Wild Ohio

Spring 2007

MAGAZINE

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Wild Ohio SINCE 1990 MAGAZINE

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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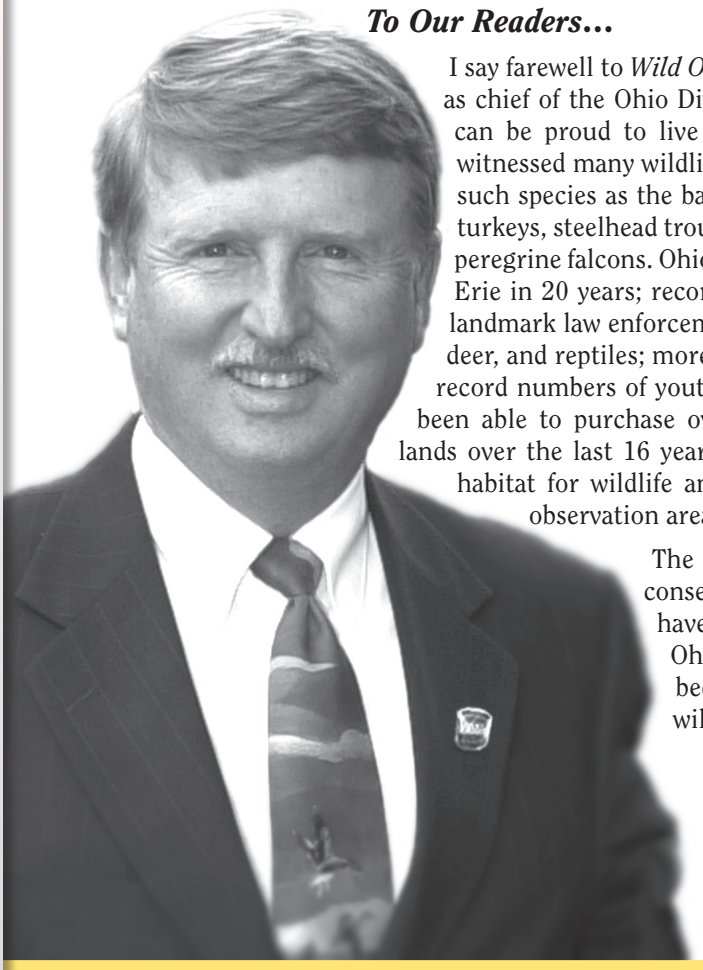

To Our Readers…

I say farewell to *Wild Ohio* Magazine's readership as I will retire as chief of the Ohio Division of Wildlife on March 31. Ohioans can be proud to live in such a wildlife-rich state. We have witnessed many wildlife conservation success stories involving such species as the bald eagle, white-tailed deer, walleye, wild turkeys, steelhead trout, Canada geese, river otters, osprey, and peregrine falcons. Ohio now has the best walleye fishing in Lake Erie in 20 years; record deer harvests and record book bucks; landmark law enforcement cases involving commercial fishing, deer, and reptiles; more opportunities for youth in the field and record numbers of youth hunters. In addition, the Division has been able to purchase over 100,000 acres of additional wildlife lands over the last 16 years. These wildlife areas provide valuable habitat for wildlife and public hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation areas for Ohioans.

The Buckeye State's large coalition of conservation partners and wildlife enthusiasts have made the future bright for wildlife in Ohio and the Division of Wildlife. It has been an honor to lead the best fish and wildlife agency in the country.

Wild Ohio!

Steven A. Gray

Do you have a fishing photo of a catch you're proud of, or a great shot of a cool critter you caught on camera?

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS ONLINE!

Share your photos with other Ohio outdoor enthusiasts by submitting them to the Division of Wildlife's Website at www.wildohio.com. The gallery includes photo categories of hunting, fishing, wildlife, outdoor activities and events, and even historic photos. You can browse photos posted by others and submit photos of your own. To submit a photo, simply follow the instructions on the screen, enter information about your photo, and we'll review and post it. Once online, you can search for your photo and even e-mail it to friends and family. Once you visit the Division's Photo Gallery, you'll want to visit it time and time again!

Sign up for eNewsletter

Don't be left out of the Wild! Sign up for the Division's new WildOhio eNewsletter - your source for news, tips, events, and ideas for experiencing Ohio wildlife! You can subscribe by simply visiting the Website and typing in your e-mail address.

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Wild Ohio
MAGAZINE
Spring 2007 Volume 18, Number 1

Wild Ohio Now a "Wilder" Publication!

Beginning with this spring 2007 issue of Wild Ohio *Magazine, the publication will take on a more modern, "wilder" look. The modifications are a result of comments made by our readers in a Readers' Survey conducted last year. Some of the more prominent changes include moving the "Wild Things" section to the front of the magazine (a quick, easy read about wildlife happenings around the state), and moving the "Watchable Wildlife" article to the centerfold pages. We hope you will like our new look and continue to enjoy* Wild Ohio *Magazine.*

On the Cover:
Peregrine Falcon
Beginning with the release of peregrine falcons by the Division of Wildlife at three Ohio sites from 1989 to 1993, peregrine pairs resided in 18 nest sites last year. Photo by Tim Daniel.

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Collections of the Past **6-9**
Fish Ohio Pins and Other DOW Collectibles • What's in your attic? Division of Wildlife memorabilia are hot collector items.

"Shocking" State Bass Surveys **10-11**
How does catching up to 200 bass per hour sound? Electrofishing surveys provide fisheries biologists reliable information to manage inland bass.

Meet the Columbus Falcons! **16-17**
The Division's FalconCam takes viewers up close and personal with peregrine falcons high atop a Columbus skyscraper.

Where the Wild Things Are! **18-19**
Learning to Coexist with Wildlife Increasing wildlife-human conflicts are often a direct result of our own activities.

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News from around Ohio

TRACK OHIO OSPREY MIGRATION ONLINE

For the second year, wildlife enthusiasts can access the Internet to follow the migration of an osprey that nested in central Ohio. During the summer of 2005, Division biologists attached satellite transmitters to two adult osprey nesting at Alum Creek Lake in Delaware County. The transmitters enabled the biologists to track the birds' movements along their yearly migration route to and from South America; those movements were posted on the Division's Website at http://wildohio.com/wildlife/Resources/osprey/alumcreekosprey.htm.

Last spring, the male of the pair returned safely to Ohio, but the female osprey died in South America. The male paired with another female and successfully reared two chicks. The male departed Alum Creek on his migration to South America last September. Tracking showed that after flying over open water from Florida to Cuba, he made stops in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He then flew across the ocean to Brazil and wintered on some islands on the Amazon River. He traveled about 3,500 miles during his 3 1/2-week journey. The Website will be updated every two weeks until his return this spring.

AEP PROVIDES ADDITIONAL PUBLIC RECREATION LANDS

American Electric Power (AEP) has placed 2,300 acres of its Poston Plant Lands, located in Athens County, into a cooperative management agreement with the Division of Wildlife for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities. AEP has 63,876 acres of land in cooperative agreements with the Division in Athens, Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Perry counties.

Roy Strawser (left), of AEP´s Real Estate Asset Management Group, and Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray (right) sign a cooperative management agreement for for the Poston Plant Lands area in Athens County. Looking on is State Rep. Jimmy Stewart, R-92nd District.

CABLE SHOW HONORS OHIO REHABILITATOR

Mona Rutger, an Ohio wildlife rehabilitator, was named the first "Hero of the Year" by cable television's *Animal Planet* for her work in rescuing thousands of wild animals and educating thousands of people about wildlife conservation. Rutger and her husband Bill operate "Back to the WILD," a wildlife rehabilitation and education center near Castalia, Ohio. *Animal Planet* announced the honor in November as part of its "Heroes Week" series. Rutger was nominated by Dorothy Flounders, of Sandusky, one of the Rutger's staff volunteers.

The Rutgers have been operating the center, which is funded solely by donations, for 15 years. In the round-the-clock operation, they take in some 2,000 injured, orphaned, or displaced animals and reach over 53,000 school children and adults through education programs each year. Rutger will use a $10,000 cash award for operation of the center. She also was awarded a much deserved trip to Hawaii. ("Back to the WILD" was featured in an article in the summer 2005 issue of *Wild Ohio* Magazine.)

FLYING DJIBOUTI

Division of Wildlife Pilot Joe Barber recently got the opportunity to meet Kenyan wildlife officers while on a flight to Nairobi, Kenya. Barber is currently deployed to Djibouti, Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom flying a US Army C-26 airplane throughout the Horn of Africa.

photo by: Tom Cross

TROPHY BUCK BAGGED ON OPENING DAY

Ohio's growing reputation as a trophy whitetail state continues! For the second year in a row, an Ohio hunter killed a 200-class trophy buck on the first day of Ohio deer archery season last September. The 34 point non-typical Adams County buck scored 291⅞. Jonathon Schmucker of Seaman, Ohio killed the buck with a crossbow.

SCOUT HONORED

Northwest Ohio's Field Supervisor Gino Barna presents a Division of Wildlife pin to Bryan Nemire of Berlin Heights to recognize the completion of his Eagle Scout project at Old Woman Creek Reserve. Bryan raised over $1,800 for materials and led fellow scouts of Troop 236 throughout construction of a new boardwalk at the reserve.

SURVEYS LOOKING AT ENDANGERED SALAMANDER

The Division of Wildlife is funding surveys of the endangered Eastern hellbender. The goal of the surveys is to assess the current distribution and status in Ohio, and identify what actions can be taken to ensure this unique amphibian continues to be a part of Ohio's rich natural heritage. In Ohio, hellbenders are found only in the Ohio River drainage. Within this area, they are limited to the highest quality streams and rivers, where oxygen levels are high and pollution and siltation is low. Where hellbenders are found, so are a multitude of other rare and sensitive species, including many endangered fish and mussels.

The Eastern hellbender is North America's largest salamander, growing up to 34 inches long. It is completely aquatic, and its brownish coloration blends in very well with the gravel and rocks on the bottom of streams. If you should capture one of these protected species while fishing, please release it back into the water and report your sighting by e-mail:

GregLipps@aol.com,
or by phone: **1-800-WILDLIFE**.
Hellbenders are not venomous or dangerous animals.

REFLECTIONS OF A TURKEY HUNT

Dear Wild Ohio:

My son Davey was killed in a terrible auto accident two years ago at the age of 15. His whole life revolved around hunting and fishing. He hunted many times at his young age, but sadly a turkey he got was his only successful hunt. His dad Jesse and grandpa George Eppley helped make the hunt successful and one of the happiest days of his life. He was so very proud of himself. The last thing I could do for Davey was to put the photo of him with his turkey on his memorial stone.

Sincerely
Mary Eppley

Wildlife CALENDAR

May 5-6
Free Fishing Days
All state residents are invited to experience Ohio's fantastic fishing without having to purchase a fishing license for these two days.

May 12
International Migratory Bird Day
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area
Ottawa County.
For information, call
(419) 898-0960, ext. 31.

www.wildohio.com/wildlife/calendar

BIRDING ROCKS FOR YOUNG OHIO BIRDERS

Young birders can join the fun of birding with other kids by joining the new Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)! Kids can get involved in birding and the outdoors, meet other young birders, and participate in fun field trips across the state through this new organization.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory and other partners are sponsoring the club to connect young birders with adult mentors, foster an interest in natural history, and to encourage young people to spend more time outdoors. Future activities include numerous field trips, an annual Young Birders Conference, and community outreach and service projects.

OYBC is for young birders between the ages of 12 to 19. To contact OYBC visit:
www.ohioyoungbirders.org,
or by phone: **(419) 898-4070**.

1983 • Mallard
Harry Antis

1984 • Green-winged Teal
Harold Roe

1985 • Redhead
Ronald Louque

1982 • Wood Duck
John Ruthven

COLLECTIONS of the past

Fish Ohio Pins And Other DOW Collectibles

by Melissa Hathaway

Some folks are fishing for more than what swims in Ohio's lakes, rivers, and streams. Collectors are in pursuit of the kind of species that will round out that complete set of Fish Ohio pins, or add to their collection of Ohio hunting licenses or other Division of Wildlife memorabilia.

"You would be amazed at the number of collectors who collect Division of Wildlife items, and the amount of trading that goes on between collectors," said Ken Walter, an avid collector of outdoor memorabilia. Walter and collecting partner Ken Rohal together have one of the largest collections of Division collectibles in the country. The two tag team to attend the various sport, antique, and collector shows displaying much of their outdoor memorabilia in a 20-foot exhibit booth.

COLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

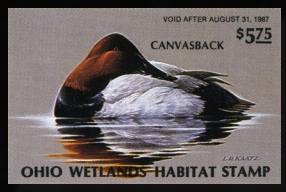
The Fish Ohio Craze

When the Division of Wildlife distributed the first Fish Ohio pins in 1980, it created a new category in the arena of outdoor collectibles. Little did Division officials know that the lapel pins would become such popular fare in the collectors' world of searching, trading, and bartering.

Though ",unofficial," this 1979 Ohio fish pin was the idea of several popular Ohio anglers with Dick Kotis leading the way. The 1979 pin helped spur the first Fish Ohio pin in 1980 and the subsequent program.

"Folks collect a number of Division items, but the Fish Ohio pins take center stage," said Walter. A full set of Fish Ohio pins (26 pins from 1980 to 2006) is worth about $600, maybe as high as $800. A complete set of both Fish Ohio and Master Angler pins can sell for as much as $3,000.

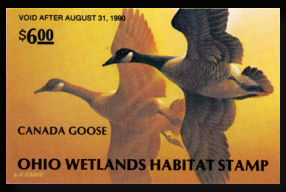
The Fish Ohio Program was created in 1976 to promote fishing in the Buckeye State, boost license sales, and recognize



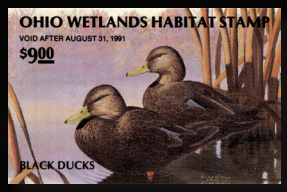
1986 • Canvasback
Lynn Kaatz

1987 • Blue-winged Teal
Harold Roe

1988 • Goldeneye
Cynthie Fisher



1989 • Canada Goose
Lynn Kaatz



1990 • Black Duck
Jon Henson

outstanding catches, according to Vicki Farus, Fish Ohio program coordinator. "It's one of the largest angler recognition programs among state fish and wildlife agencies, and has grown in leaps and bounds to close to 14,000 entrants in 2006 compared to only 138 in the program's first year."

In the years surrounding 1915 it was popular for hunters to proudly display their license. A button form was among the most common. Though very collectible, these "button licenses" were done on a personal preference and by local vendors, hence the different store or clerk names for those of the same year.

To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish from a species category (19 current categories). The Master Angler award, added in 1982, is presented to anglers who catch a qualifying fish from at least four different categories in the same year.

During the first four years, Fish Ohio award recipients received only a certificate. In 1980, the first Fish Ohio lapel pin was awarded in addition to the certificate. The first several pins in the series (1980-1984) are the most valuable, as with most collectibles, because the older pins are the most difficult to find and fewer pins were awarded in the program's infancy.

According to Walter, the 1980 and 1981 pins are worth about $200 to $250; 1982 pin: $80, 1983 pin: $70 to $75, 1984 pin: $50, and 1985 pin: $35. More recent pins go for $5 to $10. The price goes up if you have the corresponding certificate to go with the pin.

Master Angler pins are worth even more than Fish Ohio pins. "Probably the most valuable single pin issued in the Fish Ohio Program is the 1983 Master Angler pin, worth up to $300. It was only the second year of the Master Angler Program and there was low mintage of the pin accompanied by a low source of supply. The 1982 pin, the first Master Angler pin, is the second most sought after."

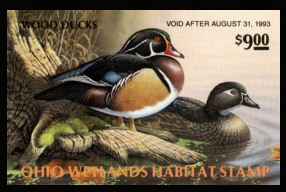
The fish species represented on the pin does not make any difference in the value of the pin, according to Walter. Some qualifying Fish Ohio anglers assume they will receive a pin depicting the species they caught, but that is not how it works. The Division of Wildlife selects a different species each year in designing the pins. Every angler who receives a pin during that year gets the same pin design.

Gene Whitten, graphic artist for the Division of Wildlife, has designed every Fish Ohio pin for the past 27 years. The very first pin issued in 1980 was a smallmouth bass design made of pewter, according to Whitten. The 10 most popular sport fish species were reproduced on pins 1980–1989, then repeated for the following 10 years. The smallmouth bass was repeated

1918 Hunter's License

for the third time in 2000, also made of pewter, but was radically redesigned to commemorate 20 years of Fish Ohio pins. The 2000 Master Angler pins were also made of pewter, but were plated with an antique gold finish. The pin size and design were changed beginning in 2001, and included some species that had not been previously used.

1991 • Greater Scaup
Gregory Clair



1992 • Wood Duck
Samuel Timm

1993 • Buffleheads
Kenneth Nanney

1994 • Mallard
Richard Clifton

1995 • Pintail
Ron Kleiber

1930-1949

1950-1953

1954-1960

1961-1992

"My favorite pins are the 1983 set of regular and Master Angler pins, depicting a largemouth bass," Whitten said. The design, the quality of manufacture, and the beautiful cloisonné (vitreous enamel) colors make this a very attractive pair."

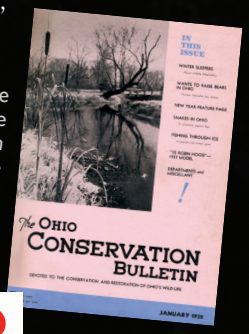
Whitten recently designed a new Fish Ohio pin, based on the 20th edition design, for the recently created Grand Slam program. It will be made of pewter, but will be plated with an antique gold color, like the 2000 Master Angler pins.

COLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

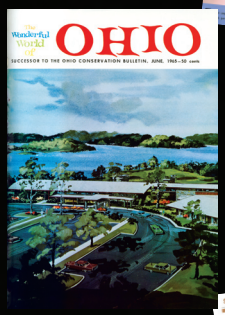
More "Hot" Collectibles

Other popular Division of Wildlife collectibles include hunting and fishing licenses, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamps, game law digests, Division uniform patches, and law enforcement badges. Ohio hunting licenses are very popular and can render top dollar. Ohio's very first resident hunting license issued in 1913 can bring in as much as $500, according to Walter. Other hunting licenses that are in high demand include the 1938 celluloid back tag and 1939 metal back tag. These were issued along with the licenses and were intended to be worn on the back of the hunter's jacket.

"Many collectors get started from the stack of licenses they have accumulated from putting each year's license in the pouch of their hunting coat," Walter said. "I already had about 15 hunting licenses I had purchased during past hunting seasons. When my dad offered me the licenses he had been putting in his hunting coat since 1940, I became an instant collector with hunting licenses from 1940 to 1972."



1938 marked the first issue of the *Ohio Conservation Bulletin* by the Division of Conversation



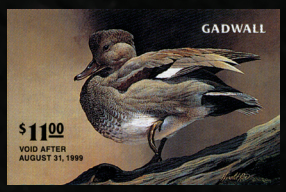
The June issue in 1965 introduced *The Wonderful World of Ohio* as the successor to the *Ohio Conservation Bulletin* by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

And by 1990 *Wild Ohio* Magazine made its debut produced by the Division of Wildlife

Of particular interest to collectors are turkey hunting permits from the 1960s. Turkey licenses were only issued from 1966 on so there were not a great number of them distributed.

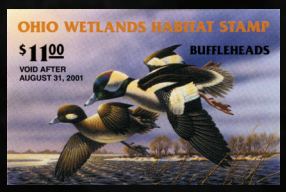
1996 • Hooded Merganser
Harold Roe

1997 • American Wigeon
D.J. Cleland-Hura



1998 • Gadwall
Harold Roe

1999 • Mallard
Timothy F. Donovan



2000 • Buffleheads
Mark Anderson

Certain deer permits are difficult to find as well. Ohio did not have an open deer season until 1943, and it included only three southern Ohio counties. The most difficult of all Ohio deer permits to find is the1961 permit. Ohio did not hold a deer season that year; however, special permits were issued for a controlled hunt at the Ravenna Arsenal.

"If someone is collecting hunting and fishing licenses, they probably have the game and fishing laws too," Walter said. "The old game laws have become valuable to collectors as historical records. For instance, none of the collectors could find deer permits for 1949, 1951, and 1954. After collecting and reading old game law digests, we discovered there were no deer seasons those years."

Ohio's only fishing stamps render top dollar. The state's only trout stamp was issued from 1934 to 1937, and Pymatuning fishing stamps were issued from 1938 to 1946. The extremely rare Pymatuning stamps are worth as much as $300. There were also Pymatuning hunting stamps issued from 1938 to 1945.

Walter also noted that the Division's old Conservation Bulletins, *Wonderful World of Ohio* magazines, and most recently Wild Ohio Magazines are also of interest to collectors.

The popularity of particular items comes and goes, says Walter. One day it's hot, the next day it's not. When he began collecting, Ohio hunting licenses were bringing a much higher price than they do today. "For whatever reason, maybe there's just less interest, or maybe the active collectors have what they need. It's the same with any collectable. For instance, take antique lures; for awhile Heddon lures might be hot, then the next thing you know Creek Chubs are hot."

People collect outdoor memorabilia for a number of reasons. Walter's passion for collecting fish and game collectibles stems from his childhood. "Since I was a little boy, I've had an urge to be involved in the outdoors. My father and I hunted and fished a lot together and he instilled in me good sportsmanship. My collection is another way of connecting with the outdoors and preserving special memories of hunting and fishing."

One way to get started in collecting Division of Wildlife memorabilia is to visit Walter's and Rohal's display booth at the Cleveland Sports Show held each March at the I-X Center. Other sources to find collectibles include antique and collector shows, flea markets, and the Internet including eBay.

Ken Walter (left) and Ken Rohal (right) are among a few elite collectors of historical Division relics and wildlife related paraphernalia.

Pre 1913
Ohio Fish & Game
Commission Badges

Buckeye State Bass Surveys are "SHOCKING"

by Rich Zweifel and Chris Goings

About one-in-four fishing trips to Ohio reservoirs are made by anglers chasing largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. Success varies among the bass-fishing faithful, but none rivals the catches of Division of Wildlife crews dedicated to ensuring that Buckeye bass fishing remains among the best in the Midwest.

How does catching up to 200 bass per hour sound? The method is shocking and the results are awesome! Division biologists routinely use electricity to monitor bass populations throughout the state. Carefully trained crews use specialized boats called "electrofishers" or "electrofishing boats," which put an electrical charge into the water, to catch ("electrofish") bass in streams, rivers, and reservoirs. This approach provides biologists the population information they need to manage bass fishing in a way that is safe for fish.

It's true – water and electricity do not mix so don't try this yourself. However, the electricity applied by an electrofishing boat is carefully regulated to draw fish towards the boat. The fish are temporarily "stunned," and the stunned fish are netted from the front of the boat and placed in a large livewell until they can be counted, measured, weighed, and returned to the water.

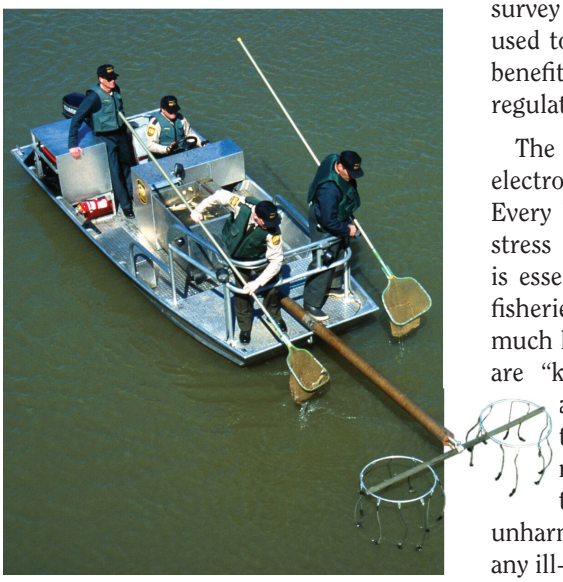
STATE BASS SURVEY

Electrofying Results

Electrofishing boats are comprised of the boat, generator, a control box, and the droppers. The boats are designed with safety in mind, because a person falling into the water with the electricity running could be seriously injured. All electrofishing boats are equipped with a large front deck surrounded by a guard rail to prevent the crew members that are dipping fish from falling into the water. Also, each crew member has a "safety switch" that automatically turns off the power if anyone was to fall overboard.

A gas-powered generator provides the electricity and a control box modifies the electrical current to fine-tune the size and strength of the electrical field produced. Electricity enters the water through steel cable droppers which are mounted on long booms deployed from the front of the boat. The current travels from the generator, is modified as it passes through the control box, and moves down the droppers into the water, creating an electrical field that's about four to six feet deep and 10 to 12 feet wide. The boat is motored parallel to the shoreline, moving the electrical field up the shore to areas that are likely to hold bass.

It is often not necessary to electrofish the entire shoreline of a reservoir to get the bass population information biologists need. Typically, electrofishing only a fraction of a reservoir shoreline is sufficient to determine the health of a bass population. The number of shoreline sections that are sampled during a survey depends on the size of the reservoir. As few as four samples are collected from the smallest reservoirs and as many as 18 locations are sampled at the largest reservoirs.



In clear water, bass can see the boat coming long before the electrical field makes it to them, giving the fish plenty of time to vacate the area and avoid being caught. However, no matter what the water clarity is like during the day, after the sun goes down bass are less likely to see the boat coming. Electrofishing surveys are typically conducted after sunset to reduce the number of fish that avoid the boat, which provides a better indication of how many bass are actually living on a section of shoreline.

STATE BASS SURVEY

A Safe & Reliable Method

An advantage of using electrofishing to survey bass populations is that it provides reliable information on the overall health of a bass population and allows biologists to compare populations throughout the state. The data collected provide biologists with the information they need to produce and maintain quality bass fisheries. This information provides insights into the numbers of bass in a reservoir, reproductive success, growth, and year-to-year survival. Biologists use these electrofishing data to determine whether bass numbers are increasing, decreasing, or stable over time, and how quickly bass are growing relative to the other populations in the state. Electrofishing survey information is also used to evaluate the potential benefits of adding or removing harvest regulations.

The most important benefit of electrofishing is that it is safe for bass. Every bass counts, and minimizing the stress to the fish as they are collected is essential to protect and manage bass fisheries properly. The electricity acts much like an anesthetic, in that the bass are "knocked-out" for a few minutes allowing biologists the opportunity to collect the information they need. After the fish "wake up" they are released and swim off unharmed. It is very rare for fish to suffer any ill-effects from electrofishing.

STATE BASS SURVEY

Maintaining Quality

There are hundreds of lakes and reservoirs in Ohio that are managed by the Division of Wildlife, and bass can be found in just about all of them. The sheer number of bass lakes in the state makes it virtually impossible for Division biologists to survey every bass population in every year. However, every bass population is valuable and it's important to check up on the populations in even the smallest reservoirs as often as possible. The frequency of surveys directed at a bass population is based on fishing pressure and reservoir size. Bass populations in the state's larger reservoirs receive a tremendous amount of fishing pressure and are typically surveyed every year, while smaller reservoirs that receive little bass fishing pressure are surveyed less frequently.

Electrofishing is an effective method for catching bass in Ohio's many reservoirs. These surveys provide biologists with the information they need to maintain quality bass populations throughout the state, in a way that is safe for the bass that are collected. Bass are an extremely valuable component of Ohio's reservoir fish communities and with the information gained from electrofishing surveys, Division biologists will ensure that our bass populations will continue to thrive for years to come.

Ohio's watchable wildlife
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

PEREGRINE AT A GLANCE

PEAK BREEDING ACTIVITY:
Late March through May

INCUBATION PERIOD:
32 - 34 days, April through early June

CLUTCH SIZE:
Average four eggs

YOUNG ARE HATCHED:
May through June

YOUNG:
Fledge at 35 - 42 days

ADULT WEIGHT:
Females • 1.6 - 2.4 pounds
Males • 1.0 - 1.5 pounds

ADULT HEIGHT:
Females • 18 - 20 inches
Males • 16 - 18 inches

ADULT WINGSPAN:
Females • 37.2 - 40 inches
Males • 31.4 - 35.6 inches

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
Up to 12 - 18 years in the wild, but this is very rare

TYPICAL FOODS:
Songbirds, doves, shorebirds, waterfowl, colonial nesting and flocking birds

WHOA NELLIE! *"There's a peregrin*

by Tim Daniel

Steve Pollick of *The Toledo Blade* called the Division of Wildlife with these landmark words back in May of 1988. Pollick, who is an outdoor writer for *The Blade*, was the first to discover the nest that got it all started in Ohio. When this female, nicknamed "Nellie" landed in Toledo on the Commodore Perry Motor Inn she and her mate "Commodore Perry Grine" would be the first peregrine falcons ever recorded to nest in our state.

How times have changed! Less than 20 years ago, this noble bird that has been described as "a crossbow piercing the sky" seemed an unlikely resident in the Buckeye State. But due to the population recovery program, in 2006 there were a total of 19 nest sites with 18 of the pairs producing eggs.

Peregrine falcons did not historically nest in Ohio, but Nellie changed all of that when she came to Toledo from St. Catherine's, Ontario. The Division of Wildlife's statewide introduction program started soon after in Columbus with the release – or hacking – of five falcons from the Rhodes State Office Tower in downtown Columbus. The hacking program continued from 1989 to 1993 with a total release of 46 peregrine falcons in the cities of Akron, Cincinnati, and Columbus. The release program was part of a Midwest effort to restore the population of this endangered species. Established pairs return to the same breeding territory, and often the same city building, year after year.

Before the Toledo nest in 1988 there were few records of peregrines seen during the summer months in Ohio. The only opportunity to see these birds prior to 1988 was during migration in the spring and fall. However, now that the Midwest population has recovered, fall migrants are regularly seen from late September to late October, mainly along Lake Erie from the Central Basin west. Sightings in the interior of the state are usually near open areas or large bodies of water where prey species are more numerous.

Peregrines are a distinctive looking bird of prey. The head and neck area are blackish with a dark wedge extending below the eyes that forms a "helmet" or hooded appearance. Depending on the age of the falcon, the color of the back ranges from a slate gray to rich brown. Adults are spotted on the upper breast and barred on the abdomen while young birds have a vertically streaked front.

e nest on Commodore Perry!"

Traditionally, peregrines are found in regions of open habitat with tall cliffs and are probably best known for their remarkable flight speed in pursuit of prey. Prey is spotted from a perch or while circling high in the sky. The falcon attacks by swooping; the wings are folded so that they are nearly parallel, and the bird dives headfirst toward its prey at speeds that may exceed 200 mph! The falcon will then strike the prey with its talons, usually killing it upon impact. Any small- to medium-sized bird can be a target for the peregrine; however, birds that nest in colonies and those that flock are more susceptible to the falcon's aerial approach. They typically catch and eat doves, songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, but prey species can vary depending upon habitat, geographical location, and time of year.

The Division of Wildlife's Peregrine Falcon Management Program is funded by contributions to the Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Fund (State Income Tax Check-off donations and Wildlife Conservation license plate sales). See related story on page 16 of this issue.

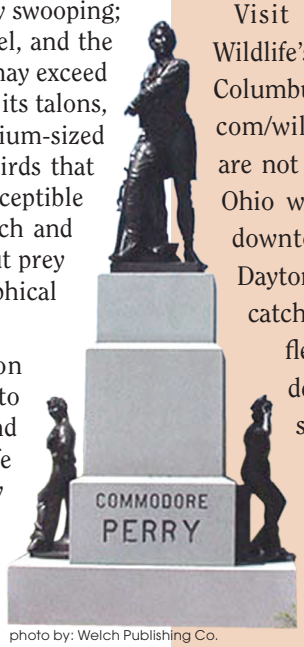


photo by: Welch Publishing Co.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's FalconCam to check out the Columbus, Ohio peregrine falcons' nest (http://wildohio.com/wildlife/falcons/default.htm). Peregrine falcons are not easy to view. The best chance to see a falcon in Ohio would be to scan the sky near tall buildings in downtown Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton or Toledo from March through July. You may catch a glimpse of an adult peregrine hunting or a fledgling learning to master flying. Binoculars are definitely needed to get a good look. At some nest sites cameras provide a video feed to either the Internet or television monitors in the lobby of the building where peregrines nest so that the public can watch the activities of the falcons.

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

DISTRICT FIVE CONCLUDES TWO POACHING CASES

Wildlife District Five in Xenia recently wrapped up two of the state's biggest poaching investigations in Division history. The investigations involved two separate cases where 11 poachers were involved in the illegal shooting of close to 150 deer and other wild animals, including wild turkeys and ducks. Both investigations were initiated from citizen's tips.

The two cases combined netted 149 charges, 62 years of hunting license revocation, over $19,370 in fines and restitutions, and forfeiture of 15 guns, deer racks, meat, and mounts (ducks and turkeys).

"Operation Tenderloin" involved seven poachers in Clermont and Brown counties who illegally killed almost 100 deer over a three month time period during the fall of 2005. The men used spotlights, rifles, and shotguns to kill the deer at night solely to obtain venison tenderloin. A total of 127 charges resulted in more than $15,480 in fines. The seven also forfeited 12 firearms, deer mounts and antlers, and had their hunting licenses suspended.

The seven men charged were Keith D. Fille and Francis Fille of Amelia, Jonathan M. Arnold and William Adam Craver of Batavia, Elam I. Atkins of Williamsburg, and Guy L. Davis and Chad Glinsky, both of Sloatsburg, N.Y.

"Operation Velvet" involved four poachers in Butler and Hamilton counties who illegally killed deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl. Over 50 deer were taken from August to November 2005, when the bucks' antlers were covered in "velvet." The same group illegally took numerous wild turkeys and ducks in March. A total of 21 charges resulted in $3,980 in fines. The group forfeited deer mounts and antlers, a crossbow, two rifles, and a shotgun.

The four men charged were Shawn Harris, a taxidermist from Fairfield who mounted the animals for the group; Michael Harris of Okeana, Ohio and David Scott Lewis and Joseph Lewis of Hooven, Ohio.

"OPERATION E&T" ENDS WITH FINAL CONVICTION

The last of a string of convictions related to "Operation E&T," an investigation into the illegal trafficking of reptiles and amphibians, was handed down last August in Delaware County Common Pleas Court. The final case concluded two years of undercover work and three years of court proceedings.

Cliff Harvey, of Columbus, was found guilty of selling native reptiles and amphibians without the proper permits, a fifth-degree felony. The value of the animals raised the offense from misdemeanor to felony level. He was ordered to pay $2,500 in fines and $10,600 in restitution, serve 90 days in jail, perform 150 hours of community service, and remain on probation for five years.

The Ohio portion of the multi-state and federal enforcement action resulted in more than 200 charges being filed against 35 individuals. Convictions led to a total of $16,401 in fines and $29,999 in restitution paid.

Regulations Afield...

How Well Do You Know Ohio's Wildlife Laws?

Test your knowledge of Ohio's hunting and fishing regulations. The Division's law enforcement staff has provided a few of the most commonly asked questions about wildlife laws. Do you know the answers?

1. How many wild turkeys can a hunter take during the spring turkey season?
2. What is considered "snagging?"

Answers on page 19

Does Lure Color Matter?

Anglers in the lure section of a tackle shop or discount store are like kids in a candy shop. With more lures on the market than Carter's has pills, and each one available in a cornucopia of colors, anglers can be baffled at which lures to buy. Lure manufacturers are constantly introducing new colors with names such as green pumpkin candy, watermelon silver flake, and grape/white tail. That leads to the age-old question: Does lure color matter? Here is what several Division of Wildlife fisheries biologists had to say on the subject.

Travis Hartman

fisheries biologist and avid angler

"The importance of lure color varies greatly by the species that you are targeting. I primarily troll Lake Erie for walleye. Even though I like to collect every crankbait color under the sun, I would rate color very low on my list of importance for filling my livewell. The single most important factor is first finding the fish you are targeting, and then presenting the right type of lure at the proper depth and speed to make them hit."

"However, I still like to be "in the ballpark" when it comes to color. In clear water, I have had the best results with natural color patterns (white with other colors thrown in for contrast) that imitate gizzard shad and emerald shiners -- walleyes' primary prey. I also like baits that are predominantly gold, chrome, or holographic to mimic the appearance of shad. In stained water with reduced light penetration, bright fluorescent colors such as firetigers and also darker, even black baits, work best. The name of the game is using something that the fish can see, and that can mean bright baits that stick out or dark baits that silhouette against their surroundings when the water is dirty."

Jeff Tyson

fisheries research supervisor and Lake Erie fisherman

"Yes, absolutely color matters in lure selection. However, certain principles of fish vision, the behavior of light as it penetrates water, and depth and location of the fish may be as important as lure color."

"Most fish can see in color. However, depending upon a fishes' feeding behavior (night feeding vs. day feeding) and the "color" of the water, different colors perform differently. Different colors of light travel through water differently. Colors with long wavelengths (such as red and orange) are absorbed first in the water column, and at depth appear black or gray (or essentially disappear), while colors with short wavelengths (such as blue and purple) travel much deeper into the water column and remain visible much deeper in the water. At depths where there is almost no light, white or silver lures tend to show up better."

Phil Hillman

fisheries management supervisor and steelhead expert

"Fish that have a well-developed cone system (usually day-time feeders) can oftentimes separate colors. Some research has demonstrated that shallow-water fishes have color vision and can detect 24 different color hues. Some fish may even exceed man's range of color vision by extending into the violet range. By using colors that are bright under the right conditions, anglers can increase their chances of getting a strike."

"Fish that have an abundance of rods, such as catfish, (usually night-time feeders) can differentiate between black and white; everything else appears gray."

Kevin Ramsey

law enforcement supervisor and flyfishing instructor

"Color is important under most circumstances. Sometimes if fish are feeding on a particular prey item in clear or semi-clear water, matching the overall color of the bait is important as long as you also match the general size and shape of the prey item. Color is also important in stained water, but its importance is based more on the fishes' ability to see the bait rather than to identify it based on its exact color patterning. In these instances colors like black, orange, red, chartreuse, and other more vibrant colors often work well. At night black works very well. This is due to the color black standing out against a lighter background particularly when fish are looking up against the night sky and silhouetting bait against it."

MEET THE COLUMBUS FALCONS

by Melissa Hathaway

Webcams may seem like the latest and greatest gadget, but they do allow us interesting opportunities. Such is the case with the Division of Wildlife's FalconCam, which gives us the chance to look into the lives of an elusive bird of prey—the peregrine falcon. Consequently, many people from Ohio and beyond, from school children to retired folks, have become dedicated FalconCam fans watching the every move of nesting peregrines on a ledge of the Rhodes State Office Tower in downtown Columbus.

Their fascination doesn't stop with simply watching eggs hatch and nestlings grow up and learn to fly. Our fans want to know what happens to the fledglings after they leave the nest—and so do we.

Banding of birds to track their movements and habits is one of the oldest wildlife management practices that is still used today because of the wealth of information these leg bands can provide biologists. Each year Division of Wildlife biologists place identification leg bands on the young falcons hatched in each of Ohio's peregrine falcon nests. Reports of these band numbers have revealed where many Ohio peregrine offspring have traveled, settled down and raised young of their own, or met their maker in some unfortunate cases.

Since Ohio's peregrine falcon program began 18 years ago, the state's nesting birds have produced over 400 offspring that have dispersed across Ohio, nearby states, and Canada. A record 60 peregrine chicks fledged Ohio nests in 2006 to begin their wanderings.

THE COLUMBUS PEREGRINES

A Long Family Lineage

The peregrine falcons that have made Columbus their home over the years come from a long line of prolific breeders beginning with female Aurora and male Bandit, the city's first successful nesting peregrines in 1994. This nesting pair successfully raised 19 young at the nest on the 41st floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower from 1994 until 1998 when Aurora was found unable to fly. She was sent to The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota for medical care, but later died. This matriarchal female had originally been released from Aurora, Canada, and was recognized at the time as one of the top 10 producing female peregrines in the Midwest. Bandit went on to help raise five more young, but is believed to have died in the summer of 2003.

Nonetheless, their legacy lives on. Leg band reports have given us much information about the movements and longevity of a number of Aurora and Bandit's offspring. Two of the earliest offspring include males, Roosevelt and Leopold, both of whom fledged the Columbus nest in 1995 along with three other young falcons. Roosevelt set up a nesting territory with a female in 1997 atop the American Electric Power office building in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He has helped rear a whopping 34 young in the past 10 years and is still going strong. Leopold moved to Monroe, Michigan, where he has been nesting since 1997 at the Detroit Edison Monroe Power Plant. He has raised 17 young peregrines.

Male peregrine Buckeye, a fledgling from the 1996 nest with three other siblings, showed up in Cleveland in 1998. After cruising the skies around Case Western Reserve University for two years, he moved to Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland and set up a nesting territory. Buckeye has raised 25 young falcons throughout his tenure and remains at Terminal Tower.

Another Columbus male peregrine has been more successful in rearing chicks in an academic setting. Erie, a fledgling from the 1998 nest with two other siblings, arrived in Pittsburgh, PA and set up a nesting territory at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. He has helped produce 18 offspring.

To find out more about the Columbus peregrines and their offspring, visit:
www.wildohio.com/falcons/default.htm

THE COLUMBUS PEREGRINES

Long Distance Travelers

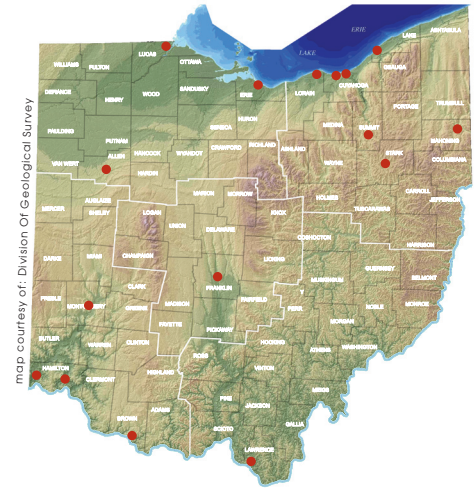
The word "peregrine" means "wanderer" in Latin, so you should not be surprised to learn that peregrines are well known for their ability to travel long and varied distances. Leg-band reports of Columbus-fledged Nina (female from the 1994 nest) give a great illustration of this characteristic. After leaving the Columbus nest in 1994, she was reported in Guntersville, Alabama in February of 1995. A few months later in June, she was reported in London, Ontario. Then, amazingly the next January (1996) she was seen again in Alabama! Her travels included a roundtrip of about 1,600 miles in less than 12 months.

Other long distance travelers include Columbus female Pinta (also from the 1994 nest) who was reported from as far away as Bishop, Texas, and Columbus male Hunter (2000 nest) who maintains a nesting territory in Ontario, Canada.

Besides reports of our Ohio birds traveling far and wide, leg band reports have also helped Division biologists document other peregrines traveling through the Buckeye State. For example, a peregrine banded in Alaska was discovered injured in the Cincinnati area during the fall migration. The FalconCam helped us identify an adult female who spent at least two winters in Columbus; she was banded in Quebec, Canada.

THE COLUMBUS PEREGRINES

Do You Live Near A Nest



map courtesy of: Division Of Geological Survey

THE COLUMBUS PEREGRINES

LIVE on the Web

Look for the current pair of Columbus falcons on the Division of Wildlife's FalconCam this spring! Orville and Victory, the current pair of peregrine falcons nesting on the 41st floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower, will hopefully return to their nest for another season of exciting events. Live streaming will begin on the Website as soon as nesting activity begins in the spring. Once eggs are laid (usually in mid- to late March), the female will do most of the incubation duty, which takes about 33 days. If all goes well, watch the eggs hatch LIVE, probably in late April. Check out the Columbus FalconCam at:
www.wildohio.com/falcons/default.htm

Justin Stoner of Brookside Elementary School in Worthington helped band "Sonic" from the 2005 nest. He was one of the winners that year in an annual contest for school students to select a nickname for the young falcons produced in Columbus.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

by Theresa Montgomery

At the flashpoint where human and wildlife populations meet, in areas both urban and rural, conflict frequently erupts. At issue, in part, is the question of how to perceive the nature of the trespasser. Are people moving in on wildlife, or are wildlife intruding on people? Increasing conflicts result from a combination of the two, said Damon Greer, assistant wildlife management supervisor for the Division of Wildlife.

"It's very dynamic," Greer said. "I've been working with it every day for nine years, and I still don't have an answer to it."

Many of the oppositional situations created between wildlife and human populations are a direct result of our own activities, such as leaving pet food outside for our dogs. Animals, such as raccoons, are attracted to such easy food sources.

"Sometimes, what people don't want to hear is that they're responsible for the problem, and that some minor modifications can correct it."

Greer said he usually hears from people when they are caught in a negative interaction with wildlife, "whether it's an overabundance of deer, or a skunk in your chimney that sprays every night. My concern is that people learn a certain level of tolerance."

A convergence of several factors, including the ability to adapt to and thrive in human-dominated environments, has caused a resurgence of several wildlife species in Ohio. "Black bear are some of the newest pioneers into our state. They are literally making their comeback as we speak. So, we are seeing the conflicts that result."

When people encounter species they are not familiar with, their reaction is often one of fear. People have an innate alarm that can go off at the mere sight of an animal, such as the black bear. Some fear comes from the sheer size of the animal. Some comes from misconceptions and perceptions put forth in the media that can leave people misinformed.

"But it's just a black bear. If somebody's attacked by one, because it's so rare, it makes the national news."

Black bear in Ohio are typically young males migrating in from Pennsylvania, looking for new habitat. One of the first urban areas they encounter is the city of Youngstown. That's usually when Greer receives a call. "People have it surrounded in a small woodlot. Officers have their guns drawn. It's a very intense situation," he said.

At the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Lisa Petit has also seen the public's growing unease, as wildlife is perceived as getting too close for comfort. In her capacity as chief of Science and Resource Management, Petit feels that's where education about the real risks - or lack thereof - is important.

"Dangers posed from wildlife are almost nonexistent, compared to the dangers we face daily in an urban or suburban area," Petit said.

Coyotes conjure images of wolves in people's minds, setting off concerned reactions in those who see them. The risk from domestic dogs, statistically, is much higher than any faced from wild animals such as the coyote, she said. Animals that carry disease, such as raccoons or skunks, are actually much more of a threat to humans. Yet the

sight of a coyote or browsing bear can be much more frightening to people.

"When people come to a park, they expect to see wildlife. But when they go back to their homes, they feel the wildlife have somehow crossed a boundary into what they consider to be their own space," Petit said.

Frances Kitchen, founder and director of Operation Orphan Wildlife, questions this tendency to perceive animals as intruders. Kitchen was inducted in 2001 into the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame, created by ODNR, for her years of work as a wildlife rehabilitator.

Every day, Kitchen sees the harmful results of human encroachment and the removal of natural habitat on any number of animal and bird species. "They're not in our backyard. We're in their front yard. As humans get deeper into animal territory, animals are getting deeper into human territory."

Educational programming is crucial as human encounters with wildlife increase, Kitchen said. Petting a fawn in the wild, or taking an infant bird into the home in an attempt to save it, can do much more harm than good.

Only state licensed wildlife rehabilitators may take wildlife into their homes. "It's against the law to keep them," said Jim White, former wildlife rehabilitator, of those without a state license who take in wildlife. "They don't know how to take care of them."

Until his retirement two years ago, White, spent years restoring wildlife to eventual freedom in its natural habitat. He particularly focused on fawns. Often, they were brought to White by those who had seen the doe killed in a car accident. Noticing the newly orphaned fawn nearby, they would bring it to their home, in an attempt to save its life. Would-be caretakers would soon realize the animal's health was failing. In seeking information about how to care for the fawn, they would learn their actions were illegal. By the time White was notified, the fawn was often so sickly its survival was in jeopardy. Those that recovered, he released.

Kitchen advised, "Let the wild be wild. We need to learn to coexist."

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Leave Baby Wildlife Alone!

In the spring or early summer urban dwellers may discover a nest of birds, a baby rabbit, white-tailed deer fawn, or other animal with no adult in sight. The best thing to do is leave it alone. Young animals have little chance of surviving when taken from their natural habitat.

Wildlife are very devoted parents and rarely abandon their young. Many species of animals are raised by one adult that often spends a lot of time away from its offspring in search of the next meal and to avoid attracting predators. And it is not true that wildlife will abandon their young if touched by a human.

If you are certain the animal(s) has been abandoned, you can find a nearby rehabilitator by visiting the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Website at www.owra.org.

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Regulations Afield Answers

1. Two, with a second turkey permit. Refer to the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Brochure (Publication 85) for more information.

2. Hooking a fish in a part of the body other than the inside of the mouth is snagging and is illegal for all fish except forage fish. Snagging often occurs with heavy concentrations of fish during the spring spawning runs on the Sandusky and Maumee rivers. Any snagged fish must be released immediately. Check the 2007-2008 Ohio Fishing Regulations Brochure (Publication 84) for more special regulations in effect during these spawning runs.

LEARNING TO COEXIST WITH WILDLIFE

Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel

Editor's note: This owl was evidently fatigued from its ordeal and so was able to be held by the wings. However, for the safety of the handler and that of the bird, the proper way to hold a raptor would be to wear leather gloves and to grasp the legs of the bird at the body.

Q: Here is a photo of an owl that was tangled in a net that covered a batting cage. My friend, Donald Livi, freed it. What kind of owl is this?

Joe Smaltz, Niles, Ohio

A: This is Ohio's largest owl species, the great horned owl. The great horned owl stands two feet high. Sometimes, they do fly into soccer goal netting and other nettings and get caught. The females will start incubating eggs in February which makes them one of our earliest nesting birds!! They mainly eat mice and rabbits. Since they have no sense of smell they will also take a skunk.

Q: Here is a photo of my daughter and grandson by a 13-foot, 6.5-inch tall sunflower. How big will sunflowers grow?

Jim Carlton
Chippewa Lake, Ohio

A: According to the 2004 Guinness World Records, the tallest sunflower on record was just over 25 feet tall!! Sunflowers are an excellent way to introduce children to gardening for wildlife. They are easy to plant and grow and are a great nectar source for bees and other pollinators. Best of all, when ripe, the seeds will be readily eaten by birds including mourning doves and goldfinches. To save sunflower heads until winter: as soon as the petals drop, cover individual heads with a nylon stocking. When ripe, store heads in a freezer until you're ready to put them out for the birds.

Q: There seems to be a lot of Canada geese. They aren't on the endangered species list, are they?

Ruth Meister, Cleveland, Ohio

A: Canada geese are not on the endangered list, in fact, they are a popular game bird with hunting season taking place in the fall of the year. In urban areas there is an abundance of prime goose habitat (mowed grass and ponds) and most cities do not allow hunting, so the number of geese in urban areas can multiply rapidly.

Dealing with problem Canada geese

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE STEPS TO DISCOURAGE THEM:

- Never feed geese or any other waterfowl, and turn pond aerators off in winter allowing water to freeze, forcing geese to move on.
- To prevent nesting, harass the geese--chase them completely off your property (not just into the water) as many times as needed to make them stay away.
- Do not chase geese that have a nest with eggs-they will not leave their eggs.
- Consider long-term changes to your landscape—geese like short, mowed grass. Tall/thick ornamental grasses and landscape plants will act as a barrier around the perimeter of your pond and will help to discourage geese.
- If legal and feasible on your property, goose hunting is very effective in reducing goose numbers, and scaring the remaining birds away.
- Contact the nearest wildlife district office for complete information on the best techniques for your situation.

Do you have a question that you've always wondered about concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send your questions to: address on the right. 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.

***Wild Ohio* Magazine**, Attention: Melissa Hathaway, Editor, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870, *or e-mail* melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us.

Backyards for Wildlife

For Wild Kids

TO OUR WILD KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS

by Mary Warren

To Our Wild Kids!

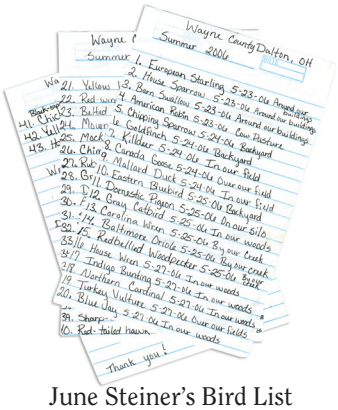
The "For Wild Kids" page in the summer 2006 issue of *Wild Ohio* Magazine included an activity entitled "Name That Bird!" Our "Wild Kids" were encouraged to make a list of all the birds they saw during the summer. A number of readers compiled very extensive bird lists, and some of our readers included photos or drawings of some of the birds they saw.

We were very pleased with the many lists we received, and hope you are enjoying the free Ohio Bird CD we mailed to all who mailed us their list. We only regret that we received so many bird lists that we can not publish them all in the magazine. We hope you will continue to learn about and appreciate the many birds that nest in and migrate through our state.

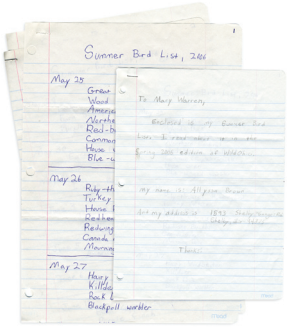
Happy Birding,

Mary Warren, naturalist

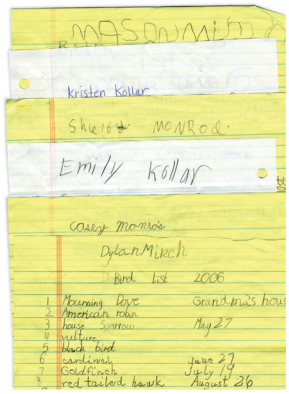
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area



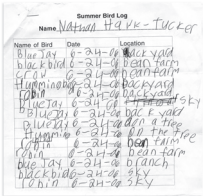
June Steiner's Bird List
Dalton, Ohio



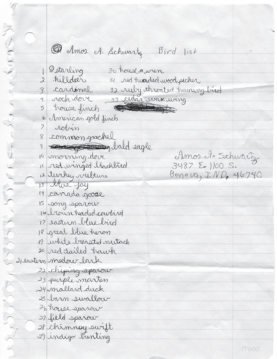
Allyssa Brown's Bird List
Shelby, Ohio



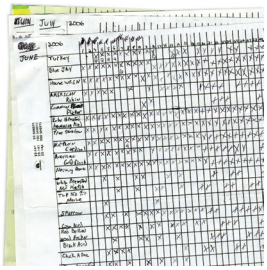
Casey & Shelby Monroe
Emily & Kristen Kollar and
Dylan & Mason Bird Lists
Kansas, Ohio



Nathan Hawk-Tucker's
Bird List
Goshen, Ohio



Amos Schwartz's
Bird List
Geneva, Ohio



Tinothy Mohler's
Bird List
Frazeysburg, Ohio

Great Blue Heron,
seen by the Hannah
and Luke Helton of
Middletown, Ohio

Northern Cardinal,
seen by Ben and
Mackenzie Kennedy
of Clarksville, Ohio

Thanks

We want to thank the many parents and grandparents who helped our youngest "Wild Kids" identify birds and make their lists. You are never too young to start birding! One grandmother wrote that she used the activity to teach her three-year-old granddaughter the birds by their color.

Wild Game Gourmet

recipes

Wild Game Gourmet • photos by Tim Daniel
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on **Wild Ohio** *Video Magazine*

Wild Turkey with Creamy Paprika Sauce

1 large sweet onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 stick of butter
1 can tomato puree (10 1/2-ounce)
1/4 cup of paprika
2 cups of turkey or chicken broth
3 or 4 cups of cooked turkey
1 1/2 cup sour cream

Heat the butter in a large, deep fry pan. Add onion and garlic and saute for a few minutes. Add remaining ingredients except sour cream and simmer for about 20 minutes. Cook noodles or rice while sauce sautés. Just before serving, add sour cream and stir into the mixture (don't boil just let it heat through). Serve the turkey mixture over noodles or rice.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

Broiled Fish Snacks

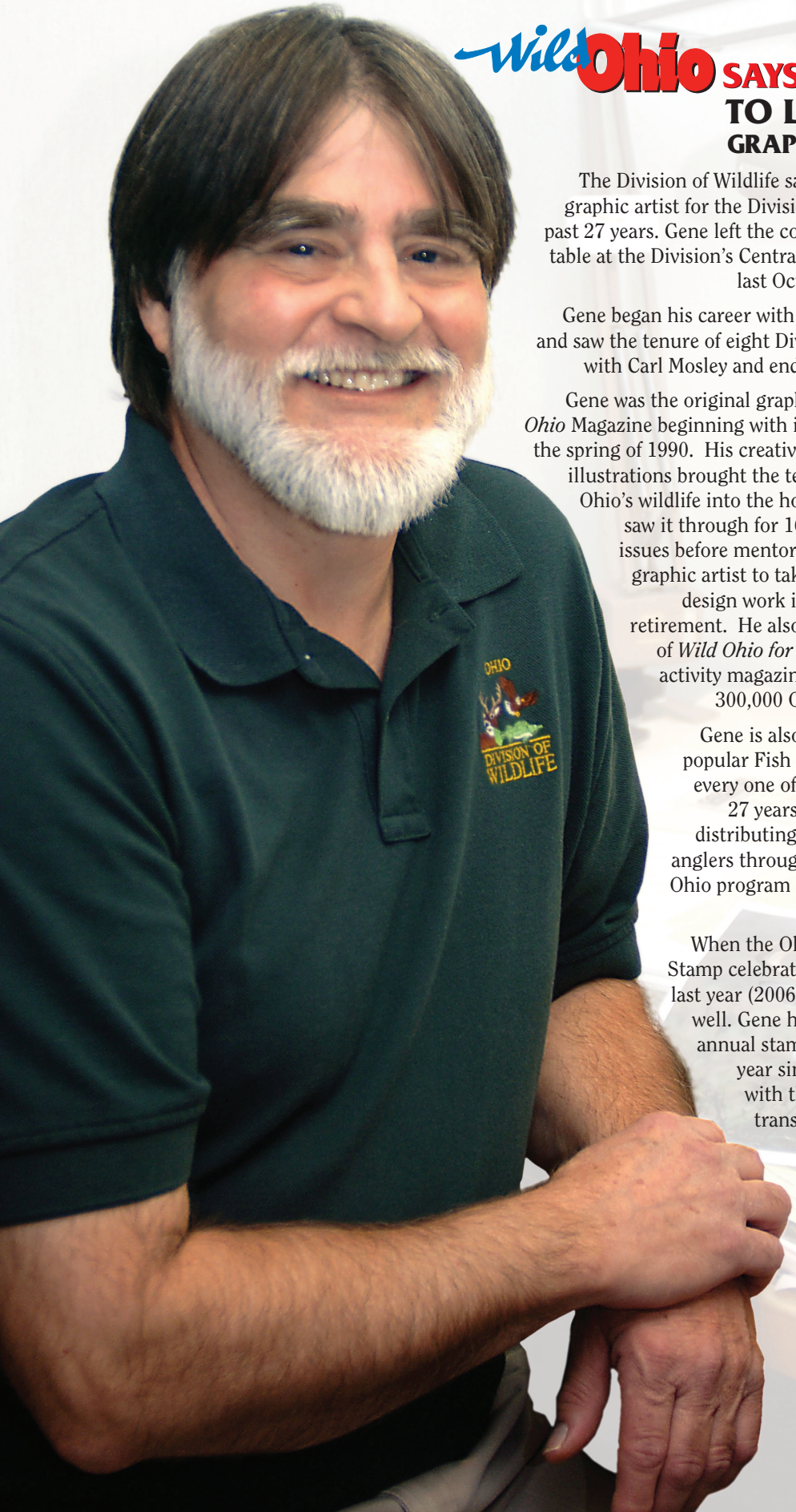
1 cup of fish, cooked and flaked
1/4 cup finely diced green pepper
1/4 cup finely diced onion
4 or 5 green olives, finely chopped
1/2 cup of your favorite grated cheese
1/2 teaspoon minced parsley
Salt and pepper to taste
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 8-ounce package cream cheese
Crackers or rye bread slices (cocktail-size rye works well)

Mix all ingredients. Spread about a tablespoon on cocktail rye bread slices or your favorite cracker. Place on a cookie sheet and put under the broiler until cheese starts to bubble. You can dress them up by putting a tiny piece of tomato or pimento and a small slice of olive or green pepper on each.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

For more great wild game recipes go to www.wildohiocookbook.com

WILDLIFE Reflections



Wild Ohio SAYS GOODBYE TO LONG-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The Division of Wildlife salutes Gene Whitten, graphic artist for the Division of Wildlife for the past 27 years. Gene left the computer and drafting table at the Division's Central Office in Columbus last October for retirement.

Gene began his career with the Division in 1979 and saw the tenure of eight Division chiefs starting with Carl Mosley and ending with Steve Gray.

Gene was the original graphic designer for *Wild Ohio* Magazine beginning with its inaugural issue in the spring of 1990. His creative graphic design and illustrations brought the text alive and brought Ohio's wildlife into the homes of Ohioans. He saw it through for 16 years producing 64 issues before mentoring another Division graphic artist to take over the magazine design work in preparation for his retirement. He also designed five issues of *Wild Ohio for Kids*, an educational activity magazine distributed to over 300,000 Ohio school children.

Gene is also sole designer of the popular Fish Ohio pins, designing every one of the pins for the past 27 years. The Division began distributing the pins annually to anglers through the Division's Fish Ohio program in 1980. (See feature article on page 6.)

When the Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp celebrated its 25 anniversary last year (2006), Gene celebrated as well. Gene helped coordinate the annual stamp competition every year since 1981 and worked with the winning artists in transforming the original winning artwork into a stamp. He also designed the current Division of Wildlife logo.

Gene resides in Grove City with his wife Vicki and two sons Joshua and Zachary.

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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.

Step outside of the kitchen.

Are you looking for creative ways to prepare your wild game and fish? Then visit the www.wildohiocookbook.com where you'll find a variety of fish and game recipes from *Wild Ohio Magazine* and our *Wild Ohio* television show. It's not your everyday cookbook. Check it out!

OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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