

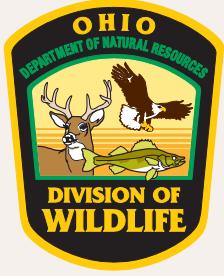
# Wild Ohio

Spring 2009

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





# COMING SOON

Buying a License and Checking Game is Going to Get Easier!

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Under a Web-based license and game-check system, hunters and anglers could be able to purchase and print licenses and permits instantly via the Internet or at a license sales outlet. Additionally, deer and turkey hunters with permits would be able to conveniently check game on the Internet, over the phone, or at any license sales outlet.

Using new technology, the Division could be able to use more of sportsmen's dollars for core mission projects instead of overhead expenditures. It could also strengthen the Division's fish and wildlife management practices by providing biologists accurate, real-time harvest information that they can use in research and decision making processes to ensure healthy, sustainable wildlife populations for the benefit of hunters, anglers, and trappers.

## ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW SYSTEM INCLUDE

- ▶ Hunters and anglers could purchase and print licenses and permits instantly via the Internet from home or at a license sales outlet.
- ▶ Deer and turkey hunters could easily and conveniently check game on the Internet, over the phone, or at any license sales outlet.
- ▶ License sales and game-check transactions could be performed in real time and be available during holidays when many license sales outlets or check stations are closed.
- ▶ Faster and easier, more efficient, and reduces waiting times for customers.
- ▶ Could save hunters and anglers on fuel costs, time, and frustrations with closed license sales outlets/check stations, which equates to more time in the field.
- ▶ The system would not sell to those under license suspension or other restrictions.
- ▶ Would allow biologists and law enforcement to electronically gather data to manage wildlife and enforce Ohio's hunting regulations.

**For more information:** Any customer that would like more information can log on to the Division of Wildlife's Web site at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com). Once on the division's home page, visitors should click on the Proposed License Sales and Game Check System line under the "Ohio Wildlife News" heading. As the Wild Ohio Customer Relationship Management System moves through development, the [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) Web site will keep customers updated.

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Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs  
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130  
Arlington, VA 22203

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Diversity Affairs Office  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-1  
Columbus, OH 43229



## Features

### Basics of Birding

Find out how you can learn the basics and take part in one of the fastest growing outdoor pursuits in the U.S.

18-19



#### On the Cover: Yellow-rumped Warbler

The yellow-rumped warbler is one of the first warblers to arrive in the spring and last to leave in the fall. Although other warblers have yellow rumps, none are as conspicuous as this species. Photo by Tim Daniel.

### Summer Camps on the Wild Side

6-9

Don't let your kids be left indoors this summer! Summer outdoor camps are as popular as ever.



### The Wild Turkey

10-11

An Ohio Conservation Success Story It's spring turkey season and a good time to reflect on a great conservation success story.

### Mac-O-Chee Creek Restoration

16-17

Fish, wildlife, and water quality will all benefit from the recently completed Mac-O-Chee Creek restoration project.

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# News from Around Ohio

### ARCHERY RANGE OPENS AT XENIA OFFICE

A nine-target archery range is now open to the public at the Wildlife District Five Headquarters, 1076 Old Springfield Pike, in Xenia. This unmanned facility features dual ranges at 10, 20, 30, and 40 yards as well as one 50-yard range. The range will offer archers a place to practice for hunting or recreational shooting.

The range will be open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, year round and is free of charge. No permit is required. Broadheads are not allowed to be used on the range. A complete list of rules is posted at the range. For more information on archery ranges throughout Ohio, visit [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com).

### MAJESTIC YARD ORNAMENT



Jeff Collingwood, state wildlife officer assigned to Huron County, snapped this photo of a wood carving of a bald eagle's nest, complete with adult and newly-hatched birds. The carving is located in Norwalk. It was carved by Norwalk resident Larry Burns.



### STEELHEAD ANGLERS SURVEYED

The Division of Wildlife is conducting a survey of steelhead trout anglers to help find out the popularity of the fishery, measure angler success, sizes of fish harvested, and use of access areas. The Division stocks 400,000 steelhead each year in northern Ohio streams: Conneaut Creek and Vermilion, Rocky, Chagrin, and Grand rivers. Creel clerks will be surveying anglers through early May. Anglers are also encouraged to participate in a follow-up mail survey conducted in conjunction with The Ohio State University to provide opinions, habits, and fishing preferences, and how the fishery contributes to local economies.

### SURPRISED HUNTER

While heading to his hunting tree, Matt Carpenter happened along a buck with its head down beside a stand of trees and grapevines that obstructed his view of the entire scene. He shot the deer and upon approaching the animal realized that its antlers were locked with those of another even larger buck, which had perished in the two bucks' struggle.

"This was most definitely a once in a lifetime experience," said Carpenter. "This is not the way that I would prefer to get a nice buck; however, the survivor would have certainly perished also."

As it turns out, the 10-point buck that Carpenter shot grossed around 144 inches. The other buck grossed around 165 inches.



## KEEP THE WILD IN WILDLIFE. LEAVE THEM BE! ESPECIALLY FAWNS

In the spring and early summer, when wildlife reproduction is at its peak, you may discover a nest of young birds or rabbits, a fawn, or another wild animal with no adult in sight. Enjoy the scene, but leave them alone! Wildlife parents are very devoted to their young and rarely abandon them. If taken from their natural habitat, young animals have little chance of surviving.

The Division of Wildlife staff, Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA) members, and licensed wildlife rehabilitators have worked hard to reduce the number of wild animals being picked up by well-meaning people. This has been especially true for white-tailed deer fawns. A fawn alone and hidden in a meadow, woodland edge, or even a backyard flower garden is most likely not an orphan. The doe deer often leaves her young alone in an out-of-the-way spot when she is off feeding. Since the doe cannot be in two places at once, a fawn may be left alone several times a day.

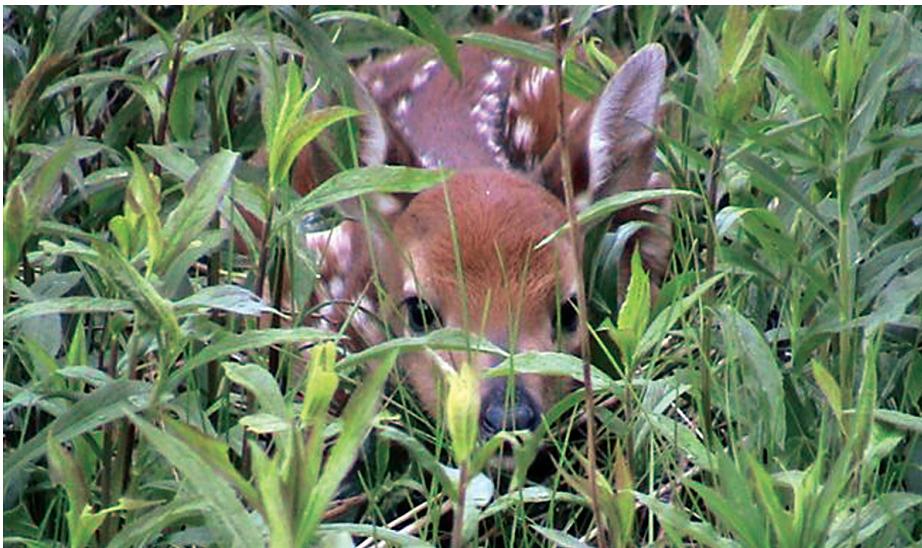
"The Division of Wildlife and wildlife rehabilitators share a common goal to be good stewards and ensure healthy wildlife populations exist for future generations to enjoy," stated David M. Graham, chief of the Division of Wildlife. Beginning in 2009 the Division will not authorize the rehabilitation of white-tailed deer fawns in order to help reduce the possible spread of communicable diseases, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This is only one proactive approach being employed to minimize the risk of CWD

being introduced into the state and unknowingly moved from one location to another, thereby jeopardizing the health of Ohio's 700,000 wild white-tailed deer. While CWD has been detected in West Virginia and Michigan, it has not been detected in Ohio since statewide testing began in 2002.

CWD is a progressive, fatal, degenerative disease of the brain affecting elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and moose. There is no evidence that CWD affects humans. It is not certain how the disease is transmitted, but it appears that animal-to-animal and mother-to-offspring transmission may be possible. The most likely means of transmission is between animals that are in close contact with each other.

The Division and the OWRA advise people to leave fawns alone. In cases where a fawn is taken to a wildlife rehabilitator the fawn will need to be returned to the location where it was found by the person who picked it up or by the rehabilitator. In situations where fawns are picked up from known dead does, these fawns could be released within the same township in an area where the rehabilitator feels a doe might adopt the orphan.

"We should always keep in mind that the goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to return native wildlife back to the wild, and that our actions and activities should never jeopardize wildlife populations," said Betty Ross, president of the OWRA. To learn more about the OWRA visit their Web site at [owra.org](http://owra.org)



*Wildlife*  
CALENDAR

**May 9**  
**INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**  
Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
*Celebrate the spring migration  
at Magee Marsh, one of the  
country's top birding locations.  
Activities include bird walks,  
marsh wagon tours, children's  
activities, songbird banding, live  
raptor displays, and more.*  
For more information  
call 419-898-0960, extension 31.

wildohio.com  
for up-to-date events

## STUDENTS FROM CHINA LEARN ABOUT OHIO WILDLIFE



Duane Bailey, state wildlife officer assigned to Paulding County, met with a group of 30 students and two accompanying teachers from China. The students, age 14 to 17, were staying with host families in Paulding County to further their studies in English conversation and experience American culture. The group visited the Black Swamp Nature Center where Officer Bailey showed them pelts of Ohio furbearers, identified waterfowl and other wild animals, and provided instruction in fishing, which culminated in a casting contest. The students and teachers all demonstrated a sincere interest in and appreciation of Ohio's outdoors.

# SUMMER CAMPS

D O N ' T L E T Y O U R K I D S

**I**n an age of computers, video games, and iPods, there is no better place for today's kids to get outdoors and connect with nature than at a summer camp. Many summer camps provide an outdoor escape for young people to explore the natural world, take part in conservation projects, learn outdoor skills, develop meaningful friendships, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Summer camps have branched out incredibly from the traditional week-long overnight YMCA, scout, and church camps that many of our readers are familiar with. You name it and there is a camp for it – lacrosse, equestrian, sailing, archaeology, cooking, art, music, dance, and computer technology including video game design and animation. Despite the new wave specialty camps, the good ol' back to nature-outdoor recreation camps are still around. Highlighted here are just a few.

## LEARN A SHOOTING SPORT

Nestled in the wildlife-rich hills of Jackson County is the Canter's Cave 4-H Camp that offers several summer camps for kids. Although the program is part of Ohio's 4-H Shooting Sports program with 4-H certified instructors, campers do not need to



# ON THE WILD SIDE

BE LEFT INDOORS THIS SUMMER!

by Melissa Hathaway

be a member of 4-H to attend. The most popular of the camps is the six-day 4-H Shooting Education Camp held in July for boys and girls ages 12 to 18.

This camp is unique in that each camper selects one shooting discipline as a specialty. Once the kids arrive at the camp, instructors work with them in a skill test to determine what level they are at in their chosen specialty. Disciplines include shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery, and living history.

"Safety is number one," said Larry Harris, Ohio 4-H shooting education/fishing coordinator. "But our rifles, shotguns, pistols, and bows are all tools to teach life skills. The campers should come through here learning about how to be a good citizen and to help other people. That's what 4-H is about. We're trying to create leaders and contributing citizens out of the kids who come to the camp."

Last year two world shooting champions from Smith & Wesson joined the team of instructors and provided a special treat for the 25 campers who chose pistol as their shooting discipline.

Shotgun is the most popular shooting discipline selected by campers, but a good number are also starting to choose living history. Activities in the living history areas revolve around daily living chores and activities of people who lived during an earlier time period, including the early to mid-1700s through the 1890s. Period activities might include outdoor cooking, shooting period weapons, woodworking, tanning hides, and making fishing hooks, deerskin pouches, and old-time knives.

Evenings at the camp might include such organized activities as campfire programs, fishing, swimming, career presentations, flag etiquette, and orienteering. Campers also have the opportunity to complete a

hunter safety course.

About 70 percent of the kids come back numerous years to this popular camp, which fills to near capacity, explained Harris. "Many of the kids are repeats because they have such a good time. One young man who has been here for three or four camps in a row comes all the way from Texas."

A number of grants are provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation on a first-come, first-served basis to help defray the cost.

Canter's Cave also hosts a three-day Ohio 4-H Junior Shooting Education Camp in July for youth 9 to 12. The camp will also hold its first Ohio 4-H Fishing Camp, May 29-31.

## For More Information

Call Canter's Cave at (740) 286-4058 or on the Web at [ohio4hshootingports.org](http://ohio4hshootingports.org).



## GO ON A SAFARI AT WILDECAMP

*(pronounced will-de-camp)*

The Wilds, situated among 10,000 acres of rolling hills in southeast Ohio, is one of the most innovative wildlife conservation, education, and research centers in the world. Rare and endangered species from across the globe, as well as many native species, live in natural open-range habitat that provides unique wildlife encounters and learning opportunities. The Wilds offers weeklong Wildecamps for ages 8 to 19.

Wildecampers are immersed in hands-on learning about wildlife, their habitats, biodiversity, ecology, conservation, and scientific research. At the safari-like camps, campers stay in "yurts," tent-style structures built on platforms.

"We would like for the kids to have a chance to connect with nature, learn about conservation, and be able to take a conservation message home with them," said Laura Busby, education coordinator.

Campers actually work with animal management staff and get to see first hand how science can be applied to our living world. Campers assist with projects such as tagging fish, capturing

and marking wildlife, weighing and measuring animals, and other data collection. Other activities, to name just a few, include compass and map, canoeing, astronomy, habitat hunting, reptiles and amphibians, wildlife foods, rappelling, night hikes, swimming, hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching.

"For many kids, once they come they love it so much they start coming every year," said Busby. "They can come each year and have different experiences that grow, and by the time they are high school age, they can come to career-oriented camps if they want to be a veterinarian, wildlife conservationist, naturalist, or wildlife researcher. We're getting a lot of interest in that program with kids coming from all over the country."

"While zoos are incredibly important in introducing millions of people every year to wildlife conservation and conservation initiatives, here at the Wilds, we have a unique opportunity to take people into a deeper experience where they can be immersed for more than an afternoon," Busby explained. "They are here over a longer amount of time and really begin to see and engage in the science, collecting data, contributing to projects, removing alien species, and making this place a

better place. And hopefully they will go home and make a better place in their own community."

### For More Information

Call the Wilds at (740) 638-5030  
or on the Web at [thewilds.org](http://thewilds.org).

### WILDECAMPS INCLUDE

**Critter Kids** - Ages 8-9

**Creature Corps** - Ages 10-11

**Earth Keepers** - Ages 12-15

**Wildecamp Xtreme** - Ages 13-16

For kids who enjoy the outdoors as a recreational pursuit. Campers learn wilderness survival techniques such as starting a fire and orienteering, and backpack overnight for several days on the Wilds' backcountry.

**Oikos** - Ages 16-19

For older campers interested in learning more about becoming a naturalist or counselor.

**Working Wild Camp** - Ages 14-19

For campers who would like to pursue a wildlife-related career such as a veterinarian, naturalist, or animal management specialist.

**Family Camps** - Special weekend camps for the whole family.



## FROM SUMMER CAMP TO CAREER

Does your high-school student have an interest in Ohio's forests, wildlife, or other natural resource? The Ohio Forestry Association offers the Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp each June at Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake in the rolling hills of Carroll County

High school students (grades 9-12) gain an appreciation of Ohio's forests and the relationship between forests and wildlife at this one-week residential camp. Since the camp's beginning in 1950, about 10,000 high school students have attended. Many of the campers go on to major in natural resource curriculums in college or move into outdoor-related fields and careers.

"Most of the attendees have an interest in natural resources and discuss their future plans with us – where they want to go to college, and what type of career field they would like to pursue," said Ryan Waid, camp instructor and procurement forester.

"We try to bring in a diverse group of instructors who work in different natural resources fields in both the private and public sectors. The instructors explain to the classes what their job entails, their education background, and how they

went about getting into their current positions. Their camp packet also includes the contact information for each of the instructors in case the campers want to contact them to discuss a career in the future."

Many campers receive financial assistance through sponsors such as local soil and water conservation districts and conservation clubs. One camper who demonstrates the highest level of knowledge gained at the camp receives a scholarship for one quarter at Hocking College.

### For More Information

Contact the Ohio Forestry Association at 614-497-9580 or 888-38TREES or on the Web at [ohioforest.org](http://ohioforest.org).

## OUTDOOR SKILLS ADVENTURE CAMP

The Ohio Future Farmers of America (FFA), that operates Camp Muskingum, offers an Outdoor Skills Adventure Camp in July in cooperation with the Ohio Divisions of Wildlife and Watercraft. This camp experience, for ages nine and up, emphasizes skills in the areas of fishing, shooting sports, conservation, water safety, and outdoor activities. A parent or sponsor must accompany all children ages

9 and 10. Parents of older participants are welcome to attend as well, and siblings of all campers can accompany parents, regardless of age.

"Kids today are into video games, PlayStation, and Xbox," said Dave Schott, Camp Muskingum instructor and wildlife specialist with the Guernsey County Soil and Water Conservation Office. "That's their whole life and they don't realize that there is life beyond the wall of their house and the computer chair. I try to encourage kids to get outside. And you don't need to take along props – when you step into the woods, the teaching aids are right there."

### For More Information

Contact the Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum at (330) 627-2208 or on the Web at [ohioffa.org/camp](http://ohioffa.org/camp)

## FIND A CAMP FOR YOUR KIDS

The American Camp Association's website at [acacamps.org](http://acacamps.org) is a valuable resource and camp locator to help families find the right camp for their kids. Once you visit the site you can define your search by state, day camp versus residential, type of camp, age of campers, focus of activities, and cost.



# the wild turkey

by Mike Reynolds

AN OHIO CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY



**I**n the pre-dawn darkness, I slowly climbed a narrow ridge covered in mature hardwoods. After reaching an old log landing just below the summit, I caught my breath and made myself as comfortable as possible up against a stout white oak. As the sky began to brighten, I listened for the thundering gobble that I was certain would come at any moment from the longbeard perched in his roost tree just down the spur ridge. I was not disappointed.

After flying down to the ground that wary Tom slowly circled my position. He made the hair on the back of my neck tingle as he returned explosive gobbles to the soft yelps from my slate call, but he remained just out of sight on my left and eventually began moving away down the ridge as the hen he thought was there failed to materialize...

I would have to wait for another day to carry that ol' longbeard out of the Vinton County woods, but for the remainder of that beautiful spring morning I was able to sit quietly and reflect on a great conservation success story – the restoration of the wild turkey to Ohio.



## WILD TURKEY RESTORATION

Wild turkeys were abundant across the Buckeye State prior to European settlement, but habitat loss and subsistence hunting resulted in the rapid disappearance of this majestic game bird from Ohio. The last bird was reportedly shot in Adams County in 1904 and, sadly, spring mornings became much quieter.

Efforts to reintroduce the wild turkey back to Ohio began in earnest in the 1950s, but the game farm turkeys released in the forests of southern Ohio did not retain enough of the blood of their wild cousins and quickly succumbed to disease and predators.

Through the efforts of former Division of Wildlife biologists Eugene Knoder, Bob Donohoe and others, wild turkeys were obtained from other states, primarily Kentucky, West Virginia, and Missouri. The first wild turkeys were reintroduced in 1956 in what was then known as the Raccoon State Forest in Vinton County. Supplemented by releases of wild turkeys in other areas, it did not take long for these new birds to multiply and by 1966 a limited spring gobbler hunting season was opened.

Since that time, thousands of wild turkeys have been trapped and translocated in Ohio by hundreds of Division of Wildlife employees and volunteers of the National Wild Turkey

Federation (NWTF). Today wild turkeys can be found in all 88 Ohio counties.

Spring turkey harvests have steadily increased from 12 in 1966 to an annual harvest of more than 20,000 gobblers in six of the past nine years.

No matter where you live in Ohio, get permission to hunt in a nearby woodlot, a pasture along a wooded stream, or visit the thousands of acres of public lands, and listen for the ringing gobble of the wild turkey this spring. Come April 20th, get dressed up in your finest camouflage, grab your favorite call, and talk some turkey. You can bet I will.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Division of Wildlife biologists will continue to monitor wild turkey harvests and populations as turkeys face increasing suburban sprawl, other changing land uses, and habitat losses. Changes in hunting seasons or bag limits will be closely scrutinized to be sure that wild turkeys continue to thrive in the Buckeye State.

Be sure to check out the "Spring Turkey Hunting 101" article on page 15.



## WILD TURKEY RESEARCH PROJECTS

One of the keys to the successful management of wild turkeys in Ohio has been the active research program that has provided critical information used by biologists to maximize hunting opportunities for wild turkeys while allowing populations to expand and grow. Here is a brief overview of the research projects that have been completed in the past few years:

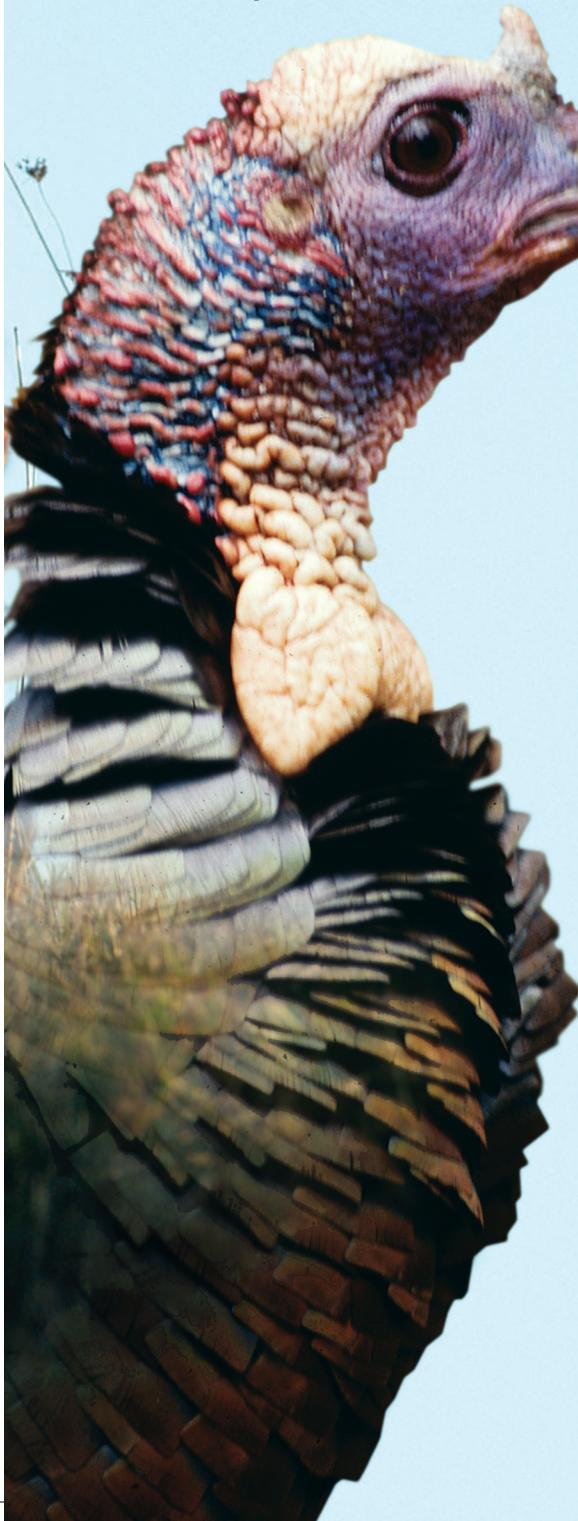
### WILD TURKEY HEN REPRODUCTIVE STUDY

Three hundred eighty-six hens were captured and fitted with backpack-style radio transmitters to accomplish the objectives of this five-year research project. Hens were tracked during the spring from 2002 through 2006 to determine the onset of nest incubation in relation to the start of the spring wild turkey hunting season. The average peak of incubation during this study was May 1. In fact, only seven percent of hens had started incubating a nest by the opener of the spring gobbler season. When you hear frustrated hunters speak of the gobblers being "henned up" in the first weeks of turkey season, they are correct. Try hunting the last two weeks of the spring season to locate a lonely gobbler – but be ready, he may come a runnin'!

### WILD TURKEY GOBBLER MORTALITY STUDY

Nine Division of Wildlife crews trapped and placed reward bands on more than 2,700 wild turkeys during the winters of 1997 through 2008. The final three years of banding (2006 – 2008) were conducted in cooperation with the states of New York and Pennsylvania as part of a regional harvest rate study in partnership with the NWTF.

Bands returned by hunters have allowed estimation of annual survival and harvest rates. The harvest rates observed over time are within recommended limits that provide for quality wild turkey hunting. Radio telemetry was used on a limited number of gobblers in 2007 to determine the types and amount of mortality caused by factors other than hunting. Not surprisingly, the leading cause of death was hunter harvest during the spring turkey season.





## OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Melissa Hathaway

It's late April or early May and you see a flash of brilliant orange fly across the yard or hear the recognizable flute-like song coming from a backyard tree. This signals that it is time to hang the oriole feeder!

The Baltimore oriole, *Icterus galbula*, is one of our most popular summer residents. And lucky for backyard birding enthusiasts, its preference to open areas with tall shade trees makes it a common inhabitant of parks and neighborhoods. Other oriole species in Ohio include the orchard and Bullock's orioles, but the Baltimore oriole is the most recognized.

The strikingly beautiful males have jet black heads and backs, brilliant orange breasts and rumps, and white wing patches.

This small member of the blackbird family was named after Lord Baltimore, an Englishman who founded the Maryland Colony. His coat of arms was black and orange just like the male Baltimore oriole. Females are more drab – a subdued yellow and brown.

Baltimore orioles are not only colorful birds, but their melodious song – a series of loud, clear, flute-like whistles – makes them a welcome visitor to any yard. They are one of the easiest birds to identify by ear because of this unmistakable song, and you often hear them before you see them.

After wintering in Central and South America and the Caribbean, orioles return to the eastern United States and



## BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT A GLANCE

### SIZE

7 to 8 1/2 inches long

### PEAK BREEDING ACTIVITY

May-June

### INCUBATION

11-14 days

### CLUTCH SIZE

4-6 eggs

### YOUNG FLEDGE

2 weeks after hatching

### TYPICAL FOODS

caterpillars, other insects, some small fruits, and nectar



photo by Al Freeman

## VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Canada to breed. Males return a few days before the females and establish territories, then begin singing the melodious song to attract a mate.

Orioles often nest along lakes or streams, woodland edges, or suburban areas where many shade trees are available. The oriole's nest is one of the most interesting and unique of all birds' nests. The elongated, gourd-shaped sac structure is built by the female suspended from the tip of a small branch high in a deciduous tree. The American elm was a favorite nesting tree prior to the tree's decline. The six-inch deep pouch is well-woven with natural materials such as plant fibers and hair, as well as string or yarn. The female lays four to six gray eggs that are spotted with brown or black scrawling.

The best time for spotting orioles in the spring is soon after the males arrive. Listen for their flute-like songs because they are often heard before they are seen. After breeding, they stop calling and become more difficult to observe.

These fruit- and nectar-loving birds are easy to attract to your yard to provide excellent viewing opportunities. They are known to visit hummingbird feeders, but now specialty feeders are available specifically for orioles that hold a solution of sugar water. They show preference for many kinds of fruit. Try placing an orange half in a backyard tree to attract orioles. Other fruits that attract orioles are pears, apples, bananas, and grapes. Grape jelly is also a favorite oriole treat.

## Baltimore Oriole



## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Field Notes

### EIGHT LORAIN COUNTY MEN SENTENCED IN POACHING RING

#### “Operation Overkill” nears closure nine months after first arrest

Sentencing for eight individuals and a meat processor from Lorain County who were involved in poaching white-tailed deer in Coshocton and Knox counties came to a close after more than nine months of deliberation. Sentencing related to this case includes fines totaling \$2,425, several hunting privilege revocations, forfeited motor vehicles and equipment, and a combined total of more than four years of jail time to be served.

The investigation, dubbed “Operation Overkill,” began in September 2006 as an anonymous tip through the division’s Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) hotline. Wildlife officials charged the group of suspects for driving to Coshocton and Knox counties on several occasions and shooting deer from their vehicles or along the roadway in violation of state laws. Suspects were arrested when wildlife officers executed four search warrants and seven felony warrants.

The men were found guilty of eight felony charges for the illegal handling of firearms, as well as 29 misdemeanor wildlife violations including: hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, taking more than the bag limit of deer, hunting on private property without permission, failing to tag deer, hunting outside of legal hunting hours, using a radio for hunting purposes, deer-gun hunting without blaze orange, improper record keeping, and aiding an offender. All evidence seized during the arrests and subsequent investigation, including firearms, motor vehicles, and illegally taken wildlife, including 300 packages of processed venison was forfeited.

### TWO POACHERS PAY BIG BUCKS FOR BIG BUCK

Two men convicted of the illegal taking of white-tailed deer in Ross County were ordered to pay restitution of almost \$13,000. It was the first case in Ohio involving white-tailed deer under Ohio’s revised restitution law. The law went into effect in March 2008 and allows the Ohio Division of Wildlife to seek an increased recovery value on all illegally harvested wildlife.

A South Salem man pled guilty to charges of taking a deer with a rifle, deterring an officer, taking a deer after hours, and taking more than one buck in a license year.

The second man, from Washington Court House, pled guilty to charges of spotlighting, deterring an officer, and aiding an individual in the unlawful taking of a wild animal. Each will pay \$100 in fines, additional court costs, and \$6,494 in restitution. Each will also serve 200 hours of community service, five years of community control, and has had their hunting privileges suspended for five years.

The deer, firearms, and all other equipment used in the illegal activities were forfeited to the state. When possible, forfeited venison is donated to a local food pantry.

The recovery value for individual white-tailed deer is derived from a measurement of antlers applied to a formula listed in 1531.201 of the Ohio Revised Code. The formula for white-tailed deer will be applied to all deer with a gross antler score exceeding 125 Boone and Crockett inches.

### OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

#### MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY WATERFOWL PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

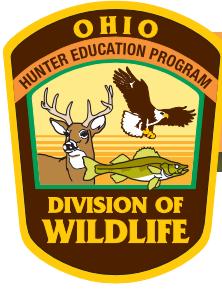
**William Runnels**, *state wildlife officer assigned to Marion County*  
(recently retired, January 2009)

#### TURN-IN-A-POACHER (TIP) OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

**Mike Tetzlaff**, *wildlife investigator, Lake Erie Unit (2007)*  
**Wade Dunlap**, *state wildlife officer assigned to Ashtabula County (2008)*



Robert Radcliff, wildlife officer supervisor, northwest Ohio, received the Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year award for 2008. Left to right: Division of Wildlife Chief Dave Graham, Officer Radcliff, and Law Enforcement Administrator Jim Lehman.



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

# Spring Turkey Hunting 101

 by Marc Sommer

As the dawn light breaks, the forest comes to life with sounds of rustling squirrels and neotropical birds returning for another season. Your day began long before the forest chorus. Although you are taking in the sights and sounds, what you patiently wait to hear is the gobble of a wild turkey. For you, the success of the

day comes from hearing and seeing a bird the pilgrims would have been proud to serve at a Thanksgiving celebration.

If you are planning to hunt turkeys for the first time this spring, try some of these helpful tips. Successful or not, you'll find plenty to enjoy in the turkey woods this spring.

### TIP #1 SCOUTING

Scout, scout, and scout some more. Scouting is one of the most important things you can do. Locate turkey signs in the woods by looking for scratching in the leaf litter, feathers, tracks, and droppings.

Turkeys roost in trees, and finding areas where they are roosting is an important key to successful spring turkey hunting. Try to locate a roosting area prior to your hunt. You can identify roosting areas using a locator call such as an owl hooter or crow call to get a turkey to gobble after it has flown up to its evening roost.

As dawn breaks, turkeys make a thunderous decent to the ground. Early the day of the hunt, try to get within 100 to 150 yards of the roosting location. Wait for a gobble, give a couple soft tree yelps and there is a good chance when the turkey makes its decent, it will be very close to where you have set up.

### TIP #2 WHAT TO BRING

Camouflage clothing is essential. Turkeys have extremely keen eyesight, so use camouflage that blends in with the area you will hunt. Wear camo everything – from your vest, pants, head gear, and boots, to your shotgun. Your shotgun barrel, bland as it might be, can reflect light that could easily spook a turkey.

Speaking of shotguns, have you sighted yours in at a range? Go to a range, put up a turkey target, and make sure you have enough pellets (shot/BBs/load in a shotgun shell) hitting the head of the bird to kill it. Determine the effective range of your shotgun and keep your shots at birds within that range to ensure a clean, killing shot.

Remember, you don't want the shot ruining precious meat, so aim for the head. During the spring turkey season, only male turkeys can be taken, so make sure you can clearly see the bird's beard before making your shot. Note, too, that the colors of a turkey's head are red, white, and blue, so for safety's sake, do not wear any of those colors.

Take along a light-weight stool, or cushion to sit on. Be comfortable, but don't be so comfortable you fall asleep! You might also want to take some snacks (quiet snacks) and water.

### TIP #3 WHAT TO USE TO CALL IN A TURKEY

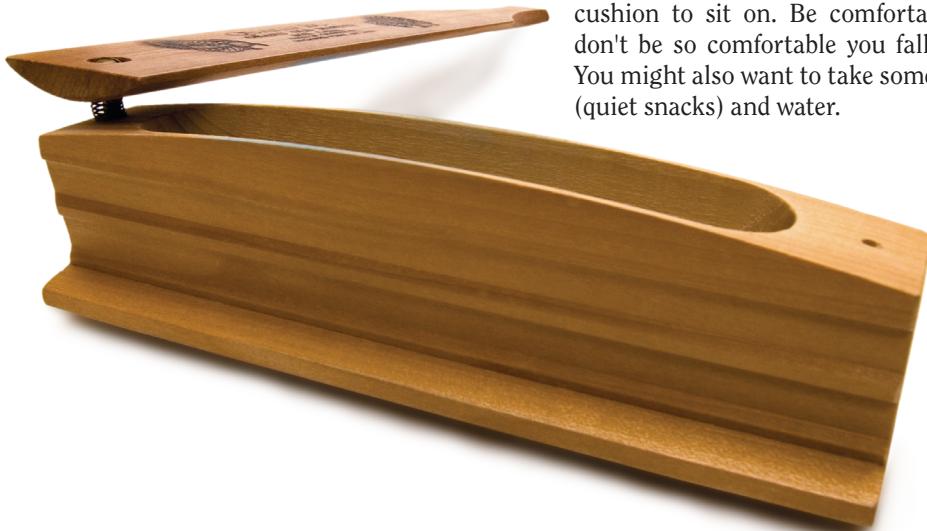
There are many types of calls to use. Some of the most popular include diaphragm calls, box calls, and slate calls. There are many variations of each.

Diaphragm calls are air blown calls. Many people consider them the most difficult call to use, but they are worth mastering as they don't require the use of your hands. The true diaphragm call is a reed-style call that is placed inside the mouth. By blowing air through paper thin pieces of human-made materials, clucks and yelps can be created. Tube calls are also blown through, but do not require the same precision of tongue and throat motions used on a diaphragm call.

Box calls are an easy starter for the beginning turkey hunter. They consist of a wood box and a hand activated lever that create calls through the friction created by the lever rubbing against the wood box. Clucks, purrs, and yelps are easily recreated.

Slate calls consist of a piece of slate (or other material) that is scraped with a plastic, wood, ceramic, or synthetic style striker peg. The striker peg resembles a large flat tipped magic wand.

The most effective turkey hunters make use of a variety of call types to take advantage of any situation. The main thing to remember is to practice, practice, practice. The better you are, the greater your chances at successfully luring a turkey into shotgun range. For a definition of the various calls (such as clucks, purrs, and yelps), and to hear audio of each call, visit the National Wild Turkey Federation's Web site at [nwtf.org](http://nwtf.org). Click on the tab "For Hunters" and look for calling tips.





## Mac-O-Chee Creek FLOODPLAIN restoration

by Lindsay Deering

**F**ish, wildlife, and water quality will benefit from the recently completed floodplain restoration project in a portion of the Mac-O-Chee Creek at the Piatt Castles in Logan County. Mac-O-Chee Creek is part of the Mad River system, which boasts an excellent cold water fishery and supports a healthy population of popular brown trout. About 1,500 feet of creek was relocated and returned to a natural, meandering state after being straightened many decades ago.

When a stream flows, it is naturally sinuous, or curvy, creating pools and riffles in the water. These pools and riffles help stir oxygen into the water and provide deep areas for fish to find cover. A straightened, or channelized, stream is uniform in depth and usually does not have a vegetated bank. There are no hiding spots for fish or other aquatic wildlife and there is a high amount of bank erosion. The idea behind the Mac-O-Chee project was to restore the creek to a more natural flow, improving fish and wildlife habitat in the process.

During the restoration project, environmental contractors studied the soil, water, and topography of the area to determine the best spot for the new creek to flow. They then dug a new channel for the water to run through, redirected the creek into it, and stopped water flow into the old creek. The new route is meandering to mimic what would have been the creek's original condition. They also planted trees, grasses, and forbs in the floodplain area around the creek. These plants will reduce stream bank erosion and act as natural filters, trapping pollutants before they reach the stream.

## A MULTITUDE OF BENEFITS

The benefits of this project are many. Fish and wildlife will have better habitat and cleaner water available. The restored, vegetated floodplain will reduce the chance of floods in that part of the creek. The area around the creek will provide walking trails and natural recreation, including public fishing access to brown trout.

## FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

A floodplain is the area of land around a creek that has the possibility of flooding in a heavy rain event. To work properly, a floodplain should have many plants, like trees and grasses, and be as natural as possible. At Mac-O-Chee Creek, more plants have been added to the floodplain, which will break down pollutants, trap sediments, and create shade that will lower water temperatures, while the restored floodplain will help prevent damaging flood events.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships were essential to complete this project. The Division of Wildlife worked closely with the management of Piatt Castles and the contractors to carry out this restoration. Funding for the project was primarily from the division's Wildlife Diversity & Endangered Species Fund, which is derived from the sale of cardinal license plates, state income tax check-off monies, and direct donations. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

This short, 1,500-foot stretch of meandering creek shows that habitats can be restored to more natural states. Through partnerships and hard work, the Mac-O-Chee Creek at Piatt Castles is now an example of excellent fish and wildlife habitat, responsible floodplain management, and abounding educational opportunities. Over the years, the vegetation will continue to grow, protecting the stream from pollutants and siltation and guaranteeing that fish and wildlife dependent on the Mac-O-Chee will have healthy habitat essential for their survival.

## IMPROVED HABITAT

By creating curves in the creek, deeper pools and fast-moving riffles are also created. The deep pools have cooler water at the stream bottom and provide hiding places for fish and other aquatic animals. The fast-moving riffles churn oxygen into the water, maintaining a healthy dissolved oxygen level. These habitat improvements will allow for better survival rates for brown trout and will meet the needs of the endangered tongue-tied minnow. Also, aquatic invertebrates, which are food sources to fish and wildlife, will thrive in this healthier environment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR LAND STUDIES

Staff of the Piatt Castles plans to create the Environmental Center for Land Studies at Mac-A-Chee Castle in order to educate youth and adults on the floodplain restoration project. The restored stream will be a focal point of their lessons, and emphasis will be on the historical and present day importance of streams, farmland, and habitat. The center will also include nature trails winding through the property that will feature signs and lessons along the way.

## BETTER FISHING!

The restored section of Mac-O-Chee Creek will support a diversity of fish and wildlife species. One of the most popular fish there, and the most specific in its habitat needs, is the brown trout, a species native to Europe but now found in Ohio's cold water habitats. Fishing at this area is open to the public and "brownies" can be best caught on fly rods with dry flies that imitate their insect prey, as well as on rod and reel with spoons or surface plugs.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This site will serve as a model for other landowners wishing to restore or improve streams on their property. Landowners can learn the process and outcome of this type of project and incorporate it into their own stream restoration plans. Also, fish surveys were taken before the project began so biologists and students can measure the benefits of the project. This stretch of the Mac-O-Chee Creek will truly be a learning environment.

MAD RIVER

MAC-O-CHEE CREEK

C.J. Brown Reservoir



**B**irds are everywhere we go! In our backyards, parks, cities, the country, and even in parking lots. Birding is an activity that can be enjoyed alone, in a group, or with the whole family.

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing outdoor pursuits in the United States. According to the *2006 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, 47.7 million people observed birds around the home and on trips during 2006. Read on to find out about the basics of birding and how to get started in an outdoor activity that can soon become a lifetime pleasure! And spring migration is an excellent time to start.

## EQUIPMENT

When you go outside to observe birds you already have everything you need – your senses. Your eyes and ears are going to be your best tools in the field. But there are a few things that can make birding more enjoyable.

*Binoculars really bring the birds in close. I always encourage people to buy the best binoculars they can afford. When looking for binoculars for birding purposes, 8 x 42 is a good choice because the object you are looking at will be magnified eight times larger than actual size and will appear brighter, which aids in identifying colors and markings. Check out binoculars on display at birding festivals, camera or sporting goods stores, and birding specialty stores. Before you buy, try out other people's binoculars to help ensure that you will get the best pair of binoculars for you.*

*A field guide is another essential tool that can add to your birding pleasure. Starting with a regional guide is a good first step. Many choices are available and each one offers something a little different. Remember that you can never have too many bird books! Look at several guides, get other people's opinions, and then pick one that works for you.*

*Get a small notebook or journal that you can carry into the field. There are many birders' journals on the market where you can record, document, and draw what you are seeing.*

## BIRD SONG

They call it birdwatching, but if you think about it you often hear a bird before you see it, especially when all of the leaves are out. Learning a few of the more common bird songs can be another useful tool in your bag of tricks.

*Don't try to learn too many at one time; otherwise you will become very frustrated! Concentrate on learning maybe five at a time really well.*

*There are also some phrases that have been created that represent bird songs that might help you learn the songs of specific birds. For example, to some people the song of the white-throated sparrow sounds like "Oh Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody." Making these little associations can be very valuable. You can also make up your own bird song phrases!*

*Bird songs are truly amazing and there is nothing more beautiful to my ears than hearing a wood thrush sing. When I get to see a bird sing that is the frosting on the cake, and truly cements the connection between song and bird.*

## ATTRACTING BIRDS

As much as I love to travel to see birds, there is no more enjoyable place to see them than my own backyard. You not only get to see birds, but you also get to observe their behaviors, which can be really fascinating. By putting out bird feeders and nest boxes, offering a water source, and providing some kind of shelter, you can attract a variety of birds to your yard.

*Visit merchants that sell bird feeders and get an idea of what types of feeders are available.*

*Search the Internet to find what types of food the different bird species prefer.*

Whether you have an apartment patio or 20 acres, it is easy to attract birds to your yard by simply giving them what they need. Give it a try and enjoy the parade of birds that will visit your yard. You might also want to keep a "yard list" of the birds that stop in, fly over, nest in, or use your yard.

# BASICS of Birding

by Mary Warren





## FIELD MARKS

When you see a bird in the field, try to notice something special about it. Maybe it's an eye ring, a wing bar, or a yellow-tipped tail as on the cedar waxwing.

 *Wing bars are basically the tips of feathers that are a different color than the rest of the wing. A bird either has them or it doesn't.*

 *Eye rings are another common field mark to look for. Some examples of birds that have bold eye rings are the Connecticut warbler, solitary sandpiper, and Swainson's thrush.*

 *Shape, size, head patterns, and habitat are other good clues to use to help in identifying birds. But don't rely on just one field mark, rather use several to help you narrow down the possibilities.*

## WHERE TO BIRD

Okay, you are convinced that you would like to give this birding thing a try. You have become familiar with the birds that you see in and around your yard and are ready to venture forth for new birding opportunities. Where do you go? Below is a list of just a few of the many great birding areas in Ohio.

Perhaps more than any other kind of wildlife, birds have an almost magical hold on the human imagination. Let the magic begin and happy birding!

**MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA**  
419-898-0960

**OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA**  
419-898-0014

**OAK OPENINGS METROPARK**  
419-407-9700

**CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**  
800-445-9667

**HOLDEN ARBORETUM**  
440-946-4400

**KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA**  
740-496-2254

**PICKERINGTON PONDS METROPARK**  
614-508-8000

**HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK**  
740-385-6842

**THE WILDS**  
740-638-5030

**SHAWNEE STATE PARK**  
740-858-6652

**EDGE OF APPALACHIA PRESERVE**  
937-544-2880

## TOP TEN TIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRD WATCHERS

### #10

Go birding with local Audubon groups, park naturalists or other bird groups whenever you can.

### #9

Begin with the common birds. By knowing these you will be able to eliminate and compare them when trying to identify other birds.

### #8

Learn a few songs of the more common species; it can be very helpful.

### #7

Set up a feeding station in your backyard. You will find yourself spending more time watching birds because it is very convenient.

### #6

Watch the bird as long as you can. You can read about it later in your field guide.

### #5

Don't be afraid to ask questions – birders are friendly people!

### #4

Start with a basic field guide. You can always move up to a more advanced guide later.

### #3

Obtain a good pair of binoculars that are right for you.

### #2

Go where the birds are! Birding is more fun when you actually see birds, so learn where the birding "hotspots" are in your area.

### #1

And the # 1 tip for beginning birders...

There is no substitute for time in the field! You can learn a lot from books, but the more time you are outside looking at birds, the better your birding identification skills will become. Check out "Common Birds of Ohio" under "Birds and Birding" in the Publications Section of our Web site at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com).

**A Home for Toads** by Donna Daniel



Toads are fascinating and beneficial animals to have around. In Ohio, we have two species of toads – the American toad and the Fowler’s toad. The American toad is the most prevalent and the one more likely found in your yard.

Contrary to popular belief, toads do not give you warts, but if picked up or harassed by a potential predator, they may secrete a white toxic liquid to keep them from being eaten. Consequently, only a few types of snakes, raccoons, and skunks can stomach a toad. Besides natural predators, toads are sometimes run over or stepped on by humans.

Toads are mostly active at night and on cloudy days. At other times they stay in burrows underground. They will sometimes hide underneath a clay flower pot – a “toad abode.” You can make a toad abode by propping up one side of an overturned terra cotta flowerpot with a few rocks creating a space for the toad to enter the pot. You can also make a toad abode by carefully breaking out a small opening on one side of the rim of the pot to form an entrance. (Try decorating

your toad abode with ceramic paint or markers that are specifically designed for terra cotta.)

You can also provide a cool place for a toad on a hot summer day with a “toad pit.”

**What you will need...**

*Two pieces of clay or corrugated drainage pipe, 4-inch diameter*

*Sand (about two cups)*

*Flat rock or piece of wood 1 to 1.5 feet in diameter*

*Rocks of various sizes*

Pick a sheltered area in your yard and dig a pit about 8 inches deep, 1 to 1.5 feet in diameter. Place the two pieces of pipe coming from the pit at a 30 degree angle. Pour the sand in the middle of the pit. Fill in around the pipe with dirt and cover the hole with a large flat rock or piece of wood. Then place the assortment of rocks around the cover. The two pipes allow the toad to escape if a potential predator should enter the toad pit.

life in a nest

Combine fun backyard discoveries with real science this spring by monitoring birds’ nests in your backyard. Anyone can monitor nests, and it's a rewarding way to spend time outdoors and participate in science. NestWatch is a citizen-science project that is seeking participants to add to the nest-monitoring database of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Visit [nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org).

YOUR NEST COUNTS	
Ohio	8290
New York	7883
Pennsylvania	5552
Colorado	5397
California	5183
Michigan	3886
Illinois	3657
Texas	3638
<b>Total:</b>	<b>87139</b>
Total number of attempts since 1997	





## FOR WILD KIDS

# Have You Been Outside Today?

by Mary Warren

How much time do you spend watching television, playing video games, using the computer, texting friends, or talking on the phone? According to research, kids ages 3 to 12 spend 27 percent of their time with electronics. This is really sad news because those kids spend only one percent of their time doing anything outdoors. If you are one of those kids, you are missing out on nature's big backyard.

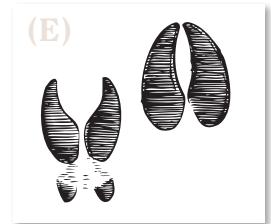
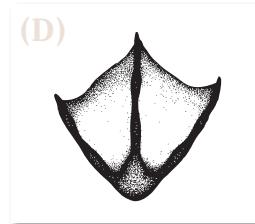
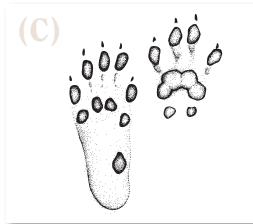
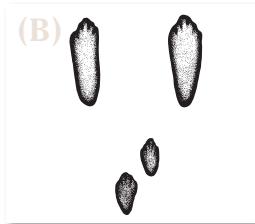
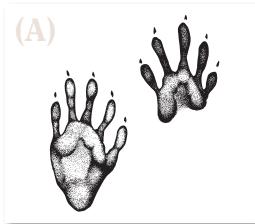
Here are some fun and simple things you can do outside. Make the outdoors part of your day everyday.

- watch the sunrise
- notice the sunset
- look up at the stars
- go to a nature program
- play in the mud
- search for tadpoles
- start an insect collection
- walk in the rain
- go camping
- lay on the ground
- look at the clouds
- keep a nature journal
- take pictures of nature
- smell the fresh air
- listen to the birds
- draw pictures outside
- go on a scavenger hunt
- plant something
- take a walk
- build a fort
- go fishing
- look for bird nests
- listen to the frogs
- look under rocks
- roll in the grass
- look for tracks
- ride your bike



Spring is a great time to look for tracks in the snow, mud, or sand. Can you match these tracks to the animals that made them?

CANADA GOOSE • DEER • RABBIT • RACCOON • SQUIRREL



Answers on page 23



### Send us a Photo

If a family member or friend takes a photo of you doing one of your favorite outdoor activities, send us the photo and we might print it in *Wild Ohio* magazine. Deadline is July 1, 2009. (Look for selected photos in the winter issue of *Wild Ohio*.) Include your name and the city where you live. **Mail print photos to:**

Naturalist, Division of Wildlife  
Migratory Bird Center  
13229 W. State Route 2  
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

**or email digital photos to:**  
mary.warren@dnr.state.oh.us.



### Apply Now for a Youth Fishing Float

Space is limited so apply now to enter the lottery-style drawing for the Division of Wildlife's annual youth fishing float on the Hocking River in Hocking County. The trip will be scheduled on a weekday in mid-to early July depending on river conditions. The event pairs kids with fisheries biologists to experience a day of river fishing while canoeing the Hocking River. Canoeists will receive instruction on all aspects of fishing, including aquatic habitats, equipment use, laws and regulations, and how to fillet and care for your catch. All fishing and canoeing equipment will be provided at no cost to those who are drawn to participate.

Kids ages 12 to 15 are eligible. Submit a postcard or letter that includes name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and parent or guardian's name to: "Youth Fishing Float," Division of Wildlife District Four, 360 E. State Street, Athens, OH 45701. Entries will be accepted beginning May 1 to June 1, 2009.

# WILD GAME GOURMET

Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio TV

## r e c i p e s

### Bang-bang Wild Turkey

1 turkey breast marinated in salt, sugar, and vinegar for 10 minutes  
1 cucumber, sliced into matchstick pieces  
4 tablespoons soy sauce  
2 teaspoons sugar  
2 teaspoons red chili oil  
½ teaspoon pepper  
4 tablespoons peanut butter, creamed with 1 tablespoon sesame oil

For garnish

White sesame seeds

2 tablespoons chopped scallions

Slice cucumber into matchstick pieces and set aside. Cook turkey breast in oven, frying pan, or grill. Allow to cool completely. Use a rolling pin or other mallet to tenderize turkey breast (This is where the “Bang!” comes in). After meat is tenderized, use forks to shred the meat. Combine cucumber sticks with shredded turkey and arrange on small serving plate. Combine soy sauce, sugar, chili oil, pepper, and creamed peanut butter. Pour sauce over turkey and garnish with scallions and sesame seeds.

*Contributed by Susie Vance*

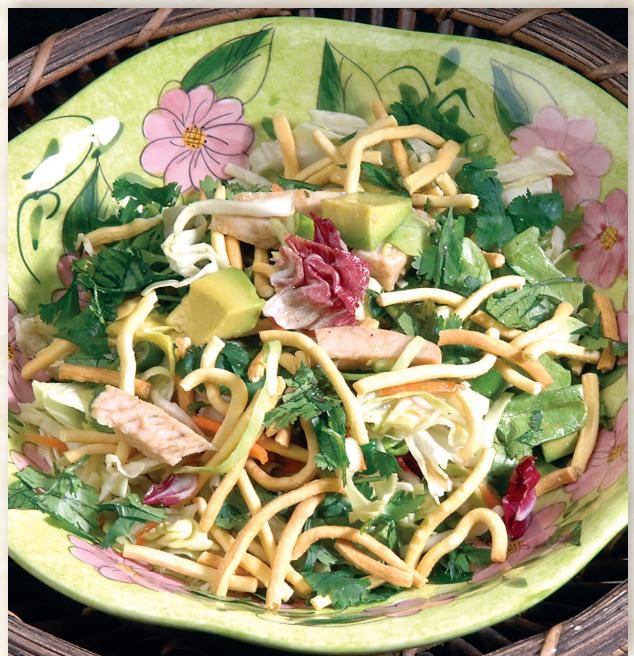


### Thai Turkey Salad

¾ pound turkey breast, cooked and sliced  
Salt and ground pepper  
½ teaspoon garlic powder  
½ bag shredded cabbage  
¼ cup diced green onion  
½ bag lettuce  
½ cup of unseasoned rice vinegar  
3 tablespoons fish sauce  
1/3 teaspoon Asian sesame oil  
2 teaspoons Splenda or sugar  
2 tablespoons seeded and minced serrano chili  
1 small avocado, pitted, peeled, and finely diced  
½ cup chopped fresh cilantro  
Handful fried noodles

Mix cabbage, lettuce, and green onion in large bowl and set aside. In separate bowl, stir together the garlic powder, salt and pepper, vinegar, fish sauce, sesame oil, and your choice of Splenda or sugar. Add turkey and stir to coat with dressing. Add cabbage mixture and serrano chili and toss to combine. Add diced avocado and gently turn salad to distribute ingredients evenly. Divide salad among four plates or bowls. Sprinkle with cilantro and fried noodles.

*Contributed by Vicki Mountz*



**For more great wild game recipes go to [wildohiocookbook.com](http://wildohiocookbook.com)**

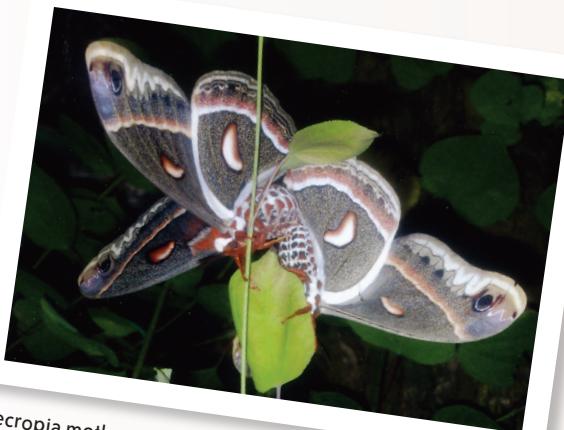


# READERS' PHOTOS

Wild Ohio magazine receives so many photos annually that we cannot possibly publish all of our readers' photos. However, the Division of Wildlife's new on-line photo gallery lets our Wild Ohio readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos. To post photos on the Web site, go to wildohio.com.



"My grandson Paul with a nice bass he caught."  
Ken Walter, North Royalton



Cecropia moths – Frank Blake, Massillon



Randy Delawder took this non-typical buck with a crossbow in Lawrence County last October. It green scored 237.

Susie Vance, Wildlife District Four



American bittern  
photographed  
by Herman  
Stidom.

Scott Finnegan  
Carrollton



Ben's First Catch (Caesar Creek)

Frances Snow, Fairborn



"My son Colter was thrilled when he caught an 18-inch largemouth. He is four years old."

Allen Chupp, Dalton

## division of wildlife HEADQUARTERS

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

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

## 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.*



# WildOhio Wildcap Giveaway

SIGN UP FOR THE WILDOHIO ENEWS AND ONE OF THESE WILDCAPS COULD BE YOURS.

## WildOhio

### e-NEWSLETTER

WildOhio eNews, our FREE email newsletter featuring:

- Watchable wildlife
- Backyard conservation insights
- Hunting and fishing tips and tricks
- Weekly fishing reports
- Special event alerts

and MORE!



REGISTER TODAY AT [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com)

**OHIO**



**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

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