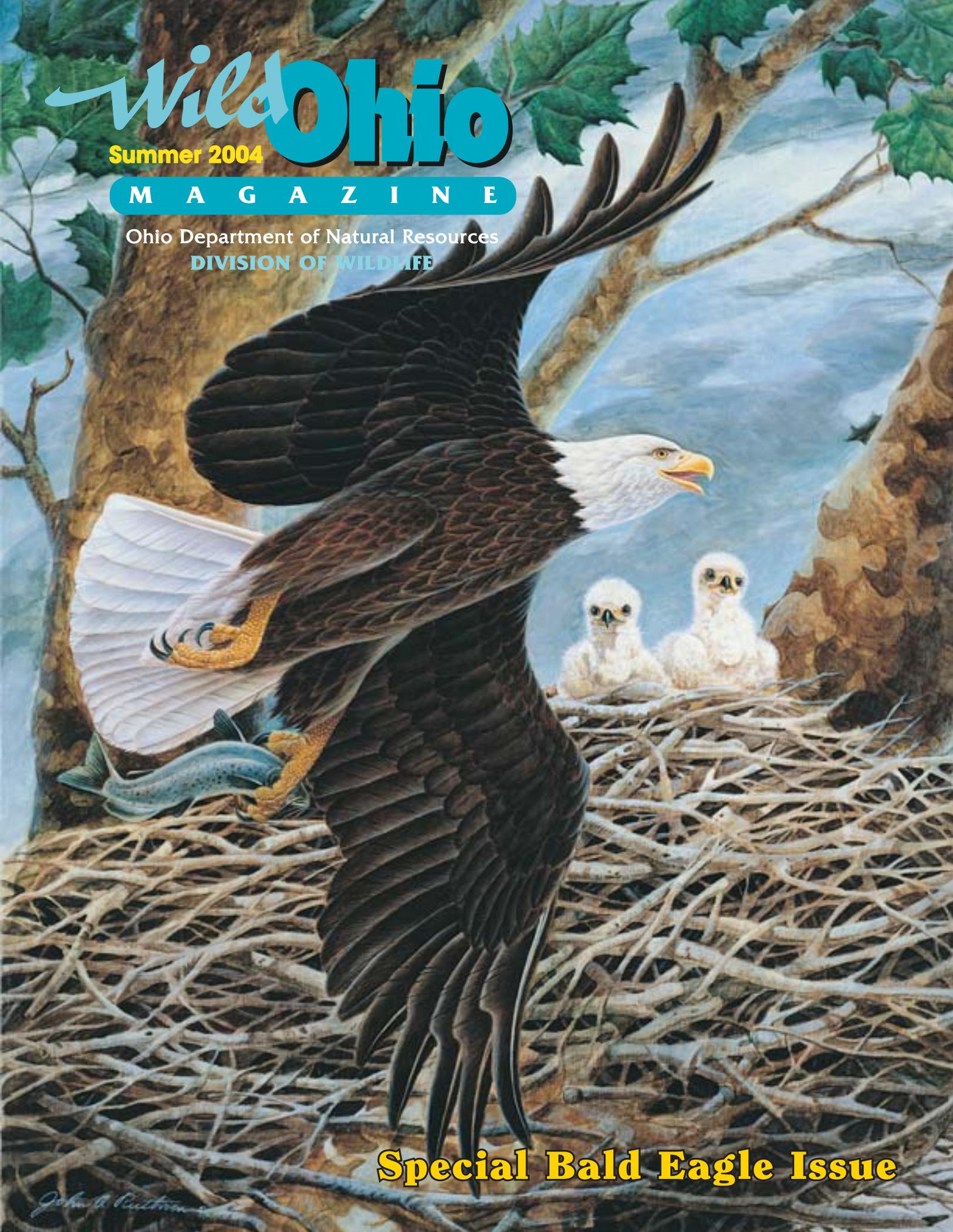


# Wild Ohio

Summer 2004

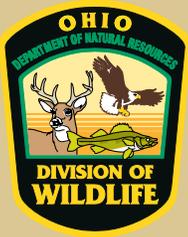
M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



**Special Bald Eagle Issue**

*John B. Kuitert*



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

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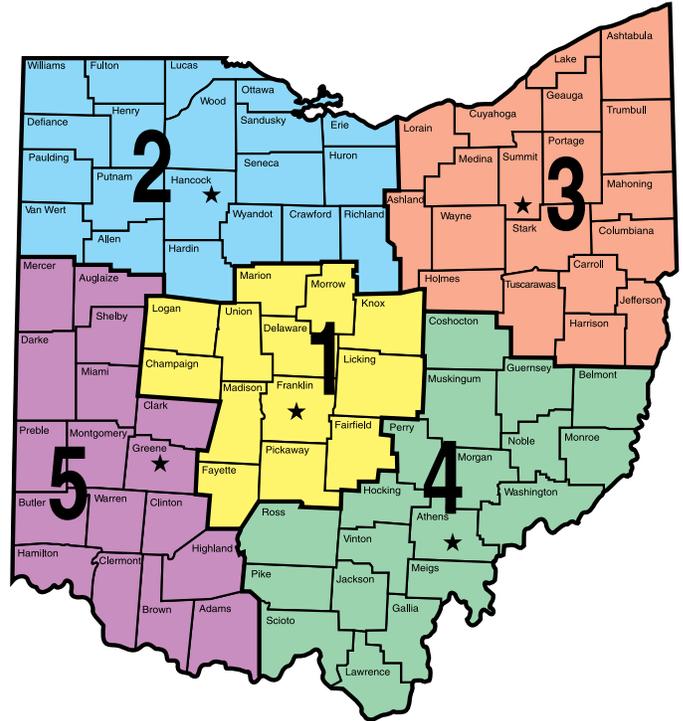
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**On the Wildlife Calendar for Summer . . .**

**June 5-13**

**National Fishing and Boating Week**

**July 17**

**BUGFEST**, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; noon to 4 p.m.

**August 4-15**

**Ohio State Fair**

**August 28**

**Southeastern Ohio Hunting & Trapping Expo**, Pritchard-Laughlin Center, Cambridge. Contact David Schott, Guernsey SWCD (740) 432-5624 or Ryan Fink, Muskingum SWCD (740) 454-2767.



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Duane Bailey

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Tim Daniel

### 8 Ohio's Bald Eagles: 25 Years of Recovery

*Diligent record keeping, research, wildlife management, and education have put Ohio's bald eagles on the road to recovery.*



Tim Daniel

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### Wetland Wildlife Diversity Update

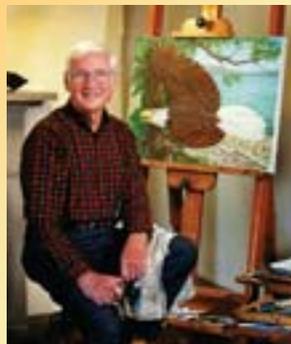
*Read this update on conservation efforts and the status of some of Ohio's diverse wetland wildlife.*

#### Cover Photo:

#### "Bald Eagle and Babies" by John Ruthven

John A. Ruthven, internationally acclaimed wildlife artist from Cincinnati, Ohio, studies his subject thoroughly—its habits and habitat—making sure every detail to be used in his painting is correct. He is a naturalist, artist, conservationist, outdoorsman, and lecturer. He designed Ohio's first wetland habitat stamp and the 1960 federal Duck Stamp. He also donated a painting of a Northern cardinal to the Division of Wildlife, which became the first conservation license plate for the state of Ohio.

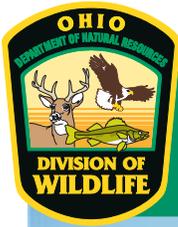
Ruthven has been commissioned by corporations, non-profit organizations, and political groups. His works hang in galleries, offices, museums, and living rooms around the world. He was commissioned to paint a series of American Bald Eagle paintings, which were unveiled by Presidents Gerald R. Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George H. Bush, and were displayed in the White House.



Robin Victor Coetz/RVCF

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# Ohio's watchable wildlife



Mark Witt

7 weeks old



2 years old

Tim Daniel



3 years old

Tim Daniel

## Watchable Wildlife • *Ohio's Bald*

In 2003 a record 88 bald eagle pairs nested in the state and raised 105 young. With an expanding bald eagle population in the Buckeye State, more and more Ohioans have the opportunity to observe our national symbol near their homes. Many people may see a bald eagle and not even realize it.

With over a decade of successful nesting seasons, Ohio's eagle community is widely varied in age, from fully mature adult birds that may be over 10 years old, to several-year-old juveniles attempting to breed for the first time, to very young birds only a year old.

Young bald eagles, referred to as "immatures," reach the same size as adults in just a few weeks, with a wingspan of approximately 6½ feet. However, they do not acquire the familiar pure white head and tail feathers until five or six years of age. Each year as the young mature, they acquire an increasing amount of white plumage until the head and tail are snow white. Immature bald eagles are mottled brown, and

more resemble hawks or osprey than their adult parents. In flight, white streaks can be observed on the underside of the wings. One sure way to recognize a bald eagle in flight is by the wing silhouette. Often referred to as the "flying board," it looks very flat and straight, versus the hawk's and turkey vulture's.

The voice of an eagle is a high-pitched, squeaky cackle or chatter. Their call is also described as the sound made by dragging rubber-soled tennis shoes across a linoleum floor. They feed mostly on fish, but also eat birds, small mammals, and carrion. They reach breeding maturity at about three or four years of age and are monogamous. An eagle's life span in the wild is generally 15 to 20 years.

### Nests of Eagles

Eagles prefer to build their nests in a fork of a tall tree, usually near a body of water. The nests are very large and can easily be seen during the winter months and early in the



**5+ years old**

Tim Daniel

nesting season prior to leaf out. A typical nest averages four feet in diameter and can weigh as much as a ton. Normally instead of building a new nest each year, eagle pairs simply add twigs and grasses to an already existing nest.

The largest eagle nest ever recorded was the “Great Nest” at Vermilion, Ohio. It measured 12 feet high and 8 feet wide, and weighed nearly 2 tons. It was used by different eagle pairs for more than 35 years before being destroyed when it fell 80 feet to the ground during a storm in March 1925.

Tim Daniel



**White streaks can be observed on the undersides of the wings of immature bald eagles in flight.**

Division of Wildlife photo

# Eagles

## Viewing Opportunities

Breeding adult bald eagles are year-round residents of the state, while immature and nonbreeding eagles (those that have not reached breeding maturity) migrate sporadically from October through March. Two very popular staging areas for immature bald eagles prior to migrating southward are the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Ottawa County) and Pickerel Creek State Wildlife Area (Sandusky County). Oftentimes, more than 50 immature birds may be spotted at those two locations in one day.

Other good viewing areas for both immature and adult eagles include the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Ottawa County), Old Woman’s Creek State Nature Preserve (Erie County), Killdeer Plains State

Wildlife Area (Wyandot and Marion counties), Mosquito Creek State Wildlife Area (Trumbull County), Delaware State Wildlife Area (Delaware County), Salt Fork State Park (Guernsey County), Knox Lake State Wildlife Area (Knox County), Dillon State Park (Muskingum County), along the Sandusky River watershed from Fremont to Upper Sandusky, and various locations along the Ohio River.

Observers are reminded that they should stay a good distance away from a nest — at least ¼ mile — while a pair is nesting. Observers are reminded that bald eagles and their nest sites are protected by state and federal laws. Any type of disturbance around a nest could cause the pair to abandon the nest or discourage them from using the nest in the future.



# Young Carvers

## Discover Talents in Early Art Form



*Story and photos by Duane Bailey, Paulding County Wildlife Officer*

**S**pear fishing might be one of the oldest forms of fishing done by man, predating angling, especially angling as a sport. Native Americans were spearing fish long before Europeans reached North America. In winter, they spear fished through the ice with the help of a decoy to lure pike, trout, and other available fish.

The fish decoy was made of wood with a tail of birch bark and body weighted with lead. Much skill was required in making the decoy so that its equilibrium in the water was perfect. The fisherman would cut a hole in the ice of a frozen lake or river and lay flat beside it while beneath a small tent of animal skins. With one hand he guided the decoy through the water so that its movements would be as lifelike as possible. In his other hand he held the spear ready to strike at the proper moment.

This method of taking fish was adopted by early European settlers and evolved into what became known as “darkhouse” spearing. The term “darkhouse” refers to the windowless shanties which replaced the animal skin tents originally used by the first Americans. Today, darkhouse spearing is a popular winter activity in the upper Great Lakes, and the making of fish decoys has become an art.

copper or aluminum. Each decoy had to be perfectly balanced and weighted with lead. Finally, the decoys were painted using oil paints. By September the four young carvers had progressed so much that Bashore suggested they enter their work in a contest hosted by the Great Lakes Fish Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association. The contest was the Fish Decoy Carving World Championship held at Monroe, Michigan.

The competition saw over 900 entries in 68 different categories based on decoy style, function, and age of contestant. The Paulding foursome came



**Award-winning decoys and jigging sticks made by young Paulding County carvers.**

**“These young carvers came right along from the very beginning. Their interest was there and they stuck with it.”**

**— Carving Instructor Sonny Bashore**

Recently, I met some special folks from Paulding, Ohio who have become keepers of the tradition of fish decoy carving and whose work has earned them acclaim. You may be surprised to learn that they range in age from 12 to 15 years!

Last summer, William Wilhelm (age 12), Clint Porter (age 13), Junior Salas (age 14), and Mary Sanderson (age 15) became interested in learning how to make fish decoys and jigging sticks. Jigging sticks are short, wooden rods used to manipulate a fish decoy in the water. The four began an apprenticeship under the guidance of Sonny Bashore, renowned carver and artist from Paulding.

Using no power tools, each began carving and sanding basswood decoys and jigging rods of curly maple or walnut. Fins for the decoys were shaped and cut from



**The young carvers practice their newly-found art form of fish decoy carving with their instructor Sonny Bashore.**

away with a total of 17 awards! (See sidebar.)

“These young carvers came right along from the very beginning. Their interest was there and they stuck with it,” said Bashore.

It was quite an accomplishment for the group to earn this many awards after taking up carving so recently. They also had a good teacher. Sonny Bashore has been carving decoys for over 30 years. He himself won three first place awards at the World Championship. But most importantly he was willing to



Young champion carvers include (left to right) Mary Sanderson, Clint Porter, mentor Sonny Bashore, William Wilhelm, and Junior Salas.

## Awards

**William:** 1st place, “Junior, Service Working Decoy” category; and Honorable Mention, “Jigging Stick” category.

**Clint:** 1st place and two Honorable Mentions, “Junior, Combined Style” jigging stick; 3rd place, “Best of Show”; 2nd place, “Junior, Service Working” decoy; and Honorable Mention, “Junior, Folk Art/Vintage Style” decoy.

**Junior:** 2nd place, “Junior, Combined Style” jigging stick; 3rd place, “Junior, Service Working Decoy” category; and Honorable Mention, “Junior, Folk Art/Vintage Style” decoy.

**Mary:** 1st place in both “Junior, Decorative Fish Carving–Warm Water” and “Junior, Decorative Smoothies” categories; 3rd place, “Junior, Folk Art/Vintage Style” decoy; two Honorable Mentions, “Junior, Service Working” decoys; and Honorable Mention, “Junior, Combined Style” jigging stick.



share his talent and mentor four great kids. If it's true that art imitates life then the future of this American art form is in good hands.

*Sonny Bashore is a former Division of Wildlife employee having worked in both wildlife and fish management at Oxbow Lake. He has made over 12,000 decoys including waterfowl and fish decoys, and has won numerous world championships. Besides his carving accomplishments, he painted the first state duck stamp and first trout stamp for the state of Indiana. He also holds Indiana's state record for rainbow trout.*

## Eagle Sculpture Donated to Magee Marsh

Bald eagle enthusiasts joined the Division of Wildlife and State Representative Bob Latta to unveil a new bald eagle sculpture at the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County last January. Ohio artist Jim Gundlach donated the life-size aluminum sculpture, which will be displayed just outside the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. It is the first of Gundlach's eagle sculptures to be put on public display. (Pictured from left to right: Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray, State Representative Bob Latta, and sculptor Jim Gundlach.)



Tim Daniel

## Wetlands Habitat Stamp Art Selected

Adam Grimm of Elyria, Ohio won first place at this year's Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp design competition. His artwork of a drake wood duck captured his first win in Ohio in a conservation stamp competition. His artwork will appear on the 2005–2006 Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp. Grimm also won the federal duck stamp competition in 1999.

Second place in the Ohio judging went to Gregory Clair of Bowling Green, Ohio and third place honors went to Dick Benson of Washington Court House, Ohio. More than 35,000 wetland stamps are sold each year, with proceeds from stamp sales used to fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio.



# Ohio's Bald Eagles:

## 25 Years of Recovery

by *Melissa Hathaway*

### *An American Icon*

To most of us, seeing a bald eagle in the wild is a spectacular and thrilling experience. Fortunately, we are more likely to have an opportunity to observe our nation's symbol than our parents ever did, and our children will have even greater opportunities to see these majestic birds.

The bald eagle's comeback in Ohio and nationwide over the past two decades is a remarkable wildlife management story. A number of factors helped put the species on the road to recovery, but some of the prominent factors include stronger environmental laws, increased legal protection, professional wildlife management, restoring wetlands, and strong citizen support. Here in the Buckeye State, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the state's Bald Eagle Management Program.



Tim Daniel

### *The Devastating Years*

The bald eagle was fairly common across much of North America, and was adopted as the national emblem in 1782. When European settlers first came to the Ohio Country, bald eagles were common along Lake Erie and in major river systems and inland marshes. They were first recorded in Ohio in 1811, and listed as "common" in the Lake Erie Marsh Region around the turn of the century. Division of Wildlife historical records show nesting occurred in every county along Lake Erie; the inland lakes of Pymatuning, Buckeye, Indian, Charles Mill, and Grand Lake St Mary's; Killbuck swamp in Wayne County; and in Brown and Butler counties.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, bald eagle numbers declined as the human population increased. As Ohio forests were cleared and wetlands drained for farms and industry, eagles began losing foraging areas and the large trees and solitude they relied upon for nesting. In Ohio and elsewhere, other factors in their decline included human disturbance at nest sites and killing by poachers. Congress enacted the first laws to protect the bald eagle with the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and later the Eagle Protection Act in 1940. By 1963, the nation's bald eagle population dropped to a low of 417 breeding pairs in the lower 48 states, and the bird was officially declared an endangered species in 1967.



The Ohio Conservation Bulletin, March 1954

**Early researcher Frank Ligas bands a pair of Ohio eaglets on Green Island in 1954.**

But even greater struggles lay ahead for the nation's symbol. Bald eagle numbers declined even more dramatically nationwide throughout the 1960s and 1970s from continued habitat loss and the effects of toxic chemicals in the environment. After World War II, the pesticide DDT was commonly sprayed on croplands, which by way of runoff, washed into lakes and streams. This residue was absorbed by aquatic plants and animals that were eaten by fish -- the staple of the bald eagle's diet. The toxicity of the chemical eventually built up in the birds' systems and either left them sterile, or weakened the shells of their eggs to a degree that they broke under the weight of the bird. Many eggs failed to hatch and bald eagle populations plummeted.

Terry V. Lutz 2004



**This past spring Ohio reached a milestone in the bald eagle success story with over 100 nests recorded in the state.**



Melissa Hathaway



Tim Daniel

A climber retrieves an eaglet from a nest during a banding project.



Division of Wildlife photo

Nesting platforms were constructed for eagles to build nests upon in the early part of the eagle recovery program.

Diligent record keeping, research, wildlife management, and intense education efforts have helped put Ohio bald eagles on the road to recovery.

The harmful effects of DDT and certain other chemicals on wildlife were eventually recognized and their use was banned in 1972

with the passage of the Federal Pesticide Act. The Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, and the bald eagle was the first species placed on the Endangered Species List. There were now four federal laws that would protect the bald eagle and its habitat. Still, years of chemical contamination had a long-term impact on eagles, and their numbers continued to decline.

On the Ohio home front, Laurel VanCamp, then Ottawa County game protector, was seeing a serious decline in nesting eagles along Lake Erie and began keeping official nesting records in 1959. There were then 15 nesting pairs throughout Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties. That number declined steadily over a 20-year period until only four pairs could be documented in 1975 and again in 1979.

## The Comeback Years

In 1979, Ohio's four eagle pairs nesting along southwestern Lake Erie were all that remained along the entire Great Lakes shores. That year the Division of Wildlife began the state's Bald Eagle Restoration Program to help "jump start" Ohio's eagle population. The intensive restoration project was aimed at adding more young eagles to Ohio's resident population and eventually, to the breeding population.

Denis Case, retired Division wildlife biologist, was the lead coordinator of the Bald Eagle Restoration Program in its initial 10 years. "Back then, our first priority was to keep from losing Ohio's nesting eagles altogether. Initially, what I

think the Division was able to do for the population, was put just enough wind back under their wings to get the birds to hang on. Subsequently, broader environmental and habitat improvements allowed the eagle population to expand."

The early effort did not "put all its eggs in one nest," but took a four-pronged wildlife management approach in rebuilding the state's bald eagle population: fostering, rehabilitation, education, and habitat improvement. In addition, enforcement surveillance around nest sites was stepped up, especially during the critical nesting time.

**Fostering:** Eaglets born in captivity were obtained from zoos and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and placed in the nests of eagles whose eggs failed to hatch. The eagles became "foster parents" to the eaglets.

**Rehabilitation:** Each individual bird was considered critical to the population and the future of an expanding population. Every attempt was made to help an injured bird recover and return to the wild.

**Education:** Education of the public and landowners about the importance of protecting the bald eagle and the effects of human disturbance became an important focus.

*continued on next page*

Today the Division aims to acquire and restore wetlands to protect important eagle breeding areas from development or other human disturbance.



Division of Wildlife photo

## Ohio's Bald Eagles:

### 25 Years of Recovery *continued*

**Habitat Improvement:** Man-made nests were constructed to resemble a nest built by eagles. Nesting platforms were also constructed for eagles to build nests upon in areas where nests existed, but were in poor condition. Today the habitat focus involves acquiring and restoring wetlands in eagle breeding territories to ensure prime nesting and staging areas are not developed or otherwise affected by human disturbance.

## Monitoring

No successful wildlife management project can be accomplished without diligent monitoring and record keeping. Banding projects became an annual ritual at each successful nest from 1979 to 1997. Each offspring from Ohio nests was given state and federal identification leg bands and blood samples were collected in order to monitor the progress of the population. In addition, each of the eaglets from nests in the Lake Erie Marsh Region was also fitted with a backpack style harness holding a radio transmitter and an identification tag was attached to each bird's wings in a four-year (1989-1992) telemetry project to determine movement and habitat use by young eagles.

Yet another important monitoring tool was the establishment of the public Volunteer Nest Monitor Program. Initiated in 1988, a crew of volunteer observers devote numerous hours watching and recording what is occurring at each active eagle nest across the state. Their reports help Division staff determine how the reproductive and nesting efforts are proceeding. If an observer detects a problem at the nest, such as the adults abandoning the nest, Division biologists may be able to save the offspring if needed.

## Habitat Research

"Regardless of how healthy the eagle population may be, it is still in jeopardy if there is no place for it to establish nests and to feed," said Mark Shieldcastle, supervisor at the Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station in Ottawa County which administers the Bald Eagle Management Program today. He is referring to such threats to the bald eagle as continued loss of wetlands and preferred nesting and staging areas, and damage to the state's waters by channelization, erosion, and water pollution. These, in turn, will disturb the eagle's food source.

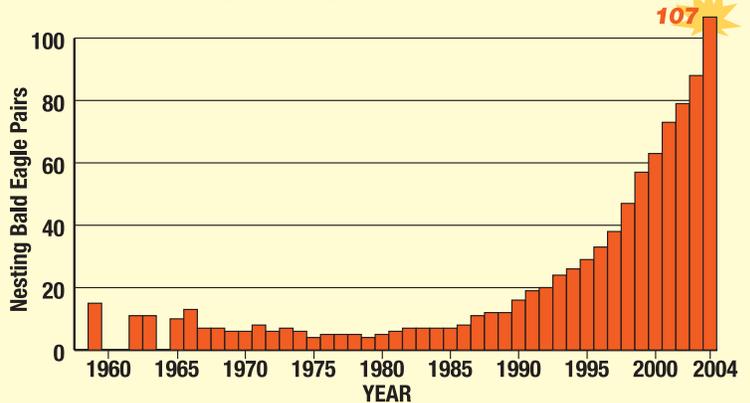
"The fledgling stage is the most vulnerable of the life cycle, but little is known about the habitat requirements for young eagles," he said. One Division study is identifying habitat needs and evaluating habitat availability. The study has shown that once independent, fledglings spend significantly more time in low disturbance areas. It revealed that fledgling habitat needs may be limiting future population growth, and identified the importance of wetland habitat protection and land acquisition by resource management agencies.

## A Conservation Success Story

Meticulous records and monitoring of Ohio eagles, diligent research, professional wildlife management, and intense education efforts have paid off. By 1992, Ohio reached its goal of 20 nesting eagle pairs set in 1979, eight years ahead of schedule. Record hatches over the past decade are now contributing to the tremendous growth in the state's bald eagle population. Ohio's nesting bald eagle population has gone from only four pairs along Lake Erie in 1979 to the current modern-day record of 107 nesting pairs dispersed throughout 39 Ohio counties. Last year breeding eagle pairs reared 105 offspring, and biologists expect the number of young raised this year will far exceed that.

"Ohio's bald eagle population has been experiencing a 'baby-boom' over the past decade with increasing numbers of nesting eagles and young fledged each year," Shieldcastle said.

Ohio's Nesting Bald Eagle Pairs, 1959-2004



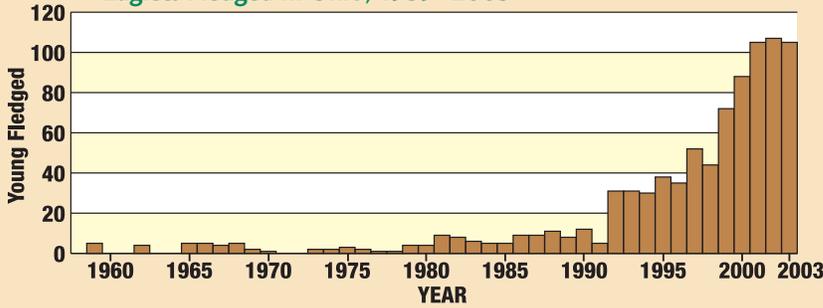
Although young bald eagles may migrate out of the state during the winter months, once they are mature enough to breed at three to four years of age, they usually return to nest within 100 miles of where they fledged. Biologists are now seeing a snowball effect. Increasing numbers of new nests are popping up in Ohio each year as the young from each successful hatch mature and establish nesting territories.



Mike Taylor

Eagle pairs reared 105 offspring in 2003.

Eaglets Fledged in Ohio, 1959–2003



In 1981, the first eagle pair, possibly part of the Pymatuning group in Pennsylvania, built a nest in Trumbull County. Since then, the number of pairs in northeastern Ohio has blossomed. From the Lake Erie marsh region, the eagle population has branched out up the Sandusky River corridor and into north central Ohio. A nest located on the Mercer Wildlife Area in Mercer County is the first nest in western Ohio in modern-day history. And a few nests have popped up in southeastern Ohio in recent years, originating from eaglets fledged from Lake Erie territories, with continuing reports of eagle activity along the Ohio River.

Division biologists and the volunteer nest observers diligently monitor any new eagle activity. Where the next nest will show up is anyone's guess.

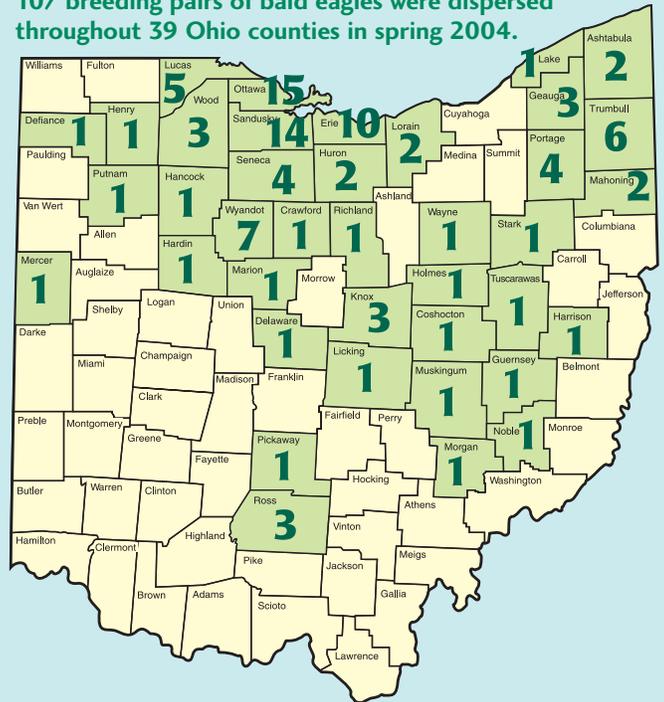
"Any of the watersheds or major river corridors throughout the state could attract nesting eagle pairs," Shieldcastle said. "As more of Ohio's eagle pairs mature, more breeding territories are established, and more young are fledged. The snowball effect keeps rolling."



Melissa Hathaway

Since 1988 dedicated eagle observers in the Volunteer Nest Monitor Program have been recording nesting activity.

107 breeding pairs of bald eagles were dispersed throughout 39 Ohio counties in spring 2004.



# They're Back!

## Bald Eagles Are Soaring in the Buckeye State

Tim Daniel  
Ron Austing



The bald eagle was adopted as the national symbol in 1782.



Congress enacted the first laws to protect the bald eagle with the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Eagle Protection Act in 1940.

Only four eagle pairs remained in Ohio at the start of the Bald Eagle Restoration Program in 1979.

Eaglets born in captivity were fostered into wild nests.

The "Great Nest" at Vermilion, the largest bald eagle nest on record, was used for more than 35 years before being destroyed in a storm.



Division of Wildlife photo



Division of Wildlife photo

Ottawa County Game Protector Laurel Van Camp began keeping official eagle records in 1959. ▶

1924 - First formally studied in Ohio

1782 - Bald eagle adopted as National Symbol

1811 - First eagle formally recorded in Ohio

1882 - Described as a common resident in Ohio

1890 - Start of the "Great Nest" at Vermilion

1918 - Passage of Migratory Bird Treaty Act

1925 - "Great Nest" destroyed in storm

1940 - Passage of Eagle Protection Act

1780

1820

1860

1900

1920

1940



Each offspring in every Ohio eagle nest was banded from 1979 to 1997.

Melissa Hathaway



Division of Wildlife photo

A telemetry study from 1989 to 1992 tracked the movements of eaglets fledged from Lake Erie area nests.



Melissa Hathaway

Left: Rehabilitation of sick and injured eagles was an integral part of the recovery program.

Below: Governor Bob Taft, State Representative Bob Latta, and local citizens attended a banding project during Ohio's Bicentennial celebration in 2003.

## An Invitation to See an Ohio Bald Eagle

The Division reinitiated banding of young eagles in 2003 at five nests; not because the population was backsliding, but because biologists want to continue to monitor at least a small sample of the population. They want to determine their health and use these new marked individuals to track movements and turnover rates of the population over time.

Public banding events were also very appropriate in Ohio's Bicentennial year in 2003 in commemorating an Ohio conservation success story. Governor Bob Taft, State Representative Bob Latta, and local citizens joined wildlife officials last May to band two eaglets from an Ottawa County nest. Other banding events took place in Delaware, Ottawa, Geauga, and Trumbull counties.

Check the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Web site at [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com) for details on public eagle banding events for May 2004.



Tim Daniel

1959 - First comprehensive record keeping

1963 - National low of 417 breeding pairs in lower 48 states

1967 - First officially declared an endangered species

1972 - Passage of Federal Pesticide Act

1973 - Passage of Endangered Species Act; eagle first species listed

1975 - Ohio's population reached low of four pairs

1979 - Ohio Bald Eagle Plan, first eaglets fostered

1988 - Eagle Nest Monitoring Program established

1989 - Lake Erie eaglet telemetry study begins

1992 - Reached goal of 20 Ohio nesting pairs

1995 - Federally reclassified to "threatened"

1999 - Federally proposed for delisting; Ohio Bald Eagle License Plate available

2002 - Record number of Ohio fledglings (107)

2004 - Record number of Ohio breeding pairs for 16th consecutive year (108)

2004 - 25th Anniversary of Ohio's Bald Eagle Management Program

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

# Wetland Wildlife Diversity Update

Compiled by Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station Staff; photos by Tim Daniel

**B**ald eagles are synonymous with wetlands, but many other native wildlife species depend on wetland habitat too. Below is an update of the status of some of Ohio's diverse wetland wildlife. (Also see "Ohio's Bald Eagles: 25 Years of Recovery" beginning on page 8.)

**Common Tern**—Although this state-endangered bird occurs statewide during migration, nesting colonies have always been restricted to the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Habitat loss and competition from gulls have been the major factors depressing the population in the past two decades.



common tern

In the early 1990s, the Division of Wildlife began maintaining artificial nesting platforms at several locations. Floating rafts were first made with platforms on barrels, then later pontoon boats, to serve as protected nesting platforms. In 2003, three artificial tern nesting colonies were maintained with nesting success at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area and the Navarre and Ottawa units of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR). Overall production increased 64 percent from 2002 and was a record for the restoration program. A fourth platform group attracted terns but had no nesting. The restoration project objective is to have five colonies with at least two colonies of 100 pairs and an annual production rate of one young per nest.



double-crested cormorant

**Colonial Wading Birds**—Historical records show this diverse group of herons, egrets, and cormorants was common in the Lake Erie marsh region. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1919 provided protection to colonial wading birds from poaching and harassment. Today, distribution ranges from widespread in the state (great blue heron) to extremely local (yellow-crowned night heron). Shifts in breeding range have been noted in several species.

The **black-crowned night heron** is no longer a mainland nester, and currently nests only on West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge in Lake Erie and Turning Point Island in Sandusky Bay. The West Sister colony, the largest colony in the U.S. Great Lakes, has been steadily reducing in size. Land management on the island has shown some promise with a slight increase in



black-crowned night heron

nesting pairs in 2003. In a cooperative agreement between the USFWS and the Division, one-acre plots are being cut to set back succession on a portion of the island. The objective is to provide lower nesting substrate to reduce wind loss of active nests for the black-crowns. Tree regeneration is immediate and provides nesting sites within two years of the cut.

**Cormorants** have increased dramatically throughout the Western Basin of Lake Erie in recent years, and have caused concern that they could displace other nesting colonial waders. These birds previously nested in the state until the 1880s, then were only migrants until the 1990s when they began nesting in the Lake Erie region. They presently nest on West Sister Island, Turning Point Island,



snowy egrets



great egret



sandhill crane



osprey

Erie County, and the Mercer Wildlife Area. West Sister makes up the largest colony and has shown continued long-term growth. Cormorants can be seen on any water body in migration, with flocks of up to 10,000 in Lake Erie's Western Basin

Observations of breeding pairs and confirmed sightings of nests or young indicate breeding by sandhill cranes in Ohio since 1985. Growth of the breeding population has been slow, primarily centered in the Killbuck-Funk Bottoms region, Geauga, Ashtabula, and Trumbull counties of northeastern Ohio, Williams County in northwestern Ohio, and in the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area of central Ohio.

Twelve breeding pairs produced 12 young in 2003, and increased numbers of cranes have also been seen at both Deer Creek and Mercer wildlife areas during spring and fall migration.

**Ospreys** have been uncommon migrants and summer visitors to Ohio throughout the 1900s with the last known nesting attempt at Buckeye Lake in 1941. Populations declined mostly due to habitat loss, decreasing water quality, nest site disturbance, and shooting by poachers. Ospreys returned to Ohio's breeding fauna with a successful nest on the Ohio River in Jefferson County in 1995.

A Division restoration program initiated in 1996 used hacking towers to release young osprey to the wild at five sites: Portage Lakes, Lake La Su An Wildlife Area, Deer Creek Wildlife Area, Salt Fork Wildlife Area, and Spring Valley Wildlife Area. Hacking involves placing five- or six-week-old osprey chicks in boxes on elevated platforms and feeding them (with minimal human exposure) until they fledge and learn to catch fish on their own.

The Division has hacked approximately 280 birds since 1996. The number of natural nests has increased from one in 1997 to 22 in 2003, thus surpassing the Division goal of 20 nests seven years ahead of schedule. One hundred thirty-three chicks have fledged from Ohio nests since 1997.

**Trumpeter Swan**—Trumpeter swans were eliminated from Ohio in the early 1700s by unregulated harvest for their meat and feathers. The Division began a restoration project in 1996 cooperatively working with the Mississippi Flyway Council, the Cleveland Metropark Zoo, The Wilds, and Ducks Unlimited. The objective of this project is to have 15 nesting pairs in Ohio by 2006.

*continued on next page*

during fall migration.

The **great egret** has slowly increased in Ohio. They nest on West Sister Island and Turning Point Island, and can be observed throughout Ohio in marshes, rivers, and swamps during migration and the summer months. West Sister makes up the largest colony in the U.S. Great Lakes and has been stable in recent years.

The state-endangered **snowy egret** is a recent addition to the nesting species in Lake Erie's Western Basin, where they have established a colony on West Sister Island. This colony makes up the largest colony in the U.S. Great Lakes and has been stable in recent years. The species can be observed throughout the Lake Erie Marsh region from spring to fall.

**Sandhill Crane**—The state-endangered greater sandhill crane is included in the Division's state-listed Terrestrial Wildlife Tactical Plan. The plan calls for restoration of all endangered terrestrial wildlife and protection of species to the point where they meet criteria for down-listing by 2010. Specific actions for restoring sandhill cranes include protection of nesting sites and augmentation of the current resident breeding population.

## Wetland Wildlife Diversity **Update** *continued*

The reintroduction project has consisted of four phases of swan releases: 1) two- to three-year-old captive reared trumpeter swans, 2) swans hatched from Alaskan trumpeter swan eggs, 3) swans obtained from private propagators, and 4) swans obtained from the Mississippi Flyway. The Alaskan eggs were hatched at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo and the cygnets raised in captivity at The Wilds for two years before being released at selected wildlife areas.



trumpeter swan

Thirteen of 21 trumpeter pairs established in the state produced 46 cygnets in 2003. Thirty-five of those survived and fledged. The Division conducted its last swan release when five swans were released at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge in May 2003.

**Wetland Breeding Bird Survey**—Over 90 percent of Ohio's wetlands have been lost during the past two centuries resulting in a reduction in the number of wetland birds. Determining the population status of wetland birds can be used as an indicator of the health of Ohio's remaining wetland ecosystem.

The Wetland Breeding Bird Survey was initiated in 1991 to determine the abundance of wetland breeding birds. The survey is specific to species not adequately monitored by the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Data was compiled by the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit until 1994 and since by the Division of Wildlife. Volunteers record birds seen or heard at stops covering predetermined wetland survey routes.



greater yellowlegs

## Frog and Toad Calling Survey

All 14 of Ohio's native species of frog and toad species rely on water during a portion of their life cycle. The Division monitors populations of these species through Ohio's Frog and Toad Calling Survey. This statewide survey effort is coordinated by Herpetologist Jeff Davis and supported by volunteers who record frogs chorusing and document the numbers of individuals and species at stops along a permanent survey route. More than 100 individuals participate in the survey in 53 of Ohio's 88 counties.



gray tree frog

## River Otters No Longer Endangered



River otters were historically common throughout Ohio, but disappeared by the early 1900s due to poor water quality and deforestation. The Division obtained river otters in Arkansas and Louisiana from 1986 to 1993 using modern foothold traps, and released them in the Grand River, Killbuck Creek, Stillwater Creek and the Little Muskingum River. Today the distribution of river otters continues to increase in many of Ohio's rivers, streams, and lakes and the species was removed from the state Endangered Species list in 2002.

River otters are currently known to occur in at least 44 counties encompassing 48 watersheds. Increases in their numbers and distribution in Ohio are likely the result of improved wetland and stream habitats, an expanding beaver population, and similar restoration efforts in neighboring states.

If you happen to see a river otter, please call the Division of Wildlife's Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station (419-898-0960) or 1-800-WILDLIFE to report the sighting.



## Protecting the "White Giants"

Conservation easements are a good way of protecting special habitats while leaving the land in private ownership. The Division is currently working with a landowner along the Scioto River in Pike County through a Conservation easement to permanently protect one of the best and oldest stands of sycamore trees along the river. The property has been named "The Land of the White Giants" by ODNR Forester

Lee Crocker. Sycamores with their great height, open canopy, strong limbs and numerous cavities provide nesting sites for such birds as great blue herons, bald eagles, wood ducks, flycatchers, and woodpeckers. These trees also improve a stream's habitat and water quality, which benefits aquatic species such as fish, mussels, and insects. This photo shows landowner Mary Vallery standing next to one of the "white giants" on the property.



## ODNR Purchases North Bass Property

The Division of Wildlife will contribute \$742,000 toward the purchase of North Bass Island by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Federal funding will be obtained through a Pittman-Robertson grant for the acquisition, which will encompass Fox's Marsh and Manilla Bay. The 589-acre purchase includes nearly 2.5 miles of undeveloped shoreline, 58 acres of natural coastal wetlands, unique geologic features, and numerous state and federal endangered species.

The purchase will also be funded using general revenue fund monies, and grants from the National Oceanographic and Air Administration Agency and the U.S. Department of Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## Barn Owl Update

Barn owls are known to experience high mortality during severe winter weather because they are less able to maintain body heat than other owls, and deep snow makes catching prey much more difficult. However, despite the cold and snow of winter 2002-03, Ohio's barn owl population had a good year. Division personnel banded 151 owlets in 36 nests during the 2003 nesting season. Over 50 adult owls were captured, 12 were banded in 2003, and 41 were banded in previous years. Nests were located in 11 counties, mainly along the glaciated-unglaciated boundary that runs from northeast to southwest across the state.

Barn owls were in such low numbers that they were listed as endangered in 1990, but because of data collected through Ohio's barn owl program, they were down-listed to threatened status in 2002. Barn owls forage in wet meadow habitats for their primary prey, the meadow vole. They nest in cavities found in trees, or in man-made structures such as barns and silos, adjacent to quality feeding areas. If you know of any nesting barn owls in Ohio please contact the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE to report your observation.

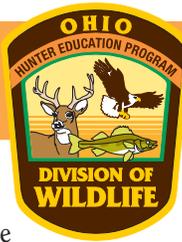


Tim Daniel

## Another Record Buck Bagged

Heather Martin of Middletown took a record buck in Butler County with a 50-caliber muzzleloader during the 2003 deer gun season. Her deer could make six record books, including Boone & Crockett, Muzzleloader (longhunters), Buckeye Big Bucks Club (green score 202 2/8 non-typical), World Classics (score 223 3/8), North American Whitetail Records (221 4/8), and Buckmasters (202 7/8). It was her first deer.





by Marc Sommer

Hippity hop, hippity hop, ridip, ridip, bloop. Some may think that was the sound of the bunny hop gone wrong, but it is in fact the sound of a suspicious bullfrog during frog gigging season. And by frog gigging I am not referring to a group of frogs playing music at the local eatery, I am referring to outdoor recreating and one of Ohio's naturally occurring delicacies.

Towards the end of every spring when the air begins to warm, a chorus can be heard on bodies of water throughout Ohio. That chorus is the signal that frog season is about to begin. This is your signal that beginning mid-June there is yet another reason to get off the couch, away from the TV, and out into nature where the fun begins. We offer some tips on how to get started. Also, check out the "Wild Game Gourmet's" recipe for fried frog legs on page 22.

### Equipment

Frog gigging is an inexpensive activity that can be enjoyed by all. Common equipment includes:

- Fishing license—required for taking frogs in Ohio
- frog gig—(long poles with 3-4 barbed tines used as spears)
- flashlight—for stunning the frog by shining light in its eyes
- game bag—(bucket with a lid that will seal) to carry daily limit
- waders—to keep body dry while wading
- longbow and arrow—alternate method to a frog spear
- enough bug spray to cover Texas—mosquitoes are common
- Optional—a small boat (a great method for getting to hard to reach bank locations)



Ron Keil

The most common method for gigging frogs is to wade around the banks of water bodies in the evening. Frogs can generally be found around banks in shallow water. The flashlight is used to stun the frog by blinding it with the light. Once the frog has been stunned, the frog spear should be positioned as close as possible before being thrust into the frog. Avoid gigging the frog in the legs; remember, that is the part of the amphibian that will be prepared for consumption.

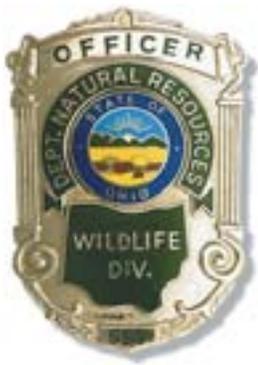
Whether on foot or in a boat, frog hunters should keep noise to a minimum. Stealth is an extremely important aspect of filling the daily bag limit. The less noise and vibration made, the better the chances for gigging a frog and the less chance of seeing the water ripples of an opportunity missed.

- ◆ An Ohio Fishing License is required to gig frogs.
- ◆ Only bullfrogs and green frogs are legal and no more than 10 may be taken or possessed.
- ◆ The season runs from June 15 through April 30 (closed during the May breeding season.)
- ◆ When going on private property, written permission is legally required.
- ◆ Frogs may not be shot except with a longbow and arrow.

Frog gigging is enjoyable and rewarding. It gives us an opportunity to see and hear the poetic natural wonders that come to life at nighttime. The reward comes from enjoying the taste a day's catch offers. So, does it taste like chicken? Find out for yourself by stepping outside and catching a memory of your own. 



Donna Daniel



## Wildlife Law Enforcement

# Field Notes

### Deer Cases Keep County Officers Busy

Close to a third of all citations issued by wildlife officers in the Buckeye State involve white-tailed deer, which keep officers busy not only during the deer hunting season, but throughout the year. Several cases are highlighted here.

### Trophy Deer Taken Illegally

One Franklin County hunter was very proud of the buck he took just outside the Columbus City limits during the archery season. It had a Boone and Crockett score of 213-5/8. Unfortunately, he was not able to keep his trophy because it was taken illegally. The buck was his second antlered deer taken during the season, and he used the tag of another person to hunt and check the deer.



**Franklin County Wildlife Officer Brad Kiger with the antlers of the 213 5/8-point Boone and Crockett scored buck taken illegally. Officer Kiger also received a Recognition Award from the Gahanna Police Department for the excellent assistance he provided them during the deer season.**

The Division of Wildlife received a TIP about the deer, investigated, and found the deer in the man's vehicle. Appearing in Franklin County Municipal Court, the poacher was charged with taking a second buck and tagging a deer with the deer tag of another person. He was fined \$1,000 (\$500 for each violation) plus court costs, ordered to pay \$400 in restitution, and received two years probation with no deer or other wildlife violations.

### Pike County Man Fined for 29 Violations

A Pike County man received heavy fines and other penalties for 29 wildlife violations committed last fall. Wildlife officers, acting on an anonymous complaint, found the poacher in possession of a large quantity of deer meat, including 60 individual packages and three complete quarters. He also had 24 sets of white-tailed deer antlers, which were either untagged or improperly tagged. He was also in possession of a timber rattlesnake, a state endangered species.

The poacher was found guilty and ordered to pay \$1,120 in fines and court costs. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail with another 880 days suspended, pending no further criminal violations. The man was placed on probation for five years and had his privilege to purchase a hunting license or hunt in Ohio or any other jurisdiction revoked for 12 years.

### Two Men Get Steep Penalties for Taking Deer Illegally

A father and son, residents of Ashland County, were sentenced to serve 30 days in jail and ordered to pay more than \$4,000 for taking deer illegally. After receiving several complaints of deer shot and left in fields, wildlife officers set up surveillance and caught the father and son team in the act of shooting at a deer illegally.

The two were charged with illegally taking deer by spotlighting while possessing a firearm, possessing a loaded firearm inside a motor vehicle, and seven counts of taking deer with a firearm during the closed season. They were ordered to pay more than \$4,000 in fines, restitution, and court costs, ordered to spend 30 days in jail, and lost their hunting privileges for one year.

### Report a Tip on the Net



Concerned citizens can now report wildlife violations through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Web site, [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com). The Turn-In-a-Poacher program or "TIP" program involves the public in curbing illegal wildlife activities by reporting wildlife violations. All information used in the TIP program remains confidential. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should record the information on the TIP form located on the Web site, and then submit it electronically via e-mail. Violations can also be reported by calling the TIP toll-free hotline (1-800-POACHER), or by mailing the Web site form to: TIP Headquarters, Division of Wildlife, 1840 Belcher Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43224-1300.

# Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

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

**Q: How late into the summer do bluebirds normally nest? We think that young fledged from a nest box in our yard last October.**

— **Kate Koch, New Albany, OH**

**A:** Eastern bluebirds can raise up to three clutches in Ohio beginning as early as March. The average dates for the last broods are mid-July and August. Usually by late September bluebirds have finished nesting and have begun to migrate so a nest in October would certainly be an exceptionally late attempt to rear young.



**Q: How unusual is it to see a red fox in the city?**

— **Nancy Segrue, Rocky River, OH**

**A:** While most people would not associate the red fox with a city environment, this species does quite well in urban and suburban areas. Red fox eat a variety of foods including mice, rabbits, fruit, and occasionally birds. They may even scavenge from trash cans or dumpsters. Vacant lots, weedy or brushy areas offer ample shelter for a den which may be an abandoned groundhog hole that has been enlarged by the foxes. Cemeteries also provide excellent habitat for fox. Creeks, ditches, and highway right-of-ways are used as travel lanes where the species can move about and hunt undetected. Red fox are secretive and primarily active at night so their presence often goes unnoticed even though they are a common neighbor.



**Q: I like bats, but how can I keep one from roosting over my porch light? It is leaving smudges on my siding and droppings on the deck.**

— **Paula Menhennett, Grandview, OH**

**A:** Bats are fascinating and beneficial creatures, but like anything else can be a nuisance in the wrong place. A single bat will often rest on the side of a house or under a roof overhang briefly during the night to digest insects. To discourage a bat in this situation leave the light on at night and tack a colorful mylar balloon right where the bat usually hangs. Tether the balloon so that it is able to move in the breeze. Another option would be to spray aerosol dog or cat repellent on the wall during the day when the bat is not present.



**Q: Why do snakes shed their skin?**

— **Griffin Schroeder (age 11), Columbus, OH**

**A:** As a snake grows, its body becomes larger, but its skin cannot expand. It must then cast off the skin that is too small. The eye of a snake preparing to shed will look cloudy and the skin may appear dull. When shedding, the snake rubs up against rocks, the ground or other hard objects to help wiggle out of the old skin. A discarded snake skin is actually inside out from when it was on the snake.



Amanda Goodwin



# For Wild Kids

## Wildlife is Everywhere!

by Jen Dennison • photos by Tim Daniel

Wildlife is represented in many cultures and countries as symbols of freedom, strength, and courage. In the United States, our national symbol is the bald eagle. It appears on our national seal, on the one dollar bill, and the quarter. Seventeen states have wildlife images on their state flags, eight of those having the bald eagle. Most states have selected a state bird, state mammal, state reptile, even a state bug! Do you know what Ohio's official state animals are?

1. State Bird \_\_\_\_\_
2. State Reptile \_\_\_\_\_
3. State Animal \_\_\_\_\_
4. State Insect \_\_\_\_\_

If you need help, log on to the state of Ohio's Bicentennial Page at <http://www.ohio200.org/info/teachers/trivia.asp> for answers to these and other state facts. See if you can find out what other states have chosen and why.

Other countries besides the U.S. have wildlife represented in many ways. Canada has some species of wildlife on just about every piece of money, coins and bills alike. There are many countries that have lions in their "coat of arms" or national seal.

What does wildlife mean to you? What do you think of when you see the following animals?

- Bald eagle?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Mountain lion?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Bear?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Beaver?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Snake?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Loon?** \_\_\_\_\_

Some of you might have answers like strength, courage, intelligence, beauty, or these animals might remind you of freedom or wilderness. There are no wrong answers to this part. The point is that wildlife means different things to different people. Wildlife reminds them of all the qualities they would like to see in each other and their country. So, now what does wildlife mean to you?



Dave Horn



Answers to Ohio's official state animals:  
1-Cardinal; 2-Black racer; 3-White-tailed deer; 4-Lady bug

# WILD GAME GOURMET

## r e c i p e s

### Frog Legs

8–10 bullfrog legs  
5 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
flour  
1 clove garlic, minced  
2 tablespoons of cooking wine  
1 tablespoon chives

Add lemon juice to bowl of water and soak frog legs several hours. Add butter, olive oil, and garlic to skillet. Pat dry frog legs, coat in flour, and place in skillet. Cook over medium heat turning once after undersides are golden brown. Sprinkle diced chives over frog legs. Add cooking wine to oil. Cover and steam several minutes until golden brown. Serves three to four people.

*(Contributed by Bill Carper)*

### DEEP FRIED FISH PUFFS

½ pound cooked and flaked panfish or other fish  
½ small onion, diced  
2–3 tablespoons self-rising flour  
½ teaspoon chopped parsley  
and/or your favorite herbs or spices  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 eggs  
milk  
cooking oil

Mix fish, onion, flour, seasons, and eggs. Add sufficient milk to make a soft consistency. Heat oil until hot. Drop in tablespoons of the fish mixture. Fry until golden brown.

*(Contributed by Melissa Hathaway)*

by Vicki Mountz,

the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine

Bring home a catch from the pond or stream and try these mouthwatering summer delicacies.



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

# WILDLIFE Reflections

## **Wildlife Moons in the Heat of Summer**

by Melissa Hathaway; illustration by Gene Whitten

This issue's "Wildlife Reflections" article is the third in a four-part series of articles exploring Native American moon names that honor North America's wildlife.

Native Americans revered the moon and used its phases to measure time. Many different names were used and are still often used for full moons, or months, among the different tribes. Many variations for moon names exist, but all are literal descriptions of the seasonal changes relating to wildlife, plants, the weather, and other aspects of the natural world. Wildlife played a major role in tribal life, as is evident in many of the full moon names listed below.

### **June Moons**

Full Moon: June 3, 2004

The most widely used name for June and its full moon by Native Americans was Strawberry Moon, when the strawberries were ripe.

Other June Full Moon Names: Rose Moon, Honey Moon, Month of the Turtle, Fish Spoils Easily Moon, Moon When the Buffalo Bulls Hunt the Cows, and Moon When the Hot Weather Begins.

### **July Moons**

Full Moon: July 2 and July 31, 2004

So what is a "Blue Moon?" Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full moon dates shift from year to year and there are an average of 13 moons in a year. So on the average, one month in any given year will have two full moons, the second one being referred to as the "Blue Moon." The next Blue Moon occurs July 31.

Many Native Americans called the month of July the Full Buck Moon. This was most likely because they observed new antlers sprouting from bucks' foreheads.

Other July Full Moon Names: Bellowing Buffalo Moon, Salmon Go Up the Rivers In a Group Moon, The Moon When Ducks Begin to Moul, Blood Moon, Raspberry Moon, Ripening Moon, Thunder Moon, Hay Moon, and Moon When Squash are Ripe.

### **August Moons**

Full Moon: August 30, 2004

August heralded the sturgeon fishing season. Sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month.

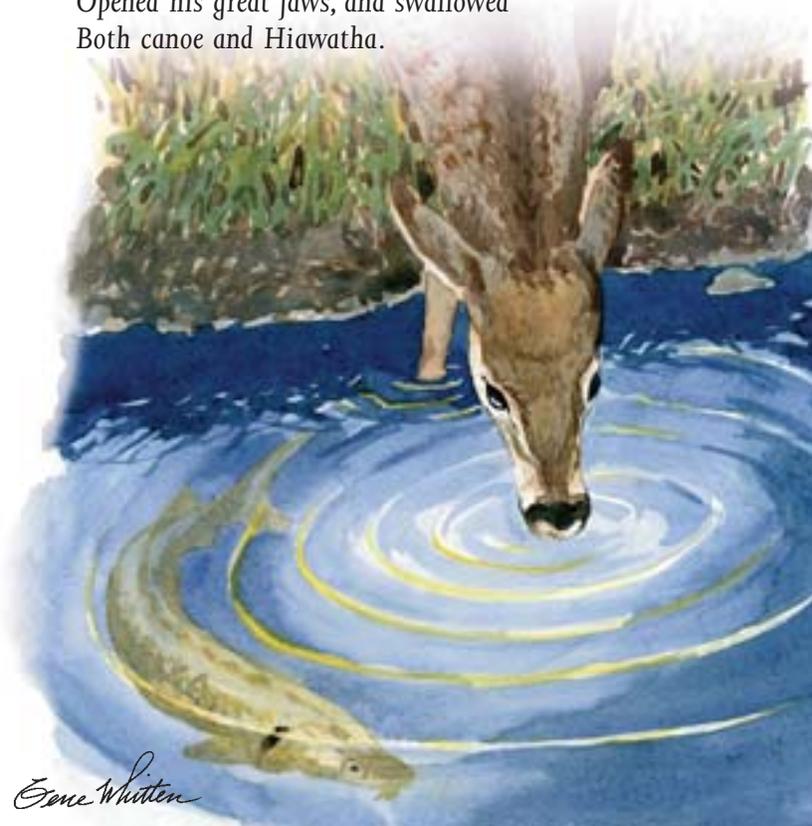
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the famous poem about the life of the Indian boy Hiawatha. Chapter eight ("Hiawatha's Fishing") tells of the story of Hiawatha's struggle to catch a sturgeon, considered "King of Fishes."

Other August full moon names: Green Corn Moon, Grain Moon, Wild Rice Moon, Red Moon (because the heat and haze of August), Black Cherries Moon, Collect Food for Winter Moon, Geese Shedding their Feathers Moon, Moon When Indian Corn is Edible, and Moon When Young Ducks Begin to Fly.

### **From Hiawatha's Fishing** by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Forth upon the Gitche Gumee,  
On the shining Big-Sea-Water,  
With his fishing-line of cedar,  
Of the twisted bark of cedar,  
Forth to catch the sturgeon Nahma,  
Mishe-Nahma, King of Fishes,  
In his birch canoe exulting  
All alone went Hiawatha....

...From the white sand of the bottom  
Up he rose with angry gesture,  
Quivering in each nerve and fibre,  
Clashing all his plates of armor,  
Gleaming bright with all his war-paint;  
In his wrath he darted upward,  
Flashing leaped into the sunshine,  
Opened his great jaws, and swallowed  
Both canoe and Hiawatha.



Gene Whitten

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Wild Ohio Magazine Subscription, 4483 Industrial Parkway, Cleveland OH 44135.

# WETLANDS: "Cradles of Wildlife"



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