunt. Hunting from a blind with a special gun rest his dad built on his wheelchair, Austin killed a five-point buck. "This is a dream come true," said Austin.



Chad Potts—Monroe County



Mandy Sheridan—Hancock County



Austin Robertson

Three-Deer Hunting Zone New for 2004-2005

Ohio hunters will have the opportunity to take an additional deer this fall as the 2004-2005 hunting and trapping regulations were approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council. Deer season is the most popular season for hunting in Ohio.

A three-deer limit, Zone C, will return to this year's regulations, covering 26 southeast and south-central counties. The 34 counties of Zone B will have a two-deer limit. Zone A consists of 28 northwestern and a few northeastern counties, and will have a one-deer limit.

"The forecast is for a great deer season this fall," said Steven A. Gray, chief of the Division of Wildlife. "Ohio will likely have a record deer season due to the youth season and the number of three-deer counties. Also, we expect a large number of trophy whitetails to be taken around the state."

The extremely popular youth deer-gun season is scheduled for Saturday, November 20, and Sunday, November 21. Young hunters will be permitted to bag one deer of either sex in any county of Ohio. Any deer taken will be part of the young hunter's total season limit. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult while in the field.

The regular deer-gun season will begin on Monday, November 29, and run through Sunday, December 5. The archery season will run from October 2 through January 31, 2005. The statewide muzzleloader season will open on Monday, December 27, and run four days through Thursday, December 30. The special-area muzzleloader hunts will be open October 25-30 at Salt Fork, Shawnee and Wildcat Hollow for antlered deer only. Hunters may take only one antlered deer, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

For the 2005 hunting season, an earlier opening day has been approved for spring wild turkey season. Instead of opening the fourth Monday of April, the new opening date will be the Monday closest to April 21. For 2005, the opening date will be April 18.

September 1 will again be the kick-off date for the state's fall hunting seasons—with the opening of squirrel, dove, Canada goose, teal, rail, moorhen, and snipe hunting.

Migratory waterfowl hunting rules and season dates will be set in August within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2004-05 framework. Refer to the 2004-2005 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons brochure (Publication 298) for season dates and regulations.

2004-2005 Hunting and Trapping Regulations

(Significant changes are in **Bold Red Print**)

DEER: Hunters may take only one antlered deer, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

Archery season: October 2, 2004 through January 31, 2005. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset daily.

OHIO'S 2004-2005 Hunting • AND • Trapping Seasons Set

Special Muzzleloader season: October 25-30, 2004 at Salt Fork, Shawnee and Wildcat Hollow. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Youth Deer season: November 20 and 21, 2004. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily. Only one deer per young hunter may be taken during this season.

Deer-Gun season: November 29 through December 5, 2004. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

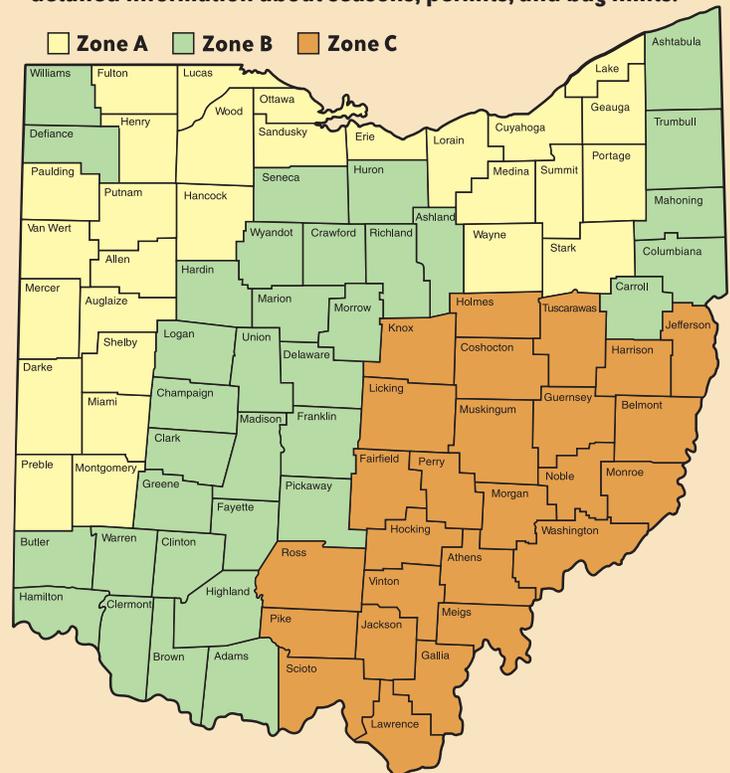
Statewide Muzzleloader season: December 27-30, 2004. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Zone A Hunters can take only one deer during the 2004-05 seasons, which could be a deer of either sex. *Twenty-eight counties, including:* Allen, Auglaize, Cuyahoga, Darke, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hancock, **Henry**, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, **Paulding**, Portage, Preble, **Putnam**, Sandusky, Shelby, Stark, Summit, **Van Wert**, Wayne, **Wood**.

Zone B Hunters can take only two deer during the 2004-05 seasons, which could be a deer of either sex. *Thirty-four counties, including:* Adams, Ashland, Ashtabula, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Crawford, **Defiance**, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, **Hardin**, Highland, Huron, Logan, Madison, *continued on next page*

2004-2005 Deer Zones

Refer to the *Ohio 2004-2005 Hunting & Trapping Regulations* for detailed information about seasons, permits, and bag limits.



Mahoning, **Marion**, Morrow, Pickaway, Richland, **Seneca**, Trumbull, Union, Warren, **Williams**, **Wyandot**.

Zone C Hunters can take no more than three deer during the 2004-05 seasons, of which only one could be an antlered deer. *Twenty-six counties, including:* **Athens, Belmont, Coshocton, Fairfield, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Vinton, Washington.**

DOVES, DUCKS, GEESE, COOTS, AND MERGANSERS: Hunting days and bag limits will be set within the framework which will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later this summer. Assuming the framework is similar to the 2003-04 season, dove season, the early goose season, and the special teal season will open September 1.

SQUIRREL: September 1 through January 31. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit: 6.

GROUSE: Open second Saturday in October (9) through February 28. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit: 3.

2004-2005 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Species	Opening date	Closing date
Squirrel	September 1	January 31
Mourning dove	September 1	To Be Announced
Geese	September 1	To Be Announced
Teal	September 1	To Be Announced
White-tailed deer— <i>archery season</i>	October 2	January 31
White-tailed deer— <i>special-area muzzleloader season</i>	October 25	October 30
White-tailed deer— <i>youth gun season</i>	November 20	November 21
White-tailed deer— <i>gun season</i>	November 29	December 5
White-tailed deer— <i>statewide muzzleloader season</i>	December 27	December 30
Ruffed grouse	October 9	February 28
Wild turkey— <i>fall season</i>	October 9	October 24
Wild turkey— <i>fall archery only</i>	October 25	November 28
<i>Youth upland season for cottontail rabbit, ringneck pheasant, bobwhite quail</i>	October 23 and 24 and October 30 and 31	
Cottontail rabbit	November 5	February 28
Ringneck pheasant	November 5	January 2
Bobwhite quail	November 5	November 28
Fox, raccoon, skunk opossum, weasel	November 10	January 31



Zach Nehls—Ottawa County



YOUNG HUNTERS' UPLAND SEASON: Open the two Saturdays and Sundays immediately before the regular opening date (October 23, 24, 30 and 31) statewide (public and private lands). Rabbit, pheasant, and all other legal game that is in season may be taken. Quail may be taken in counties open to quail hunting. Daily bag limits same as during the regular hunting seasons.

FALL WILD TURKEY: Open second Saturday in October (9) through the third following Sunday, October 24 for hunters using a shotgun with shot, a longbow or a crossbow and through the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28, for hunters using a longbow or a crossbow. Counties open to hunting are Adams, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Geauga, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington counties. Limit one turkey of either sex per fall season. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset from October 9 through October 24 and one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from October 25 through November 28.

RABBIT: Open first Friday in November (5) through February 28. Hours are sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit: 4.

PHEASANT: Open first Friday in November (5) through January 2. Hours are sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit: 2, Cocks only.



Aaron and Adam Schifer—
Crawford County



Maegan Rogers—Adams County



Parker Battista—Portage County

QUAIL: Open first Friday in November (5) through November 28. Hours are sunrise to sunset. Counties open to hunting are Adams, Athens, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Preble, Highland, Jackson, Meigs, Montgomery, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Warren. Daily bag limit: 4.

FOX, OPOSSUM, SKUNK, AND WEASEL TRAPPING: Open November 10 through January 31. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

FOX HUNTING: Open November 10 through January 31. Daytime hunting of fox closed during deer gun season. No other restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

RACCOON TRAPPING: Open November 10 through

January 31. Season extends through March 15 in Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties and Lucas County east of the Maumee River. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limits.

RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING: Open November 10 through January 31. No daily bag limit.

MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING: Open November 10 through February 28. Season extends through March 15 in Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties and Lucas County east of the Maumee River. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

BEAVER TRAPPING: North Zone (the area north of Interstate 76 and east of Interstate 77) opens December 26, 2004 through **February 28, 2005** and the South Zone (rest of state) opens December 26, 2004 through February 28, 2005. Nonresidents may trap beaver only if the state of their residence permits Ohio citizens to trap beaver. Beaver trapping on state public hunting areas without a special beaver trapping permit from the Ohio Division of Wildlife is prohibited.

SPRING WILD TURKEY: Open statewide (except on designated youth hunting areas) on **Monday April 18, 2005 through Sunday, May 15, 2005**. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to noon. Open statewide to youth hunters (17

years old and younger) for turkey hunting on the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the regular spring wild turkey season (April 16 & 17, 2005). Hours for youth hunts will be a half-hour before sunrise to sunset. Limit 2 bearded turkeys per hunter per spring season.

CROW: Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from June 11, 2004 through March 20, 2005. Hours are a half-hour before sunrise to sunset. No daily bag limit.

FALCONRY: Seasons for all non-migratory small game species will open on September 1 and extend through March 10, 2005

A Few Good Reasons to "GET BACK IN THE HUNT!"

Statistics

- ◆ 26,600 Hunter Education students were trained in fiscal year 2004, ending July 1.
- ◆ Sales of Ohio's top three types of hunting licenses all saw increases in 2003:
 - Youth Hunting License—up 16 percent
 - Non-resident Hunting License—up 16 percent
 - Resident Hunting License—up 2 percent

Deer Hunting

- ★ Record season in 2003–2004 for the number of deer taken by archery hunters—exceeding 50,000 for the first time;
- ★ Record muzzleloader deer season 2003–2004 with over 24,000 deer taken;

The pattern of deer hunting has been changing in recent years with an increasing number of deer being killed during the four-month archery season as opposed to the week-long gun season. In addition, the distribution of deer taken is spreading beyond southeast Ohio to more of a statewide kill.

Of 716 Big Buck awards presented at the 2003 Buckeye Big Bucks banquet, more than 40 deer taken measured over 170 Boone & Crockett points with 12 bucks measuring over 200 Boone & Crockett points, which is an all-time record.

Promises to Keep

by Rob Keck

Although the following text includes excerpts from a message given by Rob Keck, chief executive officer of the National Wild Turkey Federation to Division of Wildlife staff, the Division extends his message to **Wild Ohio** readers to “Keep the Promise—Answer the Call for Conservation.”

Imagine yourself with your daughter, your son or maybe your grand-children... Listening and watching a late November daybreak at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge as thousands of Canada geese wing over the Great Black Swamp. Drinking in the smell and sounds of baying coonhounds racing through a muddy Coshocton cornfield on a crisp fall night. Or feeling the biting chill of a late April morn as you scan and listen for a gobbler from the crest of historic Mount Logan.

May the high bawl of the mallard, the drumming of the ruffed grouse, the call of the wild turkey, and the music of a host of other game and nongame species ring across Ohio and the rest of this great North American continent forever... and a day. Those calls are a symbol of a promise each and every one of us has been commissioned to keep: Abundant wildlife populations for ALL Americans to enjoy... now and in the future.

One-hundred years ago when our wildlife populations were nearly wiped out, a different promise was made... and thankfully it's one that was kept. Our 26th President, Teddy Roosevelt would be proud of ALL that we've done. Yet today, there are still millions of people who don't know those promise keepers were HUNTERS... the original environmentalists.

In the late 1700s, George Washington, this country's first president and a hunter, discovered that Ohio had a lot to offer. He reported in his journal how impressed he was with the abundance and variety of fish and game he found near the Ohio River when surveying there in October 1770. On October 22, his party killed five wild turkeys. However, by 1904, the wild turkey vanished from Ohio.

For over 50 years, the gobble of the wild turkey couldn't be heard in the Buckeye State. Then in 1956, Ohio's first trap and transfer efforts at the Waterloo Experiment Station in Vinton County turned the tide. Just 10 years after the trap and transfer program began, 12 proud hunters made history by bagging a wild turkey. Those same hunters would be amazed that by 2001 all 88 Ohio counties had a turkey population. Today, there are more than 200,000 wild turkeys in this state.

Who paid for that conservation success story? It was hunters—through their license fees, Pittman Robertson dollars and support of conservation organizations such as the Federation. Wildlife professionals and hunters—conservation organizations and wildlife agencies... built the foundation for the most effective conservation model and restoration program in the history of the world. Hunters and the hunting industry didn't wait for the government to act... they imposed licenses and excise taxes on THEMSELVES to power this recovery. More importantly, the comeback of our wildlife was fueled by passion—the emotional gasoline that carried us to new heights in conservation.

Passion, people and pride made the difference when there was little or no wildlife science. Passion, people and pride are key to our future of promises to keep.

The collective efforts to set aside habitat for wildlife AND for the public to enjoy is nothing short of amazing. We've



Rob Keck



Andrew Phillips and grandfather Ed Molnar—Lorain County



Calia and Parker Battista—Portage County

kept the promise to our constituency. But our world changed. Nature's rhythm of living and dying, predator overtaking prey—these time honored relationships are being ignored by people who have lost touch with reality... and lost touch with the land. These very people are now moving to the country, chewing up valuable habitat and then become angry when wildlife eat their gardens... These people want wildlife around but they don't know how to live with it. We're in the midst of a new age in wildlife management. If we don't change, ***we will be changed.***

Partnership—I see conservation organizations playing an even bigger partnership role in the future. Most Americans want to do something good for conservation. We've got a huge volunteer conservation army out there. Each organization has a different strength. We must identify who can bring what strength to the table—in this struggle to fund, manage and market wildlife and recreational opportunities in this state and on this continent.

We all need to sell the sizzle of our hunting heritage and the hunter's role in conservation through magazines, television shows, Web sites, and electronic newsletters. For it's through the media that we will win the hearts, minds, and souls of the public... and sell them on our conservation needs, achievements, and promises. Wildlife conservation CANNOT exist without hunting.

Five and one-half years ago I was in the Roosevelt Room at the White House when the hook and bullet crowd had its ONE audience with that administration. As I had the privilege of wrapping up that meeting I pointed to the oil painting of Teddy Roosevelt that hung above the fireplace in that historic room. And as I looked him in the eye from across the table, I said "Mr. Vice President, you see that giant of a man on his horse? That President with the round spectacles was a hunter. He gave us a charge, a "promise to keep" in passing along to those who come after us our great wildlife legacy... our conservation ethic."

I stroked a box call and said, "Have you heard our call to conservation, our promise to keep?" And standing before you in this room today, I believe that you, the professionals, can

make good on our promises. The opportunity to renew your commitment—to preserve this hunting heritage as partners and as salesmen and women—is now yours. I challenge you to sell it, to market it, communicate it like never before.

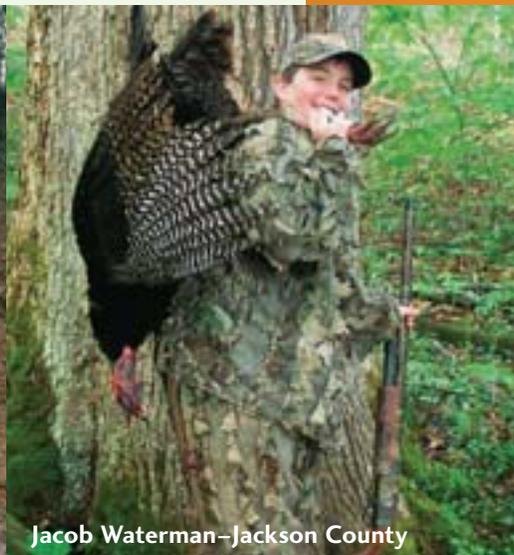
This is OUR call as the promise keepers... to preserve and carry on our legacy in this new millennium of North America's fish, forest, and wildlife heritage... and those time honored traditions of fishing, hunting, and conservation. If we don't do it, ***someone else will.*** Let us make sure our children and grandchildren will always be able to spend mornings on a wooded ridge in the hills of southeast Ohio or a living swamp at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge—where the sounds of wildlife echo across this great land we call ours.



Keep the promise. Answer the call.



Erika Schmidt—Guernsey County



Jacob Waterman—Jackson County



Nick Wander—Richland County

New Wildlife Laboratory Developed at OSU

The Division of Wildlife is partnering with The Ohio State University's School of Natural Resources in a Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory. An open house was held last February.



Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory

The Ohio State University
Ohio Division of Wildlife

The cooperative laboratory provides the Division access to additional professional staff as well as quality students and facilities to carry on many of Division research programs. The Division will be reimbursed 100 percent for its annual contribution of \$350,000 for the research subsidy.

Ohioan Receives Annie Oakley Award

For all the love, labor, and loyalty she has given to the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors program, Lila Koston, of Williamsfield, Ohio, was named the recipient of the national Annie Oakley Award. Just as the world-famous sure-shot spent the better part of her life as an ambassador for shooting sports, Koston has spent the last four years spreading the story of wildlife conservation and making outdoor recreation available to women.

Koston has organized numerous Women in the Outdoors events across Ohio. The events offer a wide variety of such classes as camping, canoeing, Dutch oven cooking, fishing, shotgunning, turkey hunting, archery, orienteering, and bird watching. She also coordinated a Wheelin' Sportsmen event for Ohio sportsmen and women with disabilities last fall. Koston is also an award-winning taxidermist and single mother of three children.



Melissa Furlong

Lila Koston and Rob Keck, CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Division Friend Donates Rare Documents

Alan Easterday, of Wadsworth, has donated numerous rare and valuable documents to the Division of Wildlife, including this wolf bounty certificate issued for Ohio counties in the 1800s.

Tim Daniel



Boat Motor Donated to Magee Marsh

Tom Kubicz, president of Lake Erie Waterfowlers, presented Denis Franklin, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area manager, with a new outboard motor for use at Magee Marsh. The motor, valued at \$2,500, will be used in conducting controlled waterfowl hunts and wetland maintenance and management projects.



Bill Roshak

The Waterfowlers have been involved in a wide variety of Division projects including the installation of a concrete boat launch at Metzger Marsh, purchasing hats for participants in youth waterfowl hunts, assisting with Canada goose banding operations, contributing maintenance items for the Controlled Waterfowl Hunts, and donating to wetland restoration projects at several Division wildlife areas. The main source of their funding comes from the annual Waterfowlers Festival held at Magee Marsh. This year's event is September 25 and 26.

Fishing America

The "Fishing Across America" team, Betsy and Ken Niles visited Columbus last May as part of their Guinness Record Book quest to catch 50 freshwater fish species by fly-fishing in each of the 50 states in 50 weeks. Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray greeted the California fishing duo and Division staff Mitch Carpenter and Elmer Heyob assisted the anglers in successfully catching nine different species in Ohio. Although the Buckeye State was stop number 36, Ken said "Ohio is number one in my book!"

Mitch Carpenter





Carol Wells

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hold First Ohio Fishing Event

About 400 people participated in Ohio's first Wheelin' Sportsmen fishing event held in Lawrence County in April. It was held in conjunction with the grand opening of newly renovated Lake Vesuvius. The Lawrence County Commissioners presented a proclamation establishing the day as Wheelin' Sportsmen Day in the county, the first of this type of proclamation in the nation.



Melissa Hathaway

Farm Science Review September 21-23, 2004

In its 42nd year, the annual Farm Science Review at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London will provide more for visitors than ever before. The three-day agricultural trade show has evolved over the years, becoming an event for all farmers, large and small, as well as conservation-minded landowners.

The show includes hundreds of demonstration plots and farm machinery, demonstrations and displays from The Ohio State University colleges and departments, farm and home safety information, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) demonstrations, horse plowing contest, and expanded programs on conservation practices in the Gwynne Conservation Area. In addition, over 550 commercial company lines are exhibited throughout the grounds, with everything from equipment to clothing to new technologies. The event draws over 135,000. There is an admission fee.

Division of Wildlife Staff Recognized



Tim Daniel

Lloyd Culbertson with Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray.

Lloyd Culbertson, wildlife research technician at the Division's Waterloo Research Unit, was recognized as the Buckeye Big Bucks Club Board of Trustees and Division of Wildlife Employee of the Year for his work of more than 20 years in deer management. It is the first such award given by the club and was presented to Culbertson at the annual Buckeye Big Bucks Banquet. Besides his deer management work, Culbertson volunteers much of his personal time to youth archery programs.

Jeff Burris, private lands biologist with the Division's Northwest Ohio office, received the Partnership Award at the Ohio Pheasants Forever State Convention recently. The honor was in recognition for his habitat work with Pheasants Forever chapters and regional biologists, and his work with the State Technical Committee on Farm Bill programs.

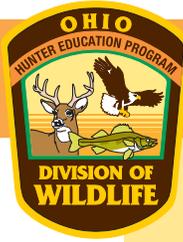
David Kohler, assistant wildlife management supervisor at the Division's southwest Ohio office, received the Outstanding Wildlife Professional Award at the National Wildlife Turkey Federation (NWTf) Awards Banquet last January. David Honeycutt, shooting range attendant for the southwest Ohio district, won the 2003 Barry Cowen Award for outstanding local NWTf chapter volunteer.

Carol Wells, communications specialist with the Division's southeast Ohio office was also recognized by the National Wild Turkey Federation for her work in supporting the NWTf and assistance in furthering the partnership between the NWTf and the Division of Wildlife.

David Insley, fish hatchery superintendent at Castalia State Fish Hatchery, received a Director's Achievement Award during ceremonies with Governor Bob Taft for his outstanding work and dedication to the Division's high-profile steelhead trout fishing program.



Youth Deer Season



OUTDOOR SKILLS

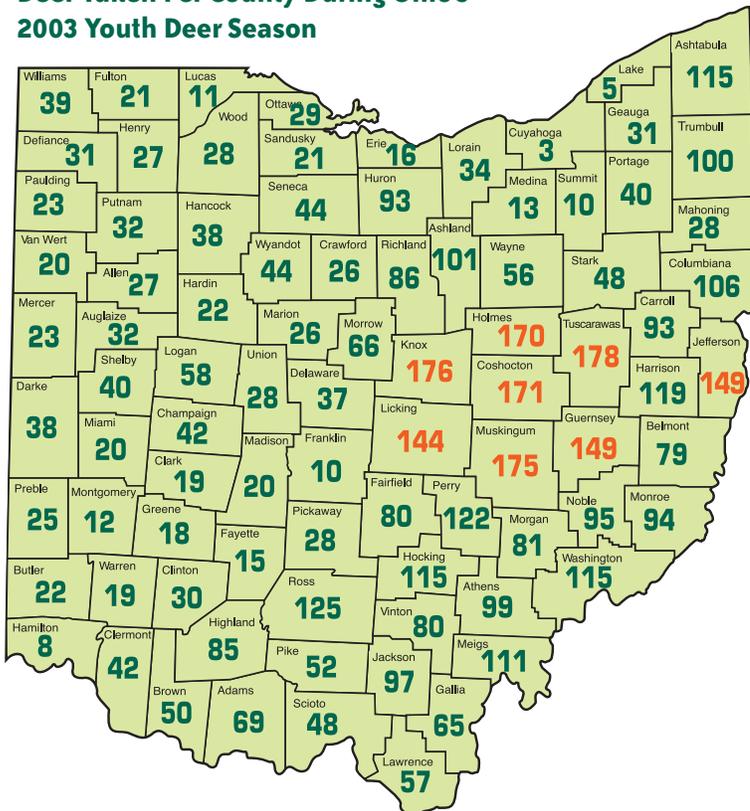
Young Hunters Successful During 2003 Youth Deer-Gun Season

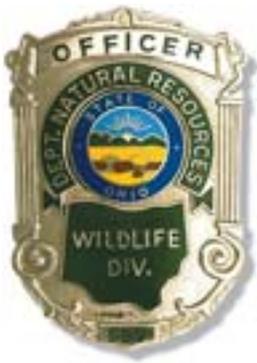
Ohio's first ever Youth Deer-Gun Hunting Season in November 2003 proved to be very popular. (See photos of other successful young hunters on pages 8-10 and 13-15.) Young hunters harvested 5,325 deer during the youth season, including 2,736 antlered deer and 2,553 antlerless deer. (Note: The difference in totals reflects the fact that some Harvest Record forms did not indicate antlered or antlerless.) Top counties were Tuscarawas (178), Knox (176), (Muskingum (175), Coshocton (171), Holmes (170), Guernsey (149), Jefferson (149), and Licking (144).



Josh Miller-Wayne County

Deer Taken Per County During Ohio's 2003 Youth Deer Season





Wildlife Law Enforcement

Field Notes

Gill Netters Apprehended on Hoover Reservoir



Brad Kiger

Division of Wildlife District One officers received information of a possible gill net set in Hoover Reservoir near Westerville last March. The use or possession of gill nets is illegal in Ohio, with few exceptions such as for net manufacturers or people who are collecting fish and wildlife for scientific purposes with proper permits.

After surveillance at the reservoir, wildlife officers and investigators apprehended two men removing the gill net from the water. The net contained 108 saugeye plus some white bass and shad. Both men, from Columbus, were charged with illegal possession of a gill net, taking fish by an unlawful method, and possessing more than the daily limit of saugeye (six per day per person).

Further investigation at a restaurant in Columbus where the men worked resulted in 25 fish being seized as evidence. The fish appeared to have been taken with a gill net, and the restaurant staff refused to disclose where they got the fish. Officers will be pursuing charges against the restaurant as well. The case was still pending and under investigation when this publication went to print.



Brad Kiger

Over-Application of Manure Results in Stream Litter Fine

Last year, the over application of cow manure on a dairy farm in Wyandot County resulted in charges of stream litter. The applicator pleaded guilty to stream litter, was found guilty and fined \$1,000 plus \$70 court costs. No dead wild animals were noted incidental to the over application. This is just one example of the type of investigation the Division of Wildlife does while enforcing Ohio's Stream Litter Act.

The task of protecting the wild animals of the state has been charged to the Division of Wildlife by the Ohio legislature (Ohio Revised Code 1531). Anyone found discharging pollutants into Ohio's waters can be found in violation of the "Stream Litter Act," which incurs third degree misdemeanor penalties for a first offense. Violators can be fined up to \$500 or sentenced to 60 days in jail, or both, for a first offense. Corporations can be fined up to \$3,000 for a first offense. Arrests made under this section are heard in criminal court. No kills of fish or wildlife need be involved in a stream litter case. If fish or other wildlife are killed as a result of a pollutant discharge, the party responsible is charged with all environmental damages, including the value of the wildlife killed. The value of the wildlife is based on current market prices. The guilty party also pays all the investigation costs.

Surface and ground water in Ohio is essential and highly valued for aquatic life, water supply and recreation. Although these incidents are rare, citizens are encouraged to report potential violations to Ohio EPA, ODNR or local SWCD offices.

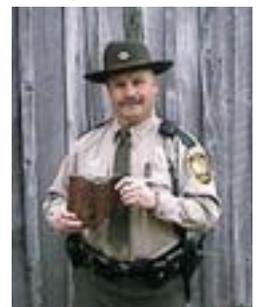
Wildlife Officers Recognized

Athens County Wildlife Officer **George Foreman** was recognized as Officer of the Year by the Ohio Bowhunters Association. Officer Foreman was recognized for his work with area youth in promoting bow hunting, safety, and archery-related activities.

Noble County Wildlife Officer **Frank Fetzner** received the Wildlife Officer of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Turkey Federation at its annual banquet last January.



George Foreman



Frank Fetzner

Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

Do you have a question concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send it to: **Wild Ohio** magazine, Attention: **Melissa Hathaway, Editor, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870**. Due to space limitations, we regret that not all questions submitted may be answered. If you need a quick response to a question, please contact your nearest wildlife district office.

Q: Why do squirrels bury nuts and do they always find them later?

— Eric Evans, Kingston, OH



A: Like many other members of the rodent family, squirrels will often cache (hide) food to be eaten later. Rather than put all their food supply in one place, squirrels hide and bury food stuffs in many different places. That way, if another animal finds their cache, their remaining stores are still safe. Caching involves putting away more than they may need, so sometimes the buried nuts aren't always dug back up. Nuts not retrieved may sprout into new trees.

Q: Do birds use nest boxes in winter?

— Alan York, Amelia OH

A: Any species of bird that nests in a cavity may also use the same type of shelter in the winter. A man-made nest box, a hollowed out area of a tree or even an old woodpecker hole can be particularly valuable to small birds (such as bluebirds and chickadees) on frigid nights when the weather is harsh. While some birds will roost alone, other birds will roost together. Accounts of several bluebirds crowding inside a single nest box on a cold winter night are not uncommon.



Q: How do chipmunks know when it is time to hibernate?

— Ashley Carter, Columbus, OH



A: The basic driving force that causes wild animals to change their behavior with the different seasons is the amount of daylight. Shorter days in fall trigger chipmunks to begin a winter sleep in tunnels dug underground. Occasionally, they will wake up and eat stored food within their burrow, but they don't usually emerge until late February or early March.

Q: Last September, we noticed a tremendous number of spider webs in the fields near the path we take to our dove hunting area. What type of spider made them and why are there so many?

— Rodney Smith, Amanda, OH

A: Fall is generally the time of the year when the insect population is most evident and it is no exception with spiders. Hatchlings in spring have had all summer to grow to a noticeable size. Most of the field spiders seen hanging in webs in late summer and fall are members of the family of orb weavers: Araneidae. These species spin a web in grassy areas in which to capture prey. Many of the individuals seen in the fall are females preparing to lay eggs for the next year's generation. A field full of webs all draped with dew on a fall morning can be particularly eye-catching.



For Wild Kids

Building Bird Blinds

by Tammy York

Placing a bird feeder in your yard or school yard can provide lots of fun and entertainment, but only from a distance it seems. Getting close to the birds at your feeder can be a challenge. Birds are very wary and they often fly away as soon as they see you. The trick to viewing birds up close is to become invisible, and it is easier than you think!

You will need the following items:

- A cardboard box large enough for you to comfortably sit inside. (A box that a refrigerator, stove, or other large appliance comes in will work well.)
- A pair of scissors.
- Green, brown, and black markers.
- A pillow to sit on.

1. Turn the box onto its side and crawl in the open end.
2. Decide which side of the box will be facing the feeder and with your marker, draw a rectangle that will become your window.
3. With the help of an adult cut out the window with your scissors.
4. Camouflage the outside of the box by using your brown, black, and green markers to draw trees and bushes on the outside of the box. If you want to really be creative, have an adult help you hot glue leaves and sticks to the box to really make it blend in.
5. Position your new bird blind near the bird feeder, with your window facing the feeder so you get a good, unobstructed view.
6. Go get a snack, something to drink, your binoculars, field guide, and that pillow!
7. Crawl back into your new bird blind and quietly wait for the birds to come back. Be patient because it may take a few minutes for the birds to get used to the box being close to the feeder.
8. You can take a journal and some drawing pencils and sketch the birds you see to help you learn all of the markings that help make each bird different.
9. You can take a camera too. See how close you can get the box to the feeder to get some really close-up pictures.

Happy birding!



Brother and sister Seth Wright and Jordyn Eggleston used brushed and sprayed paint, and a leaf-shaped stamp made from styrofoam to color and camouflage their blind.

WILD GAME GOURMET

r e c i p e s

Blue Cheese Venison Bake

1 pound ground venison
2 tablespoons olive oil for browning
½ tablespoon minced garlic
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 package dry French onion soup mix
1 cup sliced mushrooms
1 cup blue cheese (crumbled)
blue cheese salad dressing
Dough for crust:
2 cups baking mix
water as indicated on baking box

Brown ground venison in olive oil. Add garlic, Worcestershire sauce, dry soup mix, and mushrooms; simmer a few minutes. In a separate bowl, mix baking mix with water to form dough. Spread dough over bottom of a pie pan. Pour venison mixture over dough and sprinkle on crumbled blue cheese. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve with blue cheese salad dressing on top of pie if desired.

(Contributed by Vicki Ervin)

Marinated Duck Breasts

4 to 8 duck breasts
½ cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons cooking oil
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ cup dry red wine

Halve duck breasts and remove from bone. Combine remaining ingredients and add to duck breasts in a sealable bag. Refrigerate overnight, turning the bag several times. Remove duck breasts and save marinade for basting. Grill ducks 15 minutes on each side, basting often with the marinade.

Duck, like prime rib, is best when cooked so it is slightly pink inside. Overcooking will make the meat tough and detract from the taste.

(Contributed by Betty Trautman)

*by Vicki Mountz,
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine*



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

WILDLIFE Reflections

Wildlife Moons of the Autumn Sky

by Melissa Hathaway; illustration by Gene Whitten

This issue's "Wildlife Reflections" is the fourth and final article in a four-part series exploring Native American moon names that honor North America's wildlife.

For as long as people have been watching the night sky, they have admired and wondered about the moon, especially the full moon. Long before modern calendars, Native Americans and other cultures gave names to each full moon cycle, or month, to keep track of time. Native American moon names represent what is occurring in the natural world from month to month. The native wildlife was at one time essential for survival, and their importance in tribal life even still today, is depicted in many full moon names. The autumn Hunter's Moon is a classic example.

September

Full Moon: September 28

Shine on Harvest Moon. The popular Harvest Moon is the moon that falls closest to the autumn equinox in September or October. All the staples for Native Americans, including corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice, were now ready to harvest and store for the coming winter. During this season, the moon is at a point opposite the sun and seems to rise at nearly the same time each night, rather than the usual 50 minutes later each day. This creates strong moonlight early in the evening and continuing throughout the night, as long as skies are clear. Under the Harvest Moon, field workers could work late into the night gathering crops.

Other September full moon names: Corn Moon, Barely Moon, Rice Moon, Fruit Moon, Nut Moon, Butterfly Moon, Moose Calling Moon, Calves Grow Hair Moon, and Moon When the Deer Paw the Earth.

October

Full Moon: October 28

The full moon following the Harvest Moon is the Hunter's Moon. It was time to hunt to provide meat and furs to endure the long, harsh winter months ahead. With the fields harvested, hunting parties could more easily pursue animals such as elk, deer, bear, and wild turkey. In addition, they could hunt by the light of the Hunter's Moon, because this moon provides, to a lesser degree, the same phenomena as the Harvest Moon with bright moonlight lasting throughout much of the night.

Other names for October full moons: Travel Moon, Blood Moon, Falling Leaves Moon, Shedding Moon, Drying Grass Moon, Big Wind Moon, First Frost Moon, Moon of the Changing Seasons, and Moon the Birds Fly South.

November

Full Moon: November 26

In late fall before the swamps and rivers froze over, beaver traps were set to add to the supply of winter food and pelts. Hence the most widely used full moon name is Beaver Moon.

Other November full moon names: Deer Rutting Moon, Little Bear's Moon, Geese-Going Moon, Frost Moon, Freezing Moon, Dark Moon, Fog Moon, Storm Moon, Trading Moon, and Month of the Turkey and Feast.

December

Full Moon: December 26

Cold temperatures have set in and the nights are now the longest and darkest. Hence the widely used Native American moon names of Cold Moon and Long Night's Moon.

Other December full moon names: Big Bear's Moon, Oak Moon, Real Goose Moon, Frost Fish Moon, Small Spirits Moon, Snow Moon, Popping Trees Moon, Moon When Deer Shed Their Horns, Moon Before-Yule, and Moon When Wolves Run Together.

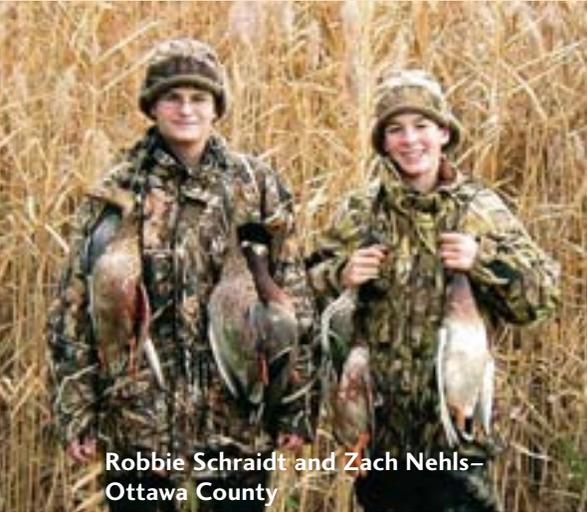


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Wild Ohio Magazine Subscription, 4483 Industrial Parkway, Cleveland OH 44135.

Get Back in the Hunt



September 1 is the official “Kick-off” to Ohio’s Hunting Season



Robbie Schraidt and Zach Nehls—
Ottawa County



Jessica Spalding—Mercer County



Jacob Berg—Trumbull County



Jesse Janosik—Trumbull County



Calia Battista—Portage County



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