

Wild Ohio

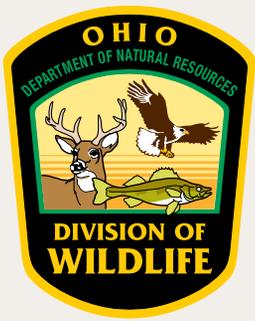
Fall 2011

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





LANE NAMED CHIEF OF THE OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director David Mustine has appointed David B. Lane to serve as the chief of the state's Division of Wildlife. Lane replaces David M. Graham who retired from the position earlier this year.

As chief of the Division of Wildlife, Lane will oversee Ohio's fish and wildlife management programs, as well as management of more than 170,000 acres of state wildlife areas, 2.25 million acres of Lake Erie and 451 miles of the Ohio River.

Director Mustine stated, "David's career reflects a diverse background in conservation and business, as well as experience with law enforcement and proven leadership within the Division. He will be an asset helping the division fulfill its core mission as well as strengthening our internal and external partnerships to promote outdoor recreation opportunities and management of public lands."



A native of West Virginia, Lane was hired by the Division of Wildlife in 2002 as a wildlife officer in Fayette County; he was promoted to wildlife officer supervisor in 2005 and named as acting District One manager in 2009. Prior to his state service, Lane was the vice president of a West Virginia timber company.

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LICENSE & GAME CHECK

ATTENTION HUNTERS

Ohio's new automated License and Game Check System is in place. This fall, hunters have three options to check in their deer and turkey:

- On the Internet at wildohio.com
- By telephone at 1-877-TAG-ITOH (1-877-824-4864). This option is only available to those who are required to have a permit to hunt deer and turkey.
- At all license agents (see a complete list at wildohio.com)



Spring turkey hunters successfully navigated this new system with 44 percent of hunters using the phone method. Traffic at license agents and Internet users was equal, each receiving 28 percent of hunter use. In addition to game check, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts can manage their personal account including viewing licenses and permits purchased, game check transactions, hunting and fishing lottery results, and *Wild Ohio* Magazine memberships online at wildohio.com. Visit the "Manage Your Customer Account" page and enter your unique identification number to log in.

WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY • The Division of Wildlife offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, you should contact:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Ohio Department of Natural Resources
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ON THE COVER: SANDHILL CRANE

The sandhill crane is among the oldest living species of birds and considered an endangered species in Ohio. A characteristic of the sandhill crane is its tendency to dance. Dancing is an important part of their courtship, but they can be seen dancing any time of the year. Photo by Nigel Fearon

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SANDHILL CRANE
ANDREA WESTMORELAND





News from Around Ohio



The 2011 ACI conference, Conservation Information in 3D, focused on Diversity, Direction, and Development in communication.

OHIO HOSTS NATIONAL ACI CONFERENCE

More than 80 participants from across the U.S. attended the annual Association for Conservation Information (ACI) conference held in Cincinnati, July 18-22. ACI members consist of information and education professionals representing state, federal and Canadian fish and wildlife agencies, and private conservation organizations. This year's conference would not have been possible without the support of conservation businesses and organizations. This year's conference sponsors included:

- Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- TenPoint Crossbow Technologies
- J.F. Griffin Publishing
- U.S. Sportsman's Alliance
- HuntFishRegs.com
- Southwick Associates
- Season's End
- Whittails Unlimited
- Snackworms.com
- Council for Environmental Education – Project WILD
- Tread Lightly!
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Reef Runner Tackle Co., Inc.

CASTING FOR COMMENTS

The Division of Wildlife wants to hear from you! Visit ohiodnr.com/creel to give us your feedback on fishing in Ohio. Questions include fishing preferences, fish consumption, fishing regulations for American Electric Power ReCreation lands, potential threats to the quality of fishing in Ohio, and any other thoughts you have about fishing in our state. The online survey is open until September 30, 2011. Fisheries biologists use angler survey data in combination with biological data from fish populations to identify ways of improving fishing on Ohio's inland reservoirs, lakes, rivers, and Lake Erie.

FHFH DONATIONS REACH 2,500 DEER

The 2010-2011 deer season marked the fourth year of collaboration between deer hunters, the Division of Wildlife, and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Throughout the season, hunters donated more than 125,150 pounds of venison to local food banks throughout the state. This donated venison equals approximately 500,600 meals for Ohioans in need. A total of 2,503 deer were donated this deer hunting season compared to 2,336 in 2009-10, 1,096 in 2008-09, and 418 in 2007-08. There are more than 30 local volunteer chapters and more than 70 participating butchers across the state. Visit Ohio's local FHFH page at fhfh.org for more information.

ENVIROTHONS FEATURE LAKE ERIE'S ESTUARY

Sixty-two high school teams competed in the Northeast Ohio Area 2 Envirothon in May 2011, with freshwater and salt-water estuaries as the theme for this year's contest. Students were tested on wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, and this year's current issue, "estuaries." Through downpours of rain, students hiked through the trails of Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, stopping at stations to analyze habitats or consider test questions. All of Ohio's regional winners competed at the state competition this summer to determine the winner of the National 2011 Estuary-themed Envirothon sponsored by Canon. To learn more about activities at Ohio's estuary, visit oldwomancreek.org.

OHIOAN HONORED IN NATIONAL CONTEST

Christine Clayton, 16, of Sidney, Ohio was awarded third place in the 2011 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest for her acrylic rendition of a pair of wood ducks. The National Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is the culmination of a year-long Junior Duck Stamp conservation curriculum used by K-12 educators across the nation. This year, more than 27,000 Junior Duck Stamp design entries were entered in state competitions.



OHIO ON TARGET AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Hard work and dedication earned nearly 700 Ohio archers the chance to compete at the 2011 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) National Championship held in Louisville, Kentucky in May. The competition drew more than 7,000 students from 34 states and Canadian provinces. Ohio youth took top honors, with Logan Hocking Middle School finishing third and Maysville Middle School of Zanesville finishing fifth in the middle school division. Outstanding individual archers included Hayden Perry of Maysville Middle School, who tied for first place in the Middle School Male Division with a score of 294 out of a possible 300. Ciara Cox of Logan High School placed fourth in the High School Female Division, shooting 290 from a possible 300. For a complete list of results for the 2011 National Archery in the Schools Program National Championships visit archeryintheschools.org.



EMPLOYEE HONORED BY CONSERVATION CLUB

Private Lands Biologist Dan McMillen was recently honored at the 2011 Buckeye Big Buck Club banquet for his dedication to deer management in Ohio. During his 27 years of employment with the Division of Wildlife, Dan has become well known by landowners in northeast Ohio for his guidance and technical advice on wildlife and wildlife habitat issues. Dan has also been instrumental in several deer research projects including aging stations, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sample collection, and contributions to the deer reproductive survey.

NEW STATE RECORD WHITE PERCH

A new Ohio record white perch has been certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. The record catch, weighing 1.72 pounds, was reeled-in on Lake Erie by Terry R. Patton of Galion, Ohio, on January 29, 2011. Patton's record white perch is 14-1/8 inches long with a 12-1/4 inch girth. This catch replaces the previous state record white perch that was caught in May 1988 by John Nause that weighed 1.42 pounds. Ohio state record fish are certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. For more information on Ohio's state record fish program visit outdoorwritersofohio.org

Wildlife CALENDAR

September 24
**NATIONAL HUNTING
& FISHING DAY**
nhfday.org



September 24
**VISITOR CENTER
GRAND OPENING**
Old Woman Creek National
Estuarine Research Reserve
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
oldwomancreek.org

December 2011 THE NEW WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

Nearly two years ago, the Division of Wildlife began the process of researching and rebuilding your *Wild Ohio* magazine. Produced and printed for more than 20 years, *Wild Ohio* has become a publication that all outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy. Now, readers can expect more - and it starts with the next issue.

Starting with the *Wild Ohio* 2012 Calendar Issue, the division will produce six magazines a year. Each 36-page issue will contain cover-to-cover information on hunting, fishing, birding, and other wildlife topics. In addition to your regular winter, spring, summer, and fall issue, the *Wild Ohio for Kid's* magazine and a calendar issue will be added to your membership.

It is our goal that each issue of *Wild Ohio* magazine provide information that everyone can enjoy.



Sandhill Cranes

IN OHIO

by Dave Sherman

You've been in the blind since dawn waiting for sandhill cranes to come to the bait. It's 5:17 p.m., and it appears that the birds are finally getting hungry. Several times throughout the long, humid July day, the birds came close to the bait pile, but never quite in reach. Within two minutes of starting their walk towards you, they are only three feet outside of the range. A colt (young crane) steps past the stick that marks the edge of your range. You wait for the adult to venture close enough, hoping the colt doesn't leave. Suddenly the adult moves beside the young colt – BOOM!!! The netlauncher fires and two cranes are now tangled in the net.



Getting to that point in Ohio has been a long time coming. Sandhill cranes reappeared in Ohio in 1985 after the last pair nested in Huron County in 1926. A pair nested in Wayne County in 1987, marking the official return of the crane to Ohio after 61 years. Since that small beginning almost a quarter-century ago, sandhill cranes have indeed made their presence known in the state. There are at least 25 pairs nesting in 13 counties in Ohio. In 2011 the cranes fledged 36 colts, far surpassing the highest historical estimate of 12 to 15 pairs in the 1870s.

The cranes in Ohio are greater sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) and they belong to the eastern population, which generally breeds across the Great Lakes region (Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario). These cranes winter in Florida and southern Georgia, although recently some cranes have been stopping short of their traditional migration and wintering in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana. The eastern population has mirrored Ohio's trend, increasing rapidly in the last 30 years. A fall survey of the eastern population in 1981 counted 12,000 cranes, compared to the nearly 60,000 sandhills counted in the same survey in 2009.

These large numbers of cranes throughout the Midwest are gaining attention during migration. The division regularly receives reports of flocks numbering 50 to

200 sandhill cranes passing through Ohio in late November to early December. The unmistakable calls of the cranes are heard long before they are seen. The birds are typically in Ohio for a day or two, as they load up on waste grain one day and leave the next. Prime locations to see these impressive flocks are the lands and waters near Deer Creek, Paint Creek, and Funk Bottoms wildlife areas.

This large growth of birds in the eastern population has caused some southern state fish and wildlife agencies to investigate the possibility of hunting cranes. The Ohio Division of Wildlife fully supports the wise use of renewable resources. However, the division will strive to ensure that Ohio's sandhill cranes will not be affected by a hunting season as they travel south. With this in mind, biologists have started a project to determine when Ohio's cranes leave the state, the duration of their migration, and the route of their flight.



attaching a satellite transmitter

In July 2010, 10 sandhill cranes were captured in northern Ohio. Five of those cranes were marked with satellite transmitters attached to plastic leg bands. The division has used similar technology to track the migration of osprey, black ducks, wood ducks, and mallard ducks. With the use of satellite tracking, the location of the animal can be observed anytime, anywhere. Transmitters on the birds send signals to a satellite. The satellite then sends the location of the animal back to a receiver on earth, which forwards the data to a biologist who tracks their movement.

One of the five radios failed in mid-November, so only four cranes could be tracked during their migration. The first crane started its southern migration November 25, arriving at its southern destination by December 1. The rest of the cranes headed south soon after the first bird, and by December 15, all of the marked birds had arrived at their wintering grounds. Two of the birds ended up near Orlando, Florida,

one stayed in southern Georgia, and the last bird arrived at Hiawassee Refuge near Chattanooga, Tennessee on December 15.

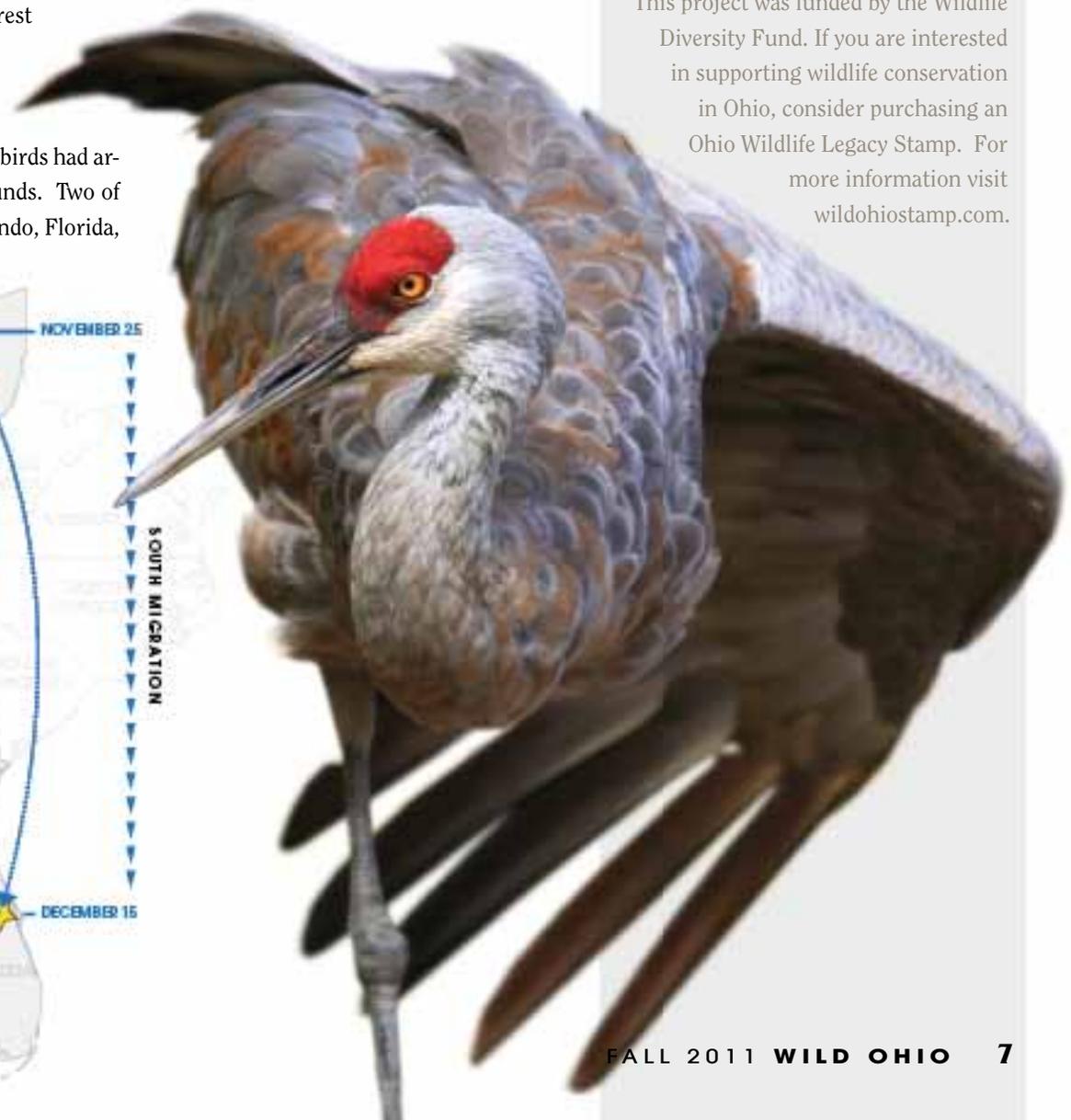
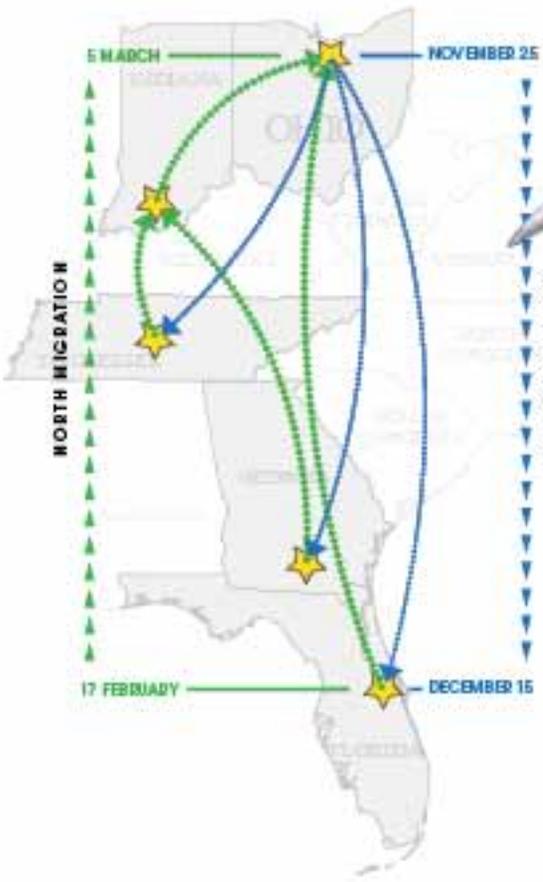
The birds' northern migration was not as quick as their southern journey. The southern Georgia bird started north on February 17 and arrived in southern Indiana on February 22 along with the bird from Hiawassee. Both of these birds stayed in Indiana for about 10 days, and all four birds were back in Ohio by the fifth of March.

Ohio had four marked cranes make the migration south, which represents less than five percent of the state's population. Because of this low representation, a strong argument about the vulnerability of Ohio's cranes to a hunting season cannot be made. The small amount of data

suggests that if the southern states' hunting seasons did not start until December 15, most of Ohio's cranes would have safely arrived at their wintering grounds. Wildlife biologists will capture and continue marking cranes this year so that a stronger statement can be made about Ohio's sandhill crane migration. Biologists are also seeking reports of sandhill crane family groups. Please call your nearest wildlife district office or 1-800 WILDLIFE (945-3543) to report your sightings.



This project was funded by the Wildlife Diversity Fund. If you are interested in supporting wildlife conservation in Ohio, consider purchasing an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. For more information visit wildohiostamp.com.





by Lindsay Deering & Jim McCormac

THE OHIO LAKE

The Great Lakes are one of the world's most valuable natural treasures, and the five lakes – Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior – collectively contain 20 percent of the fresh water on planet earth. A glance at a map of North America confirms their dominance: one's eye is instantly drawn to the huge blue patches in the center of the continent.

We Ohioans are fortunate to have 312 miles of Lake Erie shoreline as our north coast. While Erie is the smallest of the five lakes by volume – it would take 25 Eries to fill Lake Superior – it is among the richest in biodiversity. Part of the reason for Lake Erie's productivity relates directly to its physical dimensions. Because the lake is so shallow, averaging 62 feet in depth, it is prone to violent wave actions that can erupt rapidly during storm events. Over the 5,000 or so years of Erie's current configuration, the pounding wave actions of the lake have helped to create and maintain expansive marshes in its Western Basin.

Lake Erie's shallowness also allows water to speed through its basin at a much faster clip than the other lakes. The dynamic nature of Lake Erie means it behaves much like a river, and streams tend to support greater diversity than lakes do.

Diversity is certainly true of Lake Erie's birds. A jaw-dropping total of 394 species have been found to date in the eight counties that buffer the lake. That's 94 percent of ALL the bird species EVER found in Ohio. There is no question of Lake Erie's significance to Ohio's bird life, or its importance to bird conservation on a global scale.

As one might expect, Lake Erie is a beacon for waterfowl. Forty-four species have

been recorded, and many of them occur in stunning numbers. Flocks of red-breasted mergansers gather by the thousands in November and December, and flocks can be so huge that they resemble storm clouds scudding low over the lake's surface. Observers have estimated as many as 100,000 birds passing by in a 10 minute period.

Spectacular flights of raptors track the shoreline during spring and fall migration. Hawks are supreme aerialists, and make expert use of thermals as they migrate, greatly reducing the need to expend energy flapping their wings. They tend to avoid Lake Erie's open waters and the attendant dead air zones above it, which means lakefront birders can watch a raptorial bonanza streaming overhead on good days. One-day tallies that include 10 or more species and totals of 1,000 or more birds are not unheard of.

No group of birds links Lake Erie to the rest of the globe as do shorebirds: plovers

and sandpipers. Forty-four species have been found along Lake Erie, and for many of these lanky-legged waders, the lake is a stopover of vital significance. Large numbers of Arctic-breeding species that nest in polar bear country, as far north as one can go, stop to rest and refuel on Lake Erie's mudflats. They then set off for points as distant as Argentina, and species like the white-rumped sandpiper might travel 18,000 miles round trip each year. Lake Erie's habitats provide essential rest stops that help these global wanderers reach their destinations.

Spring means one thing to many birders: warblers! Lake Erie's shoreline woodlots have become legendary worldwide for the sheer numbers and diversity of these little feathered jewels that stack up in migration. A trip to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area's fabled boardwalk in mid-May might produce 30 species of warblers and thousands of individual birds. These birds are under the scrutiny of thousands



ERIE BIRDING TRAIL



of birders; so many that at times Magee's boardwalk resembles Times Square at rush hour!

In recognition of Lake Erie's significance to birds, and the level of interest by birders, the Division of Wildlife initiated the Lake Erie Birding Trail project, in partnership with Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail and The Ohio State University's Ohio Sea Grant program. Many of our binocular-toting visitors come from out of state, lured by Ohio's reputation as a birding hotspot. Our goal is to offer an easy-to-use and detailed "trail" of Ohio's Lake Erie region and all of its birding opportunities.

The evolution of the birding trail began in Texas in 1994 with the launch of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. The Texas effort spawned many other trails, and at least 37 other states have followed suit. Birding trails have proven to be excellent vehicles for promoting ecotourism, and encouraging repeat visitation by birders.

SO, WHAT IS A BIRDING TRAIL?

A birding trail is a directory of the most productive and accessible birdwatching venues in an area with the goal of bringing people to birds. Often a birding trail consists of maps showing each site, signage along roadways or at stops, and an infusion of conservation and education. The trail is accompanied by a guidebook or website to aid in trip preparation and visitation.

Trail visitors can choose to complete an entire route in one trip, but often they select portions or sites where they will focus their attention. A birding trail need not be

completed in its entirety. Many trails offer loops or recommended day trips for travelers with time constraints.

The Lake Erie Birding Trail is comprised of 85 top birding destinations along or close to Ohio's North Coast arranged into seven geographic loops, and it celebrates the diverse habitats, waters, and birds of northern Ohio. The trail follows the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's *America's Byways* program, from east to west, combining Ohio's history, geography, and culture with its amazing birding locales.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

You will be able to find the Lake Erie Birding Trail route and sites both online and in a handy guidebook. Visit lakeerieohiobirding.info to explore the brand new Lake Erie Birding Trail website and start planning your birding trip. The website details each of the stops along the trail, offers a comprehensive annotated bird checklist, and links you to the local resources you will need for a fun-filled adventure. Look for the Lake Erie Birding Trail guidebook to be available in spring of 2012.



goo.gl/VeFV0

HURON & LORAIN LOOP

42 OLD WOMAN'S CREEK NATURE ESTUARINE RESERVE



BALD EAGLE
Ernie Aranyosi

CLEVELAND AREA LOOP

9 HEADLANDS DUNES STATE NATURE RESERVE



BALTIMORE ORIOLE
Bill Heban

ASHTABULA LOOP

1 CONNEAUT HARBOR



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
Al Freeman

The Division of Wildlife, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, and Ohio Sea Grant look forward to welcoming you to Ohio's North Coast. See you on the Lake Erie Birding Trail.

FALL 2011 WILD OHIO 9

Quercus rubra

Ohio's Acorn Mast

by Suzanne Prange, Ph.D.

RED OAK

Mast is the term used to describe the seeds and fruits of plants that are eaten by animals. Mast is often divided into two categories, and is known as either “soft mast” or “hard mast.” Soft mast includes seeds that are covered with fleshy fruit, such as berries. Hard mast describes hard-shelled seeds, including acorns and hickory nuts. Hard mast is an especially important wildlife food in the fall and winter. It has a high fat content and is available when other plant foods, like soft mast and green foliage, are not available.

There are a variety of mast-producing tree species, including hickories, walnuts, beech, and oaks. Acorns, produced by oak trees, are one of the most important types of hard mast. The two major types of oaks, white and red, differ in important ways. One of the main differences is it takes more time for red oak acorns to mature than it does for white oak acorns. White oaks flower and their acorns mature in just one growing season. Red oaks, on the other hand, flower and bear fruit in one growing season, but the acorns are not fully mature until the following year. This difference is important because it explains some of the year-to-year variation we see in acorn production. If weather conditions in an area cause some oak flowers to go unfertilized during spring, white oaks will produce fewer acorns during the upcoming fall season, whereas red oaks will produce fewer mature acorns an entire year later.

White and red oaks also differ in their palatability, or taste preference, to wildlife. White oak acorns are typically preferred over those of red oaks. This is because of the tannin content. Tannins are compounds created by plants that are thought to discourage herbivores from eating seeds and leaves. The relatively high tannin content of red oak acorns makes them taste bitter in comparison to white oak acorns.

Numerous studies have linked the abundance of acorn crops to body condition, winter survival, and reproductive success of wildlife. For example, acorns are one of the most important foods for white-tailed deer, due to their nutritional value and the time of year when they are available. Nutrition, reproduction, weight, and antler characteristics of individual deer may all be influenced by acorn availability. Fawn survival may also be linked to acorn production, with higher mortality following a low acorn production year. Poor acorn production can also result in decreased nutritional status and increased movements of black bears, which can result in increased mortality rates. Squirrels, of course, rely heavily upon the availability of acorns in the fall and store them for use during the winter. Poor acorn crops may cause population declines, whereas abundant acorn years are typically followed by substantial increases of both gray and fox squirrel populations. Eastern chipmunks may be similarly affected.

Quercus alba



WHITE OAK
STEPHEN JONES

Carya ovata



SHAGBARK HICKORY
JIM McCORMAC

Juglans nigra



BLACK WALNUT
JIM McCORMAC

Fagus grandifolia



AMERICAN BEECH
JIM McCORMAC

Acorns are an important food source for game birds as well, including ruffed grouse, wild turkey, and bobwhite quail. Overall, Ohio's fall crop of acorns provides a vital food source for more than 90 forest wildlife species. Acorn crop abundance may be used to optimize hunting efforts, as well. Hunters can expect to find deer, wild turkeys, and squirrels concentrated near areas with heavy crops of white oak acorns. In areas or years with poor acorn production, wildlife are more likely to be found feeding around agricultural areas and along forest edges.

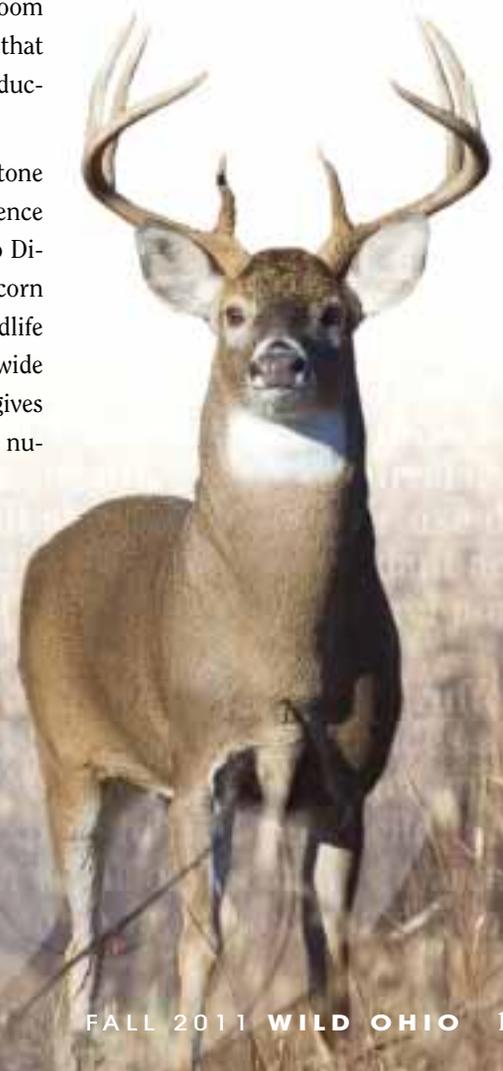
Acorn crop size varies considerably among oak species, years, places, and even individual trees. Much of the variability is due to the natural cycle in oaks called "masting." Oaks produce low or moderate acorn crops most years, and only produce an abundant acorn crop once every two to five years. During abundant years, the crop may be up to 80 percent higher than during a low-production year.

In general, most oak species produce their first acorns when trees are 20 to 25 years old, and production is greatest when they are between 50 and 200 years

old. Weather conditions may affect acorn production. Extended periods of rain and/or high humidity during the flowering period may decrease acorn production. Spring frosts and summer drought can also reduce the fall acorn crop. Genetics also plays a role; some trees are genetically programmed to be good producers, whereas others are not. This does not change with tree age. Finally, tree dominance is an important aspect of acorn production. In areas where oaks have room to grow large, well-rounded crowns that receive plenty of sunlight, acorn production will be higher.

Acorns can be considered a keystone forest resource because they influence wildlife and forest ecology. The Ohio Division of Wildlife conducts annual acorn mast surveys across the state at 38 wildlife areas. These surveys provide a statewide index to acorn abundance, which gives biologists a useful tool to predict the nu-

tritional status and population trends of many species. This information can also be used by hunters to key in on particular areas in order to increase the opportunity for success. To access the acorn mast survey results, or any other Division of Wildlife research projects, visit wildohio.com, click on the "Wild Resources" tab, then select the "Research and Survey" link.





OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

The Ohio buckeye tree, the Northern cardinal, and “Hang on Sloopy.” If you’re proud to call the Buckeye State your home you might immediately recognize this list to be three of Ohio’s highly recognized state symbols – the state tree, bird, and rock song. Over the years, Ohio’s Legislature has added several state symbols to the official list. The most recent addition came in 2010 when the spotted salamander was added as the state amphibian. In 1995, a mostly Plain Jane, common snake slithered into the ranks of chosen state symbols, making the black racer Ohio’s official reptile.

The black racer occurs in Ohio’s eastern and southern counties. Its larger relative, the blue racer, lives in the northern and western part of the state. Overlap of the two species occurs in a line from Hamilton County to Ashtabula County, or roughly the track of Interstate 71. The obvious difference between these two snakes is their color. Black racers are entirely black, while blue racers have a grayish, sometimes blue tint to their skin. In the areas of overlapping distribution, the black and blue racers can interbreed. Resulting offspring may look like either parent, or

have traits of both.

The name “racer” might lead you to think of accelerated speed. The black racer lives up to its name, topping out at eight to 10 miles per hour (a six-minute mile). That is pretty quick for a creature with no legs. The racer’s first line of defense is evasion, and they will quickly flee from potential predators. Most racers display nervous tendencies, and can become aggressive when cornered. It is typical for this snake to strike or bite, writhe around, defecate, and release a foul smelling musk when handled. When the black racer is alarmed, they vibrate their tail. While they don’t have an actual rattle, if the tip of their tail is vibrating in dry leaves or against any surface, it can sound like one, making predators think a rattlesnake is near.

Both the black racer and the blue racer are non-venomous, and like most of Ohio’s snakes, they are considered to be constrictors. Snakes that are constrictors will strike at their prey, hoping to “hook” any part of the small animal with their toothy mouth. Once a constrictor has a grasp on the animal, they quickly coil

BLACK RACER **AT A GLANCE**

LENGTH:
36 to 60 inches

**PEAK REPRODUCTIVE
ACTIVITY:**
April to July

**NUMBER OF
OFFSPRING:**
3 to 32

TYPICAL FOODS:
Rodents, insects, frogs,
reptiles, eggs, birds, and
other snakes.



(BLUE PHASE) JOHN HOWARD

The Black Racer

their body around their prey, cutting off the oxygen supply. The black racer does not truly constrict its prey. Instead, they pin their catch to the ground and speed-up the process by consuming food while it is still alive. Once their meal is secure, live or dead, snakes swallow their prey whole, using a jaw that un-hinges to allow a larger opening. The black racer was dubbed “the farmer’s friend” when adopted as a state symbol because it is thought to consume “disease carrying rodents.” Along with rats, mice, and other small mammals, the racer can also hunt insects, frogs, toads, lizards, eggs, small birds, and other snakes.

Like all reptiles, the black racer is cold-blooded. Cold-blooded animals do not internally regulate their body temperature, rather they rely on external conditions (like the sun) to regulate their bodily functions. This means movement, hunting, eating, and digestion are all based on the temperature of the environment in which the snake lives.

As the days become shorter and temperatures drop, snakes

will seek a rock crevice, animal burrow, or deep hole under the root ball of a tree to overwinter. A winter den, or hibernacula, is typically below frost level, and snakes often den together in large masses. Their metabolism, which is temperature dependent, slows to a point that it hardly uses any energy over the course of the winter – they cannot even digest food. Snakes can still wake and be active, but will be very sluggish in cold weather.

After weathering Ohio’s coldest months, the mating season for black racers occurs once a year in the spring. Females can lay more than 30 eggs in hidden nests, sometimes using rotten stumps, old mammal burrows, or cavities in leaf litter or sand. The young emerge from the eggs in late summer. Juvenile racers can be six to eight inches long when they hatch, and look nothing like the all-black adults. The young snakes are tan or gray with rounded brown blotches on their back. Newly hatched racers are very slender with large eyes. The color and pattern will fade to black when racers are about 12-inches long. These snakes will grow to be 36 to 60 inches long.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes



A SHOCKING CASE

In early spring, state Wildlife Officer Trent Weaver received a call from a citizen about three deer laying dead in a bean field about 75 yards from a Montgomery County road. The three does were in close proximity to each other. There had been some illegal hunting activity in the area, but there were no signs of foul play in any of the deer, other than the hair spread about 15 feet around the three of them. One of the does had hair missing down her front leg and some burning on the white belly hairs. When Officer Weaver turned her over the missing hair pattern traveled up her side and neck, which is when the large storm that happened the night before came to mind. The signs indicated that the middle deer had been struck by lightning and the other two were close enough to receive a fatal shock.

A LOOK AT OHIO'S RESTITUTION LAW IN ACTION

FOUR INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED IN JACKSON COUNTY POACHING RING SUSPECTS PAY NEARLY \$10,000 IN RESTITUTION AND FINES

ATHENS, OH – Four people were convicted and sentenced in the Municipal Court of Jackson County and the Gallipolis Municipal Court for charges related to the poaching of white-tailed deer in Jackson and Gallia counties. The four pled guilty to misdemeanor wildlife charges in the Municipal Court of Jackson County, including hunting without permission, possessing an untagged deer, and improperly tagging a deer. They were ordered to pay a total of \$5,703.72 in restitution and \$500 in fines. In addition, one individual pled guilty to misdemeanor wildlife charges in the Gallipolis Municipal Court, including possessing untagged turkey parts and possessing untagged deer antlers. He was ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution and \$350 in fines.

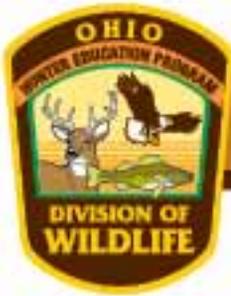
RESTITUTION RECAP

BELLEVUE MAN TO PAY \$27,851 RESTITUTION FOR WORLD CLASS BUCK

FINDLAY, OH – A Huron County man was found guilty of the illegal harvest of a deer that was taken in November 2010. The suspect pled no contest and was found guilty in the Norwalk Municipal Court. Following a tip from a concerned hunter, Huron Wildlife Officer Josh Zientek and Wildlife Investigator Jeff Collingwood investigated the incident and followed the case to its conclusion. The massive deer was poached from a property the suspect did not have permission to hunt on. The deer scored an incredible 228 6/8.

VAN WERT MAN CONVICTED IN DEER OVERBAG CASE

FINDLAY, OH – A 2009 case came to a close as four individuals were recently convicted of deer hunting violations. A total of \$8,188.00 was collected in fines, court costs, and restitution. In addition, 34 pounds of deer meat, two mounted deer heads, three skull mounts, a cross-bow and a compound bow were forfeited to the state. Officers received information that one individual had killed five antlered deer in 2009. Four antlered deer were killed in Van Wert County and one was killed in Paulding County. Two of the deer were never tagged or checked, as required by Ohio law. Two were tagged and checked in by other people, which is also a violation of the law.



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Hunter Education



Ohio's original hunter education program was instituted in 1956 as a voluntary program sponsored by the League of Ohio Sportsman, and used a curriculum designed by the National Rifle Association (NRA). During the 1970s the need and importance of hunter and trapper education for Ohioans participating in these activities became apparent. In 1979, legislation was enacted, requiring all first time hunting and trapping license holders to successfully complete a hunter or trapper education course. These courses were originally designed to teach safe firearm handling, safety in the field, the principles of wildlife management, and ethical actions and behaviors. Decades have passed, and thousands of hunters have successfully completed the course. Over the years our state has seen a steady decline in the number of hunting-related incidents.

More than 30 years later, it is still important for new hunters to participate in hunter education courses. While the updated content of the course stays true to the original intent, there have been

several modifications made to the format, offering new hunters several options to complete the requirement.

The new online license and game check system gives students the ability to view hunter and trapper education course offerings and information online. Once a student is ready to take a course, they can sign up online by visiting the Wild Ohio Customer Center at wildohio.com.



If you are interested in becoming a hunter education instructor, contact the Division of Wildlife's Outdoor Skills Section at 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543) for more information.

TRADITIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION

These courses last an average of 10 hours, and take place in a classroom environment. Trained and certified hunter education instructors facilitate traditional courses.

HOME STUDY HUNTER EDUCATION

Home study courses let students work at their own pace to review and complete the course materials. Once they are comfortable with the content, students attend a four-hour hands-on session to review materials and test their knowledge. Home study courses are facilitated by trained and certified hunter education instructors, and are only open to Ohio residents.

PROFICIENCY TESTING

Proficiency testing is available for Ohio residents 18 or older with previous knowledge of hunting and firearms. Tests are administered at Division of Wildlife district offices to Ohio residents. Contact your local district office for more information on test times and locations.

TRAPPER EDUCATION

Trapper education is available as a home study option to Ohio residents. All components of the Trapper Education Home Study Course are provided online at wildohio.com. Non-residents must take a classroom course, which is typically offered in the fall before trapping season.

HUNTING TIPS FOR

GETTING THE BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR

Seasoned hunters know that taking the time to scout new or potential hunting areas is a great start to setting yourself up for success. You can also apply this concept to buying a trail camera. There is a good deal of scouting to do, with a variety of types and models on the market. Today's options run from simple models to bells and whistles galore. Of course, a wide price spectrum comes with the territory. Just like time in the field, the more time you spend preparing, setting up, and understanding the variables in trail camera photography, the more likely you are to be successful.

SCOUTING

Begin by writing down what you want to get out of your trail camera. There are many questions you should consider. Are you looking to get crystal clear pictures, or just looking for something to pattern your local deer population? How many cameras are you planning to buy? How often will you be able to check your trail camera (which will play a part in deciding memory and powering options)? Make use of the Internet and discussion forums to read frequently asked questions and reviews. Those reviews may save you a lot of time and many headaches.



LOCATION

You have decided on a particular trail camera, now where do you set it up? Look for high traffic areas, scrapes or rubs, food sources, and/or water. If you have multiple trail cameras, space them out. As much as you may want to put them all right by your tree stand or hunting spot, placing them in several locations will provide you with more information, like which direction the deer are traveling, and how their patterns may change throughout the season. What may be a great area with lots of action at the beginning of the season may not be as popular later on, so you may consider alternate sites based on your camera findings.



RANGE

After pinpointing an area, find a tree about 20 feet away and place the camera at a height of three to four feet. This is a good starting point. Trail cameras have range restrictions, just like the various hunting implements used to harvest game. Each trail camera's effective range is different. You may need to adjust the camera height after downloading or viewing your first set of pictures.

Another important consideration when placing your trail camera is its trigger speed. Trigger speed is how quickly the camera reacts and snaps a photo after the sensor has been "triggered." Cameras set perpendicular to a trail should have faster trigger speeds. Slower triggers set perpendicular to a trail will often result in images without animals or only partial shots. If your camera has a slower trigger speed, set it up in line with the trail or at known feeding locations.

TRAIL CAMERAS

by Ken Fry

“BUCK” OUT OF YOUR TRAIL CAMERA

NOISE

While hunting for deer you want to eliminate noise. Audible noise will alert the deer of your presence and can ruin a great shot opportunity. Noise can also ruin a great trail cam shot. In photography, noise is anything in the photo that distracts from the picture. This can be anything from a sapling in the foreground to a limb cutting across the photo.

After setting up a trail camera, clear a photo shooting lane just like you would an actual shooting lane.

PANORAMIC

A panoramic picture is a large image created by overlapping a series of sequential pictures taken in the same general area, often used with scenic and landscape shots. Pictures collected from a trail camera would not be suitable to build a physical panoramic image, but they offer a mental “big picture” of the patterns and habitats of your local deer population. This panoramic understanding is often the key to putting yourself in the right place at the right time.

DEVELOPMENT

A trail camera does not replace scouting, it won't guarantee you a trophy buck, and it can't fill your freezer full of game. However, the information that can be gathered from a trail camera photo is invaluable. Trail cameras allow you to be a fly on nature's wall. Keep track of your camera adventures and you will develop a better understanding of not just deer, but other wildlife in your area. Best wishes in your wildlife adventures.



EXPOSURE

The better we can conceal ourselves, the better the chances of having a close experience with wildlife. One important aspect to consider for keeping concealed is the effect of sunrise and sunset, especially with treestand placement. The shadows of a hunter in a poorly placed treestand casting down onto the ground can easily be enough to send a deer running. In photography terms, exposure is the amount of light in the photograph. Unlike hunting, we want to control the light exposure rather than eliminate it altogether. Consider sunrise and set when determining trail camera placement. A little time and thought in where to place your camera can be the difference between an image with a sun glare and a clear image of a potential Buckeye Big Buck entry.



COYOTE TRAIL CAMERA
JAY SANE

2011-2012

OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

The 2011-2012 hunting and trapping regulations approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council bring little change to the state's seasons or bag limits. Changes to this year's hunting include moving Fayette County from Deer Zone B to Zone A, reducing the maximum deer allowed to be harvested there. Also, the requirement for all packages of deer meat produced during the butchering process to be marked with the tag, seal or certificate number has been eliminated. The tag, seal or certificate must be maintained until the entire deer has been consumed, but every individual package no longer needs to be marked.

Hunters can again buy antlerless deer permits at reduced prices for hunting in an urban zone, participating in a Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunt or hunting during the September 24 to November 27 portion of the deer season. The sale of reduced-priced antlerless permits will cease after November 27, so hunters need to commit early to buying and using the extra reduced-cost permits to take full advantage of this opportunity. The deadline for using the antlerless permit will be extended to December 4 for those hunting in Deer Zone C. Cost of the antlerless deer permit remains \$15.

Those hunting in urban zones and at Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunts will again have a six-deer bag limit, and those deer will not count against the hunter's zone bag limit.

Either a \$15 antlerless deer permit and a valid hunting license or \$24 deer permit and a valid hunting license are required to hunt deer in Ohio. A hunter may take only one antlered deer in Ohio, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

Check the 2011-2012 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations, or visit wildohio.com for all other hunting and trapping limits, season dates, and regulations.

HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Small Game: Squirrel (<i>gray, red, fox</i>)	Sept 1, 2011	Jan 31, 2012
Small Game: Mourning Dove	Sept 1, 2011	Oct 23, 2011
	Dec 17, 2011	Jan 2, 2012
Small Game: Ruffed Grouse	Oct 8, 2011	Jan 31, 2012
Small Game: Cottontail Rabbit	Nov 4, 2011	Feb 29, 2012
Small Game: Ring-necked Pheasant/Chukar	Nov 4, 2011	Jan 8, 2012
Small Game: Bobwhite Quail	Nov 4, 2011	Nov 27, 2011
Small Game: Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Weasel	Nov 10, 2011	Jan 31, 2012
Small Game: Crow (<i>Fri. Sat. Sun. only</i>)	June 3, 2011	Mar 12, 2012
Small Game: Coyote	No closed season	
Small Game: Wild Boar	No closed season	
Small Game: Groundhog	Closed for deer gun season only	
Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese	See Publication 5295 and 5298	
Wild Turkey: Fall	Oct 8, 2011	Nov 27, 2011
Wild Turkey: Spring	April 23, 2012	May 20, 2012
White-tailed Deer: Archery	Sept 24, 2011	Feb 5, 2012
White-tailed Deer: Early Muzzleloader (<i>specific areas only</i>)	Oct 17, 2011	Oct 22, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Youth Gun	Nov 19, 2011	Nov 20, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Nov 28, 2011	Dec 4, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Dec 17, 2011	Dec 18, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Muzzleloader	Jan 7, 2012	Jan 10, 2012

YOUTH HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Youth Hunters Small Game Season	Oct 22, 2011	Oct 23, 2011
	Oct 29, 2011	Oct 30, 2011
Youth Deer Gun Season	Nov 19, 2011	Nov 20, 2011
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season	April 21, 2012	April 22, 2012
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Hunts: <i>Specific Areas Only</i>	April 23, 2012	May 20, 2012
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	See Publication 5295	
Youth Waterfowl Opening Day Hunts	Selected areas only	
Youth Controlled Deer Hunts: <i>Application Only</i>	Application period is June 1 through July 31	
Youth Controlled Waterfowl Hunts: <i>Application Only</i>		

TRAPPING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov 10, 2011	Jan 31, 2012
Mink, Muskrat	Nov 10, 2011	Feb 29, 2012
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel <i>(Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Lucas County east of the Maumee River)</i>	Nov 10, 2011	Mar 15, 2012
Beaver: Statewide	Dec 26, 2011	Feb 29, 2012
River Otter <i>Open in specific counties</i>	Dec 26, 2011	Feb 29, 2012





CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The new online license sales and game check system has been in place since February 15, 2011. Hunters and anglers will need to protect their licenses and permits, as the license paper is not waterproof. Hunters must still report their deer and turkey harvest, but they are no longer required to take their harvest to a check station for physical inspection. Instead, hunters have three options to complete the new automated game check:

- ▶ On the Internet at wildohio.com
- ▶ By telephone at **1-877-TAG-ITOH** (1-877-824-4864). This option is only available to those who are required to have a permit to hunt deer and turkey.
- ▶ At all **license agents**. A list of these agents can be found at wildohio.com

Game-check transactions are available online and by telephone seven days a week and during holidays. License agents' locations are available for game check-in during normal business hours. Please call the license agent for specific hours of operation. All deer and turkey must be checked in by 11 p.m. the day of kill.

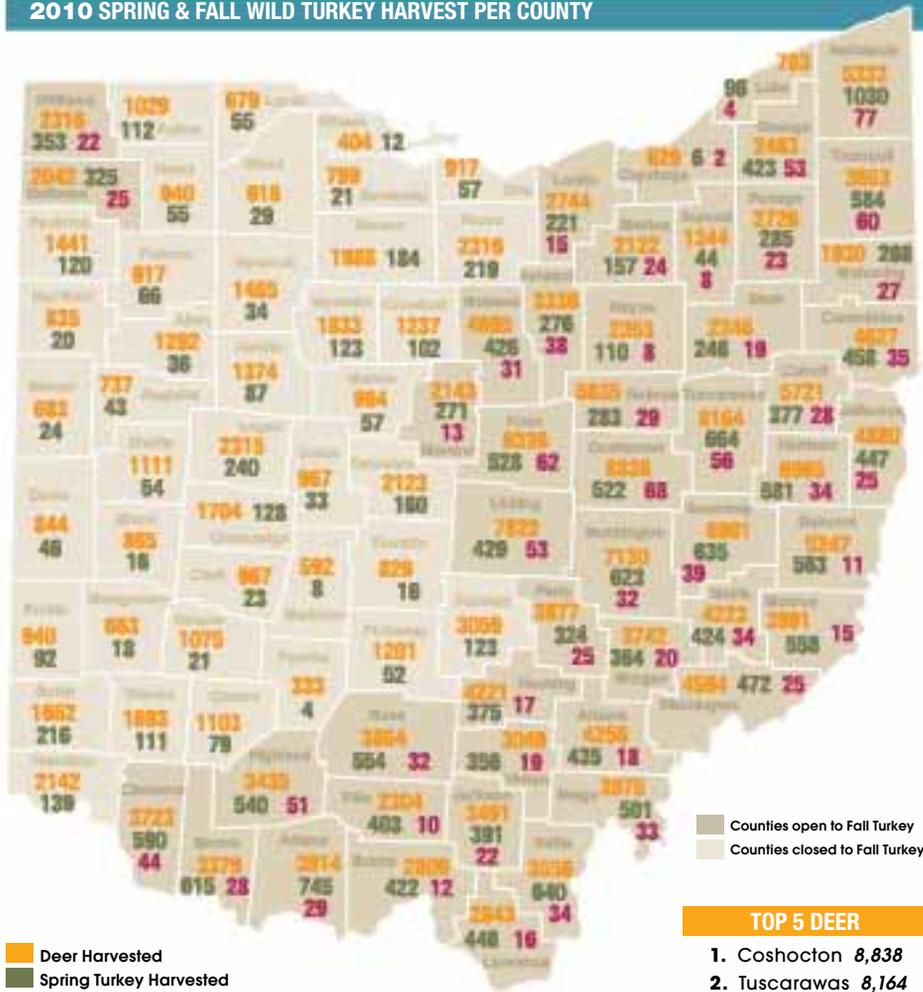
Customers can view and manage their personal accounts by logging onto wildohio.com and choosing the "Manage Your Customer Account" link. Customers can use their customer identification number to log in. Customer identification numbers are located at the top of licenses and permits. Information available in a customer account includes licenses and permits purchased, game check transactions, hunting and fishing lottery results, and *Wild Ohio* Magazine memberships.

GEARING UP FOR THE SEASON

Ohio deer hunters killed 239,260 deer during the 2010-2011 season. Ohio continues to provide world-class hunting for white-tailed deer. Hunters continue to play a vital role in managing Ohio's deer herd. They have supported regulation changes, which increased the harvest of antlered deer, and they have donated thousands of pounds of venison to feed Ohioans in need through the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) program. This year hunters will adapt to changes made with the new online license and game check system.

2010 - 2011 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST PER COUNTY

2010 SPRING & FALL WILD TURKEY HARVEST PER COUNTY



DOUGLAS FINK
WILDOHIO.COM PHOTOGALLERY



COLE KUSZMAUL
WILDOHIO.COM PHOTOGALLERY

TOP 5 DEER

1. Coshocton 8,838
2. Tuscarawas 8,164
3. Licking 7,822
4. Muskingum 7,130
5. Guernsey 6,991

TOP 5 SPRING TURKEY

1. Ashtabula 1,030
2. Adams 745
3. Tuscarawas 664
4. Gallia 640
5. Guernsey 635

TOP 5 FALL TURKEY

1. Ashtabula 77
2. Coshocton 68
3. Knox 62
4. Trumbull 60
5. Tuscarawas 56



Vernal Pools

by Kathy Garza-Behr



WESTERN CHORUS FROG
BENNY MAZUR



NATURE'S NURSERY, PART 2

You've waited all summer for part 2 of the vernal pools story – and here it is! If you are interested in enhancing wildlife habitat by constructing a vernal pool, follow these easy steps to create your own wetland nursery.

STEP 1 Find a suitable area for your vernal pool. You can't attract the types of species found in vernal pools to your site unless you are within 200 meters of an existing or formerly existing pool. Vernal pools are often found in forested upland habitat. The surrounding trees should allow for both sunlight and shade during the day. Test the soil to make sure it will hold water. Sandy soils will not hold water and will allow the pool to drain very quickly. Sites with sandy soils can still be used, but a liner may need to be added.

STEP 2 Excavating the site requires removal of the top soil. Roots and stumps should be removed from the area to keep the liner, if used, from being damaged. Once the soil and woody material are removed, the entire floor of the pool should be raked and made as level as possible.

STEP 3 With the ground prepped, you are ready to lay the liner into the depression and replace the dirt. Carefully rake the soil to a smooth final grade. The edges of the pool should have an irregular shape; no need to make a perfect circle or oval like a farm pond.

STEP 4 The pool is now ready for the final additions. First, some sticks and logs can be placed in the bottom of the depression. Large logs can be pushed into place using excavating equipment. This will give turtles a place to bask in the sun and allows frogs, toads, and salamanders access to the surface of the pool. Native aquatic plants can be planted in the site and trees can be added to the area as well. Keep all vegetation native. Straw can be spread depending on the site to prevent erosion. Native warm season grasses can also be planted to avoid potential erosion issues.

STEP 5 The vernal pool is complete. If placed in proper habitat you can expect to see a variety of wildlife using the pool during the spring season.



MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE

FOR WILD KIDS

Wildlife Symbols



If you pay close attention, you will see that wildlife is not just seen in the wild. People use wildlife on flags, coins, stamps, logos, signs, and even in the name of their organization or business. Wildlife really is everywhere. See if you start to notice wildlife represented in every day life.

COLLECT YOUR OWN

While it's not a good idea to keep a collection of actual wild animals, you can easily start a collection of wildlife related symbols. Stamps and coins are a great way to start. You can sketch or take photos of signs or logos to add to your collection, or even keep a list of the wildlife used as symbols.



ACTIVITY: STATE SYMBOLS

Most states select several animals as symbols. Ohio has several "official" species of state wildlife selected. See if you can find Ohio's official state bird, amphibian, reptile, salamander, insect, and animal in this puzzle! (Bonus – find two of Ohio's non-animal state symbols mentioned in the article on page 12.)

R E G F N O M D R A E B K O I S A
 T E Z U O K S Q E M C L Y T M O L
 X B D M B E I G E J F A Y Y G N I
 G F F N X Y Z V D F M C P G K T W
 S L O X A J D D D P B K N P T F M
 J Q L P Z M O A E U C R H N C P M
 A U E B Q C A H L Y R A H U C U K
 D B H E G T I L I Z N C K J E G I
 M G S B C Y F G A O X E Q U V G Q
 W Q V C Y R C P T S B R E N D J U
 P M B W O E L S E P D U O Z W A I
 Q C X G D G O T T E O E C K E N D
 E L C Q J H K D I W E E T K A X H
 K U G J S I Q O H R I E G T E S B
 P Q E F Z E K D W P M L J C O Y J
 Q H A N G O N S L O O P Y H U P E
 L A N I D R A C E W A O H P T F S

Answers on back cover



READERS' PHOTOS

Wild Ohio magazine receives so many photos annually that we cannot publish all of our readers' photos on this page. However, the Division of Wildlife's online photo gallery lets our *Wild Ohio* readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos, where they can be used for many wildlife publications. To post photos on the website, go to wildohio.com.



Nick Bachtel, of Cuyahoga Falls, catches steelhead in the tributaries of Lake Erie on flies he ties himself.
Jamey Graham, Akron



Annie and I stumbled across this skull while shed hunting in Licking County.
Bryan Franks, St. Louisville



Ryan Novak's six-year-old eagle-eyes spotted these sheds sticking out of the snow while hiking with his dad.
Nancy Novak, Richfield



I used 181 empty shotgun shells to build this year's winter project.
Charles Bebout, Canton



I captured this bobcat on a trail camera not far from my house!
Rodney Spires, Gallia County



Aubry's first buck, killed in Paulding County during the 2010 season.
Darlene Johnson, Defiance

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS & ENTHUSIASTS!

You can now send your pictures directly to the editor through our new e-mail address, wildohiomagazine@dnr.state.oh.us.



WILD GAME GOURMET

AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV • hosted by Vicki Mountz

Recipes



VENISON STUFFED POBLANOS



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12 poblano peppers | ½ lb ground spicy sausage |
| 3 potatoes cut into cubes | Goat cheese |
| 1 onion, chopped | Bread crumbs |
| 1-2 cloves garlic, minced | Seasoning to taste |
| 2 tablespoons milk | Shredded cheese <i>(optional)</i> |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil | Salsa or molé sauce <i>(optional)</i> |
| ½ lb ground venison | |

Roast peppers until skins are charred evenly. Place peppers into a bowl and cover with plastic wrap, let cool. Cook potatoes in water until tender, drain and set aside. Sauté onions and garlic, adding salt and pepper. Combine onions, garlic, and potatoes together with olive oil and milk. Mash the potatoes, adding goat cheese to the mixture until creamy. Cook venison and sausage together, adding seasoning to taste. Drain ground meat if necessary, and then combine with potato mixture.

Remove peppers from bowl, and peel skin. Cut or tear a single opening in pepper to remove seeds and core (leave stem in tact if possible). Stuff filling mixture into peppers. Roll pepper in bread-crumbs and place on greased baking sheet.

Bake on 375°F for 20 minutes or until potato mixture swells slightly and bread crumb coating is browned. Shredded cheese can be added to the top of the peppers (optional), sprinkle cheese on and broil for one to two minutes. Best served with a salsa or Molé sauce.

Contributed by Susie Vance

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
(614) 265-6300
1-800-WILDLIFE
1-800-750-0750
(Ohio Relay TTY only)

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 644-3925

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, OH 45840
(419) 424-5000

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2293

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

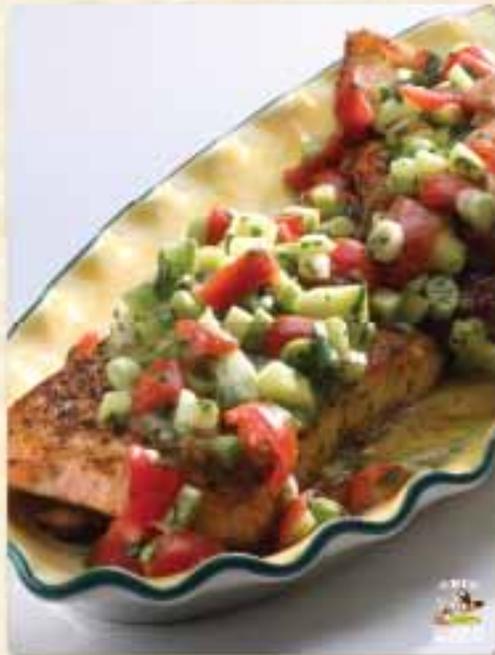
360 E. State Street
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-9930

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 372-9261

SALMON WITH CUCUMBERS SALSA

- ½ seedless cucumber, diced
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1-2 cloves of minced garlic
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- ¼ cup diced sweet onion
- 2 tablespoons sugar or Splenda
- 1 tablespoon sweet/hot or Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup rice vinegar
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/8 cup freshly chopped dill
- ¼ cup freshly chopped cilantro
- Salt and pepper
- 4 skinless salmon filets



Mix all ingredients except the salmon in a bowl and set aside, at least an hour before serving. Season the salmon with salt and pepper. Heat a couple teaspoons of olive oil in a non stick skillet to medium high heat. Cook the salmon 3-4 minutes then flip and cook until fish is opaque and a little crispy around the edges. Place the salmon on a platter and serve the cucumber/tomato mixture over the fish.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.



for more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



Wild Ohio Magazine
 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
 Columbus, OH 43229-6693

MADE IN OHIO FOR OHIO

THE NEW WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

If you are signed up to receive *Wild Ohio* magazine, you are already a Wild Ohio member. Starting with the next issue of *Wild Ohio*, members get more.

Wild Ohio

MORE CONTROL

Wild Ohio members can use their customer ID to log into the Customer Center at wildohio.com and manage their account.

MORE MAGAZINE

Wild Ohio magazine will go from 24 to 36 pages. That's 12 more pages of cover to cover wildlife information.

MORE ISSUES

Be on the lookout for two extra issues to hit your door, starting this December with a 2012 *Wild Ohio* calendar!

DO YOU WANT MORE?

If you're not a member, what are you waiting for? Sign up in the Wild Ohio Customer Center at wildohio.com



printed on recycled paper

PG 21 Answers

R E G F N O M D R A E B K O I S A
 T E Z U O K S G E M C L Y T M O L
 X B D M B E I G E J F A Y Y G N I
 G F F N Y Y Z V D F M C P G K T W
 S L O X A D D D P B K N P T F M
 J O L P Z M O X E U C R H N C P M
 A U E B G C A W E T R A H O C S K
 D B H E G T L I Z N C K U D G I
 M G S B C Y F G A O X E Q U V G Q
 W G Y C T R C P T S B R E N D J U
 P M B W O E L S E P O U O Z W A I
 Q C X G D G O T T E O E C K E N D
 E L C G J H K D I W E E T K A X H
 K U G J S I G O H R I E G T L B
 P Q E F L G D W M M L C O P S
 G M A N G O N S L O O P Y H O P E
 L A N I D R A O E W A O H P T T S