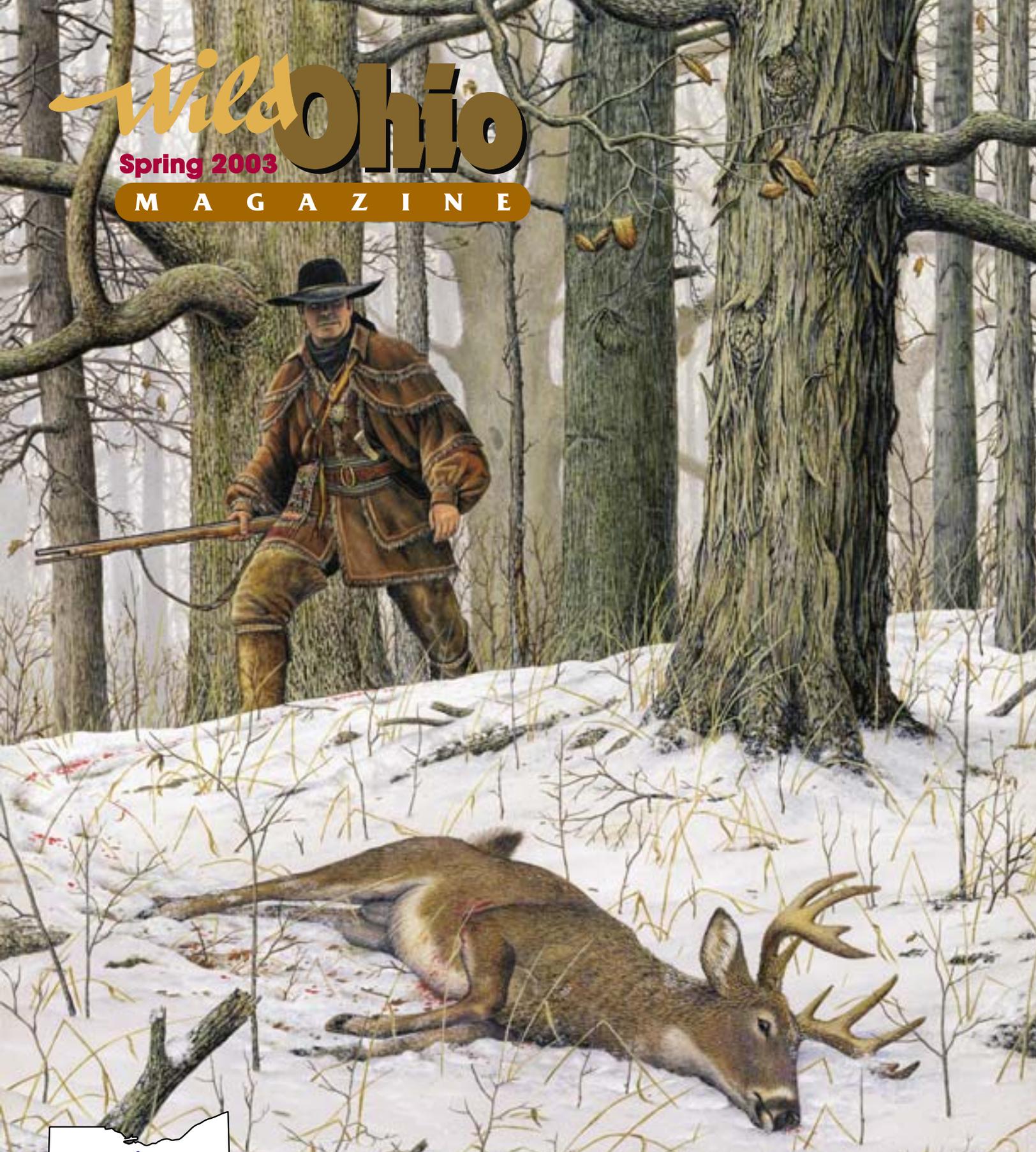


Wild Ohio

Spring 2003

M A G A Z I N E



Special Ohio Bicentennial Issue

Ohio Department of Natural Resources • Division of Wildlife

Adam Johnson



130th Anniversary

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Division of Wildlife Mission Statement

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

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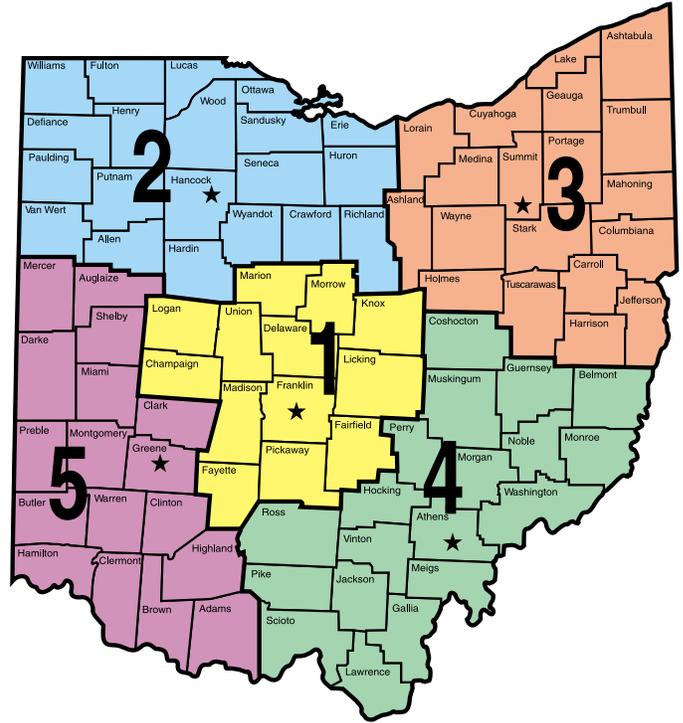
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Division of Wildlife Web site

On the Wildlife Calendar . . .

- March 14–15** **Centennial Celebration of National Wildlife Refuge System**, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa County (419) 898- 0014.
- April 21–27** **National Wildlife Week**; The theme is “Explore Nature in your Neighborhood.”
- May 3–4** **Free Fishing Days**, all state residents are invited to experience Ohio’s fantastic fishing without having to purchase a fishing license.
- May 10** **International Migratory Bird Day**, activities at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- June 1–8** **National Boating and Fishing Week**, local activities planned statewide.



Features



6 Officers in the Field Then and Now

The first "fish and game wardens" were commissioned by the Ohio Commission of Fish and Game in 1886. In this special Bicentennial issue of **Wild Ohio** we look back at the past and salute the officers in the field.



Kevin Behr

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The "Beautiful Ohio" – History of a River Fishery

From its free flowing state in pre-settlement time to an era of navigational change, improved water quality and wise fisheries management has made the Ohio River a fishing Mecca for generations.

On the Cover...

Ohio artist Adam Grimm donated this frontier painting to the Division of Wildlife in commemoration of Ohio's Bicentennial celebration during 2003. Prior to beginning the artwork, he spent many hours researching to authenticate the painting depicting an Ohio pioneer in period clothing with musket in hand in 1803. Grimm, of Lorain, is the youngest artist ever to win the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (Duck Stamp) competition, taking the honors in 2000. More information can be obtained by calling (440) 324-4642.



Notice!

In an effort to cut costs and keep **Wild Ohio** magazine a free publication of the ODNR Division of Wildlife, we are purging our mailing list. If you would like to continue receiving **Wild Ohio**, you must fill out and mail in the postcard inside upcoming issues. We will run this notice in the next three issues of **Wild Ohio**, but you only have to fill out and mail in a postcard once before March 2004 to continue receiving **Wild Ohio** free of charge. If you do not fill out and mail in a postcard, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.



Tim Daniel

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A Bicentennial Tribute to Ohio's Wildlife

Man's impact on the Ohio frontier changed the landscape and native wildlife forever. But a strong conservation ethic in Ohioans and decades of dedicated fish and wildlife management have helped today's wildlife resources flourish in the Buckeye State. (Also see Ohio maps on pages 12 through 14.)

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Ohio's watchable wildlife



“The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America. But as latter-day citizens we shall fail our trust if we permit the eagle to disappear.”

— John F. Kennedy in a letter to the Audubon Society

Watchable Wildlife • *Bald Eagle*

by Lisa Smith • photos by Tim Daniel

Only 25 years ago in Ohio, I wouldn't have been able to write this story. In 1975, the state's population of bald eagles was a living example of Rachel Carson's foreboding 1962 *Silent Spring*. Pesticides—primarily DDT and dieldrin and habitat reduction had decimated the species and Ohio could only lay claim to four nesting pairs of eagles. Sadly, not much to look at.

Recognition of the ill effects of pesticides in wildlife food chains and their subsequent banning was an excellent start; bringing the bald eagle back to viable numbers was a challenge. The national symbol was listed as a state and federal endangered species.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife has met the challenge and then some and as a result the bald eagle can now be highly recommended as a Watchable Wildlife species; one you can

now see at various locations throughout the state. Our goal was modest—20 nesting pairs by the year 2000. In 2002 there were 79 nests that produced 107 young (both modern-day records). Nesting eagles were found in 28 of Ohio's 88 counties in 2002! Beyond these numbers are bald eagles in the state classified as “non-breeding,” either immature or unpaired. According to Division of Wildlife Biologist Mark Shieldcastle, “There could be anywhere from 50 to several hundred [of these non-breeding eagles] in the state at a given time.”

So let's cut to the chase here—where can you see one of the most beautiful and fascinating birds in the world? Well they may be closer than you think. The best area is where the most eagles nest—along the western shores of Lake Erie. Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge are well-known birding hotspots for both the most common and most unusual birds to grace Ohio skies; bald eagles are frequently sighted at these locations.



The Ohio bald eagle population boom however has caused some eagles to seek out taller trees in less congested spots. Among the newer locales for nests in Ohio have been inland sites in Delaware County for example, and along some of the state's major waterways including the Sandusky and Scioto rivers.

Depending on the weather, the opportunity to watch bald eagles may be year-round here. Breeding pairs are generally considered non-migratory as long as winter conditions do not become too severe. Non-breeding eagles or yearling birds' behavior is more variable—they may stay in the state or migrate south in the winter.

The recognizable snow-white head and tail feathers distinguish the fully mature eagle from an immature bird. Young bald eagles do not acquire the white feathers until they reach the age of five or six years. Immature eagles are almost uniformly dark brown from head to tail feather. The bald eagle is one of the largest birds in the raptor family weighing 10 to 12 pounds with a wingspan of six to seven and a half feet. Females are slightly larger than males.

The Division of Wildlife welcomes you to view and enjoy the bald eagle in the state throughout its life cycle—nesting to maturity. Still listed as endangered in Ohio, the bald eagle is now federally threatened, maintaining the same protection as endangered status. Please remember if you are fortunate enough to see a bald eagle, particularly during the nesting season, do so at a distance. This is the most protected bird in the world, holding special protection from human disturbance under the Endangered Species Act, the Eagle Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Brooding pairs of eagles don't generally appreciate an audience, so maintain a respectful distance from a nest. 



Viewing Areas...

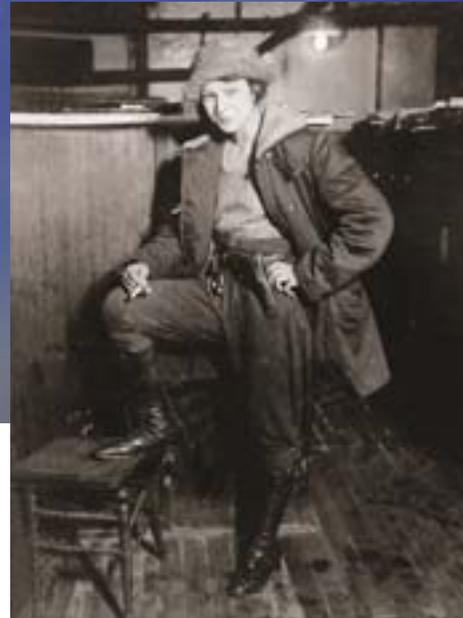
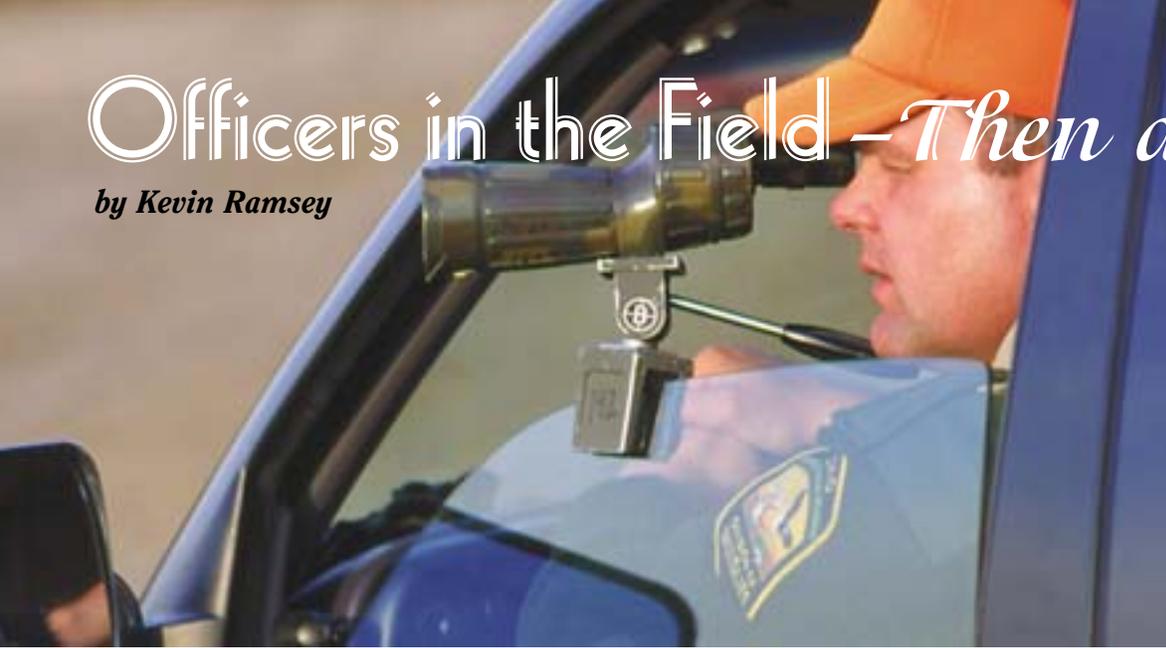
Established locations where you can see bald eagles include: Delaware, Big Island, Killdeer Plains, Mosquito Creek, Magee Marsh, and Pickerel Creek wildlife areas, and Maumee Bay, West Branch, Dillon, and Paint Creek state parks, and Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve.



To stay current on the area nearest you to see a bald eagle or bald eagle nest watch for news stories in your local paper or on local television starting in late winter or very early spring when the bald eagle begins its nesting season. Even though they are now somewhat more common, a bald eagle nest, particularly a first-time nest in a new place, is big news!

Officers in the Field - Then and Now

by Kevin Ramsey



Rosetta Zimmerman, Ohio's first woman deputy fish and game warden.

The Good Old Days

The good old days! You know, when hunting and fishing were a way of life. That is the way it was here in Ohio until the late 1800s. By then Ohio's fish and wildlife populations had dwindled to a fraction of what they were in the pre-settlement era. Streams were polluted, forests were slowly being removed, and the fish and wildlife populations of our state were in serious trouble.

Deer, turkey, wood ducks, and beaver were no longer abundant. Some predicted Ohio's fish and wildlife populations would soon be gone. Progress had brought us to the brink of a disaster unimaginable today. Unfortunately, wildlife habitat continued to shrink in these early days and in 1904 white-tailed deer and wild turkey were formally declared "extinct" in Ohio.

The First Fish and Game Wardens

In 1886, the first "fish and game" wardens were hired by the state and were working under the Commission of Fish and Game. These men were given only a badge and a law book and were expected to uphold the wildlife laws of the state. They had to provide their own duty sidearm and clothing.

This was a difficult period for wildlife enforcement officers and the public, due in part to the method that fish and game wardens were paid. It seems that in the early days, wardens were compensated by collecting a percentage of the fine monies assessed by judges. As you can imagine, this led to a general distrust and disrespect for the



Division of Wildlife photos



old-time wardens. Their motives constantly questioned, it was time for a change.

What was needed was a new method of collecting monies to compensate wardens. The state first began licensing resident hunters in 1913, trappers in 1917, and anglers in 1925. These



photos by Tim Daniel

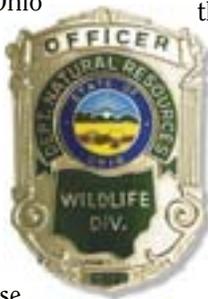
monies were used in part to pay the salaries of the wardens. Now all licensed hunters and fishermen would contribute to conservation in Ohio.

A different kind of barrier was broken in 1920. Rosetta Zimmerman was the first woman to be appointed as a deputy fish and game warden. This was also the same year women were first given the right to vote in the state.

The '30s, '40s, and '50s

Now known as “game protectors,” wildlife officers began to take their message of conservation on the road. Not only did they enforce Ohio’s fish and game laws, but also in effect became the voice of the Department of Conservation. They attended conservation club meetings, wrote articles for the then popular Ohio Conservation Bulletin, and took on many other conservation activities throughout the state. Their credibility rose not only because of their professionalism, but through a general sense in the hunting and fishing community that if Ohio was ever to regain its lost resources, the Department of Conservation would lead the way with the game protectors being the experts in the field.

At the same time, fisheries and wildlife biologists in Ohio were calling for more stringent regulations, strengthening Ohio’s position for a miraculous comeback. In 1943, Ohio had its first deer season since 1903. This occurred in three southern Ohio counties where a total of 168 bucks were taken that year. Those harvest totals are a small percentage of what we experience now, but it was a start. Another development occurred in 1949—the creation of the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Wildlife within the department.



Making the sacrifice

One aspect of wildlife law enforcement that has not changed over time is that it can often be dangerous work. Like any other law enforcement profession, there is a chance of being injured or killed in the line of duty. The Division has lost four officers since the inception of the warden position. In 1909 Officer James Benton was shot and killed. In 1921, Officer Robert Marshall was ambushed and killed while on patrol. In 1952, a pre-season squirrel poacher killed Officer Pete Andre. Finally, in 1955, Officer Irvin Patrick was shot and killed on the first day of the upland game season.

Today the Division of Wildlife has a rigorous training program in place that teaches officers self-defense, firearms use, use of secondary weapons, and how to identify potential threats to their safety and respond to them quickly.

Where are we now?

The Division’s wildlife law enforcement network includes a wildlife officer for each of Ohio’s 88 counties. There are also wildlife investigators, similar to a detective on a police force, working in a three- or four-county area called an “investigation unit.” An additional eight investigators specifically work on Lake Erie.

A wildlife officer’s duties include wildlife law enforcement, attending conservation club meetings, assisting the fish and wildlife groups with various surveys, as well as answering inquiries from the public. They also keep a watchful eye on those who would pollute our rivers and streams, citing them to court when they cause fish and wildlife kills. Officers are on call 24 hours a day.

I suspect if you asked Ohio’s wildlife officers what motivated them to become wildlife officers in the first place, their answer would be something like this: “It’s something I always wanted to do,” or “It’s something I dreamed about since being a kid.” There are few professions that allow a person to fulfill a lifelong ambition. Those that serve as Ohio wildlife officers can make that claim. 🇺🇸

The "Beautiful Ohio"

HISTORY OF A RIVER FISHERY

by Scott Schell

Free-Flowing in Pre-Settlement Days

Did you ever wonder what the Ohio River fishery was like when Indians, elk, and bison walked its banks and primitive canoes were the common mode of river travel? Its waters ran clear and it was shallow enough to walk across in some places. The Indians caught muskellunge and walleye with the aid of bonefish hooks, spears, and fish traps. They also utilized the abundant mussel beds as sources of food and the shells for ornaments and tools. There were about 145 fish species and 70 species of freshwater mussels that called the Ohio River home before 1800.

The establishment of the Northwest Territory in 1787 brought the European settlers with their keelboats and flat boats, using the Ohio River as a main travel artery to settle the land. Many of them relied on Zadok Cramer's widely used almanac, *The Navigator*, to traverse the natural channel of the Ohio River.



Sacajawea guiding the Lewis and Clark Expedition. (Missouri Historical Society photo, from a 1904 color lithograph based on the original Alfred Russell painting.)

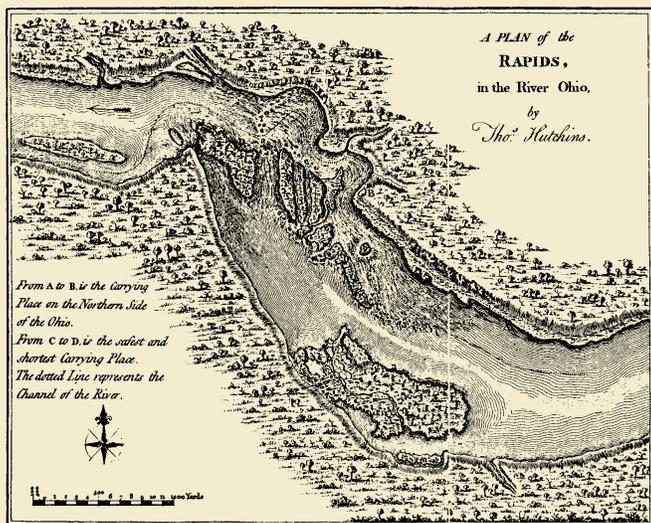


Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Falls of the Ohio Plan drawn in 1776 by Thomas Hutchins, British Army engineer.

A quote from *The Navigator* reads, "The fish of the Ohio are numerous and of various kinds: the black and yellow cat, weighing from 3 to 100 pounds: the buffalo, from 5 to 30 pounds; the pike, from 4 to 30 pounds; the sturgeon, from 4 to 40; the perch (walleye and sauger) from 3 to 12 pounds; the sucker, from 1 to 6 pounds; a few herrings sometimes, and in the spring of 1805, several shad were caught and sold in the Pittsburgh market, weighing about 2 pounds; eels and soft shelled turtles are sometimes caught."

One legendary fish tale describes an early settler that tied a rope to his wrist that was attached to a steel hook baited with rotten venison. He settled down for the night on a keelboat

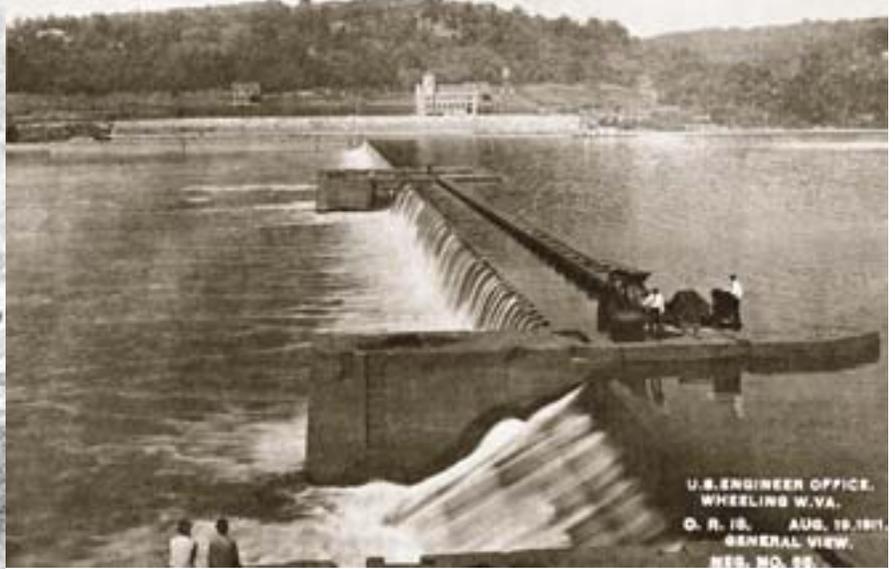
with the bait in the water and a jug of whiskey to pass the time before he fell asleep. His body was found the next morning being pulled around in the river by a very large flathead catfish, which had apparently pulled him into the river to his death.

In 1803, Lewis and Clark began their epic journey down the Ohio River on their way to the Pacific Ocean. They not only described huge flocks of passenger pigeons and large groups of squirrels inexplicably swimming across the river, but many accounts of fish. Stephen Ambrose describes Lewis' account in *Undaunted Courage*, that "...on September 2nd the water was the lowest ever seen on the Ohio, sometimes but six inches deep, so low and clear Lewis could see catfish, pike, bass, and sturgeon swimming."

Navigational Improvements and the Fishery

As river traffic increased, river travelers saw the islands and shallow riffles as impediments to navigation. They soon lobbied Congress to remedy their frustrations with dams, dredging, and snag removal. This was the beginning of the major habitat alterations that changed the Ohio River from its natural state to its present condition.

Government authorized navigation improvements that gradually began impacting the Ohio River fishery were authorized long before the last of 52 wicket dams were completed in 1885. The first Waterways Improvement Act was signed in 1824 and authorized the Corps of Engineers to determine the best method of coping with sandbars and snags obstructing navigation. The first wing dam or "training dike" was constructed in 1825 and a fleet of snag removal boats and dredges was



Left: The first dam was constructed in 1825 and a fleet of snag removal boats and dredges was commissioned to maintain a navigational channel. Above: Lock and Dam 18, Belpre, Ohio, 1911.

commissioned to establish and maintain a six-foot navigation channel.

The last of our 20 modern high lift dams was completed in 1979, which increased the navigation depth to nine feet. This gradual elimination of riffles and shallow habitat coupled with the manmade barriers to fish movement caused the decline of many fish and mussel species. Paddlefish, lake sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon, blue catfish, muskellunge, and blue sucker declines were first noticed by commercial fishermen.

Jared Kirtland's published records of Ohio fish from 1850 recorded that, "While the Ohio River was unobstructed by dam and not swept by seines, it abounded with large and valuable species including muskellunge, which, in their vernal migrations crowded in immense shoals on the ripples (riffles)." Many accounts of the Indian and white man's several methods of catching muskellunge were also described by Hildreth in 1848, which suggests that they were common in the Ohio River drainage.

The shovelnose sturgeon was once quite abundant in the river and its larger tributaries. Milton Trautman reports that "The older fishermen agree that this sturgeon was abundant upstream as far as Washington County until about 1910; that as many as 75 could be taken in a day on a trotline baited with worms, especially during spawning runs in late February and March when the river was rising. After ponding of the river began about 1911, thereby partially stopping the spawning run, the fishermen reported a drastic decrease in abundance."

All of our native mussels (except the salamander mussel) require a fish host to complete their life cycle, which links mussel abundance directly with fish abundance. Unrestricted harvest coupled with habitat alterations and the severe pollution during the Industrial Age also contributed to the extinction and endangered status of many mussel species found in the Ohio and other rivers. Mussels were still abundant enough by 1900 to maintain a thriving button industry for a growing America. Their harvest is still permitted by Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana. Remnants of Indian middens (trash pits) can sometimes still be spotted along the Ohio's banks that reveal their past abundance.



Aerial view of modern-day Hannibal Lock and Dam in Monroe County.

Improved Water Quality and Management is Key to the Fishery

Today we are reaping the benefits of the Clean Water Act, the Conservation Reserve Program, modern agricultural practices, and pollution abatement laws. Improved water quality is responsible for the return of paddlefish, a large nongame species that feeds on plankton. Blue catfish, currently listed as endangered in Ohio, are making a comeback in the lower Ohio River. Their recovery can be noticed as far upstream as Meldahl Dam with sport and commercial fishermen reporting increased catches in the Cincinnati area.

In taking advantage of the improved water quality, the Division of Wildlife recently started a reintroduction project to bring back yet another river species -- the shovelnose sturgeon. About 3,000 fingerling shovelnose sturgeon were released in the Scioto River near Circleville last October in hopes that this species will reestablish reproducing populations. It is anticipated that this highly migratory species will move into the Ohio River near Portsmouth.

continued on page 10

The "Beautiful Ohio" *continued*

At least 159 species of fish have been observed in the river, including 25 species of sportfish. Today the 451 miles of the Ohio River bordering Ohio provide some of the most diverse fishing opportunities found anywhere in the country. Among some of the gamefish species that anglers pursue are sauger, walleye, channel and flathead catfish, hybrid striped bass, largemouth, smallmouth, and white bass, crappies, and freshwater drum. And while fishing is generally good along the main channel, anglers concentrate much of their fishing effort in the tailwaters below dams, and also in the embayments and other tributary areas located away from the main channel.



Tim Daniel

Large is the only way to describe the Ohio River's flathead catfish.

"A Division of Wildlife survey confirmed that fishing along the Ohio River is excellent," said Ray Petering, assistant administrator of Fish Management and Research for the Division of Wildlife. "In surveying about 50,000 anglers, who collectively spent three million hours fishing, we learned that catch rates in the Ohio River were often better than those found in Lake Erie and many of our inland lakes."

A significant finding of the survey revealed outstanding sportfishing action occurs in the tailwaters immediately below the lock and dam structures, such as the Pike Island tailwater. The survey also determined that more recreational boaters and anglers are utilizing the Ohio River and its various tributaries.

The survey, and other studies of the Ohio River sport fishery, result from a cooperative effort among participants on the Ohio River Fisheries Management Team (ORFMT). The ORFMT was established in 1990 and consists of fisheries management administrators and biologists from the six state natural resource agencies sharing management and

jurisdiction of the Ohio River. These include Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois.

The two-year survey conducted along the Ohio River in 1992 and 1993 also found that a large number of anglers were confused about various fishing regulations on the Ohio River because of multi-state jurisdictions. The ORFMT responded by implementing uniform fishing regulations among the states.

The ORFMT also helped to refine a license reciprocity agreement. In the portion of the Ohio River between Ohio and Kentucky, Ohio anglers do not need a Kentucky fishing license while fishing in the main river channel. They are required however, to have a nonresident Kentucky license if they fish

in any embayments or tributaries on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. The same rule applies for Kentucky anglers under the interim agreement between the two states. In the portion of the river between Ohio and West Virginia, anglers

Stringers of saugers like these are common catches on the river.

The Division of Wildlife recently initiated a shovelnose sturgeon reintroduction project.



Tim Daniel



Dan Imhoff

Fishing for hybrid striped bass is one of the most popular angling past times on the Ohio River.



Scott Burke

from each state may fish in the main river channel and in the embayments to the first riffle or dam on both sides of the river with a resident license from their state.

The ORFMT also works closely with the Corps of Engineers on habitat and access issues. The self-sustaining fisheries will take care of themselves if the aquatic habitat in the Ohio River can be maintained or improved. Boating restrictions have also been modified in some areas below certain dams that allow for improved access to prime fishing waters.

The "Beautiful Ohio" continues to flow with a wealth of angling opportunities. Additional information to help you enjoy this resource is available by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE and requesting a copy of the Ohio River Fishing Guide. 



A Bicentennial Tribute to

Ohio's Wildlife

by Steve Gray, Chief, Division of Wildlife

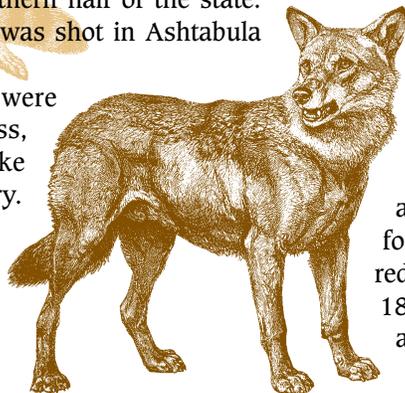
The "Ohio Country" and what eventually became the state of Ohio has changed greatly over the past 200 years. The appearance of the state and many of the animals that have inhabited it over the centuries may surprise you. Read on. (Also see the Ohio maps on centerfold pages 12 through 14.)

1803

At the date of statehood, Ohio was still a vast forest. Wildlife such as black bears, deer, wolves, and wild turkey were abundant.

However, man was already making a significant impact on this frontier. The last recorded bison was killed during 1803 in Lawrence County, Ohio. Elk were already gone from the more densely populated southern half of the state. The last known elk in the state was shot in Ashtabula County in 1835.

The crystal clear streams were teeming with muskellunge, bass, walleyes, and sauger and Lake Erie was an untapped fishery. Pioneers used the wildlife for food and clothing. Venison

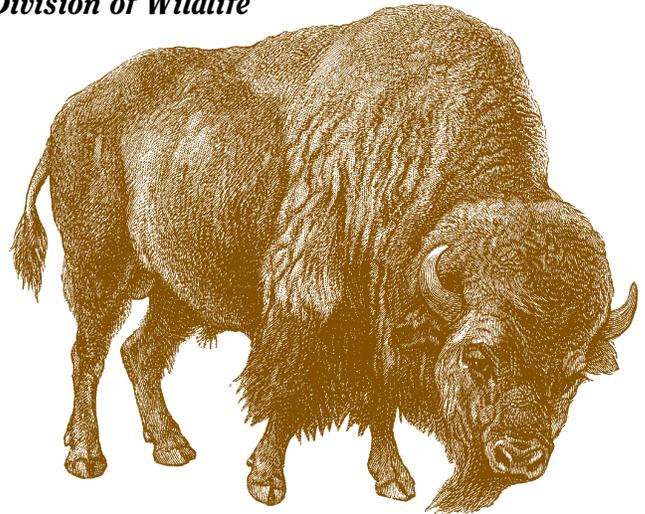


was a staple for settlers and they also used the black bear for food and clothing; bear fat was used for making soap and lantern oil.

Some animals were already being viewed as a nuisance. In 1803 thousands of corn-eating squirrels were killed in the area of present day Franklin County and Ohio taxpayers were required to submit squirrel skins as part of their tax payment. Wolves also were targeted because they preyed on livestock.

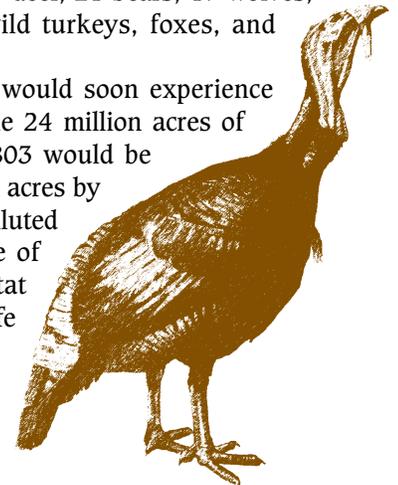
Enterprising settlers from Amesville in Athens County sold raccoon furs they had trapped and hunted in 1804 to purchase books for the new Western Library Association. This became known as the Coonskin Library. (See Wildlife Reflections on page 25.)

Another notable event of this period was "The Great Hinckley Hunt of 1818." Citizens of this community near present day Cleveland gathered on Christmas Eve to encircle a large wooded area to kill off depredating wildlife and gather other animals for food. About 600 people circled the woods



and progressively moved to the center shooting all the game they saw. Their larder was soon full. They reportedly killed 300 deer, 21 bears, 17 wolves, and hundreds of wild turkeys, foxes, and raccoons.

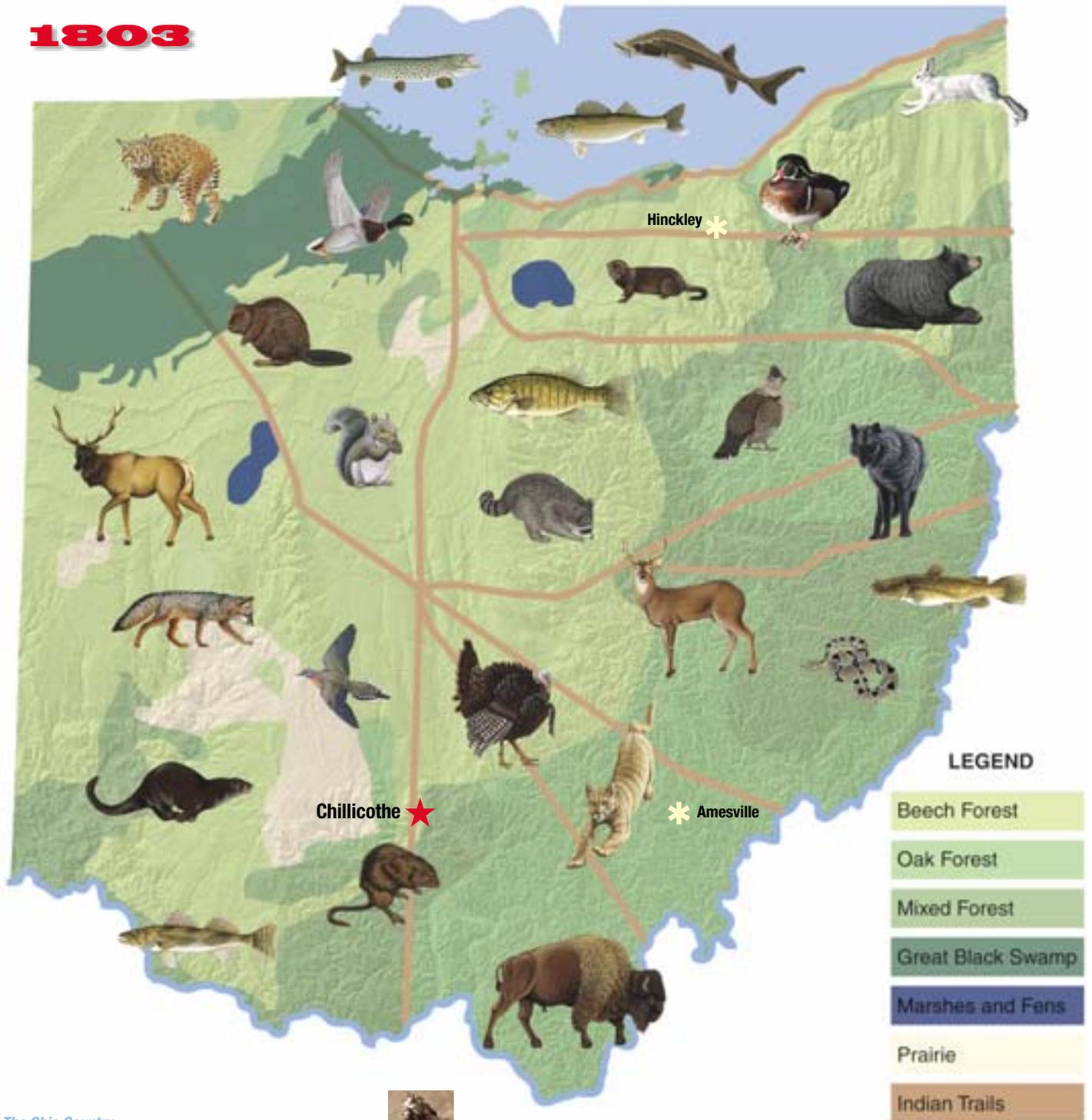
Ohio's landscape would soon experience a dramatic change. The 24 million acres of forest land found in 1803 would be reduced to only 4 million acres by 1883. Streams were polluted and dammed. Because of these dramatic habitat changes, Ohio's wildlife populations would suffer.



An early artist's rendering of the Great Hinckley Hunt of 1818.



1803



1787 - The Ohio Country becomes part of the Northwest Territory.

1803 - Ohio becomes the 17th state. Louisiana Purchase doubles size of U.S.

1818 - The Great Hinkley Hunt occurs.



1830 - U.S. Indian Removal Act forces eastern Native American peoples to lands west of Mississippi River.

1825-1865 - John Rankin family operate key home on Underground Railroad in Brown County.

1835 - Elk extirpated from Ohio.



1850 - bobcats, gray wolves, beavers gone from the state.

1857 - First law enacted for protection of fish. First nongame protection law passed, protecting songbirds.

1863 Act a to cla

1800

1820

1840

1860



1804 - Amesville's Coonskin Library established.



1813 - Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry defeats the English in the Battle of Lake Erie.



1828 - Construction begins on Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first public railroad in the U.S.



1829 - First Ohio law to protect wild animals enacted.

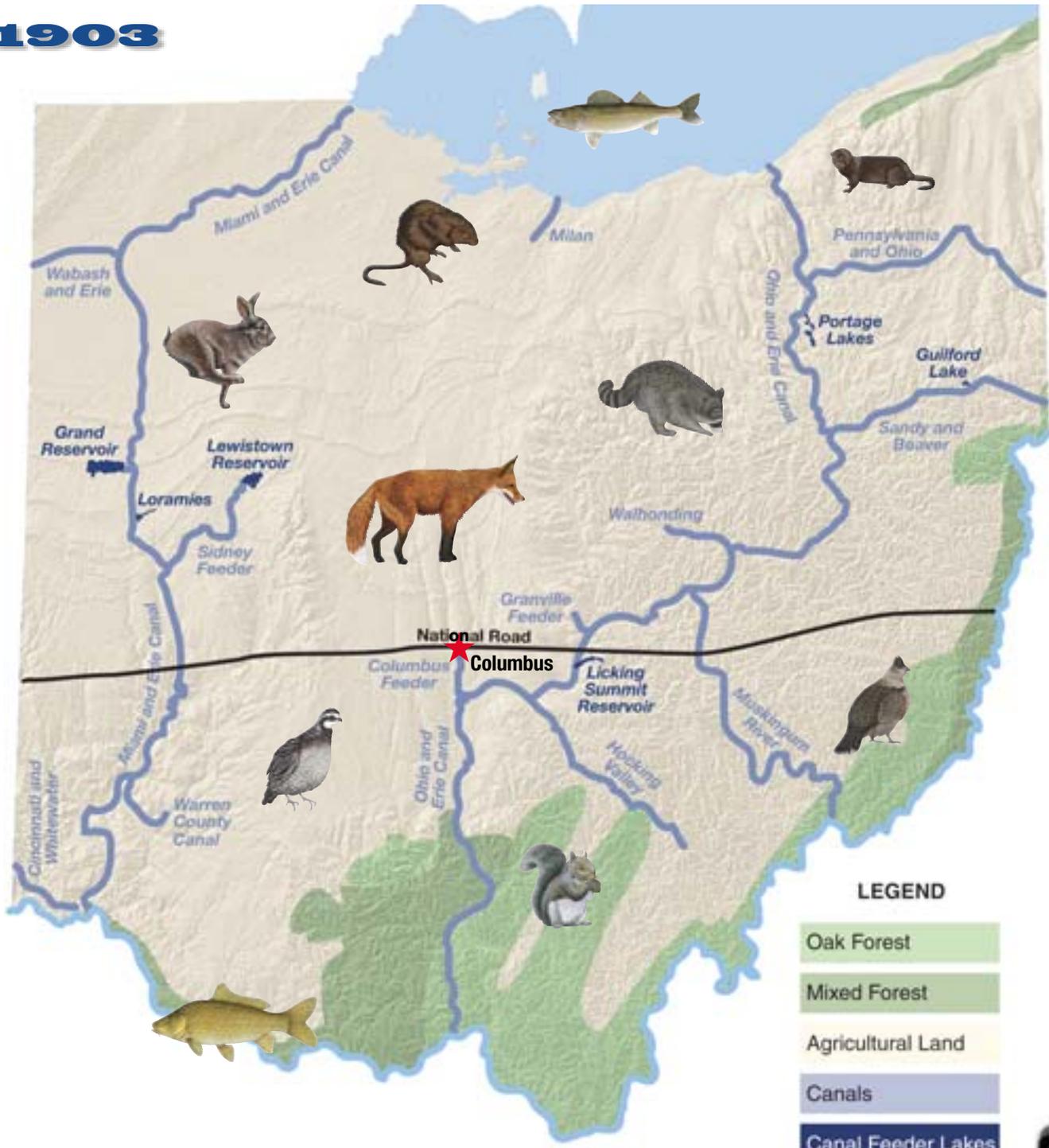


1849 - California gold rush.



1850 - Ohio population up to two million people. This influx of people would have enormous impact on wildlife populations.





-Homestead allows settlers to claim land.

1873 - Ohio Fish Commission established.



1888 - A statute provided for a warden in every county and a chief warden.

1902 - Commission of Fish and Game responsible for lakes and public parks.

1911 - U.S. passes Weeks Act to purchase 6 million acres in Eastern U.S. to establish National Forests

1913 - First resident hunting license required

1917 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act

1917 - First trapping license required

1925 - First resident fishing license required.



1933 - Aldo Leopold publishes *Game Management*, the first book on wildlife management.

1861-1865 American Civil War

1867 - U.S. acquires Alaska from Russia

1886 - Ohio Fish Commission becomes Commission of Fish and Game. First game wardens appointed.

1896 - First state fish hatchery (London) opened.

1909 - White-tailed deer and wild turkey declared "extinct" in Ohio.

1914-1918 World War I

1920 - First Ohio wildlife area, the Roosevelt Game Preserve, is purchased with license dollars.



LEGEND

- Mixed Forest
- Cleared Land
- Inland Lakes

1937 - Pittman-Robertson Act created and Ducks Unlimited established.

1940 - First wildlife officer training school established.

1941 - 1945 World War II

1943 - Ohio's first deer hunting season of the century.

1949 - Division of Conservation becomes Division of Wildlife within newly created Department of Natural Resources.

1952 - Dingell-Johnson Act created.

1956 - First statewide deer season.

1960 - 1966 - First wild turkey season.

1968 - Fire on the Cuyahoga River spurs cleanup.

1970 - Blue pike extinct in Great Lakes.

1973 - Ohio endangered species law passed.

1978 - Blizzard devastated Ohio's quail population.

1979 - Only four pairs of bald eagles nesting in Ohio. Division established restoration program.

1980 - Lake Erie declared "Walleye Capital of the World" by Governor James Rhodes.

1983 - State income tax checkoff for endangered wildlife established.

1986 - River otters reintroduced. Other species reintroductions included ospreys, falcons, and trumpeter swans.

1994 - Dove bill passed offering Ohio dove hunting.

1995 - Deer herd estimated at 550,000.

2002 - Legislation passed opening all Sunday hunting.

1903

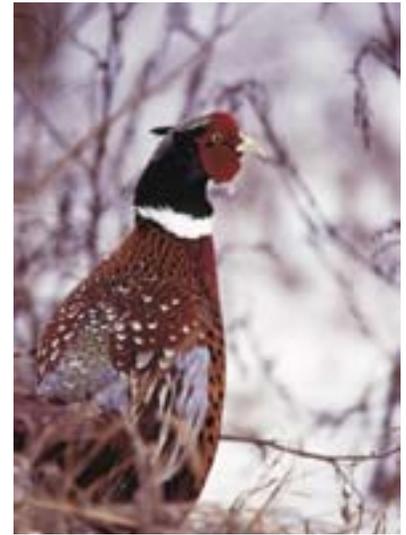
The first century of statehood was devastating for Ohio's wildlife. By 1904 white-tailed deer and wild turkey were gone from Ohio. Earlier in the century, beaver were extirpated from the state and most species of wildlife, especially those dependent upon forest habitat, were in serious decline.

Fish populations were also deteriorating. The original Ohio Fish Commission, now 30 years old, had evolved into the Commission of Fish and Game. Stream pollution in the form of untreated sewage and industrial wastes and the damming of streams degraded fish habitat. By 1880, fish populations had declined so rapidly that the Ohio Fish Commission stated "the total extinction of fish life is drawing near."

Division of Wildlife photos



Ron Keil



Tim Daniel

New laws were enacted to protect wildlife. Ohio's first significant waste pollution law was passed in 1893 and in 1899 the Rivers and Harbors Act made it unlawful to construct dams, bridges, and piers in navigable water or deposit refuse in waters without federal approval.

By 1903, state game wardens were working throughout Ohio. The conservation movement was starting in Ohio and across the U.S. The first national wildlife refuge was established in 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida and President Theodore Roosevelt would do more for wildlife conservation during his presidency than any other president in U.S. history.

Ohio's landscape was now mostly unforested and some lakes had been built to feed the canal system. New animals were on the landscape. Some, like red foxes and bobwhite quail,

became more numerous by taking advantage of the habitat changes more conducive to their needs. Others like the ring-necked pheasant, carp, and starling were introduced to Ohio.

People were now thinking about conservation and the plight of wildlife. The next century would gradually bring great improvement.

photo courtesy of Jim Marshall

Division of Wildlife



2003

The last 100 years has brought a tremendous positive turnaround for Ohio's wildlife. Wildlife populations are healthier today than at any other time in the last century.

Lake Erie, after a period marked by abuse and pollution, is now known as the "Walleye Capital of the World" and is regarded as one of the best fishing spots in North America. In 1968, the polluted Cuyahoga River on the Lake Erie shore of Cleveland caught fire and brought national attention to Lake Erie and its problems. Since then, conservation efforts, at all levels of government, and with the help of the private sector, have produced a remarkable recovery for Lake Erie.

Ohioans today enjoy abundant or record populations of deer, wild turkey, Canada geese, bluebirds, beaver, and wood ducks. All of these animals were in serious peril during the last century. Other species such as river otters, peregrine falcons, osprey, and our nation's symbol, the bald eagle, have been restored to Ohio.

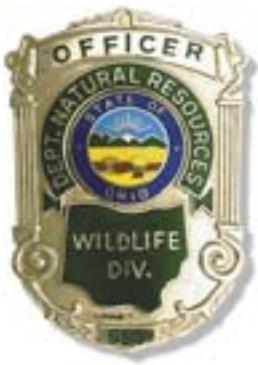
Of the many successful reintroduction and recovery stories, the return of the bald eagle may well be the most significant milestone in Ohio's wildlife management efforts. As recently as 1975, Ohio had only four remaining pairs of bald eagles. In 2002, a modern-day record 79 pairs of eagles nested in the Buckeye State.

While many challenges still lie ahead, Ohio's citizens should take this Bicentennial Year as a time to reflect upon the major accomplishments in wildlife management and be proud of the natural heritage we have in place to leave to generations ahead.



photos by Tim Daniel





Wildlife Law Enforcement

Field Notes

by Keith Fullenkamp, Erie County Wildlife Officer

While driving through the Mead-Westvaco public hunting lands in Jackson County in April of last year, I came upon three men standing outside of a car beside the road. When I stopped to question the men, I saw a large knife laying on the passenger seat, and then the butt of a shotgun sticking out from underneath the truck. It turned out the gun was loaded. The men's answer to the loaded gun was that they had been target shooting. Upon further investigation, I saw blood on the hood of the car's trunk. When I inspected the trunk, I found two deer and a Canada goose.

As it turned out, the three men had shot the deer and goose at another location and stopped in the area to field dress the deer before reaching their home. The violators received

\$2,400 in fines and were ordered to forfeit the gun. Most often, the apprehension of such violators is the result of tips from callers. However, in this case I was patrolling the area because of numerous dumping violations and just happened to come upon the poachers.

Today Ohio is a top state for white-tailed deer hunting and a significant amount of Ohio's wildlife enforcement efforts revolve around illegal deer hunting activity. But there was a time when the number of game bird hunters and violations reflected Ohio's premier status as a game bird hunting destination. The following article takes a look back at one of Ohio's poaching cases in the game bird heydays of the 1940s.

Looking Back — Field Notes from the Past by Melissa Hathaway

The year was 1949 and the pheasant and quail hunting in Ohio was so good it attracted national attention. In fact, the hunting was so good that several people got greedy and wildlife officers made one of the most memorable poaching arrests in Division history.

The front page headline of the November 17, 1949 Washington Courthouse newspaper read "Illegal Hunting Costs Six Men \$4,582." That was a significant amount in 1949.

Six men, including hunting guide H. Warren Beard of New Holland, Ohio and five other men from West Virginia, had recently taken more than their fair share of birds. Early information indicates the illegal game included 15 pheasant hens (hen ring-necked pheasants have been illegal game in Ohio for years), six quail, and one Hungarian partridge.

One of the arresting officers in the case was Irvin Patrick, Fayette County game protector, who was shot and killed in Fayette County on the first day of upland game hunting season in November 1955. Patrick was one of four Ohio wildlife officers killed in the line of duty in the Division's history.



The five Ohio Division of Conservation officers instrumental in the arrest were (left to right) Frank Hard, of Washington C.H., district supervisor for the state wildlife division; Charles Cooper, of Washington Courthouse, deputy game protector for Fayette County; Irvin Patrick, game protector for Fayette County; Clarence Francis, Pickaway County game protector, and E.E. Overholser, state game protector.

Gray Named New Wildlife Chief

Steve Gray, a 27-year veteran with the Division of Wildlife, was appointed chief of the Division of Wildlife in January by Sam Speck, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He replaced retiring Chief Mike Budzik.

As chief of the Division of Wildlife, Gray will oversee Ohio's fish and wildlife management programs, as well as management of more than 170,000 acres of state wildlife areas.

Gray served as assistant chief of the Division since 1991.

He began his Division of Wildlife career in 1976 as a state wildlife officer in Crawford County. He has also served as a regional wildlife officer, an information officer, and executive assistant to the chief. He is a native of Ross County. He and his family reside in Kingston.



Tim Daniel

"Steve Gray has played a significant role in his 27 years with the department, helping create one of the finest fish and wildlife management programs in the country," said Speck. "Steve is very well respected here in Ohio and across the nation as a leader in wildlife issues, and I am extremely confident that he will be able to continue to build upon the strong outdoor opportunities we have here in the state."

Gray holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from The Ohio State University where he was recognized as the top wildlife student by the Natural Resources Alumni Association.

Grouse Hunter has an Unusual Find

You never know what kind of surprise nature will provide you while out in the field. Division of Wildlife Officer Dick Barna found a young smooth green snake (*Ophedrys vernalis*) wrapped around the leg of a grouse when he retrieved the bird while hunting last fall. The snake was untangled and released.



Dick Barna



Mohican Wildlife Weekend

A celebration of wildlife, habitat, heritage, and natural history.

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

Want to experience the habitats of birds and bats, and learn about fly-fishing and more in the great outdoors? The second annual Mohican Wildlife Weekend April 25-27 is a celebration of wildlife habitat, heritage, and natural history. Choose from a dozen locations in Ashland and Richland counties that will offer workshops of interest to the whole family.

Over 40 sessions will include such topics as bird banding, gardening for birds, trail and shoreline hikes, building wildlife habitats, photographing birds, nature crafts, bluebird nest box workshops, wagon tours, bat and owl demonstrations, and fly fishing demonstrations.

For site locations and more details, visit www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com or call 800-642-8282 for more details.



Wildlife Agencies Represented in "Patch" Quilt

Kelli Howard of Batavia created a hand-sewn patchwork quilt that includes the patches of each state wildlife agency. Her father Allen Easterday, also in the photo, collected the patches. Ohio's Division of Wildlife patch is located in the fourth row from the top, second patch from the right.

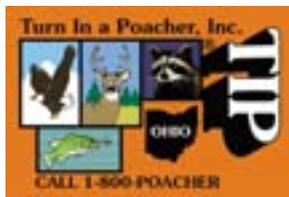


Allen Easterday

Sixteen Callers Receive TIP Awards

Sixteen people received a total \$3,619 last fall for providing information regarding wildlife violations through Ohio's Turn In a Poacher (TIP) program. More than 50 wildlife poachers were subsequently arrested and fined a total of \$23,666 by Ohio courts. Since its start 19 years ago, 834 callers to the TIP hotline have been awarded \$117,460. The information has led to the arrests of 1,476 poachers who were fined a total of \$498,180 for wildlife violations. In cooperation with Ohio's National Wild Turkey Federation chapter, \$675 was paid to four callers whose information led to the conviction of four wild turkey poachers.

The TIP program was established in 1982 to provide Ohioans a toll-free telephone number to report wildlife violations within the state. Calls can be placed anonymously at 1-800-POACHER (800-762-2437).



New Moth Species Discovered in Ohio

Researchers have discovered a new species of moth, known to exist in only two locations in the world, Resthaven Wildlife Area in Erie County and Huffman Prairie at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Greene County. The species was discovered during survey work in native tall grass prairie habitats funded by the Division of Wildlife's Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Program. Researchers chose *Spinipogon resthavenensis* as the name in honor of the Resthaven Wildlife Area.



Eric Metzler

New Trapper's Cabin Displayed



Keith Daniels

West Nile Virus Presumed Cause of Raptor Die-Off

Test results issued by the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin indicated West Nile virus is the presumed cause of death for hundreds of owls, hawks, and other birds of prey found sick or dead in Ohio last summer. Several thousand raptors in Ohio were affected by the virus, which is carried by mosquitoes. Many survived the disease on their own or recovered at raptor rehabilitation centers.

Ohio's case count was the highest in the unprecedented raptor die-off among Midwest states. Once frosts occurred across the state killing off mosquitoes, reports of dead and ill birds diminished.



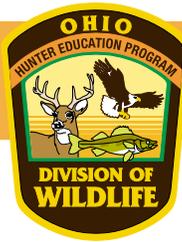
Tim Daniel

Clarification

Some readers may have misunderstood the article titled "When Does A Buck Cost \$1,500?" in the fall 2002 issue of *Wild Ohio* ("Field Notes," pg. 19). Jason Kopf of Avon Lake was charged with eight wildlife violations, not convicted of eight violations. Kopf pleaded guilty to the following three of the charges and received the following sentences:

- Hunting without an urban deer permit - \$250 fine and 30 days in jail;
 - Failure to temporary tag a deer in the place that it fell - \$350 fine and 30 days in jail;
 - Hunting with a firearm in the city limits of Avon - \$500 and 30 days in jail.
- Kopf was also ordered to pay \$400 in restitution to the state of Ohio for the deer. His 90 days in jail were deferred with the conditions that he does not hunt for one year and pays his fine according to the payment plan with the court. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Division staff manned a new trapper's cabin display at the National Trappers Association (NTA) at the Richland County Fairgrounds last August. Division of Wildlife Chief Mike Budzik was presented the national association's 2001–2002 Leadership Award. The chief played an important role in bringing wildlife agencies together with the NTA and International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to reach agreement for "Best Management Practices" for trapping.



An Everlasting Angling Memory

by Marc Sommer

Passing Down the Passion

It is spring of 1984 and the sounds of a river can still be heard, the smells are still present, and the feeling of place still exists. The river that I am speaking of is the Muskingum, the location is near Stockport, the smells, sounds, and sense of place could be anywhere. That day I experienced what many refer to as a threshold experience or that defining moment when a day's activity has the potential of turning into a life long experience.



The memory lingers because of many elements that were in place. Not only was it a beautiful setting, but it was a location that stirred the senses and sparked passion. Of course it also helped that right there next to me was a grandfather that was willing to pass on his passion in a caring way that only grandparents can. The memory was everlasting because I liked where I was, what I was doing, and who I was with.

“Being on the Water Connects People”

Many things change and some remain faithful to the original. Fishing is a combination of science, observation,

and knowing that when the biting isn't good it is time to try a new lure or find a new location. Fishing is also about long conversations with family that somehow only take place in a boat or along that special stream that seems as far from the daily grind as possible. Fishing is about friends enjoying each other's company and laughter, yet all the while trying to outdo the other with the biggest catch.

Some Fine Springtime Angling

Spring brings many opportunities for good catches and lots of fun. April and May are good crappie months, especially when fishing minnows and small jigs around shoreline cover. Good numbers of smallmouth can be had in May using hellgrammites, softcraws, and minnows in many of Ohio's smaller tributaries. Late spring is the hot time to catch smallmouth using crayfish, shiners, and artificial lures around Lake Erie's Bass Islands. Spinners, minnows, and worms are all good choices for catching the fast and furious action of white bass as they move upstream to spawn.

“Come warm weather, I'm going to take a kid fishing; I hope you do too. But nothing would make me happier than to look across the cove or down the stream and see a young one help an old one remember what it was like to be young in springtime.”

— Gene Hill, *Field & Stream*

Take Along a Friend

Regardless of what your spring fishing pleasure is, make it a little more pleasurable in 2003. Ask that special someone to wet a line with you. Invite those friends you haven't seen since your last class reunion or maybe that neighbor that you have almost invited every year since they moved into the neighborhood. And don't forget about that energetic kid that sits on your lap to watch cartoons or listens intently to you when you teach lessons in Sunday school. The point is that your place and time may be special enough to define a moment that leads to years of enjoyment for someone else.

Nothing can compare with the sense of accomplishment of catching a fish, the sense of relaxation that comes from a cool stream or the sense of place that comes from enjoying that place where everything just feels right. 

From Lake Erie's Vacationland...

photos by Mike Matta, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

Many *Wild Ohio* readers can remember when Lake Erie was pronounced "dead." That was over 30 years ago, and today thanks to international cleanup efforts, Lake Erie and its fishery are alive and kickin'.

No two fish species have impacted man's use of Lake Erie and the lake's popular vacation shoreline like walleye and yellow perch. Walleye mania and perch jerking fever were spawned by improved water quality, a number of successful spawning seasons, and lakewide fishery management efforts through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Erie Committee. Today Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline is a popular destination for millions of Ohio residents and visitors.

Whether it is table fare or trophy catches they are after, anglers travel from throughout the country to experience the lake's famous walleye fishing. Despite the popularity of walleye, yellow perch takes center stage in late summer and fall. "Perch jerking" provides fun, easy, and affordable family-style entertainment with big rewards.

For a recorded Lake Erie fishing report, call toll-free 1-888-HOOK FISH (1-888-466-5347). In the local Sandusky area call (419) 625-3187.

Since Lake Erie's miraculous comeback, the lake's fishing tradition has been carried down from generation to generation. Here some happy young anglers show off their Lake Erie catches. 



Above: Nickolas Rodenhauer of Napoleon discovered the fun and fast action of Lake Erie perch fishing this past summer.

Right, top: Hank Devolder of Mansfield boated his walleye on a charter fishing trip on Lake Erie.

Right, middle: Nicholas Kaufman of Ashland discovered the joys of walleye fishing on Lake Erie.

Right, bottom: Davey Madison of Oak Harbor holds a catch of yellow perch taken by a group of youth anglers on Lake Erie.

Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

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



Q: I haven't seen a meadowlark in 15 or 20 years. What has happened to these birds?

— Ron Schloneger,
Dalton, OH

A: The Eastern meadowlark and other grassland nesting birds, including the ring-necked pheasant and bobolink, have had severe population declines over the past few decades due to the loss of nesting habitat. These types of birds need unmowed grass fields at least 20 acres in size in which to nest. Over the years, changing agricultural practices have converted much of Ohio's grass and pasture land to row crops like corn and soybeans. But the story isn't entirely bleak. Federal cropland set-aside programs like the Conservation Reserve Program have helped re-establish grassland habitat in some areas. Landowners interested in developing grassland to attract pheasants and meadowlarks can receive free technical assistance by contacting a private lands biologist at the nearest Division of Wildlife district office.



Q: Is it possible to tell the difference between a male and female blue jay?

— Sue Wisniewski, Vickery, OH

A: Adult male and female blue jays look the same in terms of feathers and plumage, so there is no outward way to tell them apart by appearance. However, if you watch closely, you may be able to distinguish between the sexes by their behavior. At the nest, the female blue jay is the only one of the pair to incubate the eggs. Also, the female is usually on the receiving end of "mate feeding" that occurs during nesting season. But both sexes as adults will feed young birds, so be careful not to confuse this activity with courtship.



Q: Besides the fox and gray squirrels at our feeders, there is another squirrel that we are not sure what it is. The "mystery" squirrel is about half the size of the grays; is white underneath and red on the back, with a thin black line dividing the two colors. The tail has a black tip. It moves faster than the grays.

— Shirley Casterline, Old Washington, OH

A: Your "mystery" squirrel sounds like a red squirrel, sometimes called a "chickaree" or "piney." The red squirrel is common in evergreen forests, but also does well in hardwoods and suburban backyards. They build a nest of leaves and shredded bark in a tree cavity, but will also dwell in rock piles on the ground or the rafters of a barn or other building. Red squirrels typically eat nuts, berries, fruits, buds, mushrooms, and tree sap. A red squirrel is easy to overlook except for its habit of loudly scolding intruders in its territory. Many a bowhunter have been pestered by a chattering "piney" during deer season!



For Wild Kids

Ohio's Wet Weather Wildlife

by Laura Sturtz

Where do you like to go when it's hot outside? Inside in the air conditioning, right? But what about when a cool summer rain comes? Isn't it fun to go outside and play in the rain? Some of Ohio's wild animals don't like to be outside when it is hot either. They wait for a cool rain to get outside.

When it rains, these animals emerge and a completely different world appears. On a rainy day it can be fun to go outside and look for these wet weather animals. But before you go outside, make sure it is not thundering or lightning.

One of the most noticeable wet weather animals is the earthworm. They live underground because they like the moist dirt to eat and that moisture helps keep their bodies from drying out. They come out of the ground when it rains because there is too much water and not enough air for them to breathe. Look for earthworms on the sidewalk. When you find one, get down and take a closer look at it. Watch how it moves. Then try to figure out where its head is. (Hint: Which direction is it crawling?)

While you are exploring, you may also find snails and slugs. Look for them on leaves and tree trunks. Although they are related, snails



spotted salamander

photos by Tim Daniel

and slugs are not the same. Snails always have a shell and slugs never do. If you find a slug or a snail, look behind it for a trail of slime. Snails and slugs leave behind trails of a slimy substance called mucus that help them move across a surface. Also look for their eyes. Their eyes are located on the ends of the long antennae that stick out of the snail's head.

If you are lucky, you might find an amphibian. Amphibians are animals that spend part of their lives on land and part in the water. Frogs and toads are two types of amphibians. If you find one, see if you can figure out whether it is a frog or a toad. Toads have bumpy skin and frogs have smooth skin. Look at its size, shape, color, and markings so you can identify it later. Use wildlife field guides or search the Web to identify the wildlife you saw. You can also keep a list of the interesting creatures you find during your wet weather exploration.

Young Outdoor Writers Competition

The first annual *Wild Ohio* Young Outdoor Writers Competition is open to Ohio's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade schoolchildren interested in writing about conservation topics. The competition will take place during the fall semester of the 2003 school year. Teachers from the state's public and private schools are encouraged to hold their own writing competitions. One winner per grade level from each school may advance to the state-wide competition. Awards will be given to the final winners. For more information please send e-mail to:

Mary.Warren@dnr.state.oh.us
or Tammy.York@dnr.state.oh.us.

WILD GAME GOURMET

r e c i p e s

Venison Roast

2 tablespoons butter or cooking oil
2 to 3 pound venison roast
1/2 cup flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
2 cups coffee (prepared)
2 cups water
3 large tomatoes, chopped
1/2 cup dry barley
1/2 cup dry beans (great Northerns or pintos)
1 large onion, chopped
2 potatoes, diced
salt and pepper to taste

Heat butter or oil in Dutch oven. Pat the venison roast with the flour mixture. Brown the roast on all sides in the Dutch oven. Add coffee, water, tomatoes, barley, and beans. Cover and cook for about an hour. Add the onion, potatoes, salt, and pepper to taste and cook another hour.

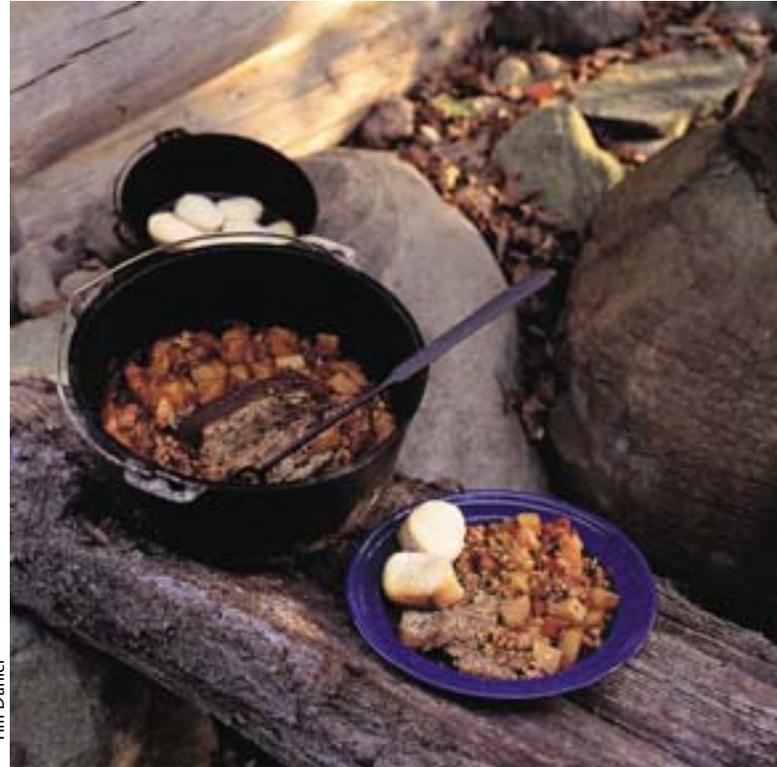
Dutch oven recipes featured in the winter 2001-2002 *Wild Ohio* magazine and on several of the *Wild Gourmet Wild Ohio* video segments were so popular, we decided to provide readers another Dutch oven favorite. And what better time to feature Dutch oven cooking than during Ohio's Bicentennial celebration? A Dutch oven was an essential cooking appliance for many frontier settlers.

Dutch Oven Tips:

- Before use, a Dutch oven must be seasoned with oil. Once a Dutch oven is "seasoned" it should never be scrubbed with soap. A Dutch oven won't rust if it is seasoned correctly and kept dry.
- Charcoal briquettes should be used by people first learning to use a Dutch oven. With a little experience you can then use the coals of a campfire.
- A good Dutch oven used for cooking outdoors needs "feet" so that it stands up off the coals, and a lipped lid so that more coals can be placed on top.
- Use a wooden spoon to stir, and always cook with the lid on.
- When you do remove the lid or handle any part of the hot oven, use cooking gloves or hot-pot tongs.

by Vicki Mountz,

the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

Coonskin Library Holds Heritage and Ingenuity

by Melissa Hathaway

As the first American West, the Ohio Country produced a wealth of heritage and pioneer tales that fill the pages of history books. One such story is that of Athens County's Coonskin Library. The settlers of the small community of Ames knew the necessity of working together to survive, succeed, and to get things done. How they came to establish a library in the wilderness is a unique story of community spirit and ingenuity.

At an 1803 town meeting held to discuss township road repairs, the settlers expressed their desire for books. There was little reading material in the settlement beyond a Philadelphia newspaper that arrived several weeks after publication. Most of the business on the frontier was done by barter; with little money in circulation, it would be difficult to buy books. But two of the residents came up with a plan.

Josiah True and George Ewing proposed to establish a public library from the sale of animal pelts. The settlers hunted and trapped, and with such abundant wildlife in the surrounding forest, part of their kill could be sold in the East to provide the cash to buy books. They spent the next fall and winter hunting and trapping their way to the first subscription library in the Northwest Territory.

Records from Josiah True's diary show some of his hunting efforts:

October 15 (1803), "kill three raccoon, panther, 1 cat,"

October 16, "kill she bare,"

February 15 (1804), "went huntin 12 bares,"

March 15, "kill 3 raccoon."

A meeting was held in the spring of 1804 to collect the pelts, which consisted mostly of raccoon, but also deer, fox and bear. Each contributor's share was his share in the Western Library Association. The pelts were given to Samuel Brown who was traveling to Boston to move his family back to Ames. He sold the pelts and returned with 51 titles, mostly on religion, travel, biography, and history, for which he paid a little over \$60.

The collection of books moved annually from home to home in the library's first years of existence. Then Ephraim Cutler was chosen the first librarian and the library was housed at his residence. By 1830, the collection had grown to nearly 250 books. The Coonskin Library operated from 1804 to 1861.

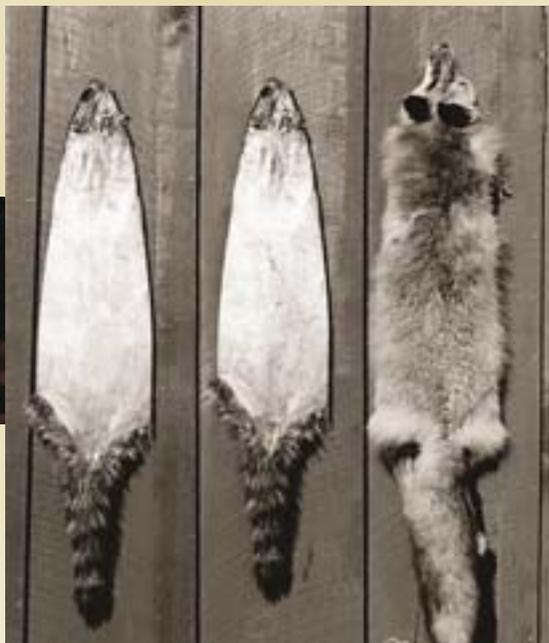
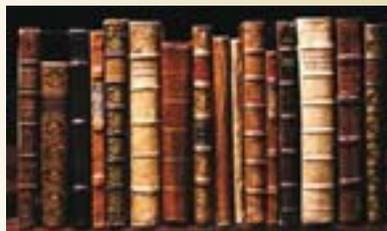


Today the original books are located at the Ohio Historical Society and Ohio University's Alden Library. Some of the books are often on loan to the Coonskin Library Museum in Amesville.

A young boy, Thomas Ewing, is credited for the Western Library Association being known as the "Coonskin Library," according to Robert Avery of the Coonskin Library Museum. At age 12, Ewing turned in 10 coon hides to buy his share in the library. Ewing later became Ohio University's first graduate and was elected Ohio senator three times. He worked in the cabinets of Presidents Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, and William Henry Harrison. He was also the adopted father of General William Tecumseh Sherman. Today in Lancaster, Ohio several city landmarks are named for Ewing, including a school and a street.

The Coonskin Library Museum

The Coonskin Library Museum was opened in May of 1994 in a former one-room school house on the playground of the Amesville Elementary School. The museum includes a cabin depicting life in the early 1800s. It is open to the public with keys located in the Amesville Elementary School Office and the Amesville Post Office. 



For a free subscription to *Wild Ohio*, telephone 1-800-WILDLIFE or write to:
Wild Ohio Magazine Subscription, 4483 Industrial Parkway, Cleveland OH 44135.

Thanks to Decades of Wise Fisheries Management and Research



Former Governor Rhodes at Governor's Fish Ohio Day in 1980.



Governor Taft with a jumbo perch from the Governor's Perch Outing in 2002.

OHIO FISHING IS A TRADITION

— *Pass It On!* —

Ohio Resident Free Fishing Days May 3 and 4, 2003

Beginning in 2003, Ohio Resident Free Fishing Days will take place the first weekend in May (previously the first weekend in June). Now Ohioans can take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy fishing statewide at an even more productive time of year.



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