

Wild Ohio

Winter 2007-2008

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE





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**APPLY NOW
TO CAST A LINE IN
COLD CREEK**

Once again the Division of Wildlife will provide a limited number of slots for fishing the popular Cold Creek at the Castalia State Fish Hatchery from early April to late October 2008. Anglers interested in this unique angling opportunity must apply by January 31 to be eligible for the random drawing. Only one application per person and there is a non-refundable \$5 application fee. **SAVE MONEY!** Apply online for \$3 per application.

www.wildohio.com
or call **1-800-WILDLIFE**

Online applications will be accepted December 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008.



SALUTE

A SALUTE TO AN OLD FRIEND AND CONSERVATIONIST

Former member of the Ohio Wildlife Council and Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame, Bob Evans, passed away last June.



Well known for his restaurant and food businesses, he was actively involved in wildlife conservation, hunting, and fishing throughout his 89 years.

Mr. Evans was a long-time supporter of wildlife and friend to the Division of Wildlife, and served on the Wildlife Council from 1973-1979. He was dedicated to managing for wildlife on his farm in Gallia County and built ponds, planted thousands of trees to attract wildlife, constructed an area to care for orphaned and injured wild animals, and experimented with native and non-native grasses and plants to improve wildlife habitat. Mr. Evans was especially interested in wild turkey and bobwhite quail, and was honored by the National Wildlife Federation three times. He was also very instrumental in sportsmen clubs and organizations and opened his farm near Rio Grande for many canoe trips, hikes, campouts, conservation meetings, and seminars.

RETRACTION

*In the Outdoor Skills page article "Archery 101" that appeared in the fall 2007 issue of Wild Ohio (page 15), please note: Wood arrows should **not** be shot with compound bows; however, there are special considerations in using custom-made arrows possessing a stronger spine strength capable of handling the pressures of higher speed compound bows.*



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY • 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

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



Annual Report

This issue of Wild Ohio Magazine includes the annual report for fiscal year 2007 highlighting the year's accomplishments. As the state agency mandated to manage Ohio's wildlife resources, staff carry out the agency's many responsibilities in areas of wildlife management, fisheries management, law enforcement, information and education, administration, human resources, and other support services.

4-11



On the Cover:
Coyote

First recorded in the state in 1919, the coyote is now found in all of Ohio's 88 counties. Their increasing numbers across the state also mark a resurgence of Ohio's small game and developing natural areas.

Features

Readers' Photos

21-23

Here's a look at some of the photos sent in by Wild Ohio readers showing some of the many ways they enjoy Ohio's wealth of wildlife resources. This photo of a white-lined sphinx moth was taken by Greg Mountz of Centerburg, Ohio.



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Ohio department of natural resources DIVISION OF WILDLIFE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007

Message from the Chief

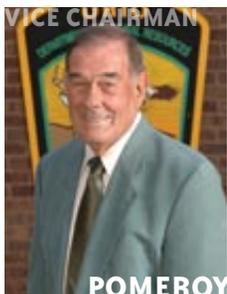
The Division of Wildlife's 2007 annual report is a snapshot of the many accomplishments over the past fiscal year. Today, Ohioans enjoy a tremendous diversity of wildlife and outdoor recreational opportunity that is widely distributed throughout the state. This exists thanks to the dedication and passion of our employees, anglers, hunters, trappers, and all other outdoor enthusiasts that work and volunteer their time in the continuing stewardship of our wildlife resources. As we embrace new ideas and challenges in the future, the heritage of conservation and wise use that has been protected, nurtured, and passed on from generation to generation will continue to be the cement that bonds us together and allows us to pass on this legacy to our children.



David M. Graham, Chief



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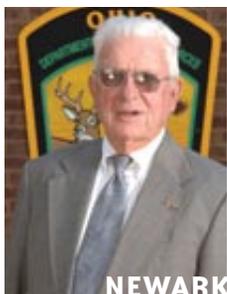
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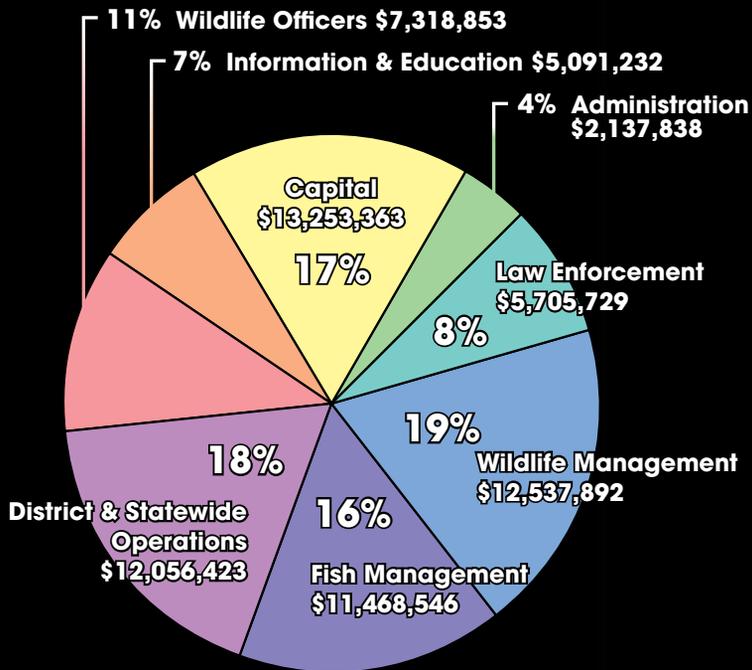
OHIO WILDLIFE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Ohio Wildlife Council is an eight-member board that approves all Division of Wildlife proposed rules and regulations. Appointed by the Governor, no more than four members may be of the same political party and two of the council members must represent agriculture. Each term of office is four years.



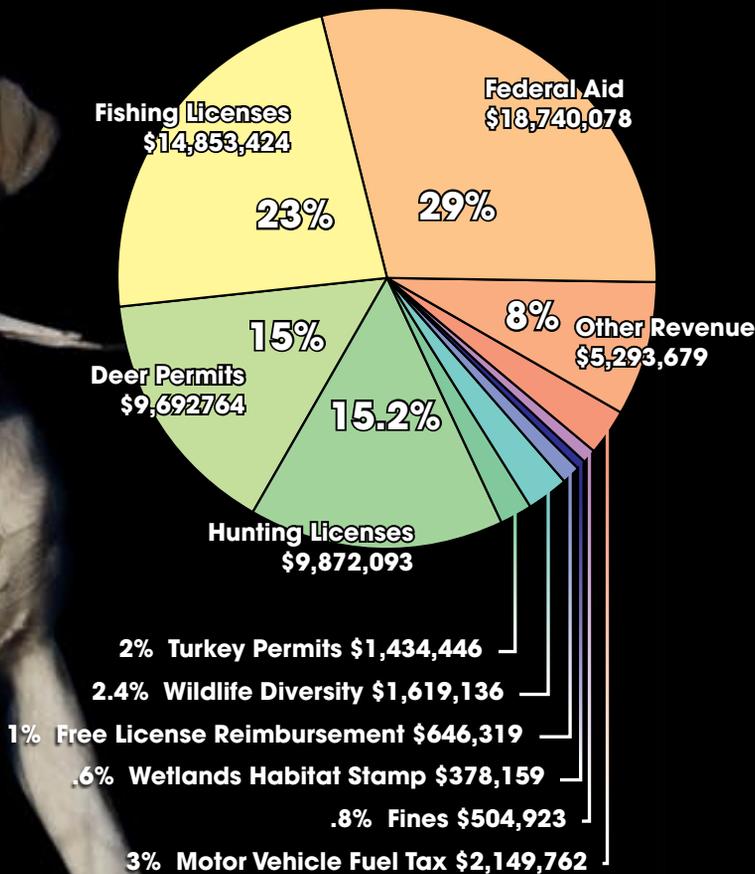
EXPENDITURES07

TOTAL \$68,195,636



REVENUE07

TOTAL \$65,184,782



FINANCIAL REPORT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT - \$12,537,892

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 - \$5,705,729

WILDLIFE OFFICERS - \$7,318,853

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 - \$11,468,546

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 & STATEWIDE OPERATIONS -

\$12,056,423

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 & EDUCATION - \$5,091,232

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 - \$13,253,363

The Division had the opportunity to grasp two monumental land acquisitions during fiscal year 2007. One was the land acquisition of nearly 5,000 acres of forestland in southeast Ohio from the Mead Corporation for \$5.6 million. These three tracts of land in Ross and Jackson counties will open up wildlife recreation opportunities for thousands of Ohioans. The second important purchase was 20 acres of land in the city of Huron on Lake Erie (\$3.5 million) for a boating access facility. This acquisition will provide boater and angler access along a popular section of the lakeshore that currently lacks public access. The project also includes an agreement between the city of Huron and ODNR to cooperatively develop this key piece of Huron's waterfront with launch ramps, docks, and parking facilities.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Division continued its leadership role in the development of the Conservation Title for the 2007 federal Farm Bill by participating on national, regional, and state committees. Also continued to work closely with the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service by providing technical assistance for statewide conservation programs that provide critical wildlife habitat

Acquired more than 5,600 acres of land including almost 5,000 acres of the former Mead lands in Jackson and Ross counties. An additional 1,600 acres were protected in conservation easements with other partners.

Hunters harvested a record 237,316 deer during the 2006-07 deer season. The bonus two-day firearms season in mid-December is largely responsible for the 13 percent increase in the total harvest.

The Division prepared to downlist the bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, black bear, and bobcat, based on population and range expansions. Bald eagle reproduction in Ohio increased to 164 nests, and the species was officially removed from the federal Endangered Species list.

Millions of viewers learned about the state endangered and federally threatened Lake Erie watersnake, thanks to the outreach efforts of Kristin Stanford, who was featured on The Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs." The Division has been supporting Lake Erie watersnake research, surveys, and outreach activities since the mid-1980s.

Continued partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Division of Forestry on forest landscape planning. Significant progress was made on the development of GIS maps showing current forest conditions for the Division's two forestland focus areas in southern Ohio.

In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, completed construction of a complex of coastal wetlands on 300 acres at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area.

Participated in continental surveillance for avian influenza, collecting 750 samples from waterfowl and songbirds.

Worked with The Ohio State University to determine the subspecies composition of Ohio's Canada goose harvest using genetic markers. Four harvest years have been completed, and preliminary results suggest that the majority of the harvest is composed of the resident giant subspecies.

Reflecting national trends, Ohio's bald eagle population continues to grow and expand. Biologists recorded 164 nests, the 20th consecutive year that the state's bald eagle population increased. Of the 164 nests, 115 were successful and produced 186 eaglets.

White-tailed deer - Chris Peller - Summit County



TRI VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA
(featured in the 2007 summer Wild Ohio Magazine) Looking out over the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area in Muskingum County, visitors might think they are on the Great Plains of the western United States. The 16,200 acres of reclaimed surface-mined land provides important grassland habitat for wildlife and recreational activities for the public in the form of hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation.



NEW ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT

The 2007-2008 hunting season started off with great excitement as the Division introduced a new permit. Described in the 2007-2008 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations, the new permit gives archery hunters expanded hunting opportunities and will help in managing the deer herd.



sandhill crane • John Boyce

MOSQUITO CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

(featured in the 2007 fall *Wild Ohio Magazine*) Trumbull County boasts the most wildlife area acreage in the Division of Wildlife's District Three. The 9,021-acre wildlife area, established in 1962, is one of the best waterfowl hunting areas in the state.

box turtle • Margaret Thompson • Vinton County

bald eagle • Al Freeman • Erie County

cottontail rabbit • Bill Heban • Wood County



2007 SPECIES GUIDEBOOKS

The Division of Wildlife continues to produce a much anticipated series of publications featuring both common and exotic species found throughout the great Buckeye state. This year was highlighted by the release of three new guidebooks: *Owls of Ohio*, *Mammals of Ohio*, and *Common Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ohio*. The *Owls of Ohio* booklet was accompanied by an audio cd of owl calls and sounds.

Hosted the 31st Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson, Ohio.

Hosted the summer 2007 meeting of the Mississippi Flyway Council at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.

Biologists estimate 56 young peregrine falcons fledged from 19 successful nests across Ohio in 2007. In all, 23 territorial pairs of peregrine falcons were monitored in cities around the state.

The Division's osprey reintroduction program is another huge success. In 2007, at least 43 osprey pairs produced 78 young. Osprey nested in 24 counties, mostly in northeastern Ohio. Osprey disappeared from Ohio in the 1940s due to habitat destruction, persecution, and pesticides. The Division began reintroducing osprey as a means to restore some of Ohio's native diversity. The program's goal of 20 nesting pairs by 2010 was achieved seven years ahead of schedule in 2003.

Trumpeter swan nests have continued to increase in the state since the Division's 10-year reintroduction program began in 1996. Biologists recorded 23 trumpeter swan nests during 2007 with 48 fledglings.

Sixteen sandhill crane nests were recorded in the state and 22 young cranes fledged.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

The Division built the largest state coalition in the country (510 members) for the national Teaming With Wildlife funding initiative.

Ohio's Wildlife Diversity Conference reached an all-time record attendance with 900 people attending the 2007 gathering.

In cooperation with the Ohio Biological Survey, published a new salamander poster and the book, *Corbiculean Clams of North America*.

Awarded eight State Wildlife Grant program grants. Subjects included surveys for the Hine's emerald dragonfly, a rare crayfish and a rare shrimp; fish surveys in large river tributaries of the Ohio River; studies of Blanchard's cricket frog and turtle ecology; and several mussel projects.

Built the Ruthven Songbird Aviary that was unveiled at the Ohio State Fair in August. Birds were on loan from the Malabar Farm Aviary and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, in cooperation with ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation.

Partnered with the Ohio Historical Society for \$15,000 to fund educational displays at the new Cedar Bog Education Center.

The Division and the Greater Mohican Audobon Society hosted the first Ohio Dragonfly Conference. One hundred forty-two people attended the event, making it the largest held anywhere.

FISH MANAGEMENT

LAKE ERIE

Worked with legislators on Senate Bill 77 to reform commercial fishing laws on Lake Erie.

Continued tagging studies on Lake Erie walleye using radio telemetry, jaw tags, and PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags on various spawning stocks to learn more about movements, habitat use, and mortality rates.

Participated on interagency activities related to several environmental issues on Lake Erie, including Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) outbreaks in fish, ecological benefits from potential removal of the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River, and ballast-water legislation.

Began work on a new interagency plan for the management of yellow perch fisheries in Lake Erie.

Completed the first of a two-year creel survey on Lake Erie shoreline anglers to assess the fishery and gather socio-demographic information.

Lake Erie walleye fishing continues to be outstanding. Catch rates have been some of the highest on record for the 2003 year-class of walleyes.

STREAM CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The East Sandusky Bay Water Trail, Ohio's third, was dedicated in June. Work continues on several other potential water trails.

Through partnerships with other organizations, assisted with riparian corridor protection efforts along Pymatuning Creek, and the Scioto and Kokosing rivers. New partnerships were developed for the Big and Little Darby creeks and the Little Miami River.

Partnered with the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation to fund the Upper Olentangy River Watershed Coordinator position with the city of Delaware.

Construction began on a new boat ramp on the Ohio River in Meigs County.

Partnered with the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium's Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Facility to release 43 federally endangered Northern riffleshell mussels into Big Darby Creek at Battelle-Darby Metropark.

INLAND FISHERIES

Initiated a habitat improvement project at Indian Lake to protect spawning areas for largemouth bass. The project is a partnership between the Division, the Ohio Bass Federation Nation, and Indian Lake State Park, including a \$57,000 grant from Bass Federation Nation.

Collected water quality information from 107 reservoirs statewide through a sampling program conducted in conjunction with Miami University.



OHIO BASS SURVEY

(featured in the 2007 spring Wild Ohio Magazine) About one-in-four fishing trips to Ohio reservoirs are made by anglers chasing largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. Success varies among the bass-fishing faithful, but none rivals the catches of Division of Wildlife crews dedicated to ensuring that Buckeye bass fishing remains among the best in the Midwest.



28th ANNUAL FISH OHIO PIN

This year the 2007 Fish Ohio Pin featured a largemouth bass. Officially, this is the third time the largemouth has been selected to appear on the Fish Ohio Pin. The previous two times were 1983 and 1993.

largemouth bass - David Adam - Brown County



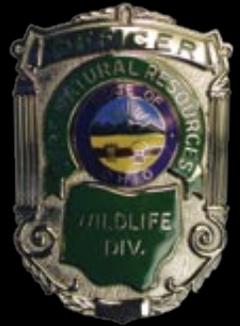
crappie • Nick Bachtel • Portage County



FRESHWATER MUSSELS
(featured in the 2007 summer Wild Ohio Magazine)
For the first time in Ohio history, researchers are returning a species of freshwater mussel to waters where it once flourished in order to save the species from extinction. The state and federally endangered Northern riffleshell mussel once resided in several rivers throughout Ohio, but exists today in only two Ohio streams



walleye • Jamey Graham • Lake County



WILDLIFE OFFICERS
The Division of Wildlife was proud to welcome 13 new cadets this past year, while saying farewell to only one retiring wildlife law enforcement officer out of Lawrence County.

The Division's six fish hatcheries stocked 7,800,000 saugeyes, 1,300,000 walleyes, 798,000 hybrid striped bass, 19,616 muskies, 205,511 channel catfish, 29,094 brown trout, 453,297 steelhead, and 108,000 rainbow trout.

Placed over 500 fish attractors in lakes and reservoirs in northeastern Ohio.

Youth fishing programs in northeastern Ohio attracted 2,400 participants during a 15-weekend period.

District Four's "Youth Float" on the Hocking River provided an opportunity for youth to learn about stream ecosystems while enjoying paddling and fishing.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Division worked with the Ohio General Assembly on the creation of three bills that will enhance the Division's ability to protect and manage Ohio's wildlife resources. The legislation includes complete reform of Ohio's commercial fishing industry on Lake Erie, Ohio's participation in an interstate wildlife violator compact agreement, and establishment of a value system for wildlife, which will allow the Division to bring civil action to recover the value of wild animals held, taken, or possessed illegally. (See more details of these three pieces of legislation in "Field Notes" on page 11.)

Wildlife officers made 7,268 arrests for wildlife crimes and other criminal violations resulting in \$526,123 in fines collected.

Wildlife officers conducted 25 aircraft surveillance projects, which resulted in 110 contacts and 192 arrests.

Wildlife officers investigated 111 water pollution incidents statewide where 72,481 wild animals (primarily fish and other aquatic animals) died. The Division collected \$137,772 in damages for 10 settlements.

The 1-800-POACHER phone line received more than 4,000 calls from concerned citizens reporting wildlife violations, from which 1,565 reports were taken.

Wildlife officers and investigators conducted 277 special enforcement projects targeting known wildlife violators, known problem areas, and state wildlife property protection. Officers contacted 7,355 individuals resulting in 1,135 arrests.

During the spring walleye run on the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, wildlife officers contacted 1,624 anglers and issued 250 summonses for littering, snagging, and possessing snagged walleye.

Wildlife officers and investigators conducted 1,295 permit inspections, 270 meat locker and taxidermist inspections, and issued 5,658 permits.

Wildlife investigators inspected and certified 2,138 pounds of the 2,264 reported pounds of ginseng for exportation.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Held the first Ohio National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Tournament in Columbus. About 450 kids from 24 teams participated with 10 teams qualifying to compete in the NASP National Tournament held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Trained 107 new hunter education instructors, 18,482 students in instructor-led and home study hunter education courses, and 739 students in trapper education.

The quarterly *Wild Ohio* magazine was produced for the 18th year with 125,000 copies distributed per issue. The award-winning *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine was produced for the seventh year and distributed to 300,000 young people.

Education staff received The Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) award for the Science and Civics program.

Three national communications awards from the Association for Conservation Information were awarded to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine and the 2006-2007 *Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations* earned first place honors in their individual categories, while the Wildlife Officer Recruitment Video placed second in its category.

Added 51 schools to Ohio's NASP for a total of 183 schools and trained over 225 new instructors, teachers, park naturalists, and volunteers bringing Ohio's corps of NASP instructors to 420. Approximately 13,500 students received archery training in physical education classes last year.

Trained 127 new instructors in the Passport to Fishing program, and 48 new youth mentor instructors in Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs. Reached 24,254 students with these aquatic education programs and distributed outreach materials to over 100,000 students in non-department specific programs.

More than 200 news releases on various wildlife topics were provided to local, state, and national media outlets.

The *Wild Ohio* television show aired on 37 outlets across Ohio with 26 half-hour programs produced for the tenth year.

The Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center attracted over 100,000 visitors.

Staffed displays at the Ohio State Fair and numerous sports shows, local fairs, and festivals that provided opportunities for wildlife information exchange.

Jeffrey Klinefelter won the Wetland Habitat Stamp competition coordinated by the Information and Education Group. Klinefelter's painting of a ring-necked duck will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp this fall.

Awarded 20 new \$500 WILD School Sites start-up grants.



KIDS AND BUTTERFLIES

The Division of Wildlife continued its production of its annual children-friendly magazine, *Wild Ohio for Kids*. The magazine features a paint-by-number hickory horned devil on the cover and carried the theme of sharing Ohio with wildlife. The main attraction of the magazine was the pull-out poster displaying some of Ohio's popular butterflies and skippers.

raccoon - Shauna Sechrist - Mahoning County

mallard - Bill Heban - Summit County



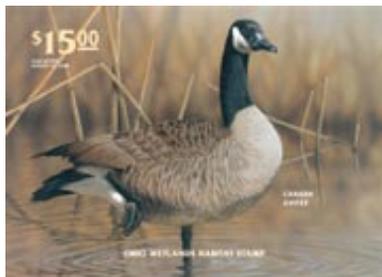
ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY

The Annual Report Section of this issue displays a few of the thousands of images posted on the Division's website "Photo Gallery".

canada goose • Susan Hamilton • Butler County

26th ANNUAL OHIO WETLAND HABITAT STAMP

katydid • Bill Heban • Summit County



The 26th annual Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamp depicting a Canada goose by artist Richard Clifton was introduced this past fall. Clifton, a Delaware native, was the 2006 competition winner. The 2006 Annual Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamp competition was held in Eastlake in conjunction with the annual Ohio Ducks Unlimited Convention.

Over 28,000 visitors toured the Aquatic Education Visitor Center on South Bass Island.

Trained 30 new Project WILD and Aquatic Project WILD facilitators and 35 Science and Civics facilitators.

Awarded 183 Step Outside Grants totaling more than \$85,000.

Continued to fund the ODNR Division of Park's naturalist program with an \$80,000 grant.

Awarded 20 new \$500 WILD School Sites start-up grants.

ON THE WEB

Launched a permission-based eNewsletter, with a growing subscription list of over 50,000. Subscribers receive monthly updates on only the wildlife information they request. Topic areas include: birding/backyards for wildlife, educator resources, fishing, and hunting.

The website visitation continues to grow with usage up 40 percent from last year. Over 4.3 million people came to the website for wildlife information.

The Division has become one of the nation's first state wildlife agencies to begin offering its weekly television series *WildOhio* TV to an Internet audience for viewing on-demand at MyOutdoorTV.com.

In March 2007, the Division implemented a new live, streaming web camera to capture the entire nesting season of a pair of peregrine falcons perched on the 41st floor of the Rhodes State office tower in downtown Columbus.

The Divisions online photo gallery has taken in more than 10,000 photos in 2007. This unique tool has allowed users to electronically publish photos of their experiences with wildlife to our gallery daily.

Visitors to the Division's website are now able to observe the migration patterns of osprey, black ducks, and sandhill cranes as they depart from and return to Ohio. Online maps pinpoint their flight patterns and stopping points throughout the year.

The Division's website offers a recipe catalog that includes many of the recipes prepared on the Division's popular "Wild Game Gourmet" television show.

Hunters and anglers can conveniently purchase licenses and permits online. Hunters may also apply for controlled hunts through the website and view the results of the lottery.

The "Events Near You" calendar gives detailed information about events sponsored by the Division of Wildlife and other conservation organizations.

Website visitors can get the latest wildlife news around the state by clicking on "Wildlife News." News items can be searched by Division of Wildlife districts to give site visitors up-to-date news that is happening near them.



**Ohio's
watchable
wildlife**



Northern saw-whet owl

Snowy owl

Tundra swan

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

By Melissa Hathaway

It's wintertime and many Ohioans are stocking their feeding stations and patiently watching to see what shows up. Many of the birds around us in the cold months are year-round residents, but a few newcomers on the scene are here for a respite from severe winter weather on their breeding grounds far to the north.

The most common winter visitor – the dark-eyed junco – can be seen right outside your window at your feeder, but you will have to bundle up and go in search of most of these elusive winter guests.

Dark-eyed junco

Dark-eyed juncos, also called “snowbirds,” are often the most common visitor at backyard feeders, traveling in flocks of 10 to 30. Their coloring mimics a winter scene—dark gray above and white below. These sparrow-sized ground-feeders are fun to observe, as they scratch the ground beneath feeders, then flit off to nearby cover with a flash of white from their white outer tail feathers. A ground feeding platform can be a good way to attract these friendly winter birds.

Snow bunting

Often referred to as the “snowflake,” the snow bunting lives and breeds on the Arctic tundra, but large flocks move to the northern U.S. states in winter. This sparrow-sized bird prefers barren places, such as grasslands, farm fields, and beaches. Best viewing opportunities in the late fall are along Lake Erie,

especially in the northwest. Some good winter viewing areas include farm fields south of State Route 2 near Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (Ottawa and Lucas counties), State Route 294 between Little Sandusky and Harpster (Wyandot County), along roads in snow covered fields just northeast of Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area (Wyandot County), and along the rock riprap at the Findlay Reservoirs (Hancock County).

Snowy owl

A rare treat for Ohio residents is to see a snowy owl, also known as the Arctic, great white, or ghost owl. A shortage of lemmings and voles in the owl's Arctic home can drive these nomad hunters as far south as Ohio in search of food. Snowy owls can be seen in the dead of winter mostly along the Lake Erie shorelines such as Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland, Bayshore Power Plant near Toledo (Lucas County), and Headlands State Park (Cuyahoga County).

Northern saw-whet owl

North America's smallest owl, the Northern saw-whet owl, is a winter visitor, but rarely seen because it is strictly nocturnal and hides in dense cover during the day.

Best places to observe these tiny owls in the winter include Caesar Creek State Park (Warren County) and in southwestern Ohio in old fields overgrown with red cedars.

They are also observed in the fall and early spring at Magee



Long-eared owl

Dark-eyed junco

Rough-legged hawk

Ohio's Winter Visitors

Marsh Wildlife Area (Ottawa County) along the boardwalk and walking trails, the pines near the Gordon Park Impoundment in Cleveland, and Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus.

Long-eared owl

The crow-sized long-eared owl has prominent ear tufts that sit near the middle of its head. It tends to roost “frozen” next to the trunk of a tree, blending in well with its heavily mottled brown plumage. These nocturnal predators hunt in grasslands and fields feeding primarily on voles or deer mice. Other common names include Brush Owl, Cat Owl, Lesser Horned Owl, and Cedar Owl.

Good viewing locales during the winter months include Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, (Wyandot County), old fields with red cedars in southwestern Ohio, Cedar Bog State Memorial, (Champaign County), and Caesar Creek State Park (Warren County). Viewing opportunities exist during the spring migration in thickly overgrown woodlots near Lake Erie, including Maumee Bay State Park (Lucas County).

Rough-legged hawk

Rough-legged hawks migrate far from their Arctic breeding grounds to winter across southern Canada and the United States. These large hawks have feathered legs and come in two color morphs – light and dark. They prey on rodents either from a perch or hovering in the air. These hawks are trusting of humans, allowing for close-up observation. Look for rough-

legged hawks during fall, winter, and early spring in large, open farm fields or marshes, at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, or below State Route 2 near Oak Harbor (Ottawa County), The Wilds (Muskingum County), Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area (Wyandot County), and Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area (Wayne and Ashland counties).

Tundra swan

These large, all-white waterfowl of the tundra winter in large flocks along the U.S. seaboard, as well as the Great Lakes. They were previously called whistling swans, not because of their call, but because of the sound made by their slow, powerful wing beat in flight. Best observation locations include agricultural fields along the southwestern Lake Erie shore in Ottawa and Lucas counties and adjacent marshes, and Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area (Wyandot County).

One way to view some of these winter migrants is to visit Ohio birding websites that list current bird sightings. Once a bird is listed on the server, you can travel to the given location. Some birding sites to check out include:

www.rarebird.org

(Ohio Rare Bird Alerts:

Toledo Area, Ohio Statewide, and Northeast Ohio)

www.ohiobirds.org

(Ohio Ornithological Society website)



News from Around Ohio

WALLEYE FISHING PHENOMENAL THROUGHOUT 2007

The large 2003 Lake Erie walleye hatch was a boon to anglers all across the lake throughout 2007. One avid angler commented, "It was more like catching than fishing!" This exceptional hatch provided anglers with many limit catches of fine table-fare fish ranging in size from 19 to 22 inches. Although the numbers of these fish will gradually decline with angler pressure and mortality, this big 2003 hatch should provide fish through 2025, according to Lake Erie fisheries research staff. They have seen walleye up to 24 years old. The current state record walleye that weighed just over 16 pounds was a 20+ year-old fish. Large walleye from strong hatches in the 1980s and mid-1990s still remain in the population, providing "Fish Ohio" trophy catches.



First Lady Frances Strickland experienced Lake Erie's fantastic walleye fishing during the annual Fish Ohio Day held in Port Clinton last July.

SPORTSMAN MAKES BEQUEST TO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The late Wallace "Wally" O'Dowd of Powell, Ohio left a bequest to the Division of Wildlife to acquire land for wildlife conservation, propagation, and habitat management. The bequest is the single largest donation in the history of the Division. As stipulated in the O'Dowd will, the Division plans to purchase about 5,000 acres of land in southeastern Ohio that will be open to public hunting, fishing, and trapping. The future acquisition will be named the Wallace H. O'Dowd Wildlife Area in honor of the avid sportsman who traveled the world following his passion for hunting and fishing.



MULTI-AGENCY EFFORT CONTINUES ON PYMATUNING

Thanks to a multi-state, multi-agency collaborative effort, anglers who fish Pymatuning Reservoir will have a few more hot spots to fish. Division personnel, in conjunction with the Division of Parks and Recreation, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Habitat Management Section, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, North Shore Boat Club, and the Pymatuning Lake Association, introduced two different types of habitat structures (wooden cribs and rock reefs) into the 14,650-acre reservoir located in Ashtabula County.



KARNER BLUES TO BRIGHTEN TOLEDO METRO PARK

The Division with other members of the Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Team released 131 Karner blue butterflies on the Louis Campbell Prairie of the Toledo Metroparks' Oak Openings Preserve last July. The butterflies were reared from eggs to adults at the Toledo Zoo after female butterflies were captured in Michigan and taken to the zoo for egg laying. Karner blue butterflies have also been released at The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve Moseley Barrens.

OLDEST HARRIER ON RECORD FOUND IN OHIO

A Northern harrier found dead on the side of the road by a man who ran out of gas near Troy, Ohio turned out to be the oldest member of the species on record. It also reigns as the eighth oldest bird recorded in North America. The man sent what remained of the harrier, including the band, to the U.S. Geological Survey. The hawk, banded near Port Stanley, Ontario in October 1972, lived for 33 years and two months. The previous longevity record for a Northern harrier was 16 years, five months. To view a list of the 10 longest-surviving species in the Bird Banding Laboratory database, visit the U.S. Geological Survey website at <http://www.purc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/topten.htm>.



OHIO SHOOTER BREAKS TWO WORLD RECORDS

Ohioan Tom Sarver broke two world records in 1,000-yard rifle shooting (light weight class) last July at the Thunder Valley Rifle Club in Coshocton County. Sarver shot a 1.403 five-shot group with a score of 50 with five in the X ring at 1,000 yards. This breaks two world records in group and score.



BUNDLE UP AND COUNT BIRDS THIS WINTER

The neotropical migrants have headed south and you probably think the birding season is over. Not so! Two of the largest birding events in the world take place each winter. Thousands of birding enthusiasts participate to learn about birds while collecting important data for conservation.

The annual Christmas Bird Count takes place December 14, 2007 through January 5, 2008. Coordinated by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count has grown to be the oldest and largest citizen science event in the world. To find out how you can take part, log onto



The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place each February during Presidents' Day weekend. Participants in last year's count submitted 88,000 checklists that included 11 million individual birds consisting of 616 species. Led by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the GBBC provides an opportunity for people of all ages and birding skill levels to enjoy learning about their backyard birds. This year's count is February 15 – 18. To learn more about the GBBC and how you can participate visit: www.birdcount.org.

WILD OHIO TV ON THE NET

The Division's popular TV show *Wild Ohio* is now available on the Internet for viewing on-demand at MyOutdoorTV.com. Each 30-minute episode features hunting, fishing, and wildlife interest stories specific to Ohio's great resources. Viewers can search for specific topics included in episodes of *Wild Ohio* on the MyOutdoorTV.com home page. MyOutdoorTV.com is an exciting new Internet television network which streams the largest collection of outdoor video available online. The Division is one of the nation's first state wildlife agencies to begin offering its weekly television series to a broader audience as part of this powerful new forum.

Wildlife CALENDAR

March 2

DOW Open House Forums

At all district offices
12:00p.m to 3:00p.m.
Proposed hunting and trapping regulations and other topics will be discussed.

March 12

Wildlife Diversity Conference

Aladdin Shrine Complex Columbus
This year's theme is "Back in Black" with topics including black bears, black vultures, lampreys, and stream restoration.

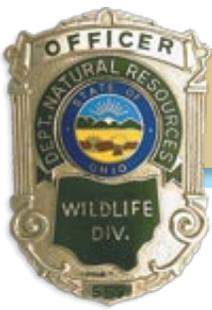
www.wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS RECOGNIZED

The Division received three national awards from the Association for Conservation Information (ACI) at the organization's annual conference in Massachusetts last July. *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine placed first in the Education & Outreach category for education programs developed within an agency. The 2006-2007 *Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations* earned first place honors in the Regulation Publication category for agencies that produce their regulations internally and do so clearly and concisely.

A video on wildlife officer recruitment took second place in the Video category. The video was created to solicit new applicants for the Ohio Wildlife Officer Training Academy. It can be viewed online by visiting www.wildohio.com, clicking on "Wild Resources" and following the "Wildlife Careers" link.





WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

LEGISLATIVE MILESTONES

Over the past year the Ohio Division of Wildlife was very successful in working with the Ohio General Assembly. This endeavor resulted in the creation of three new pieces of legislation that will enhance the Division's ability to protect and manage our wildlife resources.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY REFORM

Senate Bill 77 resulted in a complete reform of the Ohio commercial fishing industry. First initiated to ensure improved regulation compliance, this legislation will also electronically streamline the commercial fishing catch reporting process. Changes included establishing an electronic monitoring system for each commercial fishing vessel and allowing for a fixed quota system based on scientific, economic, and social data.

Under new regulations, anyone convicted of a felony violation of a commercial fishing law cannot obtain a commercial license. A commercial fishing or wholesale license will be revoked if a person is convicted of three state commercial fishing violations.

In addition, the bill created a 15-member task force to look at fisheries management, regulations in other states and other current

issues, and make recommendations for regulating

Ohio's commercial fishing industry. The panel will include three members of the Ohio House of Representatives, three state senators, two representatives from the commercial fishing industry, including a wholesaler, two sportfishing representatives, two academicians, two members of the Division of Wildlife, and a representative of the Governor.

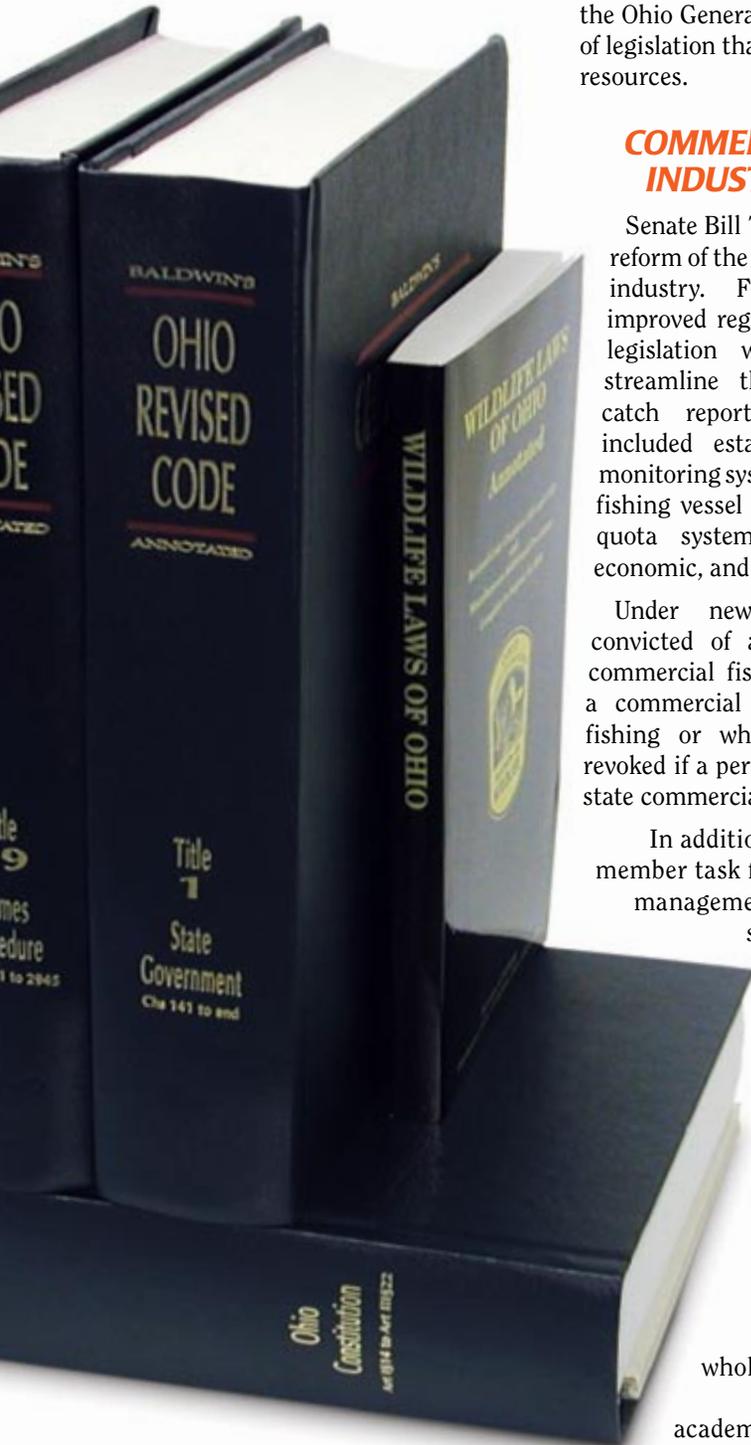
INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

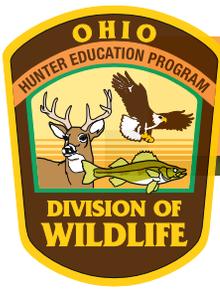
House Bill 153 will allow Ohio to join 26 other states in an interstate wildlife violator compact agreement. The compact establishes a process whereby wildlife law violations by a non-resident from a member state are handled as if the person were a resident. This process is a convenience for the hunters, anglers, and trappers of compact member states. Wildlife officers will benefit by having more time for enforcement duties rather than arresting, booking, and bonding non-residents. The compact includes a reciprocal recognition of hunting, fishing, and trapping license suspensions by member states.



VALUE OF ILLEGALLY TAKEN WILDLIFE

House Bill 238 revised the authority to bring civil action to recover the value of any wild animals illegally held, taken, or possessed. This established a formula for "trophy size" white-tailed deer, significantly increasing their value when assessing fines. It also provided for the promulgation of administrative rules that will allow the Division to establish values for all of the other wildlife species in Ohio. This new system considers value as it relates to worth by taking into consideration biological, economical, and social issues.





OUTDOOR SKILLS

Winter Prep Leads to Spring Success

by Lindsay Deering

Ice fishing is not your only opportunity to keep the fishing spirit alive in the wintertime. Many of us are not prepared to venture into wind and snow to drop a line, no matter how avid an angler we are. But there is no reason that we cannot enjoy the fun and challenge of fishing all year round. There are many steps that you can take during the cold months to prepare for the fun and successful fishing season ahead and keep the enthusiasm alive.

Add fishing equipment and lures to your Christmas wish list. In fact, most sporting goods stores offer great sales on outdoor equipment, knowing that so many of us are in the market for new reels or lures.

It is very important, and often overlooked, to do some easy maintenance on your equipment so that once the weather warms you can grab your gear and go!

CHANGE YOUR LINE

Changing the line in your fishing reel will assure that you have easy casting and reeling in the spring. Old line can tangle or break causing wasted time on the water.

DISCARD BROKEN EQUIPMENT

Faulty lures and bobbers will not be as successful in catching fish and will cause many headaches and problems. If you just cannot throw them away, think about recycling them into decorations or craft items.

CHECK EYELETS

Look over your fishing rod well. If there are any broken or missing eyelets, contact a fishing equipment store to see if you can have them repaired.

KEEP DRY

Test your waders for leaks. Fill up a bathtub, put them on, and hop in. If you feel water seeping in, check a local sporting goods store for a wader repair kit. It's better to find a leak in warm bathwater than in a cold creek!

PREPARE BAITS

Sharp lures catch fish. Make sure your hooks and lures are razor-sharp to

maximize your catching potential. Hook sharpeners are available at outdoor goods stores for less than \$15. If you are a fly fisherman, spend the cold days tying flies. Making your own flies adds to the sense of accomplishment when you land the big one.

REEL CHECK

Consider getting your reel reconditioned at a bait shop to assure it remains in working order.

If you're looking to hone your skills, learn a few new rigs, especially if you want to try for new species of fish. Practice some knots and learn some new ones. If you have space, keep your casting sharp by aiming for a garbage can or hula hoop.

Attend a local sports show to check out the newest in fishing gear. Most manufacturers will have their latest products on display and you might be able to land some excellent show specials.

Don't forget to visit www.wildohio.com to purchase your 2008-2009 fishing license which is required beginning March 1. While online, download lake maps for your favorite lake or check out a new one and start exploring!



by Donna Daniel

Q: I live in Hocking County. My parents and I have seen what we think is a flying squirrel in a tree next to our driveway (see photo). Are we correct? Do flying squirrels really fly?

Rachael Garcia, age 9, Nelsonville, Ohio

A: What you are seeing is indeed a Southern flying squirrel. While not usually seen because they are active at night, flying squirrels are fairly common in Ohio in areas of good habitat: a wooded environment with plenty of natural cavities. They spend their days sleeping in the bottom of an abandoned woodpecker hole or other hollow and emerge after dark to look for food. Their diet includes nuts, seeds, insects and insect larvae, birds, bird eggs, berries, and acorns. During the winter these squirrels will group up and many individuals can occupy a nest. However, in spring the group disperses and each individual lives alone. Females have two litters a year usually consisting of three to four young born during the months of April and August.

Flying squirrels don't actually fly, but are excellent gliders. There are loose folds of skin between their front and back legs. When the limbs are fully extended from the body, this extra skin provides a broad gliding surface. A flying squirrel can maneuver well, turning and twisting while gliding to avoid obstacles in its path. Most "flights" are about 65 to 100 feet from tree to tree or from tree to ground.



Q: Late last December I saw a great blue heron. Don't they fly south for the winter?

Bob O'Donnell, Prospect, Ohio

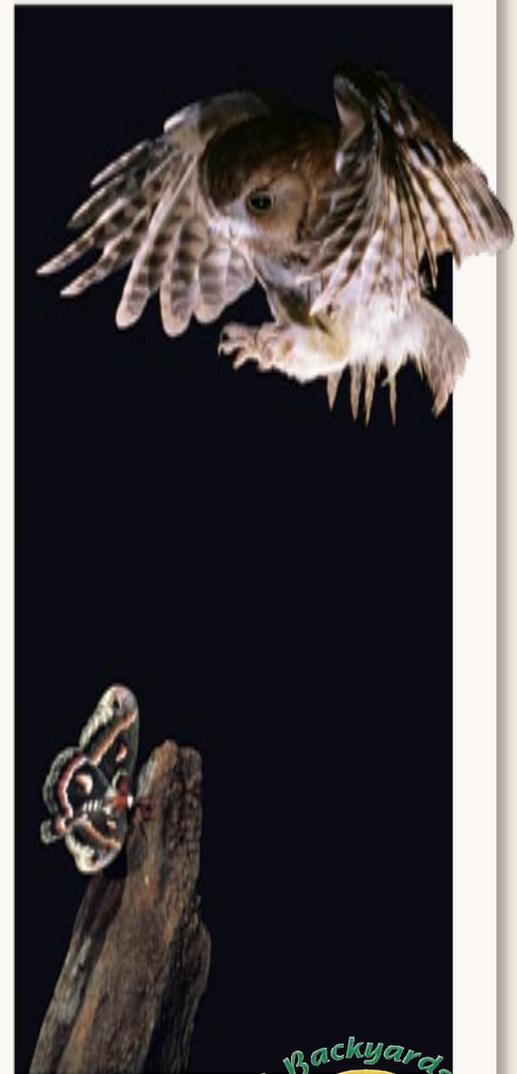
A: A typical observation in spring, summer, or fall is of a great blue heron in slow water, silently stalking its prey of fish and frogs. Seeing a heron on the edge of an icy creek in the middle of winter can make you look twice! While many herons do migrate out of Ohio for the winter, it is not unusual for some individuals to stay, as long as there is open water for them to hunt. More herons will be observed during a warm winter, while typical winter weather with plentiful snow and ice will force these birds to move to where the conditions are milder.



Q: I've heard that owls are completely silent when hunting prey. Can owls really fly without making any noise?

John Hicks, Shelby, Ohio

A: Owls definitely have the equipment to make them an accomplished predator, including modified feathers which reduce sound that would be caused by air passing over their wings. These specialized feathers are called fimbriate and consist of comb-like extensions along the feather's edge. This adaptation greatly muffles sound, allowing the bird to ambush its prey in silence.



Do you have a question that you've always wondered about concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send your questions to: address on the right. Due to space limitations, we regret that not all questions submitted may be answered. If you need a quick response to a question, please contact your nearest wildlife district office.

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





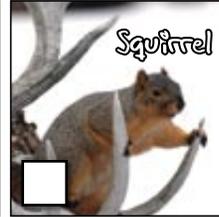
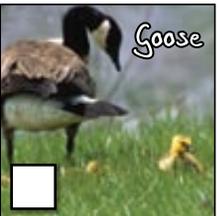
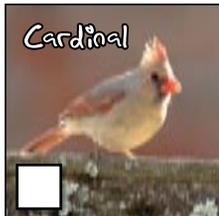
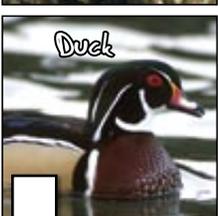
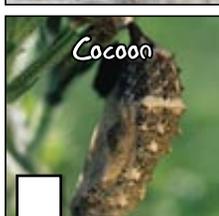
For Wild Kids

WINTER SCAVENGER HUNT

by Mary Warren

It may be cold outside, but winter is a great time to watch wildlife or find evidence that wildlife has been around! So bundle up and get outside to see what you can discover. Take this page with you for a winter scavenger hunt and mark off the things as you see them.

How many of these things can you find? Can you get a whole row or maybe fill the whole card by the end of winter? Have fun learning about Ohio's winter wildlife this season!

 <p>Animal tracks</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Feather</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Animal house</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Chewed bark</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Squirrel</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Goose</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Nest</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Cardinal</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Bald Eagle</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Nuts</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Scat</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Buck</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Deer sheds</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Dark-eyed junco</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Eastern cottontail rabbit</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Fur</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Bones</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Swan</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Praying mantis egg case</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Dove</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Gall</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Duck</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Cocoon</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Doe</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Predator</p> <input type="checkbox"/>

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Scat: Another word for animal droppings!

Gall: A bump or swelling on a plant caused by an insect!

Predator: An animal that eats another animal!

Hey Kids! STATE-FISH ART CONTEST DEADLINE IS MARCH 31

Young artists can show off their artistic talents by entering Wildlife Forever's 10th annual State-Fish Art Contest. You can enter the competition by creating an illustration of an Ohio fish and write a composition about its behavior, habitat, and efforts to conserve it. Winners from each state will be invited to the State-Fish Art Expo at the Mall of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ohio winners in 2006 and 2007 were Ryan Sobel and Madison Romano (Grades 4-6), Brook Johnson and Kyle Mueller (Grades 7-9), and Rachael Brunner and Brooke Johnson (Grades 10-12).

Go to www.statefishart.com for complete rules and entry form.



Zane Calhoun • Cortland, Ohio

WILD GAME GOURMET

recipes

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

Rabbit or Squirrel with Noodles

One rabbit or squirrel quartered
Bay leaf
Small onion halved
Peppercorns
Salt
2 cans cream of mushroom soup
Half cup milk
Egg noodles or other wide noodles

Fill Dutch oven or medium stock pot with first five ingredients and cover with cold water. Bring to boil, turn heat to low and simmer for 40 minutes until fork tender. Drain, cool meat, and remove from bone. Replace meat in Dutch oven with mushroom soup, noodles, and milk. Simmer on low for 20 minutes or until noodles are done. Add more milk or water if too dry. Serve with chopped parsley or chives. Serves four.

Contributed by Gene Emond



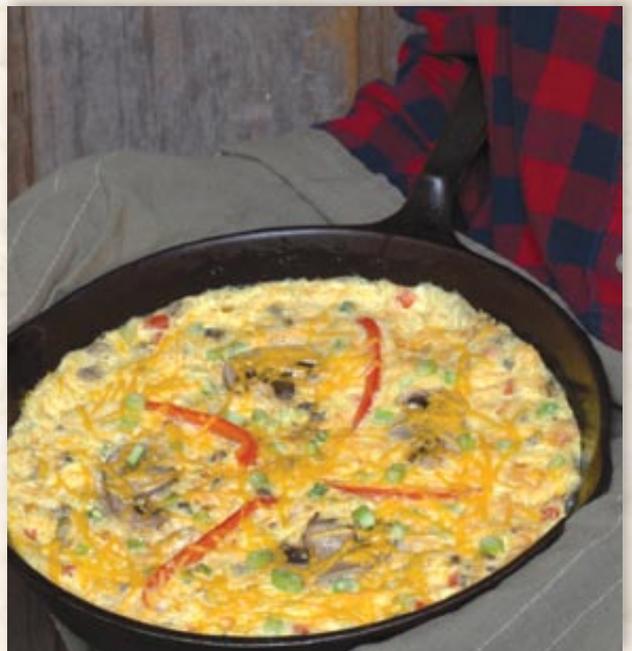
Venison Frittata

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
½ pound ground venison
Cajun seasoning
8-ounce package mushrooms, chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ cup onion, chopped
½ cup sweet red pepper, chopped
1 container egg substitute (such as Egg Beaters)
2 eggs
Green onion, diced
1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

Place oil, venison, and mushrooms in a large nonstick skillet. Sprinkle with Cajun seasoning, salt and pepper, and saute until venison is browned. Add onions and red peppers and continue cooking until barely tender.

Whisk the egg substitute and eggs in a bowl; pour over meat and vegetables. Stir gently. Reduce heat to low; cover skillet and cook until eggs are set around edges, about five minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and green onions and place under broiler until cheese is melted and slightly browned. Let the frittata stand for a minute or two before cutting into wedges.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz



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



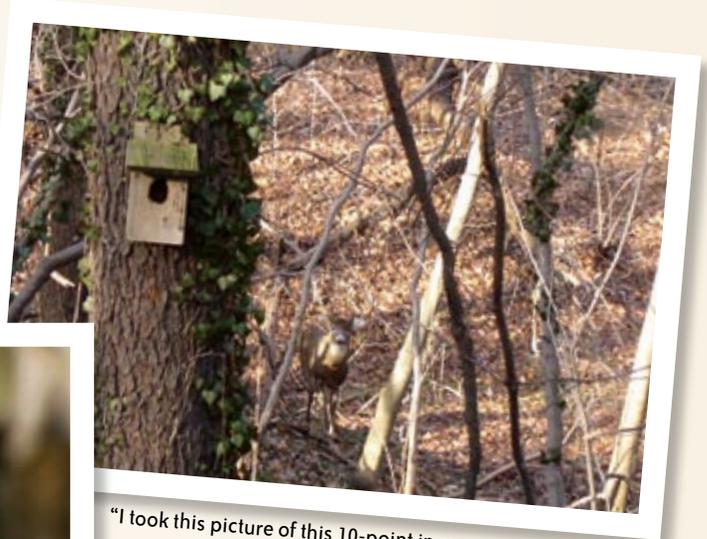
READERS' PHOTOS

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

BACKYARD BEAUTIES



Hummingbird at Lake Hope State Park's "Hand Feed the Hummingbirds" summer program.
Jim Slonaker



"I took this picture of this 10-point in my own backyard."
Emily Hornacek, Akron, Ohio



"A downy woodpecker feeding its offspring at our seed bell."
Mark Jurkovich, Beaver Creek, Ohio



Monarch caterpillar
**Stephanie Wollmann
Middleburg Heights, Ohio**



"I found this killdeer on a nest in the middle a parking lot."
Major John DiPietro, Miamisburg, Ohio



"This is a photo of a (ebony jewelwing) damselfly I took while hiking the Black River in Lodi with my wife."
William Henry, Lodi, Ohio



Red-tailed hawk
Dave Rubsam, Mason, Ohio



"Here's a bullfrog looking over two frog decoys in my koi pond."
Kevin Walters, New Lexington, Ohio

HUNTING AND TRAPPING TRADITIONS



Justin and Jason Latta after a rabbit hunt.
Jeff Latta, Albany, Ohio



"This was a dream come true; getting married in camo!"
Steven and Joan Raycheck, Beach City, Ohio



Cody Ban Allen with his first duck he took during the 2006 youth waterfowl season.
Submitter unknown



Sara Newkirk, the Jackson County Apple Festival Queen, with her first turkey.
Lee VanAllen



Jacob Brewer with his first deer taken in Fairfield County with a muzzleloader during the youth deer season.
Steve Bravard, Newark, Ohio



"Here is a photo of me with the turkey I got during the 2007 Spring Youth Hunt. It was a jake with three beards."
Elijah Woolum, Jackson, Ohio



Sean O'Neill, age 13, with his first deer taken during the youth deer season in Muskingum County.
Stephen O'Neill, Butler County



Three-year-old Nikki helped her father trap this 50-pound beaver.
Lonnie Frazier, Fredericktown, Ohio

WHAT A CATCH



Cole Lemery, six-year old Master Angler Award recipient, with another large catch.
David Lemery, Columbus, Ohio



"Here is my daughter, Madison, age 3, on a recent camping trip to Meigs County."
Jeff Peyton



While at Salt Fork Lake, Lizzie Postlethwait got to see a muskie that was caught in a Division of Wildlife net while biologists were collecting muskie eggs.
Bryan Postlethwait



The Graham family reeled in steelhead, monster walleye, and yellow perch during a fishing charter on Lake Erie.
Jamey Graham, North Canton, Ohio



"Brennan Brindley hooked this lunker largemouth bass while fishing with his father on a family pond." (Little brother Ethan posed for the photo too.)
Becky Soehnlen, Beach City, Ohio

division of wildlife HEADQUARTERS

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

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

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

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





OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



Fishing



Hunting & Trapping



Experiencing Wildlife



Wild Resources



Controlled Hunts

Buy Hunting & Fishing LICENSES

>Find the license or permit you need

LAWS & Regulations



Lake Maps



Wildlife Area Maps

Photo Gallery

> Browse the galleries and submit Ohio wildlife photos.



Wildlife Events Near You

> View a complete calendar of events



Frequently Asked QUESTIONS

Protecting Ohio's wildlife species, habitats, and outdoor opportunities

Hunter Education Information



WildOhio eNews

Free reports, tips, and wildlife information

SIGN UP TODAY



WATCH WILD OHIO TELEVISION NOW

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Publications



What's Going On in the Great Outdoors 2008

WILDOHIO.COM
Your Connection to Wildlife Happenings Around the State.

Watch Wild Ohio T.V. any day and all day.

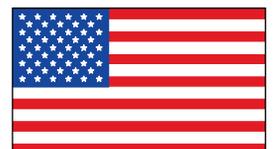
Save it into your "Favorites" file and make a New Year's Resolution to check the calendar every week for events that interest you.

Also, click on the e-News "Sign up today" button and receive monthly updates on the topics you choose

Outdoor sport and boat shows, hunting and fishing expos and seminars, conventions, workshops, conservation organization banquets and special events, fishing tournaments, youth fishing events, naturalist programs, Women in the Outdoorsthe calendar of events goes on and on.



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