

Wild Ohio for Kids

2009-2010

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF WILD OHIO FOR KIDS MAGAZINE



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IT'S FREE

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OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS awesome adaptations

All animals need food, water, shelter, and space in their habitat to survive. But survival doesn't stop there! Wildlife have some pretty awesome traits, or "adaptations," to help them meet the everyday challenges of their wild world.

An animal's adaptations are suited to the habitat where it lives. Some of the habitats found in our state are woodlands, grasslands, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Some adaptations are physical features such as an animal's color, body parts, and keen senses of eyesight, hearing, and smell. Other adaptations are unique behaviors the animal uses. Adaptations help wildlife move around, find their next meal, hide or escape from predators (other animals that might eat them), find a mate, raise young, and withstand the weather.

amazing adaptations

See if you can unscramble the letters to come up with the name of the animal that has the special adaptation.

1. Its strong, flat tail and webbed feet make it an excellent swimmer.

_____ (VEABRE)

2. Its bright red feathers help it attract a mate.

_____ (RNNHTOER NLGAADRI)

3. It travels up to 2,000 miles to Mexico each year during winter.

_____ (MCOHRA)

4. It gives birth while hibernating.

_____ (CKALB BRAE)

5. It protects its young by holding them in a pouch on its stomach.

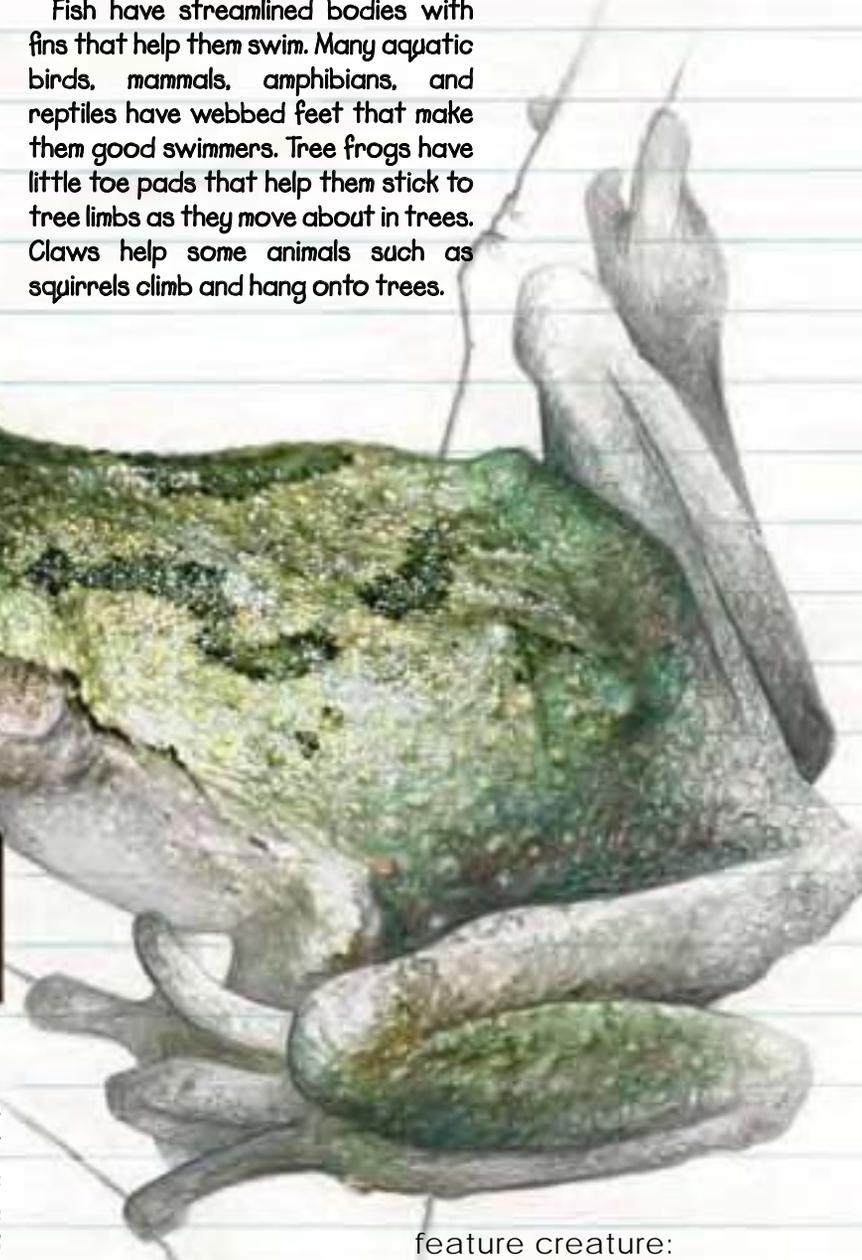
_____ (SOPMOUS)

All answers
on page 21

on the move

Wildlife have specific adaptations that help them move about. Birds and insects have wings to help them fly. In fact, ruby-throated hummingbirds can beat their wings an amazing 53 times per second! Peregrine falcons have been clocked at over 200 miles per hour while diving through the air for prey.

Fish have streamlined bodies with fins that help them swim. Many aquatic birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles have webbed feet that make them good swimmers. Tree frogs have little toe pads that help them stick to tree limbs as they move about in trees. Claws help some animals such as squirrels climb and hang onto trees.



puzzling puzzler!

To find the hidden phrase in the puzzle, start with the circled letter. Draw a line from one letter to the next to reveal the phrase. The fill-in blanks for each word in the phrase will help you move through the puzzle. When done, each letter is only used once and is connected with a straight line.

E	R	B	A	N
T	A	T	I	G
H	S	L	Y	M
O	E	F	A	M
N	L	Y	M	A
		S	L	

B **A** _____
 A _____
 T _____
 O _____
 F _____
 M _____!

feature creature: tree frogs

Because tree frogs are nocturnal (most active at night) you are more likely to hear them than to see them. The spring mating choruses of tree frogs, such as spring peepers and Western chorus frogs, begin just after sundown. The male frogs in unison make up a large, high volume orchestra that can be heard from miles away. Each frog is able to make about 90 calls a minute over a four-hour chorus time throughout the four- to eight-week mating season.

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS
don't mess with me!



Predators are animals that eat other animals. Prey animals are the ones that get eaten. It may sound cruel, but it's predator versus prey in the wild. However, animals have some awesome physical features and clever strategies that help keep them from becoming another animal's meal ticket.

- a. **PROTECTION** • Teeth, claws, beak, or other body parts used to harm the attacker.
- b. **CAMOUFLAGE** • colors and patterns that help the animal blend in with its surroundings.
- c. **MIMICRY** • the animal looks like or imitates another kind of animal or plant
- d. **SPEED** • to run or swim away
- e. **USE OF COVER** • hiding in bushes and other vegetation, burrows, and other hiding places

defense! defense! defense!

Under each wildlife photo, write the letter(s) of the defense mechanism(s) the animal might use.

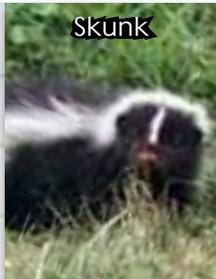
- f. **DETECTION** • keen senses of smell, hearing, sight, and touch to detect danger
- g. **SAFETY IN NUMBERS** • grazing in flocks or herds
- h. **OTHER UNIQUE BEHAVIORS** • freezing, offensive noise, smelly odor, playing dead, or other ways to bluff or confuse predators.



KATYDID



Snowshoe hare



Skunk



Virginia opossum

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

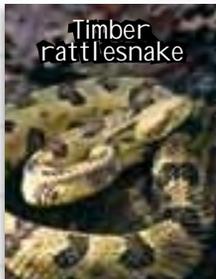
4. _____



barred OWL



white-tailed deer



Timber rattlesnake



Largemouth bass

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

answers on page 21



feature creature: butterflies

Most butterflies are very colorful. This makes them stand out in their environment and easy targets for predators, mostly birds. Other predators include reptiles, small mammals, spiders, and other insects. But butterflies have some wild adaptations that help them elude predators.



Viceroy : It looks very much like another butterfly that is poisonous so predators stay away. Photo by Dave Parshall.



Buckeye : False "eye spots" on the hind wings divert the attention of a predator away from the butterfly's vital parts (head and abdomen).



Spicebush Swallowtail : Its caterpillar starts out looking like bird poop, then grows to look a little like a snake with big eyes to intimidate predators. Photo by John Howard.



Monarch : This large butterfly is poisonous to the other animals that try to eat it, and its bright coloring is a warning to predators.

GET OUTSIDE!

BUTTERFLY WATCHING | Start a new hobby! Butterfly watching is a fun, easy, and educational pastime. And it's even more fun when you create your own butterfly list of the ones you see and identify. Look for these beautiful winged jewels in fields and gardens, especially if they contain butterfly attracting plants. And don't forget to look closely on plants for the caterpillars of butterflies. A butterfly identification booklet is available from the Division of Wildlife by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE, or by downloading it at wildohio.com.



butterfly bonus:

The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar uses which type of adaptation? (from the list on page 4.)

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS
what's for dinner?

The order that animals feed on other plants and animals is called a food chain. The chain grows as one living creature eats another. For example, an Eastern cottontail rabbit eats grasses, and a coyote eats the rabbit. Most animals eat a number of different foods found in their habitat. This creates many food chains that are connected to make a giant food web. In the big picture

of life, every living thing, including ourselves, is dependent for survival on a network that links every living thing together.

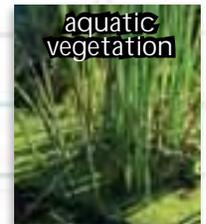
Animals that eat only plants are herbivores. Animals that feed on other animals are carnivores. And animals that eat both plants and animals are omnivores.

Decomposers also play an important role in the food chain. They act as

nature's garbage disposals by eating the remains of dead plants and animals. This may sound nasty, but this speeds up the decaying process and makes the soil rich with nutrients for plants to absorb. Decomposers are mostly bacteria, fungi, earthworms, insects, and other small organisms, but there are a few larger animals such as turkey vultures that also serve as decomposers.

nature's food chain

List the animals pictured below in the proper order to form a food chain.



1. _____ is eaten by
2. _____ is eaten by
3. _____ is eaten by
4. _____ is eaten by
5. _____
6. Which one of the above animals is an herbivore?

7. Which one is a decomposer?

answers on page 21

GET OUTSIDE!

WILDLIFE LINKS | Go outdoors and find at least one food chain. (Hint: A garden is a good place to start.)

Let's eat!

wildlife buffet

Use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

1. Chipmunks can carry nine large nuts at a time: four in each _____ and one between their _____.
2. The Northern saw-whet owl often stores its prey (mice) to eat later. If the meal is frozen, the owl will thaw it out by holding it against its _____.
3. Woodpeckers have _____ which they use to grab prey from the holes they drilled with their beaks.
4. They are often called _____, but blue jays' diets are mostly vegetarian, including _____, but they also eat some insects.
5. Catfish use their _____ to find food at the bottom of ponds, lakes, and rivers.
6. River otters swim in circles, creating a _____, which brings up fish from the bottom of the river.
7. Green herons will drop a _____ in the water to attract a fish, which it nabs for dinner.
8. Some caterpillars must eat leaves of a specific _____ plant to survive. A female butterfly "tastes" a leaf with receptors on her _____ to make sure she has chosen the correct plant on which to lay her eggs.
9. Offset _____ allow owls to pinpoint the location of prey.
10. Ants leave a _____ between their food source and their colony.



Keen senses of eyesight, hearing, smell, and touch are important for many animals to find their food. Animals' body parts also play a big role in finding food and eating. Feet and beaks are essential tools for birds depending on what they eat and where they live. A hawk's feet include talons so it can grasp prey. A finch's beak is short and stout to crack seeds and nuts.

Many animals, especially predators, also have special behaviors that help them get their next meal. Praying mantises sit completely motionless, camouflaged against leaves and twigs, until their prey comes within reach. They also stalk their prey, slowly inching closer until close enough to nab their prey.



word bank

barbed tongues	body	bug
cheek pouch	ears	feet
host	nest robbers	nuts and seeds
scent trail	teeth	whirlpool
whiskers		

answers on page 21

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS
hey, good lookin'!



One of the great wonders of our world is the many "diverse" or different kinds of wildlife -- wildlife diversity. Like humans, wildlife produce offspring to continue their species. Animals use special adaptations to attract a mate to reproduce. Some are downright amazing and beautiful to observe!

the mating game

How much do you know about the mating game of Ohio's wildlife? Place the letter of the male courtship behavior (below) next to the animal (right) that uses that action to attract a female.

1. ____



a. The male spreads its tail into a large fan and "struts his stuff."

2. ____



b. After dark in the early spring, you may hear their loud mating calls which carry long distances.

c. It uses its tail to sweep out a saucer-shaped nest for the female to lay eggs.

3. ____



d. The male attracts a female by flashing its light.

e. Its brightly colored feathers and singing get the female's attention.

4. ____



f. A courting male playfully chases and tumbles with the female.

mating call math

1. How many calls can a chorus frog make in a four-hour period? (hint on page 3)

5. ____



2. If a frog calls for four hours each night, how many calls will it make in a six-week mating season?

6. ____



answers on page 21

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS
animals have class

There are so many living things throughout the world that scientists group them into "classifications," based on their similarities. They also give each plant and animal a universal, scientific name that can be used all over the world. Classifying, naming, and describing plants and animals is called taxonomy. Animal classifications include mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Animals are sometimes grouped according to how they reproduce.

taxonomy crossword

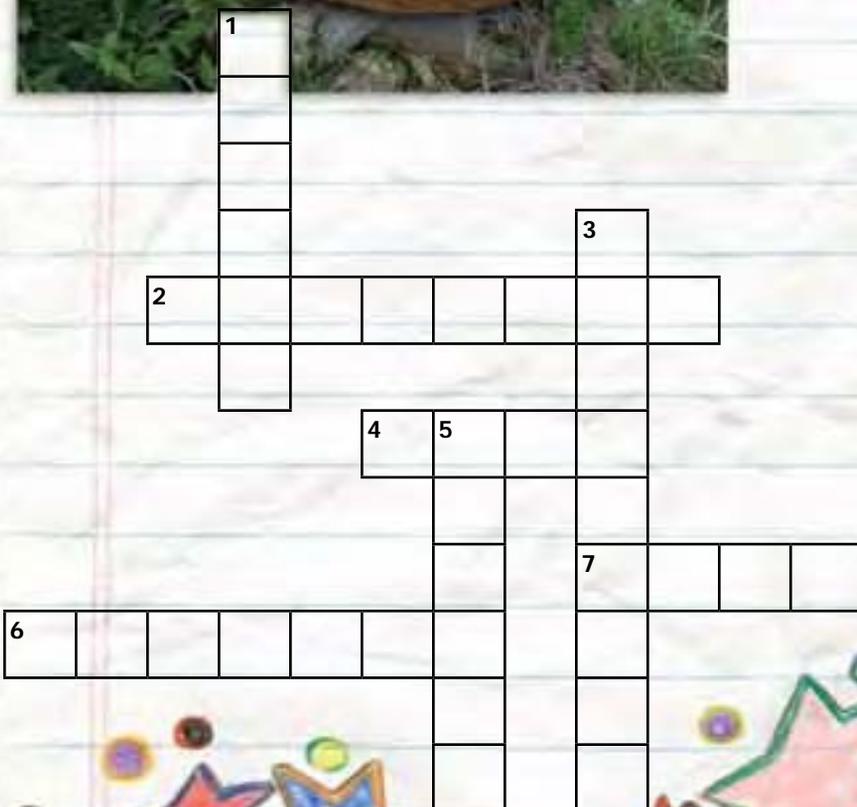
Across

- 2. Grouping animals by their similarities.
- 4. Lays eggs that hatch into young, or fry.
- 6. Some produce eggs and others bear live young.
- 7. Produces eggs from which the young hatch into nestlings.

Down

- 1. Gives birth to live young and nourishes them with milk.
- 3. Lays eggs and the young go through a metamorphosis, a dramatic physical change in their body before becoming an adult.
- 5. Many look like their parents when they hatch, while many others begin life in a larval stage and go through a metamorphosis to change into an adult.

answers on page 21



U GET OUTSIDE!

CRITTERS ALL AROUND | Here's an outdoor project to see what wildlife lives near you. Take a note pad and pencil and explore your yard, school yard, or local park. At the top of one page of the notebook write the heading: Birds. On other pages write headings for Insects, Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians. Write down the animals you find for each classification. What classification was most abundant?



OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS caring for young

Some animals start out life completely on their own without the help of their parents. But mammals and birds raise their young until they are old enough to take care of themselves.

Most often the female does the childrearing, and is very protective of her youngsters. A mother killdeer will fake a broken wing to lure a predator away from her nest. A doe most often has twins and will hide each fawn in a

separate place so that a predator might only get one and not both. A mother bear ferociously protects her cubs by roaring loudly and charging at the intruder.

Mystery Mammal Math

Solve the math problems and use the math key below to find out about this mother mammal.

1. An animal that cares for her young in a pouch is called a

22	118	98	2	600	3	3	3	125
-11	-109	-91	x 5	- 575	x 1	+ 2	x 3	- 110
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. The Virginia

3	84	17	5	110	5	58
x 8	-81	+ 7	+ 5	- 100	x 5	- 47
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

is the only one of these animals found in North America.

Math Key			
1 = B	8 = C	14 = F	21 = N
2 = V	9 = A	15 = L	22 = Z
3 = P	10 = S	16 = J	23 = H
4 = E	11 = M	17 = D	24 = O
5 = I	12 = G	18 = Q	25 = U
6 = K	13 = Y	19 = W	26 = X
7 = R		20 = T	

disposable diapers

Parent birds work hard to keep the nest clean and free of insects and odor so the young stay healthy. When young songbirds go to the bathroom, their poop is enclosed in a neat little sac. Think of it as a diaper! The parents simply carry the sac away and drop it away from the nest. If they simply dumped it over the side of the nest, predators could easily find the young.

creature feature:

Brown-headed Cowbird

“Just Drop the Kids Off at the Sitter’s”

The female brown-headed cowbird has a strange way of providing for her young – she leaves the childcare up to other birds. She looks for the nests of smaller birds, such as warblers, that are incubating eggs. When the smaller bird leaves the nest to eat, the cowbird will sneak in and lay one or more of her eggs in the smaller bird’s nest. Since birds can’t count, the smaller bird doesn’t realize the egg isn’t hers and incubates it along with her own eggs. When the cowbird chick hatches, it competes with the other smaller chicks and usually gets all the food.



In the red-eyed vireo nest pictured above, the two heavily spotted eggs belong to a cowbird.

BACK YARD BIRDER

(your name)



baby bird names

Draw a line between the bird and the name of its young.

BIRD	YOUNG
<input type="checkbox"/> Duck	<input type="checkbox"/> Eaglet
<input type="checkbox"/> Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> Owlet
<input type="checkbox"/> Falcon	<input type="checkbox"/> Duckling
<input type="checkbox"/> Swan	<input type="checkbox"/> Poullet
<input type="checkbox"/> Owl	<input type="checkbox"/> Gosling
<input type="checkbox"/> Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/> Cygnet
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg

GET OUTSIDE!

WHAT MAKES A BIRD NEST | Birds are master architects at nest building. They use a wide variety of materials to weave the nest, hold it together, and secure it in place. Some commonly used items include twigs, grasses, feathers, leaves, mud, plant fibers, and spider webs. Most nest builders like to use natural materials, but some use almost anything that they can carry. It is not uncommon to see candy wrappers, dryer lint, tissues, and yarn sticking out of a nest. Wait until the leaves have fallen then find an old abandoned nest in a tree or shrub. (Most songbirds build a new nest each spring.) Examine the nest closely to see how well it was woven. Then using tweezers or scissors pick the nest apart and see how many different materials were used. Depending on the size of the nest, can you figure out what size of bird built the nest – maybe a bird the size of a robin or sparrow? Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after handling the nest.

pull out poster

The center of this magazine is a bird poster you can pull out and display at home or at your school. You can simply tear it out or ask an adult to help you pry open the staples between pages 12 and 13. Be sure to push the staples back down once you've pulled out your poster so as not to scratch you later.



BACKYARD BIRDS

in OHIO



MOURNING DOVE



BLUE JAY



EASTERN TOWHEE



AMERICAN
GOLDFINCH



BALTIMORE ORIOLE



AMERICAN ROBIN



CHIPPING SPARROW



AMERICAN CROW



CAROLINA
WREN



CEDAR WAXWING



NORTHERN
CARDINAL



HOUSE SPARROW



HOUSE FINCH



COMMON
GRACKLE



DARK-EYED JUNCO



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



DOWNY WOODPECKER



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH



SCREECH OWL



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER



GRAY CATBIRD



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD



BARRED OWL



NORTHERN FLICKER



TUFTED TITMOUSE



ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK

All of the photos on this poster were taken by enthusiastic wildlife photographers who posted their images on the division's photogallery. Visit wildohio.com to see more wonderful photos and share your enthusiasm with other Ohioans.

WINTER BIRDS

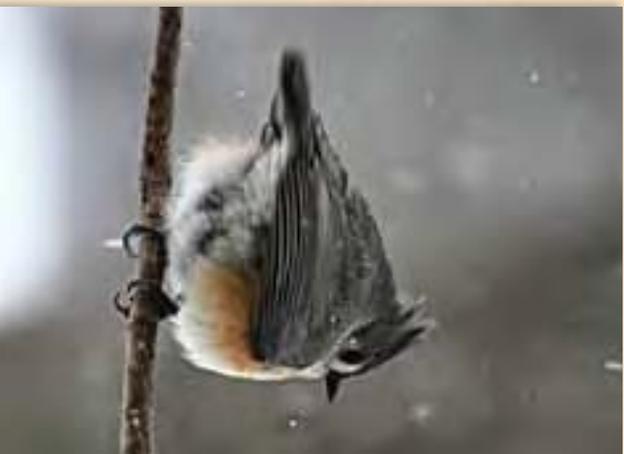
Many birds fly south for the winter, but many stay right here in the Buckeye State. They need to stay warm, avoid predators, and find food to survive winter's wrath. Food sources such as insects and berries are scarce in winter. And the trees have lost their leaves, which means less shelter and protection from predators and harsh weather. Have you ever noticed a bird in the winter perched with its feathers fluffed out, almost looking fat? It fluffs its feathers to create a layer of air for insulation.



GET OUTSIDE!

HELP YOUR FEATHERED FRIENDS | Would you like to help the birds in your backyard or schoolyard this winter? Take an inventory of the property and list any food, water, and shelter that is available for the birds. You can also draw a map of the property and include any food, water, and shelter resources that are present. Then use a different color of pen or marker and add some features that might make the property better for your winter feathered friends.

For ideas on attracting and feeding birds, including bird feeder and nest box plans, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Web site at wildohio.com. Click on the "Experiencing Wildlife" box, then click on "Birding Resources" on the left side of the page.



GET OUTSIDE!

GET OUT AND COUNT | Mark your calendar for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) held every year over the President's Day holiday weekend (February 12 - 15, 2010). You can join thousands of other kids and adults across the country who participate in the nationwide count and record your findings online. You can even take photos and post them online too! To learn more about how to be a part of the GBBC visit www.birdcount.org.



GET OUTSIDE!

WINTER BIRDS CHECKLIST | Check off the birds you see in your yard or schoolyard this winter. A birding field guide will help you identify the birds. You can also view or download "Ohio's Common Birds" interactive guide at the Division of Wildlife Web site. Click on the "Experiencing Wildlife" box, then click on "Birding Resources" on the left side of the page.

- american crow
- american gold finch
- american kestrel
- american tree sparrow
- blue jay
- carolina chickadee
- common grackle
- dark-eyed junco
- downy woodpecker
- hairy woodpecker
- european starling
- house finch
- house sparrow
- mourning dove
- northern cardinal
- purple finch
- red-breasted nuthatch
- song sparrow
- red-bellied woodpecker
- white-breasted nuthatch

brrrrr it's cold outside

As the temperatures drop and the snow begins to fly, we put on winter coats and boots, turn up the thermostat, build cozy fires, and stay inside much more. But how does Ohio's wildlife survive the hardships of winter?

A-D-A-P-T-A-T-I-O-N!

Some birds and butterflies fly to warmer climates, or migrate. Some ani-

mals escape the winter by hibernating. Hibernation is a very deep sleep in which the animal uses very little energy. What little energy it uses comes from fat reserves it stored when food was plentiful in the fall.

Other animals that stay here have special adaptations to help stay warm and find food in the winter landscape. Most animals eat large amounts of

food in the fall to store energy. Many must alter their diet and eat what's available during the colder months. And some animals store away, or cache, food to eat in winter. Some wildlife grow a new, thicker coat. During very severe winter weather, some animals go into hiding, and some will even nap for a few days until milder weather returns.



wintery guess who

Use the word bank to place the correct animal with its winter adaptation.

1. Migrates as far south as South America _____
2. Stores nuts gathered in the fall to eat in the winter _____
3. Changes its diet from clover and other green plants to tree bark, dry hay, and ear corn _____
4. Grows a thicker, warmer coat _____
5. Hibernates in a burrow in the ground _____
6. Hibernates in a cave or old mine _____
7. Buries itself at the bottom of a stream or pond _____
8. Spends the winter under leaf litter _____

word bank

Eastern cottontail rabbit

Gray squirrel

Groundhog

Lady beetle

Little brown bat

Leopard frog

Ruby-throated hummingbird

White-tailed deer

answers on page 21

what lurks in the shadows?

As dusk falls, the great outdoors comes alive with an amazing diversity of wildlife. Wild animals that sleep during the day and are active at night are nocturnal wildlife. These animals have some fascinating adaptations especially suited for the dark, which gives them an advantage avoiding predators and in finding prey.

Some animals such as bats and owls hunt at night because their food sources are active once the sun goes down.

Most nocturnal wildlife have very keen senses of hearing, smell, and eyesight. Many have large eyes with a wide pupil and large lens that bring in more light for better night vision. For example, an owl's eyes fill over one half of its skull and its eyesight is much better than humans. Also, owls have good hearing because of their offset ears. They calculate the location of prey by gauging the difference of when the sound arrives from one ear to the other.



word bank
MOTH
OWL
TOAD
BAT
BADGER
RACCOON
COYOTE
TREEFROG
CRICKET
FLYING SQUIRREL

nocturnal word search

Use the word bank to help you find the hidden nocturnal critters

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

GET OUTSIDE!

TOAD ABODE | Toads are mostly nocturnal, but you may sometimes see a toad on a cloudy day. At other times they stay in burrows underground where it is dark and cool. Toads will sometimes hide underneath a clay flower pot – a “toad abode.” You can make a toad abode by propping up one side of an overturned terra cotta flowerpot with a few rocks creating a space for the toad to enter the pot. You can also decorate your toad abode with ceramic paint or markers. Then place your toad abode in a shady spot in a garden.

answers on page 21

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS

bucketeye badgers

One nocturnal animal is the American badger. Most people don't even know badgers exist in Ohio because about 95 percent of their activity is at night.

A researcher from The Ohio State University explored areas across the state in search of badgers. He found them living in 55 counties above the glacial line of the state. (Gigantic glaciers up to 1,000 feet thick scoured across two-thirds of the state beginning about two million years ago to create what is referred to as the glaciated portion of the state.)

He live-trapped eight of the badgers he found, strapped radio telemetry harnesses (similar to backpacks) to their backs, and re-released them. With the radio telemetry equipment, he could track their movements and den sites.



mapping by numbers

Use the map that shows where badgers are living in Ohio to complete the activities.

Badgers are mostly found in 55 counties of the glaciated portion of Ohio. Draw a line across the state to divide the glaciated and unglaciated sections of the state. (Close counts!)

1. Which county showed the most badger activity?

2. How many counties had between 11 and 20 badgers reported?

3. List one county where no badgers have been reported.

4. How many badger reports occurred in the county where you live?

answers on page 21



wildlife's biggest challenge

Wildlife have many remarkable adaptations to protect themselves. But perhaps one of the biggest challenges for wildlife is protecting themselves against irresponsible actions by humans – increasing development, chemicals, pollution, and illegal taking of animals. Early in our country's history, there were no wildlife management and research programs or laws to see that wildlife populations did not become depleted. Some animals even became extinct. One sad case is that of the passenger pigeon.

endangered and threatened species web search

Visit wildohio.com to find the answers. On the Division's homepage, click on "Wildlife Resources," then click on "Endangered and Threatened Species" on the left side of the page.

1. How many species of fish live in Ohio?

2. How many are endangered?

3. How many amphibians are endangered, threatened, or a species of concern?

4. How many total Ohio species are endangered or threatened?

5. How many bird species fall in one of the special categories (from extinct to endangered)?

6. How many species were native to Ohio, but are now gone from the state (Some still live in other states; this is called "extirpated")?

answers on page 21



feature creature: The Passenger Pigeon

Passenger pigeons numbered in the billions across the eastern United States just a little more than 200 years ago. It was said that their huge flocks blocked out the sun and darkened the sky, and the noise from their wing beats was deafening. They are now completely gone from earth – extinct!

When the early settlers came to this country, they cut down much of the vast forests that were habitat for passenger pigeons and other woodland wildlife. Viewed as crop-eating pests, thousands upon thousands of the passenger pigeons were killed. By 1900, only a few were left in zoos and in the wild. One of the last wild passenger pigeons, pictured below, is on display at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. It was named "Buttons" because the woman who prepared the carcass used black shoe buttons for its eyes.

The last passenger pigeon in captivity was Martha who lived at the Cincinnati Zoo. She died in 1914 at the age of 29.



Photo by Ohio Historical Society

protecting ohio's wild side

Today laws are in place to protect Ohio's wildlife and their habitat from human actions. There are laws that ban the use of certain chemicals in the environment, and laws that prohibit pollution that could kill wildlife. Other laws that protect wild animals are in the form of hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations. Some of these regulations include closed seasons and bag limits (the maximum number of a species that may be taken.) Wildlife officers enforce these laws.

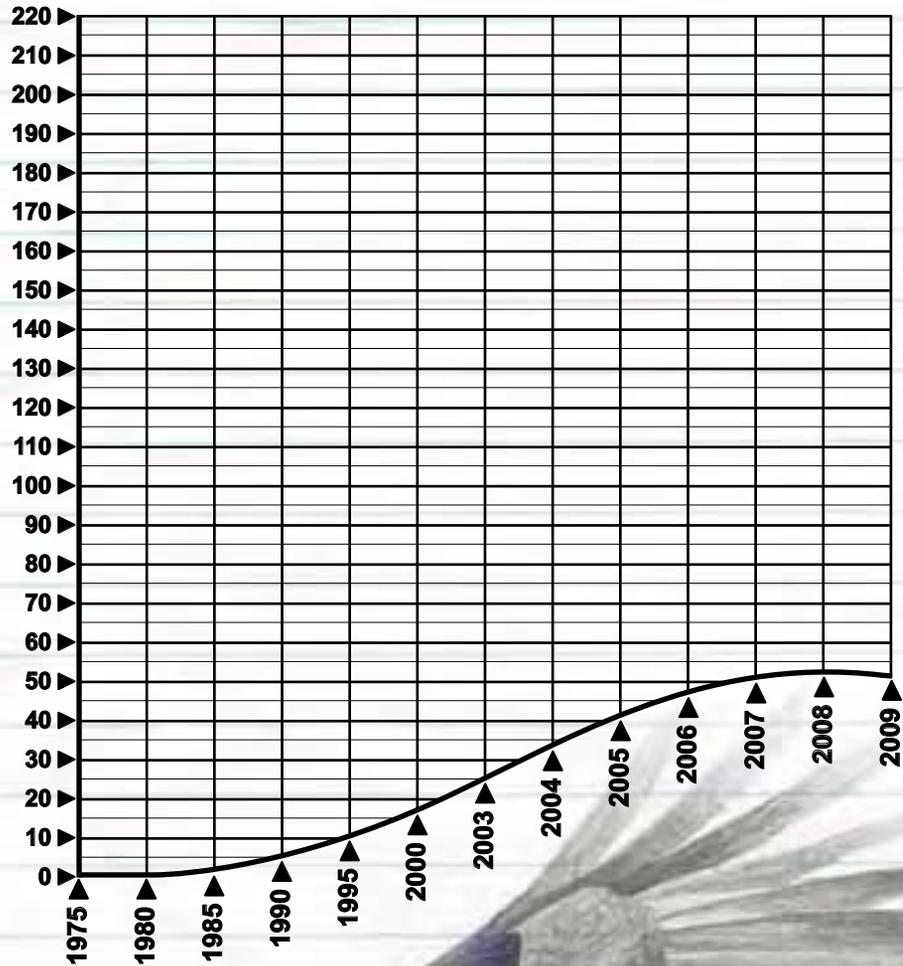
feature creatures:

Come-back Raptors

Being labeled as "threatened" doesn't sound very good, but it's great news for Ohio's bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ospreys. Last year the status of these three birds was "upgraded" from "endangered" to "threatened." With the help of wildlife management programs and wildlife laws, these three birds of prey have made a remarkable comeback in recent years. Biologists report that they are now thriving in the Buckeye State after years of pesticide use had ill effects on the birds in the 1960s and '70s.

national symbol soaring high in ohio

At one time only a few bald eagles remained in Ohio due to loss of their wetland habitat and misuse of pesticides. Today bald eagles are soaring high once again. Use the numbers and graph below to plot the increase in Ohio's bald eagles.



Nesting Pairs of Bald Eagles per Year

YEAR	PAIRS	YEAR	PAIRS	YEAR	PAIRS	YEAR	PAIRS
1975	4	1995	29	2005	121	2009	215
1980	5	2000	64	2006	147		
1985	7	2003	88	2007	164		
1990	16	2004	108	2008	184		



soldiers for conservation

A conservationist is someone who cares about the environment and works to protect our natural resources. As an outdoorsman and sportsman, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was the first U.S. president to think about conserving our natural resources for future generations.

By the end of his term, he set aside 42 million acres of national forests, 53 national wildlife preserves, and 18 other natural areas including the Grand Canyon. President Roosevelt was an excellent writer and speaker and was quoted many times on his thoughts about conservation.

wise wildlife quotes

Here are two conservation quotes about wildlife. Go online and research other conservationists' quotes to find your favorite.

"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of people alive today, but the property of unborn generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander."

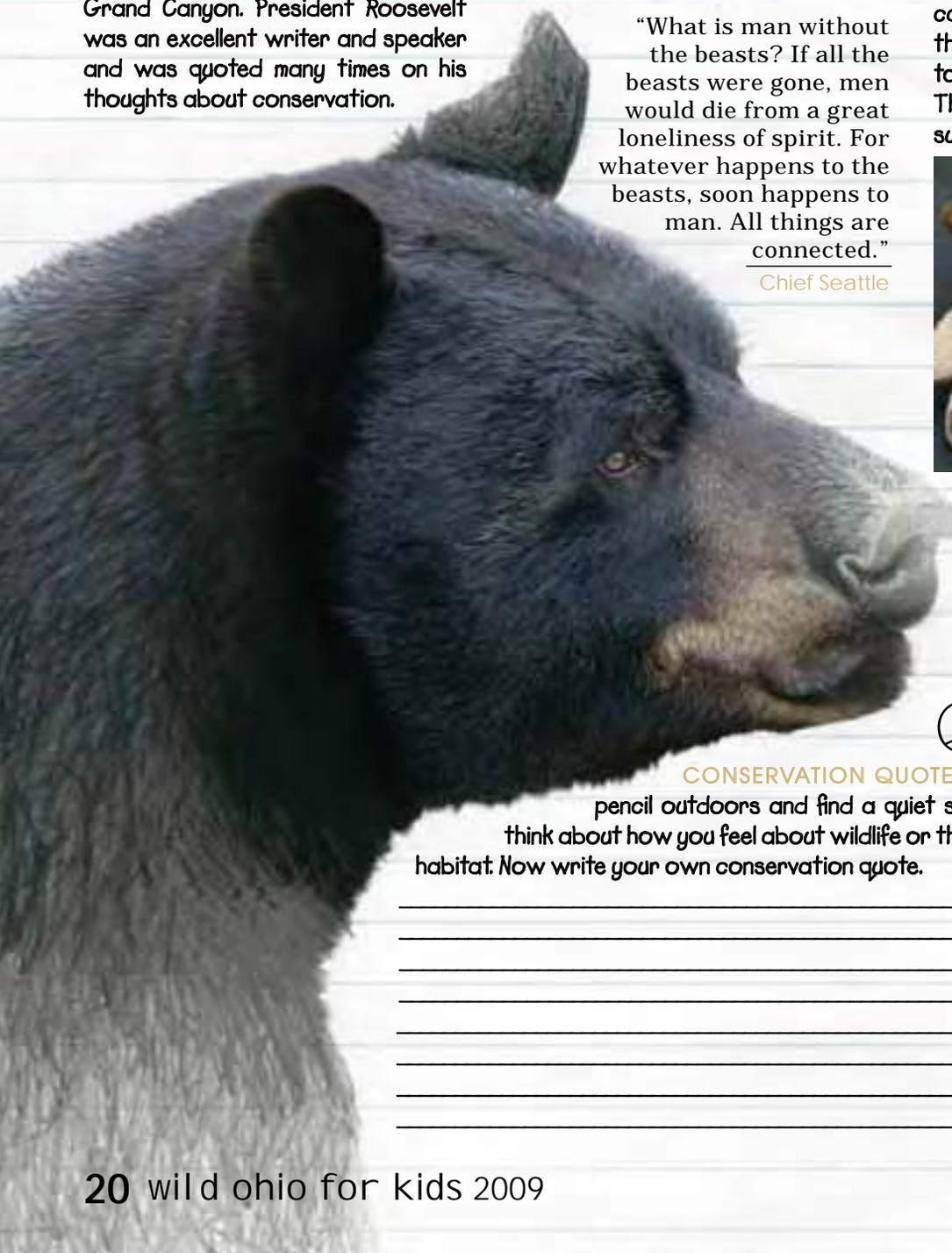
Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt

"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

Chief Seattle

FEATURE CREATURE: The Teddy Bear

Here's a bit of bear trivia. The teddy bear was named after U.S. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt back in 1902. Roosevelt was an avid hunter. On one of his hunting trips his hunting party captured a black bear and tied it to a tree for the President to shoot. But the President refused to shoot the bear because that would be unethical as a sportsman. The scenario was made into a political cartoon. When a store owner saw the cartoon, he created a stuffed toy bear and named it "Teddy's Bear." The stuffed bears were an overnight success!



GET OUTSIDE!

CONSERVATION QUOTES Take this magazine and a pen or pencil outdoors and find a quiet spot to sit. Sit for five minutes and think about how you feel about wildlife or the need to protect wildlife and their habitat. Now write your own conservation quote.

WHO ARE THESE AWESOME CRITTERS?

Below is a list of the animals featured on each page of this issue of Wild Ohio Magazine for Kids.

COVER GREEN-STRIPED DARNER

Found in northeast Ohio, this dragonfly is of a small group that are referred to as mosaic darners due to their intricate pattern and color.

PG 2 COMMON RAVEN A raven, the largest of the songbirds, was recently found nesting in Ohio after more than a century since its disappearance.

PG 3 GRAY TREE FROG Found across Ohio, this frog can be found calling from trees and shrubs, especially during a summer rain.

PG 4 SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL To the surprise of many, these squirrels are the most common in Ohio, but they are nocturnal and seldom seen.

PG 5 POLYPHEMUS CATERPILLAR

The polyphemus moth is a giant silk moth whose most notable feature is its large, purplish eyespots on its hindwings deriving its name from the Greek mythological cyclops Polyphemus.

PG 6 BLUEGILL It is one of the most common fish species in Ohio and can be found in almost every body of water across the state.

PG 7 HARVESTMAN The harvestman is commonly called "daddy-long-legs" and though they are an arachnid, they are not a spider.

PG 8 WILD TURKEY The wild turkey is Ohio's largest upland game bird, standing three to four feet tall and weighing up to 24 pounds.

PG 9 TIMBER RATTLESNAKE By virtue of their large size, timber rattlers are the most dangerous snakes in northeastern America. Today, they are listed as an endangered species and are found in only seven Ohio counties.

PG 10 VIRGINIA OPOSSUM North America's only marsupial, it is one of the oldest and most primitive mammals. This animal is little changed from its ancestors 70 million years ago.

PG 15 CRAYFISH Also called crawdads, they are freshwater crustaceans found in brooks and streams where the running water provides shelter. Most cannot tolerate polluted water.

PG 16 EASTERN SCREECH-OWL They are fairly common residents in Ohio and tend to live in towns, orchards, and small woodlots. Their song is an eerie, trembling wail and a soft trill.

PG 17 AMERICAN BADGER Badgers have a white stripe that extends over the head from the nose with white fur around their eyes and black cheek patches, or "badges," for which they are named.

PG 18 WHITE-TAILED DEER Whitetails are active around the clock, but less so during daylight hours. Most often, white-tailed deer are on the move at dawn and dusk.

PG 19 BALD EAGLE In Ohio, the eagle's stronghold is the marsh region of western Lake Erie and has a federal status of "threatened".

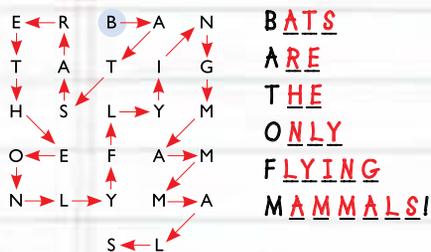
PG 20 BLACK BEAR Once considered extirpated in Ohio, reports of black bear sightings began to occur annually in the mid-1980s. There may be over 100 now in the state.

OHIO'S AWESOME CRITTERS awesome answers

PG 2 AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

1. Beaver, 2. Northern cardinal,
3. Monarch, 4. Black bear, 5. Opossum

PG 3 PUZZLING PUZZLER



PG 4 DEFENSE! DEFENSE! DEFENSE!

- (1. c, b) (2. b, e, d, h) (3. h)
- (4. h) (5. a, b, e, f) (6. d, f, g)
- (7. a, f, h) (8. d, e)

PG 5 BUTTERFLY BONUS!

Mimicry

PG 6 NATURE'S FOOD CHAIN

1. Aquatic vegetation, 2. Tadpole,
3. Bluegill, 4. Great blue heron,
5. Turkey vulture 6. Tadpole,
7. Turkey vulture

PG 7 WILDLIFE BUFFET

1. Cheek pouch, teeth 2. Body
3. Barbed tongues 4. Nest robbers,
- nuts and seeds 5. Whiskers
6. Whirlpool 7. Bug 8. Host, feet
9. Ears; 10. Scent trail

PG 8 THE MATING GAME

1. d, 2. e, 3. f, 4. a, 5. c, 6. b

PG 8 MATING MATH CALL

- (1. 21,600) (2. 907,200)

PG 9 TAXONOMY CROSSWORD

- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2. taxonomy | 1. mammal |
| 4. fish | 3. amphibian |
| 6. reptile | 5. insect |
| 7. bird | |

PG 10 MYSTERY MAMMAL MATH

1. Marsupial, 2. Opossum

PG 11 BABY BIRD NAMES

- Duck-duckling, Goose-gosling,
Peregrine falcon-eyas, Swan-cygnnet,
Owl-owlet, Eagle-eaglet,
Wild turkey-poult

PG 15 WINTERY GUESS WHO

1. Ruby-throated hummingbird,
2. Gray squirrel, 3. White-tailed deer,
4. Eastern cottontail rabbit,
5. Groundhog, 6. Little brown bat,
7. Leopard frog, 8. Lady beetle

PG 16 NOCTURNAL WORD SEARCH



PG 17 MAPPING BY NUMBERS

1. Darke, 2. Nine, 3. Include any county colored darkest green.

PG 18 WEB SEARCH

- (1. 170) (2. 23) (3. 8) (4. 180)
- (5. 77) (6. 32)

get outside and go fishing!

how to make a fishing journal

You can create some great memories when you go fishing. You might remember the tug on the line when you had a bite, your first fish, your biggest fish, the birds, frogs, dragonflies, and other wildlife you saw along the water, the smile on your friend's face when you took his photo with his catch, or a family picnic beside the stream. Copy the opposite page to make your very own fishing journal.



It is also a good idea to familiarize yourself with the Ohio Fishing Regulations to ensure you have a fun and safe outdoor experience. These rules are not in place to hinder your fishing adventures but to improve and preserve the quality of Ohio's natural world for future generations.

Materials needed:

- ▶ Copies of the journal information sheet on the opposite page (The number of copies is up to you, but between five and eight copies is good.)
- ▶ One sheet of construction paper or scrapbook paper (8.5 by 11 inches) for a cover
- ▶ Stickers and/or different colored markers to create a front cover
- ▶ Yarn, string, or other material to make a binding

1. Fold the copies of the journal information sheets in half to form a booklet 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches in size.
2. Fold the construction/scrapbook paper in half and place over the journal pages to form a cover.
3. Tie the yarn or string around the center to hold the booklet together.
4. Write "Fishing Journal" on the front cover and use markers or stickers to design the cover.
5. Inside the journal, the first page should be blank. Draw a box on the page and write:

This Journal Belongs to:
_____ (Your Name) _____

As you turn the pages of your journal, a journal information page will appear on one side of the two-page spread and a blank page will appear on the opposite side of the two page spread (except for the center fold). Use the blank pages to make extra notes about your fishing trip, or to sketch the scene, the fish you caught, or other wildlife you saw. You can also use the blank pages to tape or paste in photos of the fish you caught or other photos from your fishing trip.



fishing journal

Date: _____ Location: _____
(City or County)

Name of Water Body: _____
(farm pond or name of lake or stream)

Fishing Companions: _____

Weather/Temperature: _____

Water Conditions: _____
(clear, cloudy, muddy, etc.)

Number of Hours Fishing: _____

Fish Caught by You: _____

_____ (number) _____ (species)

Catch Rate: _____
(Divide no. of fish you caught by number of hours fishing)

Bait or lure used and fishing method: _____

Fish Caught by Others in Your Fishing Party: _____



fishing journal

Date: _____ Location: _____
(City or County)

Name of Water Body: _____
(farm pond or name of lake or stream)

Fishing Companions: _____

Weather/Temperature: _____

Water Conditions: _____
(clear, cloudy, muddy, etc.)

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Catch Rate: _____
(Divide no. of fish you caught by number of hours fishing)

Bait or lure used and fishing method: _____

Fish Caught by Others in Your Fishing Party: _____



to ohio's kids

Think about it. How much time do you spend watching television, playing video games, using the computer, texting friends, or talking on the phone? If you are one of those kids who constantly bury your face in electronics, you are missing out on nature's big backyard.

This issue of Wild Ohio for Kids magazine is about the awesome wildlife that live in our state. The magazine provides information and related exercises that can be completed on the inside pages. But the best way to get to know the animals that share our world is to get outside and explore. This issue of Wild Ohio for Kids also includes activities to be completed in the outdoors. So get outside and get up-close and personal with some of Ohio's cool critters!

division of wildlife

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[WILDohio.COM](http://wildohio.com)

ON THE COVER

• Green-striped darner by Bill Heban •

Visit our photogallery at wildohio.com to see more of Bill's photos and others featuring Ohio's awesome critters.