

# Wild Ohio

Winter 2003-2004

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



**SPECIAL ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE**



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The Division of Wildlife offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, you should contact: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203; or, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, EEO Office, 1930 Belcher Drive, Columbus, OH 43224.

**Division of Wildlife Mission Statement**

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

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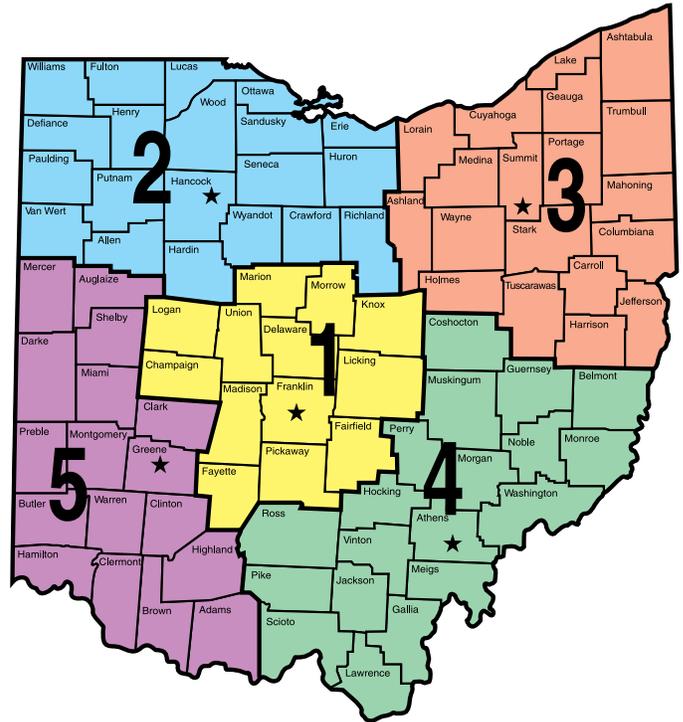
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Toll-free for a Lake Erie fishing report

**1-800-POACHER**

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<http://www.ohiodnr.com>

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Web site

**Winter Wildlife Calendar . . .**

- February 19-22** **National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and Sports Show**, Columbus Convention Center. See page 16 for details.
- March 7** **Division of Wildlife Open House Forums** (2004 Hunting Regulations). Contact your Wildlife District Office for hours and locations.  
**Canada Goose Day**; Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County. For information, call (419) 898-0960, ext. 31.
- March 10** **Wildlife Diversity Conference**, Aladdin Shrine Complex, Columbus. This year's theme is "Good Things Come in Small Packages," and will feature such species as brook trout, spiders, and aquatic insects. Call 1-800-WILDLIFE to request a program brochure, or watch for details on the Division of Wildlife's Web site.



## Features



Michael Henson

12–15

### Readers' Photos

In this issue we share some of the photos sent in by Wild Ohio readers during the previous year showing just some of the ways Ohioans are enjoying the state's wildlife resources.

### Photos Needed from Youth Deer Gun Season

Hey youth hunters! The staff of Wild Ohio Magazine is looking for good quality photos of successful youth hunters with their deer, taken during Ohio's Youth Deer Gun Season November 22 and 23, 2003. Some of the photos will be selected to appear in the FALL 2004 issue of Wild Ohio Magazine. Submit a print, slide, or digital photo along with your name, address, telephone number, age, date the deer was taken, county and land area name (if public hunting area) where deer was taken. When submitting print photos, have a copy made for yourself (return of photos cannot be guaranteed). Mail photos to Melissa Hathaway – Editor, ODNr Division of Wildlife, 305 E. Shoreline Dr., Sandusky, OH 44870. If sending a digital photo, e-mail it to [melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us). The deadline for submitting photos is April 1, 2004.

### Annual Report–Fiscal Year 2003

6–11

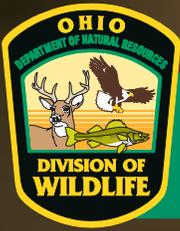
Division of Wildlife revenues and expenditures, as well as reports from the Fish Management, Wildlife Management, Law Enforcement, and Information and Education Groups.

#### Cover Photo:

The white-tailed deer is one of Ohio's best-known watchable wildlife species, as well as the state's only big game animal. It is seen in wildlife areas, parks, farmlands, and backyards. (Photo by Tim Daniel)

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# Ohio's watchable wildlife



hooded merganser



wood duck



canvasbacks (in foreground)

## Watchable Wildlife • Winter Water

### Story and photos by Tim Daniel

Many of us look forward to watching songbirds all winter at our feeders. The real winter action begins when migrating waterfowl come to the Buckeye State.

Whether you like to hunt, photograph, or just observe ducks, you are in good company—waterfowl is where it's at! Waterfowl is the number one most popular type of wildlife observed away from home in Ohio, according to the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Being one of the prime states in the Mississippi Flyway, Ohio is a popular place for waterfowl. We are fortunate to have a variety of ducks migrate through the area. In addition, many species of ducks will also spend the winter here providing great opportunities for viewing. Over two dozen different species of ducks, geese, swans and other water birds are commonly seen

in Ohio. Before we talk about where to observe waterfowl, first a basic lesson: "Waterfowl 101."

### Puddle Ducks

Ducks come in two major groups: puddle ducks and diving ducks. The puddle ducks (dabblers) are usually found in shallow water on inland ponds, streams, and lakes. Their primary mode of feeding is by tipping their heads below water to eat plants and other aquatic matter. Sometimes they tip so far under that their tails point straight up towards the sky. They can walk easily on land and can be seen dipping in puddles and flooded fields. Ducks in this group include mallards, black ducks, gadwall, pintail, green and blue wing teal, wigeon, shoveler, and wood ducks. When flushed, dabblers (ducks that feed off the bottom of shallow water) often will take flight by lifting vertically up off of the water.



American wigeon



### Diving Ducks

Diving ducks swim completely under the water for plants, fish, and crustaceans. Thus, they are usually found in deeper waters and rarely on land. In Ohio you can expect to find ring-neck, redhead, canvas-back, lesser scaup, greater scaup, goldeneye, bufflehead, ruddy duck, and common, hooded, and red-breasted mergansers. The legs of diving ducks are set back farther on their body than those of dabblers. This gives them more power for swimming underwater, but the disadvantage of not being able to walk well on land. Also, to take flight they must run across the surface of the water for a distance to gain enough altitude for flight.

### Other Waterfowl

Another group, sea ducks, remain mostly on the Atlantic Coast, but are sometimes seen on Lake Erie. They include eiders, scoters, long-tail, and harlequin ducks.

Other waterfowl species common in winter include geese (Canada and snow geese) and swans (tundra and trumpeter). Finally, there are other water birds to keep an eye out for, such as grebes, loons, and coots.

While some species of ducks nest in Ohio and can be seen all year, others travel further south for the winter making fall (for the southward flight) and late winter (for the northward

The Castalia village pond in Erie County offers up-close views of a wide variety of waterfowl.



flight) the best viewing times for these migrants passing through. From February through April, migrants in full breeding plumage will pass through Ohio en route to their breeding grounds further north. Sometimes it is also possible to witness courtship displays by males as they prepare for the coming nesting season.

So don't let cabin fever take over your mood in winter. Get out to a local wildlife area, lake, stream, or reservoir for a chance to see some "winter waterfowl." 

# fowl

### Viewing Tips for Winter Waterfowl

- Look for puddle ducks in shallow water such as inland ponds, streams, and lakes.
- Look for diving ducks on deeper bodies of water such as large inland lakes, Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay, and the Ohio River.
- During long periods of freezing temperatures, most waterfowl species are forced to search for open water and food. Open water areas such as waters around warm water discharges from industrial plants, and ponds or dock areas equipped with aerators are magnets for winter waterfowl. However, during mild winters, birds will be more scattered and you will need to work much harder and travel further to see the same varieties.

- A spotting scope, pair of binoculars, and field guide to waterfowl are recommended for the best viewing and identification.
- In my years of photographing waterfowl in the winter, I have found they usually develop a pattern of flying in and out of the area at certain times. If you watch long enough you may be able to predict what they may do next and get some great photos as a result.



redhead





## Annual Report of the ODNR Division of Wildlife for Fiscal Year 2003

### *An Open Letter from the Chief*

This Annual Report Issue of *Wild Ohio* highlights the Division's accomplishments throughout Fiscal Year 2003, covering the period of July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. The report outlines our work in wildlife management, fish management, law enforcement, and information and education.

The Division of Wildlife is dedicated to its fiscal responsibility and wise use of the conservation dollars entrusted to us. Despite an economic downturn and continuing state budget constraints, we have maintained programs and services while reducing our personnel level and reducing expenditures. We have sustained during these troubled economic times thanks to the continuing support from hunters, trappers, anglers, and the many other wildlife enthusiasts who support Ohio's fish and wildlife resources through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, cardinal and bald eagle license plates, and federal taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment.

We owe a world of gratitude to those conservation organizations and individuals who rallied for legislative support for the Division of Wildlife in the state's new biennial budget. Many dedicated people expressed their concerns to legislators to ensure continued solvency of the Division of Wildlife for years to come.

Youth are the future sportsmen and conservationists of Ohio, and the Division continues to seek new and innovative ways to get more young people participating in hunting, trapping, and fishing. In addition to the existing youth spring turkey hunting season, a new statewide deer gun hunting season for young hunters was added for the 2003 hunting seasons. This special hunt provided young outdoor enthusiasts a chance to experience our state's great deer hunting during a prime time. For 2004, youth deer and wild turkey hunting permits will be discounted to one-half of the price paid by adult hunters.

The famous early conservationist Aldo Leopold was quoted, "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." I am confident readers of *Wild Ohio* are among those who cannot do without wildlife in their lives. It is only through wildlife management, conservation, restoration, and support from Ohio's many sportsmen's groups and wildlife enthusiasts that we can ensure healthy wildlife populations for generations to come. As we close Ohio's Bicentennial anniversary year, we can look ahead to flourishing wildlife resources across the Buckeye State, many exceeding those populations present in the state at the beginning of our statehood.

Steven A. Gray, Chief

#### Ohio Wildlife Council

Back row: Larry B. Mixon Sr., Gary Grant, Charles E. Franks, Lee Howley, and James R. Lynch.

Front row: Horace W. Karr, Karen Stewart-Linkhart, Howard L. Calhoun, Sally Biancone (administrative assistant), and Steven A. Gray (Chief, Division of Wildlife).



Tim Daniel

## Expenditures

### Wildlife Management - \$10,692,469

The Wildlife Management and Research Group is responsible for managing all wildlife, assisting landowners with habitat improvements, managing land for wildlife and wildlife-oriented recreation, and conducting research to be used in improving wildlife populations.

### Law Enforcement - \$4,058,773; Wildlife Officers - \$7,142,592

Enforcement is a fish and wildlife management tool designed to protect the wildlife resource, ensure fair and equitable use, protect state property, and implement wildlife, litter, and pollution statutes. Wildlife officers are assigned to each of Ohio's 88 counties and Lake Erie.

### Fish Management - \$8,754,098

The Fish Management and Research Group maintains the aquatic resources of the state. Biologists and other fisheries personnel manage water areas by improving spawning habitat and fishing access, recommending regulations, monitoring fish populations and angler harvest, stocking, and conducting research.

### District and Statewide Operations - \$9,305,181

Expenditures in this category include money spent for fiscal and business management, licensing and permits, property management, computer services, the construction crew, environmental research and review, and wetlands habitat restoration.

### Information and Education - \$4,210,375

Money is spent for hunter, trapper, and angler education, the printing of licenses and regulations, educational materials for Ohio's school teachers, the *Wild Ohio* television program and magazine, information distribution to media and the public, and the creation and printing of maps and other publications.

### Capital Improvements - \$3,692,684

These funds are spent on land purchases and the repair, maintenance, renovation, and construction of facilities such as fishing access sites, boat ramps, hatcheries, and offices.

### Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity

Income for these projects comes from the proceeds from the sale of wildlife license plates and donations to the wildlife checkoff program on state income tax forms. This income is used for projects in fish and wildlife management, information and education, and law enforcement. These monies are used specifically to achieve management goals established for endangered species and wildlife diversity.

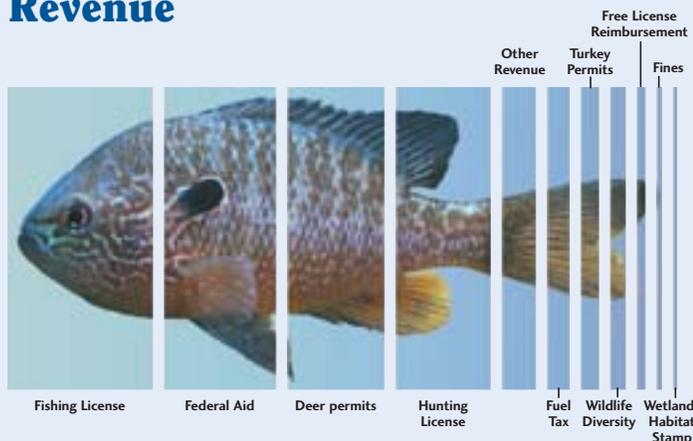
## Statement of Revenue – FY03

Fishing License .....	\$ 11,800,563
Hunting License .....	7,733,332
Deer Permits .....	7,973,875
Turkey Permits .....	1,644,261
Free License Reimbursement .....	816,319
Federal Aid (P-R Wildlife Restoration & D-J Sport Fish Restoration) .....	9,141,864
Wetlands Habitat Stamp Sales .....	347,943
Wildlife Diversity & Endangered Species Fund ...	1,412,568
Fines .....	466,911
Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax .....	1,820,185
Other Revenue .....	2,871,139
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 46,028,960</b>

### Non-Resident Licenses Issued in FY03

Non-Resident Fishing .....	83,879
Non-Resident Hunting .....	21,358

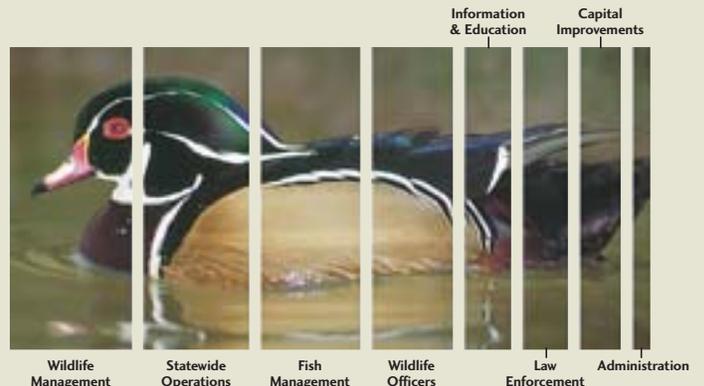
## Revenue



## Statement of Expenditures – FY03

Administration .....	\$ 1,655,432
Information & Education .....	4,210,375
Law Enforcement .....	4,058,773
Wildlife Officers .....	7,142,592
Fish Management .....	8,754,098
Wildlife Management .....	10,692,469
District & Statewide Operations .....	9,305,181
Capital Improvements .....	3,692,684
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 49,511,604</b>

## Expenditures



# Fish Management

- Engineering plans began for a new Ohio River boat access facility at Racine in Meigs County.
- Several projects were completed using the Division's new Boater-Angler Fund (5P2). Grand Lake St. Marys, Deer Creek Lake, Delaware Lake, Indian Lake, Alum Creek Lake, Lake Milton, Berlin, and Lake Erie all benefited from access projects funded with monies obtained from motor fuel taxes.
- The Division's Web site was re-designed to contain more information and to better assist users.
- Ohio began a two-year term as chair of the Ohio River Fish Management Team. The team of fish management personnel from Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois is responsible for interjurisdictional management issues on the river.
- A new inland fish management system was implemented and uses standardized sampling, analysis, and reporting to generate datasets for management, monitoring, and fishing information for the public.
- The six state fish hatcheries in Ohio stocked approximately 7.6 million saugeye, 2.5 million walleye, 600,000 yellow perch, 550,000 steelhead, 120,000 catchable rainbow trout, 18,000 muskie, 210,000 channel catfish, 1.2 million hybrid striped bass, and 40,000 brown trout into Ohio lakes and rivers.
- Approximately 12,000 native brook trout were stocked into tributaries of the Chagrin River in the project's final year to establish self-sustaining populations in Ohio.
- The Division acquired a building for the Fairport Harbor Fisheries Station to serve as a permanent office and laboratory. The new office also allows the Division to better serve the public in northeast Ohio.
- Lake Erie staff worked with interagency partners to establish Total Allowable Catches for walleye and yellow perch in Lake Erie and to develop future fisheries management plans for these species.
- A new research project in cooperation with The Ohio State University was initiated to examine biological differences among spawning stocks of walleyes in Lake Erie.
- Personnel continued research on fish movements, tagging 2,402 walleyes and 582 smallmouth bass, with assistance from Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, Ohio Sea Grant, and Ohio commercial fishers.
- Division biologists continued to collect data to assist researchers in understanding the cause of the so-called "Dead Zone" in the Central Basin.
- Approximately 3,000 fingerling shovelhead sturgeon from Kincaid State Fish Hatchery were stocked into the Scioto River. This was the first year of a multi-year effort to reintroduce this state-endangered fish into part of its native range.
- The Milan Dam was removed from the Huron River, opening up 8.5 miles of the river to fish migration.
- The Division collaborated with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and several other agencies in opening the Freshwater Mussel Conservation Center at the zoo.
- The Egypt Valley Lake permit application was successfully completed to provide Section 401 & 404 permits for the proposed lake, which included protection and/or restoration of 46,590 linear feet of stream habitat as well as protection and/or restoration of 264 acres of wetlands.
- Personnel initiated the development of a Division policy to guide development and maintenance of conservation easements.
- Significant wetland mitigation projects were completed at Dorset Wildlife Area (40 acres) and Deer Creek Wildlife Area (57 acres).



Melissa Hathaway



Gene Emond



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

# Wildlife Management



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel



Melissa Hathaway

- A record 204,652 deer and 22,176 turkeys (spring and fall) were harvested in the past year. Forest wildlife species continue their increasing popularity and strong population levels.
- The Division received a \$1,000,000 National Coastal Wetland Conservation grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to acquire and restore 280 acres of coastal wetlands at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area in Sandusky County.
- Wildlife Management staff conducted four eagle bandings, including one at Camp Perry in which Governor Bob Taft and State Representative Bob Latta assisted with the banding. These public events attracted more than 500 people. Eighty-eight nests produced 105 young this past year.
- A Division employee was selected to serve as the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) representative for the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to coordinate comments from these states concerning revisions to the CITES Appendices. CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- Close to 3,000 people and 40 vendors participated in second annual Hunting and Trapping Expo in Cambridge. Coordinated by five Soil and Water Conservation District wildlife specialists, the event provided hunters and trappers an opportunity to listen to some highly acclaimed outdoor writers and hunting pros while emphasizing the importance of safety and good hunting ethics. A youth shooting and archery range was also provided.
- Forty-four wild turkeys were released at two sites in central Ohio and 64 birds were released at three sites in northwestern Ohio. Since 1963, 4,618 wild turkeys have been trapped and relocated to 231 sites across Ohio. A total of 340 gobblers in 14 counties was captured, banded, and released. Eighty-six banded birds were harvested during the 2003 spring turkey season for a crude harvest rate of 25.3 percent. Seventy-six wild turkey hens were captured and radio-tagged in five southeastern Ohio counties. Survival, cause of death, and reproductive success data were collected from 65 hens during the spring and summer of 2003.
- The Division acquired 5,933 acres of land last year, including the 3,469-acre Jockey Hollow Wildlife Area in Belmont and Harrison counties. This acquisition from The Conservation Fund included donations from The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Ducks Unlimited, The Ruffed Grouse Society, and Whitetails Unlimited.
- District Five staff completed renovations on the Tranquility Rifle Range (Class B unmanned range) with a cost of \$37,000. Staff raised backstops, installed concrete shooting lines, improved drainage, and placed semi-permanent target holders.
- The Ohio Chapter of the NWTf donated approximately \$115,000.00 towards the purchase of seven properties at the following wildlife areas: Jockey Hollow, Big Island, Killdeer, Waterloo, Egypt Valley (two) and Fallsville. Peabody Development donated the coal mineral rights to 7,469 acres at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area.
- Division staff hosted the third annual Shreve Migration Sensation in March and featured the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area. More than 400 people attended this popular event. Wildlife area and district staff gave presentations and manned indoor displays and outdoor wildlife viewing stations.
- The second annual Ohio Avian Ecology and Conservation Conference was held in August. More than 200 people attended. Agenda topics included West Nile Virus impacts on Ohio birds; strip-mine habitats for birds; nuisance avian species and research; and sandhill crane research.

# Law Enforcement

- The Division of Wildlife graduated 18 wildlife officers from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and Wildlife Officer Academy held at Hocking College. This brings the total number of commissioned officers in the Division of Wildlife to 162.
- The TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher) telephone line received 2,700 phone calls from concerned citizens reporting wildlife violations. Of those calls, 803 TIP reports were written with 471 reports assigned to an officer to investigate.
- The Wildlife Special Operations Unit completed an undercover operation in Jefferson and Trumbull counties involving deer and turkey. Dubbed “Operation Tag,” undercover investigators working from citizen’s reports to the TIP telephone line uncovered a deer check station that was illegally tagging deer and turkey that were taken illegally. Fourteen individuals were charged with 124 counts of wildlife violations.
- Wildlife officers investigated 105 pollution incidents statewide, in which 34,820 wild animals (primarily fish and other aquatic animals) died. Claims were submitted to the polluter in five of the cases resulting in a collection of \$17,727.20 in damages from settlements. This year had one of the lowest totals for numbers of wild animals killed by pollution.
- Forty-three incidents of personal injury or property damage related to hunting were investigated.
- Wildlife officers contacted 51,009 anglers, 30,820 hunters, and 399 trappers in the field. Officers made 7,238 arrests for various wildlife crimes and other criminal violations.
- Wildlife officers conducted 240 special enforcement projects. These projects included targeting known wildlife criminals, known problem areas in the state where on-going wildlife crimes occur, and state wildlife property protection. Officers contacted 4,202 individuals and issued 670 arrests or citations during these special projects
- Wildlife investigators in District One working with agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and wildlife investigators from Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania concluded an extensive long-term investigation involving the illegal taking and selling of reptiles and amphibians. “Operation E&T” (endangered and threatened) resulted in 32 individuals being charged with 170 state and federal wildlife crimes.
- Lake Erie wildlife investigators worked six seasonal special enforcement projects: walleye sport fishing, yellow perch sport fishing, international boundary surveillance, unlicensed charter boats, smallmouth bass, and license compliance. Officers filed 131 wildlife criminal charges from these projects. Lake Erie investigators also conducted 122 commercial fish inspections.
- Wildlife officers conducted 48 aircraft surveillance projects, 15 of which were nighttime projects.

The following table shows the total dollar amount of fines collected and the number of arrests by wildlife district.

Wildlife District	Fines Collected	Arrests
District One (Central)	\$ 82,602.50	1,321
District Two (NW)	\$ 97,791.96	1,512
District Three (NE)	\$ 78,477.00	1,255
District Four (SE)	\$ 115,926.00	1,566
District Five (SW)	\$ 86,110.50	1,246
Lake Erie	\$ 15,873.50	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 476,781.46</b>	<b>7,238</b>



Melissa Hathaway



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

# Information & Education



Melissa Hathaway



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel



Melissa Hathaway

- The **Wild Ohio** television show aired on 26 stations across Ohio. Twenty-six half-hour programs were produced for the sixth year.
- The quarterly **Wild Ohio** magazine was produced for the 13th year with an average of 145,000 copies distributed per issue. The fourth **Wild Ohio for Kids** magazine was produced and distributed to 300,000 young people.
- The Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center attracted an estimated 100,000 visitors. Popular events included Lake Erie Wing Watch, International Migratory Bird Day, BUGFEST, and the Ohio Waterfowler's Festival.
- Approximately 100 news releases on various wildlife topics were provided to local, state, and national media outlets.
- The Division planned and staffed a display at the Ohio State Fair. Activities included an air-gun range, archery range, native Ohio fish and wildlife on display, wildlife nest box display, butterfly house, and youth fishing. Over 10,000 youngsters fished during the 17-day fair.

- The Division awarded 130 small grants (Step Outside Grants) to organizations and clubs to conduct hands-on training on fishing, hunting, and the shooting sports. As a result of these grants, 8,140 youth and 5,047 adults had the opportunity to learn basic skills and try these activities.
- The Division trained and certified 25,235 hunter education students in 841 instructor-led courses, 176 home study sessions, and 330 proficiency tests.
- Division staff trained and certified 182 new hunter education instructors statewide.
- The Division awarded large subsidies for shooting sports training to organizations such as the 4-H Shooting Sports, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA, League of Ohio Sportsmen, Police Athletic League, Ohio State Trap Shooting Association, and others reaching over 20,000 Ohio youth and adults with a hands-on shooting experience in firearms and archery.
- More than 50,000 Ohioans took part in our organized fishing programs including fishing clinics, derbies, festivals, and the "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program. We distributed 3,137 rod and reel combinations, 1,619 cane poles, over 24,000 tackle boxes, and 20,111 aquatic education material packets as a part of these programs.

- Over 20,000 visitors toured the Aquatic Visitors Center at the historic Put-In-Bay Fish Hatchery on South Bass Island.

- The Division continued its funding of the Center of Science and Industry *COSI on Wheels* project "Nature in Balance," a program that teaches wildlife management to middle school students. In addition, a professional evaluation of the program was commissioned. The evaluation said that the program increased students' knowledge and positively changed their opinions about wildlife and wildlife management.



Tim Daniel

# Readers' PHOTOS



**Wild Ohio** received many wildlife, fishing, and hunting photos from readers during the past year. The following are some of the best examples of how our readers have been enjoying the state's many wildlife resources. We regret that there is only enough space to print a few of the best photos we receive. So if you take a good shot, **have an extra print made** and send it in. We may publish your photo here next year.



"This picture was taken from my kitchen window. A mother and two young deer came to feed. Another doe came from the woods and the first doe tried to chase the other one away."  
- Edward "Jack" Lewis, Utica, Ohio.



"This cottontail rabbit was under the birdfeeder in our front yard."  
- John Martin, age 14, Wintersville, Ohio.



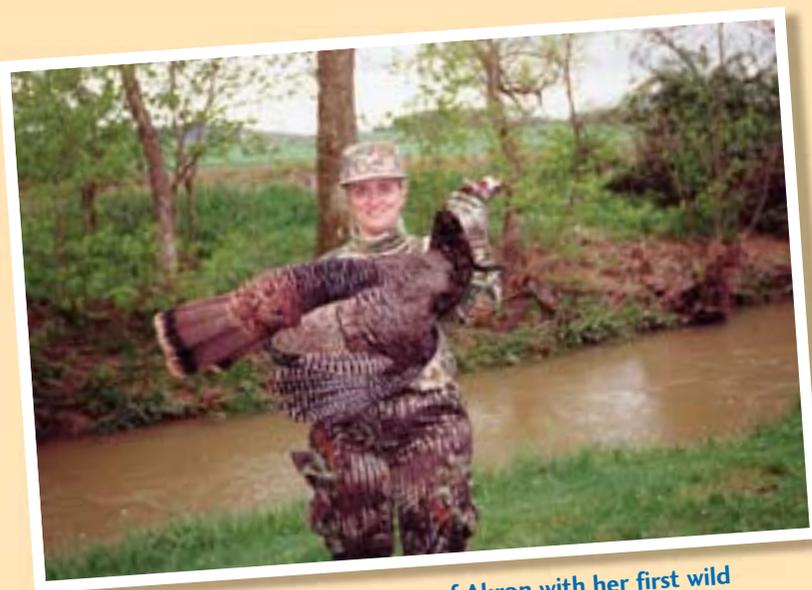
"This nest is on a friend's porch railing. The robin is on her second set of eggs in this photo."  
- Joan Onstott, North Jackson, Ohio.



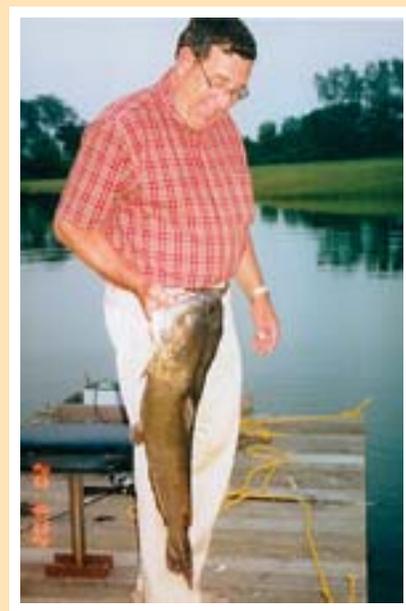
"My father John Chambers enjoys watching and photographing the wildlife in his backyard."  
- Margie Jo Strawmyer, Amelia, Ohio

"I took this photo of a praying mantis emerging from its shell outside my window. My grandchildren were mesmerized as the transformation unfolded."  
- Valiant Maple, Wellsville, Ohio





“This is my girlfriend Patty Johnson of Akron with her first wild turkey. Patty is a working mother of two and loves to hunt and fish.”  
– Randy Moore, Beaver, Ohio.



“When my daughter Mandy was three years old someone gave her a fingerling catfish she named Spike. When Spike got too big for a fish bowl, we released it in a friend’s pond. Over 20 years later, the friend caught this 20-pound catfish in his pond. This was undoubtedly Mandy’s catfish because it was the only catfish ever put into the pond.”  
– Patricia Ford, Washington C.H., Ohio



“Here is a beautiful piebald deer I harvested in Monroe County.”  
– John Klotzle, Marshallville, Ohio.



“I really enjoy *Wild Ohio* magazine. I am an amateur photographer and enjoy taking pictures of wildlife, old barns, and buildings.”  
– Bobby Barnett, South Point, Ohio.



“Here is an aberrant cardinal (cardinal on the right) seen at my feeder last winter.” Notice the lack of black face markings.  
– Roger Zebold, Wilmington, Ohio



“This photo was taken last May at the Great Seal Park in Chillicothe.”  
– Michael Henson, Bainbridge, Ohio.



Jacob and Sarah Schott with 10 garter snakes they found near their house in Sandusky County.  
– Kelly Schott, Vickery, Ohio



A group of young rabbit hunters in Jefferson County: (Jeff Stevens, Paul Drotar, Matt Stevens, Lindsay Drotar, and beagles Roy and Will). – Mike West, Salineville, Ohio



"This is my grandson Mike, age 10, who I am teaching to deer hunt. This was his first day of hunting with a muzzleloader."  
– Justin Shultz, Findlay, Ohio



"This is my son Tommy, age 10, with his first rabbit, which he cleaned all by himself."  
– T.W. McGory, Castalia, Ohio



You're never too young to learn the rules! Ian Stuard, age 2, with Ohio's Hunting and Trapping Regulations brochure 2002-2003.  
– Carl Stuard, Forest, Ohio



"These youth and all the others who participated in Seneca County's first youth pheasant hunt represent the future hunters and conservationists in Ohio."  
– Mark Shaferly, Tiffin, Ohio

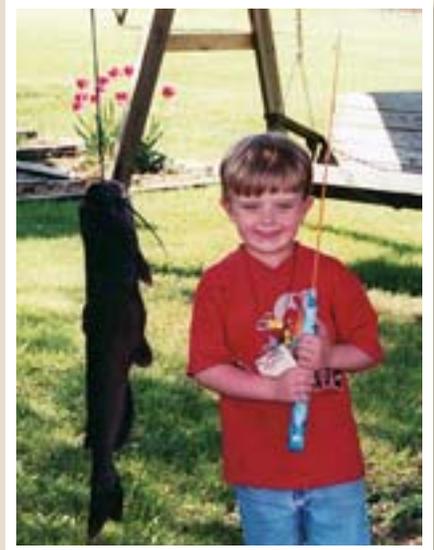


"The youth seasons are a wonderful chance for young hunters to enjoy Ohio's excellent hunting at its best!" (Stephanie Collett, Brandon Warner, and Kelsie Mast )  
– Brian Collett, Doylestown, Ohio



The kids at Camp Hiram House, an outdoor camp experience, use the activities in *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine as a fun way to learn about Ohio's wildlife.  
 – Cathy Platano, Mentor, Ohio

Christopher McQuirt landed this eight-pound catfish using his SpongeBob SquarePants rod and reel combo.  
 – Jim McQuirt, McArthur, Ohio



"This is my granddaughter Brittany with her first Fish Ohio fish caught in a private farm pond in Medina."  
 – Ken Walter, Cleveland, Ohio



A family farm pond provides plenty of angling fun for Lorrain Miller shown with a largemouth bass.  
 – Mary Lou Miller, Orwell, Ohio



"My daughter Erica (12 years old) with her first deer, a six-point buck she took in a nasty snow storm during a mom and daughter hunt at Camp Belden."  
 – Charlene Friend, South Amherst, Ohio



"My 8-year-old daughter Samantha caught this 22-inch, 5.25-pound largemouth bass out of the family farm pond in Noble County."  
 – Dave Schott, Caldwell, Ohio

My granddaughter Jessica with a frog she found on a family camping trip at Findlay State Park.  
 – Larry Williams, Lancaster, Ohio



## License Fee Increases to Take Effect

The Division of Wildlife reminds sportsmen that fishing and hunting license fee increases passed in the state budget bill will take effect March 1, 2004. These are the first such license increases since 1994. Ohio's resident hunting and fishing licenses, along with deer and turkey permits, will increase \$4.00. In addition, youth hunters will see a half-price reduction in their deer and turkey permits. Senior licenses and permits will be restructured and also sold at half price, but Ohioans born on or before December 31, 1937 will continue to receive free hunting and fishing licenses and permits.



Tim Daniel

## NWTF Convention to be Hosted in Columbus

The National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) National Convention and Sports Show will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center February 19-22, 2004. It's a family event and men, women, and children of all ages are invited to shop over 400 booths filled with the latest outdoor gear and accessories. Enjoy free seminars by turkey and deer hunting experts and meet some of the world's best turkey callers at the Wild Turkey Bourbon/NWTF Grand National Wild Turkey Calling Championships. Be sure to visit the Division of Wildlife's shooting simulator and archery range while you're there.

For more information about the NWTF or about the convention and sports show, call 1-800-THE-NWTF or visit the Web site at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).



Tim Daniel

Aerial view of Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area



## Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp Design Contest Winner

Artwork of tundra swans in flight by Robert Metropulos of Minocqua, Wisconsin won the 2003 Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp Design competition. It will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp for the fall of 2004.

Waterfowl hunters, stamp collectors, and those interested in conserving wetland habitat purchase more than 35,000 wetlands stamps every year. Proceeds from the sale of these stamps help to fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects.

## Historical Markers Dedicated

Ohio Bicentennial historical markers were dedicated at Spring Valley, Killdeer Plains, Magee Marsh, and Salt Fork wildlife areas this past summer as part of the state's Bicentennial celebration. Markers were erected at 10 ODNR sites, each designating an important feature of Ohio's natural history.



Melissa Hathaway

## Great Backyard Bird Count

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place February 13 through 16. Anyone with an interest in birds (families, individuals, classrooms, community groups) are invited to count the numbers and kinds of birds they see during any or all of these four days. Birds can be counted in backyards, schoolyards, local parks, nature centers, and even at the office. Reports are made over the Internet at BirdSource (<http://www.birdsource.org/>), a state-of-the-art Web site developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Audubon Society.



Tim Daniel

## Division Expands Holdings

The Division of Wildlife recently acquired several land parcels that will expand acreage of four existing wildlife areas to offer more opportunities for sportsmen and women and other wildlife enthusiasts. In two separate purchases, 809 acres were added to Egypt Valley Wildlife Area in Belmont and Guernsey counties. Additional acreage was added at Waterloo Wildlife Area in Athens County (170 acres), Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot and Marion counties (174 acres), and Fallsville Wildlife Area in Highland County (379 acres).

# Ice Fishing Basics



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

by Marc Sommer

Winter months bring winter sniffles, gray skies, snow, and outside opportunities. Outside opportunities you say? Yes, what better time to get out and do some fishing. Not your everyday cast-a-lure-and-catch-a-bass-type fishing, but drop-your-line-and-catch-a-big-one-type ice fishing.

For good ice fishing opportunities, the weather needs to stay cold for an extended period of time to produce good ice thickness. Ice thickness varies depending on the size and depth of the body of water, air temperature, and many other contributing factors. As a result, always approach ice with caution, regardless of how thick it is. The number one rule to remember is "No Ice is Safe Ice."

### Getting Started

Ice fishing requires some specialty fishing gear that is not always included in the typical tackle box.

**Ice auger or spud bar**— for drilling a hole in the ice. A five- or six-inch hole will be appropriate when fishing for pan fish, while a hole with a seven-inch or larger diameter will be needed when fishing for walleyes or other larger fish. Spud bars can also be used to punch holes in the ice, as well as to measure the thickness of the ice.

**Ice fishing rod**— a short (usually under three feet long) rod with large guides and a sensitive tip.

**Tip Ups**— to hold line, keep bait at a specific depth, and release line for hooked fish in the angler's absence. They also signal the angler with a colored flag when a fish is on the line.

**Proper clothing**— appropriate clothing including insulated footwear to keep warm. Woolen cut-off gloves or mittens allow the dexterity for baiting hooks along with the moisture absorbing qualities that prevent hands from chilling. Affordable chemical hand and boot warmers also work well. Many varieties of ice cleats are available to prevent slipping. And a life jacket is highly recommended.

**Five-gallon bucket**— to sit on and carry your catch of the day.

**Sled**— to carry equipment out onto ice

**Small shovel**— to remove snow built up on the ice. (Collapsible shovels are ideal).

**Ice skimmer**— a necessity for cleaning ice debris from holes.

**Ice fishing shelter or ice shanty**— A shelter is collapsible, while a shanty is more permanent. Portable heaters make shanties more comfortable in frigid conditions.

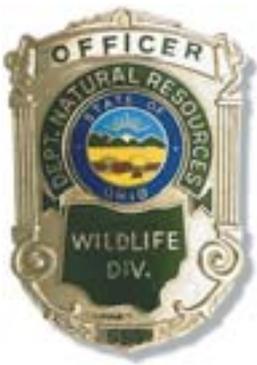
photos by Tim Daniel



Jigging works well for perch and walleye. Crappies prefer to have a little livelier action. Live minnows hooked just behind the dorsal fin work well. Most anglers fishing with live bait prefer using bobbers to signal a bite. The main thing to remember is to try something new if you aren't catching fish. That could include adding a little color to your preferred bait, changing baits, or trying a different water depth.

Prior to fishing, check with local bait stores, the pond owner, or the Internet for the latest fishing reports. While fishing, be sure to ask questions of other anglers to find out what methods and time of day have proven most successful.

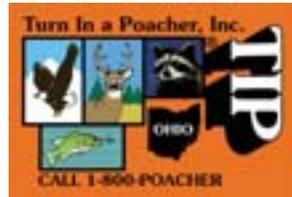
The great thing about ice fishing is that most all of the species that can be caught during the fall and spring months can also be caught during the winter. So this winter instead of staying inside grumbling over cabin fever, get out your cold weather clothes and get out and experience Ohio's awesome ice fishing. After all, it really is about stepping outside and creating a memory of your own. 



## Wildlife Law Enforcement

# Field Notes

*“Over the years, the Division of Wildlife has received valuable information through our Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) hotline, assisting us in ending a variety of wildlife violations. The two major cases outlined below are more examples of how the concern of Ohio sportsmen and women can be used to protect Ohio wildlife.” – Daniel Schneider, Law Enforcement administrator, Division of Wildlife*



### “Operation E & T”

A long-term, multistate undercover enforcement operation culminated last June in a crackdown on the illegal sale and possession of endangered reptiles and amphibians. State and federal wildlife officials titled the investigation “Operation E&T” in reference to its efforts to protect endangered and threatened wildlife species.

The cooperative investigation, initiated from public complaints, focused on the illegal sale of native reptiles and amphibians in Ohio and surrounding states. Many violations occurred at reptile shows held in Columbus, Ohio and locations in Michigan and Indiana. Other agencies involved in the undercover investigation included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and natural resource departments of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

The Ohio portion of the multistate effort has so far resulted in 159 misdemeanor and felony charges filed against 28 individuals involving the illegal taking, possession, and sale of endangered reptiles and amphibians. Results of the investigation have been forwarded to the appropriate U.S. Attorney’s Office for possible future federal charges. Meanwhile, the investigation is still underway.

The violations involved the unlawful interstate and intrastate commerce of federal and state-protected species; the unlawful collection and possession of native Ohio reptiles and amphibians taken from the wild; possession of wild animals without proper permits; and failure to keep accurate animal records. Depending on the violations, these misdemeanor charges carry maximum penalties of up to \$1,000 in fines, 120 days in jail, and restitution for the wild animals illegally taken or possessed.

So far hundreds of reptiles and amphibians including non-venomous and venomous snakes from around the world have been recovered. Many of the species sold for hundreds of dollars each. Included in the recovery of venomous snakes was a black mamba, a species native to Africa, which is considered one of the world’s most poisonous and aggressive snakes.

### “Operation Cornerstone”

Eight Conneaut men, convicted of poaching thousands of yellow perch from Lake Erie and selling them on the commercial market, have been ordered to pay a total of \$55,000 in restitution to the Division of Wildlife. It is the largest poaching restitution ever awarded to the Division.

The men were arrested last July as part of an undercover investigation in the Ashtabula County area dubbed “Operation Cornerstone.” The investigation came after some concerned citizens alerted officers of the illegal wildlife activity. Each eventually pled guilty to first-degree misdemeanor charges involving the sale of sport-caught fish.

The eight convicted poachers and restitution amounts are: Jason W. Heinbaugh (\$15,000), James P. Mucciarone (\$15,000), Raoul Erdman (\$1,872), Richard H. Ferl (\$3,121), Walter G. Kaczorski (\$6,867), Keith E. Penniman (\$2,653), William J. Powell (\$3,121), and Edwin K. Winger (\$6,742).

Established in 1982, the TIP Program allows Ohioans to call 1-800-POACHER (800-762-2437) from anywhere in the state to anonymously report wildlife violations.

### Officers Recognized



Vicki Ervin

The Shikar-Safari Club International named Jay Harnish, state wildlife investigator for northwest Ohio, Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year. He is a 20-year veteran with the Division, is an instructor for the Division’s firearms training team, and a member of the labor contract negotiation team. Pictured (L to R) are Shikar-Safari representative Tony Gioffre, Jay Harnish, and Steve Gray, chief of ODNR Division of Wildlife.

## Deer Decoy Donated

The Barnesville and Guernsey County chapters of the Ohio Buckmasters American Deer Foundation recently purchased a mechanical deer decoy for wildlife officers to use in nabbing would-be poachers. The imposter buck will be used throughout a six-county area to catch violators in illegal wildlife activity, including shooting from a vehicle and spotlighting deer.



Jeff Miller

(Left to right): Bill Knellinger, Guernsey County Ohio Buckmasters; Michael Reed, Muskingum County Ohio Wildlife Officer; Hugh Roller, Guernsey County Chapter President; and Shane Skinner, Barnesville Chapter President.



Dave Schott

Roby Williams, wildlife officer for Guernsey County, was named Wildlife Officer of the Year by the Ohio State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). He was cited for his involvement with county conservation clubs, including serving as a committee member of his local NWTf chapter.

## Poacher Serves Jail Time for Wildlife Crimes Including Felonious Assault of an Officer

The Division of Wildlife convicted two Warren County men of a range of wildlife violations last June, including felonious assault of a wildlife officer. During the course of an extensive investigation, George A. Plessinger, 45, of Carlisle, ran over Warren County Wildlife Officer Rick Rogers with an all-purpose vehicle. Rogers sustained injuries to his leg.

Plessinger was arrested for assault on a law enforcement officer, spotlighting deer, taking deer with a rifle, possession of an untagged deer, and interference with a wildlife officer. He was indicted for felonious assault, assault with a gun specification, and tampering with evidence. Plessinger pleaded guilty to felonious assault and served 90 days in jail. In addition, he was ordered to forfeit his all-purpose vehicle, rifle, and hunting gear valued at more than \$6,000. His Ohio hunting privileges were suspended for life and he was ordered to pay restitution for Officer Rogers' medical expenses. This, coupled with fines levied against him in municipal court, totaled \$3,237. Plessinger also is on three years probation. Violation of the probation will put him in prison for six years.

Keith Beavers, 45, of Franklin, an associate of Plessinger, was charged with 23 counts of illegally taking and possessing deer. He paid fines totaling \$650 and restitution in the amount of \$6,500, and forfeited his all-purpose vehicle, rifle, hunting gear, and illegal deer. His hunting privileges were suspended for five years.

During the investigation, Rogers and Division of Wildlife District Five investigators used DNA analysis, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lab to tie both men and the blood on their all-purpose vehicles to the illegally taken deer.



Kipp Brown

Warren County Wildlife Officer Rick Rogers is pictured with evidence confiscated from suspected deer poachers, including two all-purpose vehicles, deer antlers, rifles, and other hunting gear.

# Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

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



**Q: I used to see bobwhite quail and pileated woodpeckers where I grew up in east Central Ohio. Are either of these species still in Ohio?**

—John Gilmore, Reynoldsburg, OH

**A:** Northern bobwhite and pileated woodpeckers occur in Ohio, but in very different habitats. Besides scattered pockets of quail around the state, idle farmland in southwestern Ohio hosts a substantial population of bobwhites.

Recently, wild quail were transplanted from Kansas to Woodbury, Killbuck Marsh, and Big Island Wildlife Areas in an attempt to reestablish populations lost during the severe winter of 1977–78. Pileated woodpeckers can be found in large tracts of mature woodlands. A secretive species, you're more likely to see their telltale signs (large, oval-shaped excavations in dead trees) than the actual birds themselves.

**Q: How do you tell the difference between the male and female Canada goose?**

—Donald Recker, Columbus Grove, OH

**A:** Male and female Canada geese look very similar to the casual observer, but a close examination may reveal enlarged “knobs” on the wings of the males used for fighting other geese. A good way to tell one sex from the other is to watch the birds during nesting season. The female is the only one of the pair that incubates the eggs, while the gander will stand guard nearby ready to defend the nest if necessary.



**Q: Where have whip-poor-wills gone and can I do anything to attract them?**

—Pat Dunn, Kingston, OH



© Maslowski Wildlife Productions

**A:** Because of their nocturnal habits, it is very difficult to monitor whip-poor-will populations. A woodland nester, they are most common in southeastern Ohio but are occasionally heard in other parts of the state. These birds require young woodlands consisting of stands of trees 10 inches or less in diameter. This type of habitat has declined over the past few decades as our forests have matured. Unfortunately, there is little that can be done to attract whip-poor-wills. However, by supporting forest management practices on public lands that include clearcutting, you can help ensure that younger growth woodland habitat will be available on a landscape level benefiting whip-poor-wills and other species—such as ruffed grouse—in years to come.

**Q: Is it okay to hang my hummingbird feeder close to my finch feeder?**

—David Leiter, Marysville, OH

**A:** Hummingbirds are fairly bold creatures and occasionally chase birds much bigger than they are. Therefore, from a hummingbird standpoint, a sugar-water feeder can be hung near other, traditional seed feeders—the larger birds won't scare off the hummers. However, if you have the space it would be best to hang your hummingbird feeder away from other feeders to avoid possible conflicts between different species. There is also less chance of other birds soiling and/or spilling the hummingbird feeder that way.



# For Wild Kids

## Knowing Your Nests

by Jen Dennison

Much of Ohio's wildlife build nests for their young in the spring and summer. Squirrels, owls, crows, bluebirds, wood ducks, and many more animals use nests. Some build their own nests while others use the old nests of other animals, and still others will steal nests from other animals.

Some animals build nests in tree branches, tree trunks, fence posts, power line poles, barns, houses, on the ground, up on the roof, even in a flower pot. Some animals rely on humans to provide the nest box, while others just "borrow" materials that we throw away to build their own nest. But what happens to all of these nests when the snow begins to fly? Some nests are used year round by the builders, some nests



get destroyed in storms, some get used by mice to keep warm, and others are added to or rebuilt for the next spring.

If you have nesting houses on your property or school grounds, be sure to clean them out before the birds migrate back in the spring. The end of February is a good time to do spring cleaning on your area nest boxes. You can also lay out onion bags full of pieces of string,

dog hair, dryer lint and other items for birds to take and use in their nests.

As you look around your neighborhood, park, or home, see how many different kinds of nests you can find. And see if you can match the bird with its nest in the activity below. Draw a line from the bird name to the correct photo.



- Bluebird
- Purple Martin
- Baltimore oriole
- Bald eagle
- Wood duck



photos by Tim Daniel



# WILD GAME GOURMET

## r e c i p e s

### Snakebite Chili

- 2 pounds ground venison
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
- ½ cup chili pepper
- ½ tbsp. each of paprika, cumin, oregano, salt, and garlic powder
- ¼ cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tsp. of red pepper (more if desired)
- 2 tbsp. masa flour (a corn flour available in most grocery stores)
- ¼ cup warm water
- 1 15-ounce can of pinto beans (if desired)

Brown venison, drain off fat. Add all ingredients except last three. Cook for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir masa flour and water together to make thick mixture. Add to chili and stir. Add beans if desired. Simmer another 30 minutes. While cooking, add more water or sauce as needed for desired consistency. Sprinkle with shredded Monterey Jack cheese and serve with a warm tortilla.

*(Contributed by Pat Mayes)*

### Hot and Wild Turkey Chili

- In a 5-quart or larger crockpot add the following and stir to mix:
- 2 16-ounce cans Great Northern beans (drain half the liquid)
  - 2 cups corn
  - 1 large can diced tomatoes (drain off half the liquid)
  - 1 large onion, chopped
  - 1 to 3 Jalapeño peppers (depending on hot and spicy level desired)
  - ½ cup vegetable oil
  - 1 tsp. ground coriander seed
  - 1 tsp. white pepper
  - 2 tbsp. flour
  - 2 tbsp. cornstarch
  - 4 cloves garlic, minced
  - 3 heaping tsp. cumin
  - 2 tbsp. Cayenne pepper (adjust to ¼ tsp. for mild; 2 tbsp. will make it **VERY HOT**)
  - 2 cups wild turkey meat (precooked and cut into 1-inch cubes)
  - 6 cups broth (turkey or chicken)

Cook 10 hours on low setting, or four to six hours on high setting.

*(Contributed by David Santeusanio)*

by Vicki Mountz,

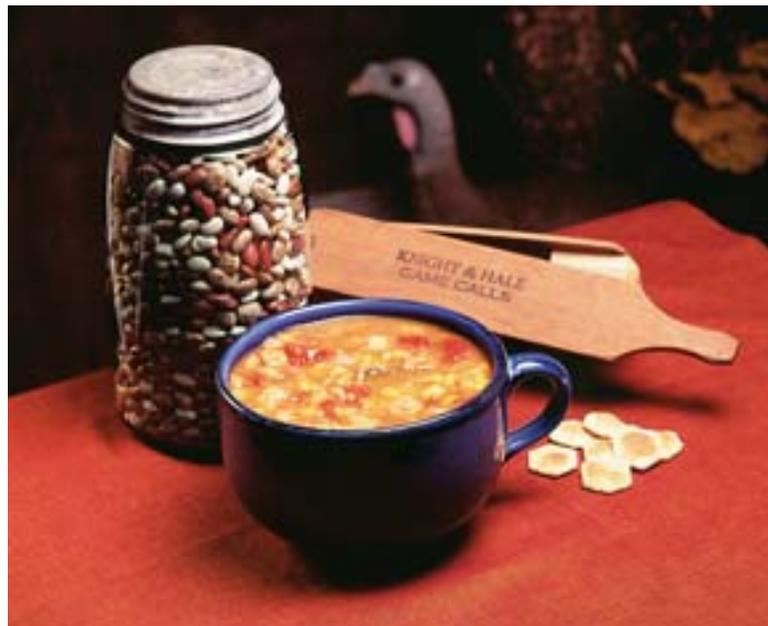
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine

## Wild Game Gourmet Chili Cook-off

Nothing warms the soul on a cold, winter day like a hot bowl of chili. Why not hold a chili cook-off with these two wild and tasty recipes and let your family be the judge.



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

# WILDLIFE Reflections

## Wildlife Moons in the Heart of Winter

by Melissa Hathaway • illustrations by Gene Whitten

*This issue's "Wildlife Reflections" is the first in a four-part series of seasonal articles that will explore Native American moon names that honor North America's wildlife.*

**W**e've all heard of the "Harvest Moon" and "Hunters Moon." Who has heard of the Worm Moon, Sturgeon Moon, Little Frog Moon, or Month of Rabbit Conception? The North American Indians revered the moon and used its phases to measure time. They called the months "Moons," and gave each one a name that symbolized what was occurring around them as the seasons progressed. The names were steeped in tribal customs, beliefs, daily life, and the natural world.

A quick reference search of moon names will reveal many lists with some variation in names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the various northern tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers adopted some of the Native American moon names, and created some of their own.

Most moon names are literal descriptions of natural events relating to wildlife, plants, and weather. Wildlife played an important role in Native American culture, as in evident in many of the moon names referring to wildlife. Indian folklore tells of some species that were idolized and personified by tribes. Animals were not looked upon as lesser beings, but respected as part of earth's large, living web that shared a common spirit.

The following are some of the moon names used by Native Americans, most of which reflect the importance of native American wildlife and its role in tribal life.

### January Moons

**Full Moon: January 7, 2004**

The harsh winters of the northern regions of North America made survival a challenge for northern tribes, as well as the native wildlife, during the winter months. Food became scarce in heavy snows and frigid temperatures. January's full moon was named the Wolf Moon because the hungry howls of wolves could be heard from Indian villages as they roamed in packs in search of prey. This species was much respected by Native Americans who regarded wolves as teachers or pathfinders.

Other January Moon names: Wolves Run Together, Month of the Bear, Hard Times Moon, Moon after Yule, and Old Moon.

### February Moons

**Full Moon: February 6, 2004**

As if January's weather wasn't harsh enough in eastern North America, the month that followed traditionally brought even heavier snows, prolonged cold snaps, and blizzard storms. Food supplies provided by plants and animals were scarce and hunting became more difficult, hence the full moon names Hunger Moon or Snow Moon. Some tribes call the February moon the Trapper's Moon, most likely because trapping provided one of the most successful ways to obtain meat during the winter, as well as pelts for clothing.

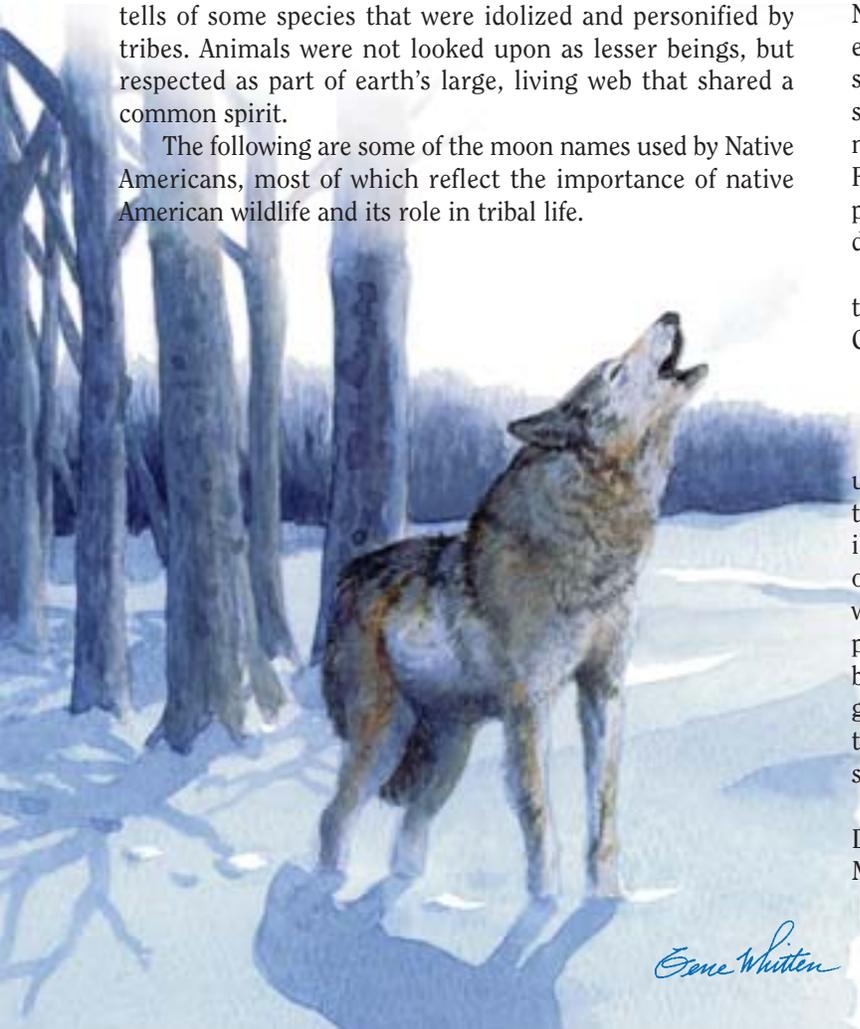
Other February Moon Names: Month of Rabbit Conception, Raccoon Moon, Moon When Geese Come Home, Dark Red Calves Moon, Fish-Running Moon, and Storm Moon.

### March Moons

**Full Moon, March 6, 2004**

March is truly a time of transformation. The weather is unpredictable with cold temperatures or even snow one day, then a warm spell the next. But winter is fading and nature is slowly transforming and renewing itself. The first signs of spring are observed with plants and animals shedding off winter's strong grip and preparing for rebirth. Many native people referred to the March full moon as the Worm Moon, because the seasonal thaw brought earthworms out of the ground, heralding the return of the robins. It was called the Crow Moon by some tribes because the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter.

Other March Moon names: Catching Fish Moon, Buffalo Dropping Their Calves Moon, Sap Moon, Sugar Moon, Crust Moon, and Windy Moon.



*Gene Whitten*

# NOTICE!

We are purging our mailing list in an effort to cut costs and keep *Wild Ohio* magazine a free publication of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. If you would like to continue receiving *Wild Ohio*, you must fill out and mail in the postcard inside this issue. If we have not received a postcard from you sometime before May 1, 2004, your name will be dropped from our mailing list beginning June 1, 2004.

**NOTE: We also ran this notice in previous issues of *Wild Ohio*. If you have already mailed in a postcard from one of these previous issues, you do not have to mail in another postcard to continue receiving *Wild Ohio*.**

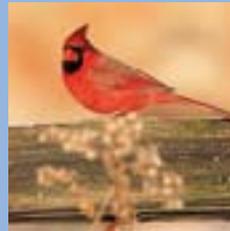
Keep a connection to  
Ohio's wildlife  
in your life!



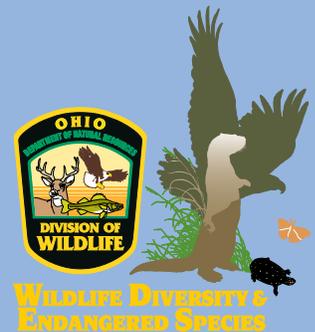
photos by Tim Daniel

## Do Something WILD!

Donate all or part of your Ohio Income Tax refund to the Ohio Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species Fund.



photos by Tim Daniel



Check line 25 (form 1040) or line 17 (EZ form) on your Ohio income tax return.  
Every dollar is valuable and appreciated.



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