

Wild Ohio

Winter 2010 - 2011

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



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Renew your *Wild Ohio* Magazine subscription NOW!



▲ Spring 1990 marked the first *Wild Ohio* Magazine, though its legacy can be traced back to the *Ohio Outdoorsman* from the late '30s.

From time to time subscribers have been asked to renew their subscription to *Wild Ohio*. To continue to receive *Wild Ohio*, readers must register online at wildohio.com.

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See inside card for further details.

ON THE WEB



Looking for gift ideas?
WHY NOT GIVE OFFICIAL WILDLIFE GEAR?
wildohioshop.com



ON THE COVER

Winter Solitude

 by Adam Grimm

Adam Grimm spends a lot of time in the field, camera in hand, making sure he has photographic reference for his artwork, especially this depiction of a Northern cardinal. "I'm continually astounded by the brilliant scarlet color of these regal birds, especially when paired with the dull, colder colors of winter. One thing that has always intrigued me is snowfall. It is something that is difficult to capture well with a camera because generally the amount of light is not adequate enough to freeze the action. So,



Prints of "Winter Solitude" are available

I'm left trying to recall it from the field to the studio. I enjoy seeing the individual snowflakes that land on my jacket. Each one is different and beautiful. I also like seeing the big snowflakes (generally made up of many small, individual snowflakes) which break into pieces as they come into contact with the winter landscape. I tried to capture all of this in *Winter Solitude*. As you will see, many of the snowflakes in this painting are unique and very carefully rendered," said Grimm.

To see this piece and some of Grimm's other artwork, visit adamgrimm.com

NEXT ISSUE



What to look forward to in the next issue of *Wild Ohio Magazine*

- Fishing the Cuyahoga
- Cemetery Birding
- Tree Swallows
- Lowhead Dam Removal
- Arrowhead Hunting
- Kids Activities
- Making Your Own Lures ... and More!

WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

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

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COVER FEATURE

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

ANNUAL REPORT

6-13

This issue of Wild Ohio Magazine includes the annual report for fiscal year 2010 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.

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FEATURES

NEW ONLINE CUSTOMER CENTER

18-19

The Division's new Online Customer Center aims to provide a variety of options to Ohio's wildlife enthusiasts.



NORTHERN CARDINAL
Al Freeman

ON THE COVER: NORTHERN CARDINAL

Winter Solitude - Artwork by wildlife artist Adam Grimm. This image features a male Northern cardinal in winter habitat, a favorite sight of many Ohioans.



DEPARTMENTS

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AMERICAN BEAVER



News from Around Ohio



A FAREWELL FROM THE EDITOR

It seems like such a short time ago I was fortunate to be offered the position as editor of *Wild Ohio* Magazine. The past eight years as editor have been a very rewarding part of my career with the Division of Wildlife, as I strived to make the magazine the best it could be. I will miss it, but retirement will hold many new and exciting things.

I would be remiss if I did not give credit to the talented and dedicated staff that has surrounded me during my tenure. It is the hard work of too many to mention that has made *Wild Ohio* the magazine that it is today. I will miss the energy and companionship of all those who consistently put forth their best efforts with

each and every edition that went to press. And I cannot leave my position without extending my appreciation to the many readers who have written and emailed their comments about the publication.

We are fortunate as Ohioans to have such a wealth of wildlife surrounding us and an agency like the Division of Wildlife that does such a fantastic job in managing these resources.

I may be leaving my position, but will look forward to every future issue of *Wild Ohio* Magazine and staying informed of all the great accomplishments of the Division of Wildlife.

Melissa Hathaway

MAGAZINES REMAIN PREFERRED SOURCE

Magazines are still the media of choice for hunters and anglers, according to the June 2010 report from HunterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com, which showed 44 percent of hunters and 33 percent of anglers use magazines for information and entertainment.

Those who hunt, fish, and target shoot are invited to participate in the surveys at HunterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com.

FISH OHIO DAY CELEBRATES LAKE ERIE TOURISM AND FISHING

Ohio's first couple, Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland, were joined by members of the media, representatives of the tourism industry, elected officials, and conservation leaders to draw attention to Lake Erie during the 31st Annual Fish Ohio Day. Governor Strickland touted the importance of taking care of Ohio's great lake, which will continue to help strengthen the state's economic outlook. After a half-day of fishing under excellent conditions, attendees gathered to applaud local tourism efforts as well as discuss immediate threats such as Asian carp and responsible land use.

"Ohio's future can never be separated from the future of Lake Erie, Ohio's greatest natural resource," said Governor Strickland. "Lake Erie is a great example of how the conservation of our resources and the growth of our economy can be compatible goals."

Fifteen charter captains from the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association volunteered their boats. The 495 pounds of fish caught at this event were donated to a local food bank.



Left to right: Debbie Hymore-Tester, mayor of Port Clinton; Captain Peg Van Vleet, Blue Sky Charters; Vicki Mountz, Division of Wildlife administrator; Frances Strickland, First Lady; Brenda Layman, outdoor writer; and Jessica Esemplare, travel editor for *Ohio Magazine*.

ATV DONATED TO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The Southeast Ohio Chapter of Pheasants Forever in Lancaster donated an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) to the Division of Wildlife. The ATV will be used primarily in Fairfield County. Last fall the same chapter donated six youth shotguns for outdoor education in central Ohio. This is just one example of the many donations and support the Division of Wildlife receives from conservation organizations and other partners.



The Southeast Ohio Chapter hosts the single largest Pheasants Forever youth event in the country, with 750 kids attending in each of the last three years. In eight years they have educated over 3,700 kids in outdoor skills. For more information please visit their Web site at seohio.pheasantsforever.org.

WILDLIFE ISSUES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Division of Wildlife invites the public to its annual Open Houses on Saturday, **March 5, 2011**, from noon until 3 p.m. to discuss 2011-2012 hunting season proposals. Fish and wildlife biologists and law enforcement officers will be on hand at each Open House to answer questions and listen to concerns.

For more information or directions to the Open Houses, visit the Division of Wildlife's Web site at wildohio.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543).

Open house locations:

District One Headquarters:
1500 Dublin Road, **Columbus**

District Two Headquarters:
952 Lima Ave., **Findlay**

District Three Headquarters:
912 Portage Lakes Dr., **Akron**

District Four Headquarters:
360 E. State St., **Athens**

Greene Co. Fish & Game Assn.:
1538 Union Rd., **Xenia**

Wildlife CALENDAR

December 4
**FARMERS AND HUNTERS
FEEDING THE HUNGRY DAY**
fhfh.org

March 4
NASP STATE TOURNAMENT
(National Archery in the Schools)
Ohio Expo Center
• Columbus, Ohio •

March 5
DIVISION OPEN HOUSES
District Headquarters and Greene
County Fish & Game Association
(see this page for details)

March 9
**WILDLIFE DIVERSITY
CONFERENCE**
Aladdin Shrine Complex
• Columbus, Ohio •

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

WETLANDS RESTORATION AT MAGEE

Ducks Unlimited was awarded a \$150,013 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to help restore and enhance wetlands at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. The 2,202-acre wildlife area, in Ottawa County, managed by the Division of Wildlife is home to hundreds of wetland-dependent species including waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds, in addition to many other wildlife species.

The project will include about 392 acres and will span several years, according to Roy Kroll, a manager of conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited. Because of lower lake levels, managers must try to retain as much water as possible within the marsh using dikes and pumps. By adjusting the water levels, marsh managers can grow the beneficial plants and attract the desired species.

Some of the rare and endangered species that Ducks Unlimited is trying to protect include the king rail, least bittern, and trumpeter swan. Additionally, Kroll said two very rare reptiles call Magee Marsh home, the Blanding's turtle and the Eastern fox snake.

ADMINISTRATOR GRADUATES

Dave Scott, a veteran employee with the Division of Wildlife, recently graduated from the National Conservation Leadership Institute. The wildlife management administrator was one of 36 professionals across the country selected to participate in this award-winning eight-month program.

According to research conducted in 2004, about 77 percent or more of state fish and wildlife senior leadership will retire by 2015, and more than half of federal conservation leaders will retire even sooner. "Training alone is insufficient to develop the extraordinary leadership called for in our uncertain times. The Institute is a unique, comprehensive learning experience designed to challenge assumptions, teach skills, facilitate high-trust networking, and strengthen confidence," said Dr. Sally Guynn, executive director of the Institute.

Scott is responsible for coordinating the division's research, surveying and monitoring of the state's native wildlife. He is an honors program graduate from The Ohio State University and has a master of science in wildlife management from Pennsylvania State University.

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.

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james LYNCH
UPPER ARLINGTON



dominic MARCHESE
FARMDALE



timothy RATLIFF
WINCHESTER

Message from the Chief

Greetings sportsmen and women and other wildlife enthusiasts:

The past year continued to bring fiscal challenges for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other state of Ohio agencies during continued tough economic times. However, the Division of Wildlife continues to use innovative approaches to manage sportsmen's dollars to provide the programs and services that benefit both fish and wildlife resources and our many constituents.

Perhaps the Division's greatest accomplishment came from many months of research and coordination in preparation to launch the new online Customer Service System in March 2011. As we began to face challenges posed by an outdated licensing and permit system, we recognized the need for a tool that is more secure, adaptable to change, and consistent with information technology best practices. Customers will soon benefit from a more efficient, easy-to-use system that offers greater control over their personal accounts - ultimately giving hunters and anglers more time in the field or on the water!

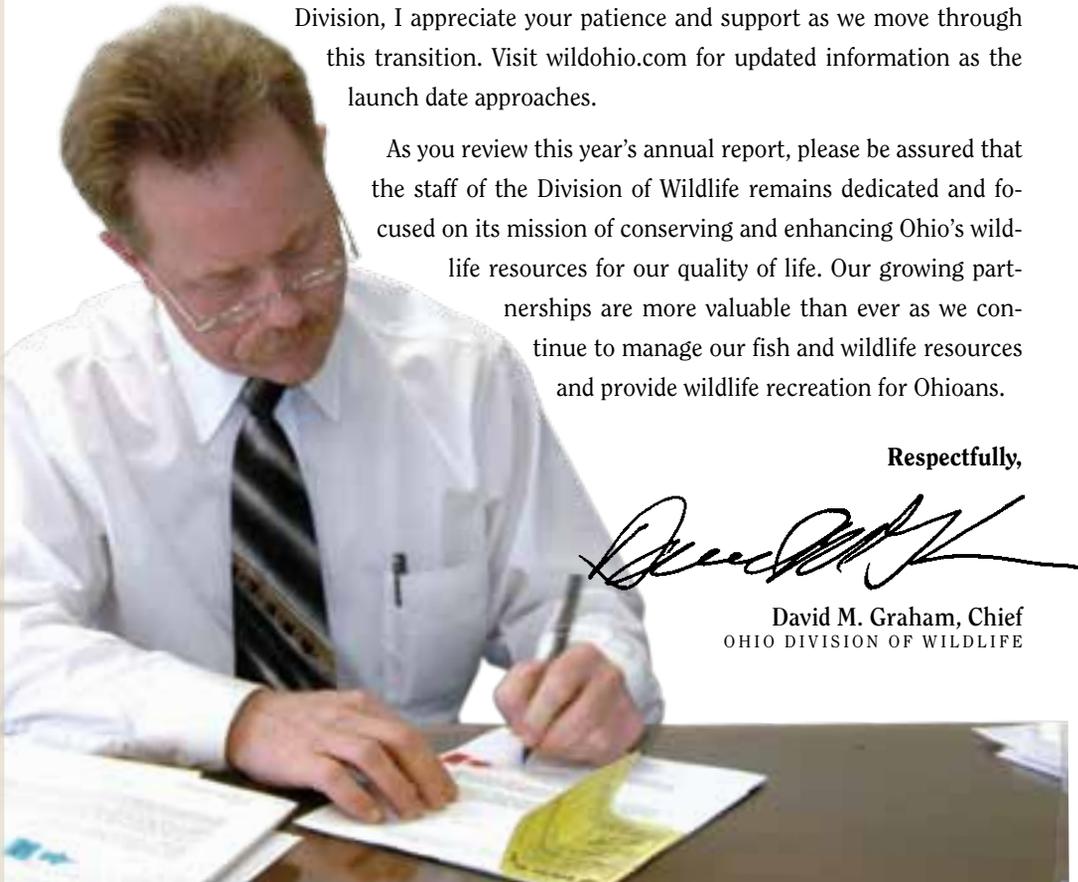
For instance, you will be able to purchase licenses and permits quickly and conveniently from your home computer through our online customer center. One of the best advantages of the new system is for hunters checking in their harvested deer. Instead of transporting the deer to a check station, you will now be able to simply check in the deer with your cell phone right in the field, or drive home and log onto your computer to check in your deer.

All of this equates to more convenience for sportsmen and women and better use of their dollars for core mission projects instead of overhead expenditures. On behalf of the Division, I appreciate your patience and support as we move through this transition. Visit wildohio.com for updated information as the launch date approaches.

As you review this year's annual report, please be assured that the staff of the Division of Wildlife remains dedicated and focused on its mission of conserving and enhancing Ohio's wildlife resources for our quality of life. Our growing partnerships are more valuable than ever as we continue to manage our fish and wildlife resources and provide wildlife recreation for Ohioans.

Respectfully,

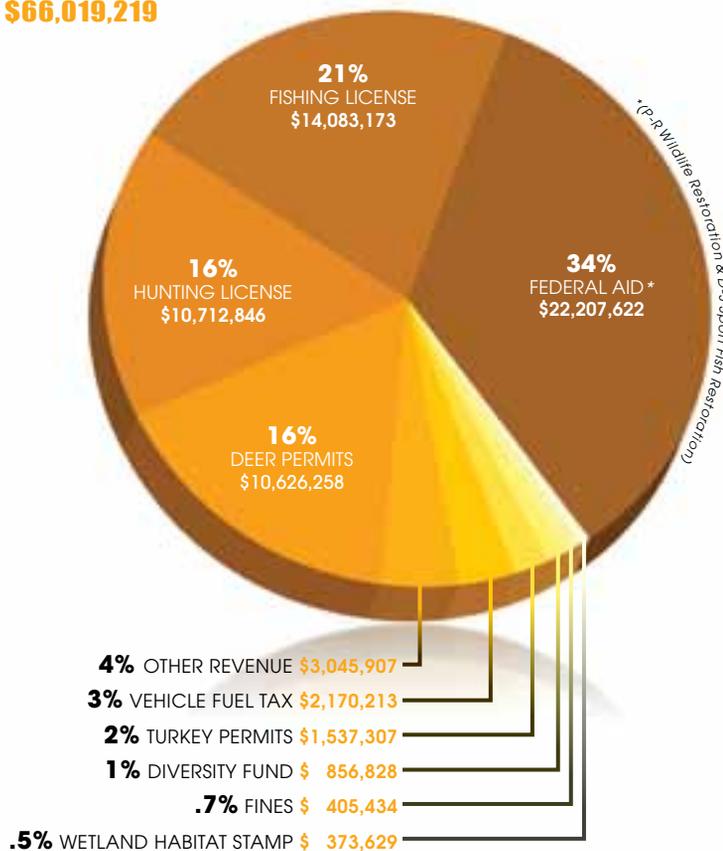
David M. Graham, Chief
OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



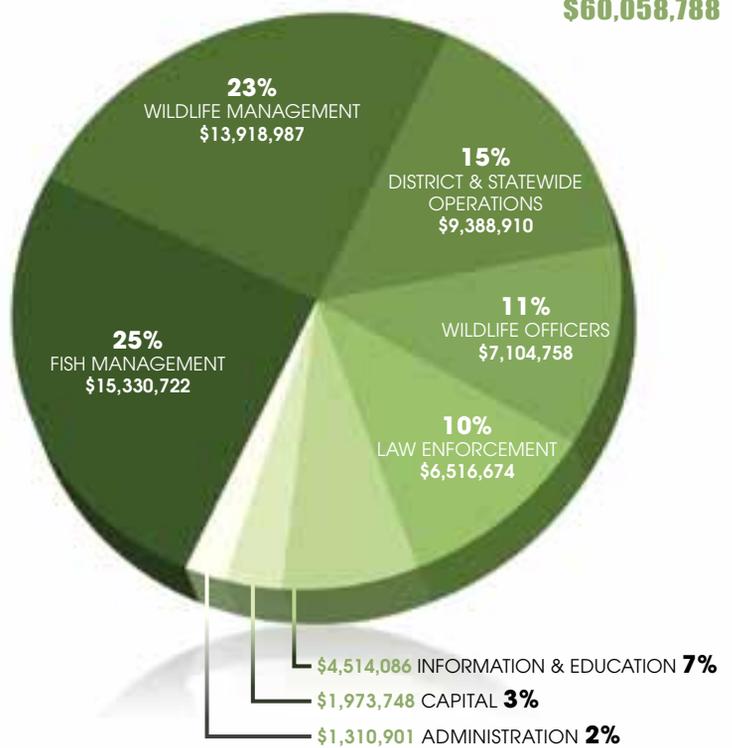
financial report

JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010

REVENUE 2010 \$66,019,219



EXPENDITURES 2010 \$60,058,788



explanation of expenditures ▲

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT \$13,918,987

Wildlife Management and Research 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.

DISTRICT AND STATEWIDE OPERATIONS \$9,388,910

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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS \$1,973,748

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.

FISH MANAGEMENT \$15,330,722

Fish Management and Research 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.

ADMINISTRATION \$1,310,901

Expenditures in this category include money spent for Wildlife Administration and Human Resources staff as well as statewide costs associated with employee training, recruitment, medical testing, vaccinations, medical examinations, pulmonary function testing, rabies administration, and lead testing for firearms training/shooting range employees.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WILDLIFE OFFICERS \$6,516,674 \$7,104,758

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.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION \$4,514,086

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

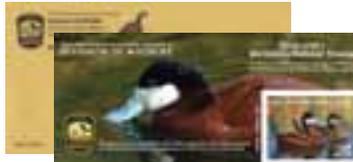
wildlife management and research

■ Aerial flights to survey pelagic birds over the open waters of Lake Erie were initiated during fall 2009 and continued through spring 2010 to assess and minimize potential impacts of offshore wind energy development.

■ Ohio hunters more than doubled the number of deer (2,336) donated to local food banks through a collaborative program with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. This program and the availability of the reduced-cost antlerless deer permit have added greatly to the division's ability to manage Ohio's deer herd.

■ The HuntOhioFarms.com Web site was launched in August 2009 to provide a list of interested hunters to Ohio farmers seeking to address crop damage and locally high deer numbers on their land. This two-year pilot project is a cooperative effort between the Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation with additional support from Whitetails Unlimited and the Quality Deer Management Association.

■ Ohio hunters harvested 23,421 wild turkeys in Ohio's 45th spring wild turkey season in 2010, the second highest turkey harvest of all time. For the first time, Ohio hunters were allowed to hunt all day during the last two weeks of the spring wild turkey season. Harvest data suggested that many hunters took advantage of the additional hunting hours.



■ The Division of Wildlife entered into an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with monitoring and vegetative assessments on private lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) across Ohio. In 2009, Division staff inspected approximately 6,000 acres of CRP and 5,300 acres of WRP easements to provide grassland wildlife habitat improvement recommendations and wetland utilization reports to NRCS staff.

■ The Division of Wildlife, along with a number of other state and federal agency partners, worked cooperatively with Ducks Unlimited to update Ohio's National Wetlands Inventory.

■ In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, Pheasants Forever, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the division developed Pheasant SAFE (State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement) within the CP38 practice. This practice uses CRP to provide approximately 5,000 acres of grassland habitat in the counties that make up the core pheasant range in Ohio.

■ The Division of Wildlife initiated a winter black duck trapping and banding project as part of a multi-agency effort coordinated by Black Duck Joint Venture.

■ The Division of Wildlife partnered with the Ohio Chapter of Pheasants Forever to purchase and establish the Beaver Wildlife Area near the Big Island Wildlife Area in Marion County.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND PROMOTING THE



Wild Ohio Magazine Fall 2010

On the cover: **White-tailed Deer**

Features: **Ohio's Generous Hunter
Small Game, Big Tradition
Youth Hunter Photo Album
Hunting Regulations**

■ The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve received two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grants that will allow renovations of the coastal wetland exhibits in the reserve's visitor center.

■ The Division conducted research and conservation efforts focused on a number of species including: Ohio salamanders in the genus *Ambystoma*, Eastern hellbender, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, smooth greensnake, smooth softshell and Ouachita map turtles, timber rattlesnake, grassland breeding birds, Northern bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, and bobcat.

■ The Division of Wildlife adopted new rules to ensure that dog training and field trial activities on wildlife areas meet federal aid standards and are administered consistently across Ohio. As part of these changes, a 2,523-acre field trial area along with a building and related infrastructure was established at the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area to support major field trials.

■ Record numbers of sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, bald eagles, osprey, and peregrine falcons nested in Ohio with all populations showing continued growth and expanded distributions.

■ Ohio hunters harvested a record 260,261 deer during the 2009-2010 season. The harvest included nearly 92,000 deer taken by bowhunters, another record for this popular portion of Ohio's deer season.

■ The Division of Wildlife completed acquisition of the 670-acre Wingfoot Lake property from the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company through the Trust for Public Land. The 400+ acre lake, along with associated wetland and upland habitats will be managed as a wildlife area and a smaller portion will function as a state park.

▼ The 3,631-acre Wallace H. O'Dowd Wildlife Area was dedicated on April 29, 2010. This significant land acquisition was made possible through a generous gift from the Wallace O'Dowd estate.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

▼ Sales of the new Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp began March 1, 2010 with all proceeds benefiting wildlife diversity conservation.



■ The Division hosted the annual Wildlife Diversity Conference with a record 945 people attending.

■ The Division produced a new *Spiders of Ohio* field guide with Dr. Rich Bradley for public distribution. It is the first spider guide ever produced by a state wildlife agency.

NOTE: Income used specifically to achieve management goals established for **endangered species** and **wildlife diversity** comes from the proceeds of the sale of wildlife license plates, Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamps, and donations to the wildlife check-off program on state income tax forms. This income is used for projects in fish and wildlife management, information and education, and law enforcement.

IR USE AND APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OHIOANS.



LAKE ERIE

- Completed the second of a two-year study of tributary steelhead anglers to estimate outputs from these fisheries and learn about user preferences.
- Conducted pre-dam removal surveys of fish community and habitat characteristics of the Sandusky River in the vicinity of the Ballville Dam, which is slated for removal by 2013.
- Provided technical expertise to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency about impacts of nutrients and harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie fisheries, dredging impacts on fish stocks, and fish loss at a large Maumee Bay power plant.
- Initiated a cooperative research project between the Division of Wildlife and The Ohio State University to explore the impact of Lake Erie currents on larval walleye distribution and survival in the west end of Lake Erie. This research will improve our understanding of factors that affect walleye year-class strength.

- Secured \$3 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding for Middle Harbor Habitat Restoration, Cuyahoga River fish and habitat assessment, development of a nearshore fish monitoring program, and a walleye acoustic tagging study.

INLAND WATERS

- Division fisheries biologists completed an assessment of walleye and saugeye fisheries in inland lakes and reservoirs to determine if some of these fisheries could benefit from 15-inch minimum length limits. Recommendations for experimental length limits on walleye and saugeye in selected waters around the state were proposed to the Ohio Wildlife Council and approved, with implementation planned for March 1, 2011.
- Work has been completed on a new fish production building at Kincaid State Fish Hatchery. Earthwork for a new production building at Castalia Hatchery is complete with construction to follow.

- Biological information was used from fish population surveys, fisheries catch information from creel surveys and angler opinions from online and on-the-water creel surveys to identify opportunities for improving fishing in reservoirs through adjustments in regulations. Using this information, a 9-inch minimum on crappies was placed on 38 lakes starting March 1, 2010. These were added to the six lakes that already had a 9-inch minimum size limit on crappies. A bag limit of 30 for crappies will be in effect for all 44 lakes with a 9-inch size limit.

- The Division of Wildlife has reached a tentative agreement with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to adopt uniform Ohio River fishing regulations for 1) hybrid striped bass, striped bass, and white bass; 2) largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass; and 3) black and white crappie. If adopted, uniform regulations for these species will be achieved in Ohio River waters of West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND PROMOTING THE



Wild Ohio Magazine Spring 2010

On the cover: **Rainbow Darter**

Features: **Darters: Jewels of the Stream**
What Makes a Good Hunter
Finding Common Ground
The Cerulean Warbler
A Passion for Birding and Photography

■ Hatchery personnel completed the construction of a Fish Isolation Facility at the Aquatic Ecology Lab at The Ohio State University. The facility was used this spring to facilitate annual saugeye and hybrid striped bass production and to help protect the hatchery facilities from outside sources of fish disease.

■ Blue catfish were stocked in Dillon Lake during September. The catfish raised in the Hebron State Fish Hatchery were introduced into Dillon as a pilot project to determine if they can create expanded catfish fishing opportunities in some selected Ohio waters.

■ The Division of Wildlife ran an Internet-based survey during 2009 in an effort to understand anglers' opinions about fishing in Ohio. More than 4,500 anglers responded to the survey, which included questions about anglers' fishing preferences and regulations, as well as questions to help understand how the current economic downturn is affecting fishing trips and participation.

■ The Division's six fish hatcheries raised more than 27 million fish, including 459,000 steelhead, 19,600 muskellunge advanced fingerlings, 105,000 catchable rainbow trout, 558,000 brown trout, 3.6 million saugeye fingerlings, 205,000 walleye fingerlings, 20 million saugeye and walleye fry, 680,000 yellow perch, 1.5 million hybrid striped bass, and 247,000 channel catfish.

■ Creel clerks conducted more than 7,000 angler interviews at 18 lakes and reservoirs collecting information on angler opinions about fisheries topics and uses such as fishing pressure, catch, and harvest rates.

STREAM CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

■ In partnership with the Division of Soil and Water Resources, the division continues to fund the Upper Olentangy River and Captina Creek Watershed coordinator positions and has initiated funding for the Little Beaver Creek Watershed coordinator.



■ The Division of Natural Areas and Preserve's Natural Heritage Database Program was integrated into the Division of Wildlife. Now called the Ohio Biodiversity Database, it provides location information for Ohio's rare species of flora and fauna, and allows for better conservation efforts.

■ Using a recently awarded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant (\$792,000), the Division of Wildlife will address Great Lakes aquatic invasive species issues through prevention, monitoring, early detection, control, outreach, and education.

▼ The Huron River Boat Access was dedicated on June 28. This ramp was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Divisions of Wildlife and Watercraft and the city of Huron; it will provide additional fishing access to Lake Erie.

USE AND APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OHIOANS.



information and education

■ Wildohio.com remained a popular online destination for Ohio wildlife information. About three million people visited the site, with an average of 10,000 visitors per day. The live streaming falcon banding event gained in popularity this year with about 5,000 unique viewers.

■ The division launched its first Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo competition in August 2009. The new stamp went on sale March 1 and as of June 30 nearly 1,400 stamps had been sold, netting more than \$17,000 for the Wildlife Diversity Fund.

■ Hosted the fourth Annual National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Tournament. More than 1,000 kids from 54 teams participated from across the state. Nearly 600 kids from 30 teams competed in the NASP National Tournament held in Louisville, Kentucky.

■ Added 107 schools to the National Archery in the Schools Program for a total of 412 schools and about 30,000 students.

■ Staff produced 12 youth-oriented *Wild Ohio* television segments specifically focused on the positives of outdoor pursuits, and educating student viewers about the state's diverse wildlife population.



▲ Last year, the "Fish Ohio" program recognized 14,000 anglers from Ohio and 41 other states for trophy catches. The Fish Ohio online application is available at fishohio.org.

■ The number of subscribers to the *Wild Ohio eNewsletter* has grown from 0 to 63,500 in just 3.5 years. The number of subscribers to the *Educator eNewsletter*, which previously existed prior as an email listserv, has grown from 800 to 7,300 in 3.5 years. The weekly *Fish Ohio Report* went from 0 to 10,200 subscribers in its first year.

■ The WildOhioShop.com online store debuted providing wildlife logo gear for Ohio's wildlife enthusiasts.

■ The division trained 18,994 students in 607 instructor-led and 289 home study hunter education courses, as well as 651 trapper education students. In addition, 110 new Hunter Education Instructors were also trained.

■ A total of 1,683 educators were trained in Project WILD, Aquatic Project WILD, and Growing Up WILD in 87 workshops.

■ The *Wild Ohio* television show was carried consistently on six of Ohio's 12 PBS stations, and sporadically on the other half. At least 36 cable stations and the Ohio Channel are airing the show, now in its 13th year of production.

■ The division awarded 39 WILD School Sites grants totaling \$19,500 towards habitat improvement projects on school grounds.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND PROMOTING THE

Wild Ohio Magazine Summer 2010

On the cover: **Southern Flying Squirrel**

Features: **Growing Up Wild In Ohio**
Wallace O'Dowd Wildlife Area
Change on the Horizon
Bobcats and Bears in Ohio
A Library of Information



l a w e n f o r c e m e n t

■ Division staff received five national communications awards from the Association for Conservation Information, including first place for the Web site.

■ The division awarded 186 Step Outside Grants totaling more than \$91,000.

■ The division continued to fund the ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation's naturalist program with a \$50,000 grant.



▲ The quarterly *Wild Ohio* Magazine was produced for the 21st year with an average of 145,000 copies distributed per issue. The award winning *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine was produced for the 10th year and distributed to 300,000 young people.

■ Wildlife officers and investigators conducted 1,103 permit inspections, 449 meat locker and taxidermist inspections, and issued 6,005 permits.

■ Seventeen probationary wildlife officers completed six months of field training, working with a field training officer to enhance the previous 26 weeks of training completed in the Wildlife Officer Academy.

■ Under Ohio Revised Code 1531.201, a man convicted in Adams County of illegally taking and possessing a trophy deer was ordered to pay \$23,572.05. If legally taken, the deer would have qualified for the largest typical deer taken in North America in 2009.

■ The 1-800-POACHER phone line received more than 3,977 calls from concerned citizens reporting wildlife violations, from which 1,830 reports were taken. The T.I.P. line was put under contract with All West Communications to provide 24 hour a day, 365 days a year coverage.

■ Six out-of-state fishermen were arrested on Lake Erie for possessing a total of 141 smallmouth bass over the limit. The men were ordered to pay \$16,290 in fines, court costs and restitution. Three bass boats and two chest freezers were also seized and forfeited to the state with an estimated value of \$32,000. The six men received three years license revocation and a total of 900 days in jail suspended upon three years of good behavior.

■ During the spring walleye run on the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, wildlife officers contacted 1,836 anglers and issued 238 summonses for littering, snagging, and possessing snagged walleye.

■ Wildlife officers made 6,383 arrests for wildlife crimes and violations resulting in \$445,444 in fines collected.



IR USE AND APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OHIOANS!



MERLIN

AT A GLANCE

SIZE:

9 to 12 inches

WINGSPAN:

24 to 27 inches

LIFESPAN:

Avg. 2 to 4 years, Max. 8 years

NESTING:

North and west of Ohio

CLUTCH SIZE:

4 to 5 eggs

TYPICAL FOODS:

Small birds such as house and other sparrows; will take small mammals and insects

PEAK OHIO SIGHTINGS:

Winter months of December, January, and February

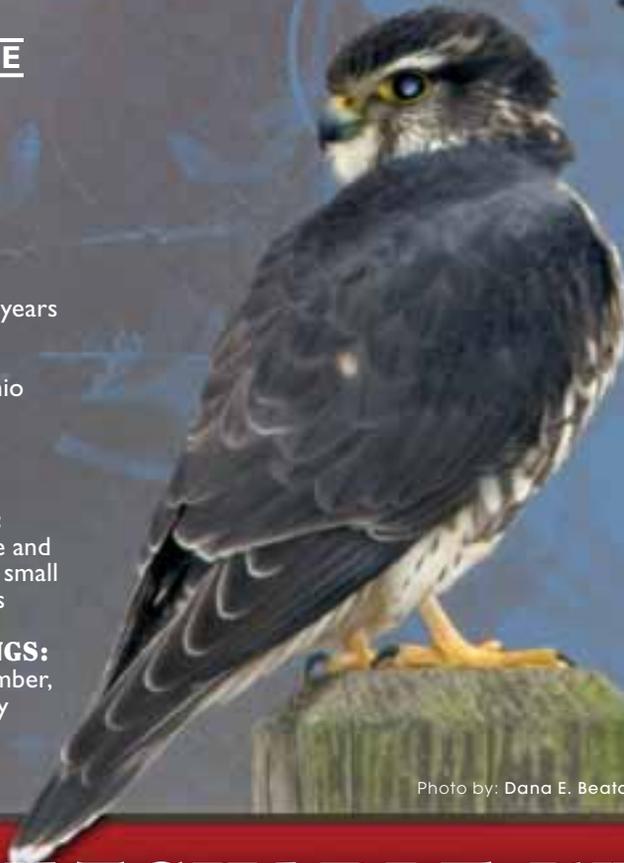


Photo by: Dana E. Beaton

OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Lindsay Deering

Ohioans are accustomed to seeing the American kestrel hunting from a roadside wire and the mighty peregrine falcon speeding over our cities, but the magic of winter ushers another member of the falcon family into our open parks and city cemeteries – the merlin.

The merlin, a bird coveted by medieval lady falconers, was once known as the pigeon hawk. In fact, its scientific name, *Falco columbarius*, quite descriptive and appropriate, means hooked (referring to the falcon's bill) and pigeon-like, because the merlin resembles a pigeon in flight. But don't let the docile nomenclature fool you; this small bird is a speedy force to be reckoned with.

At 9 to 12 inches in length and weighing 5 to 8 ounces, the merlin looks in size like a stocky kestrel. But, instead of wires, you will find a merlin perching on buildings, poles, or treetops scoping out its next avian prey item. From there, the falcon will target songbirds for its next meal, aggressively snatching the prey from midair and returning to a perch where it will casually decapitate, pluck, and consume the catch.

Merlins also practice a unique, opportunity-driven hunting behavior. They have been documented following Northern harriers that, while seeking mammalian prey, inadvertently flush small birds out of hiding. Merlins are then quick to swoop in and grab the unsuspecting songbirds. This hunting style is a great example of commensalism, a relationship between two species where one benefits and the other remains unaffected.

Because of their affinity for open hunting areas, Ohio's winters will find merlins in cemeteries or open city parks where prey, such as house sparrows and other small birds, are abundant. Merlins nest to the north and west of Ohio, but adults feeding young in Ashtabula County in 2009 and a nest found and photographed in Knox County in 2010, representing the first documented breeding merlins in Ohio since 1858 according to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, may mean it won't be long until merlins become regular fixtures in the Buckeye State.

In the winter, merlin vocalization is limited, so you'll need to rely on visual clues for identification. The merlin head is dark with a white eyebrow that extends from the bill past the dark brown eye. Around the eye is bright yellow skin, the same color



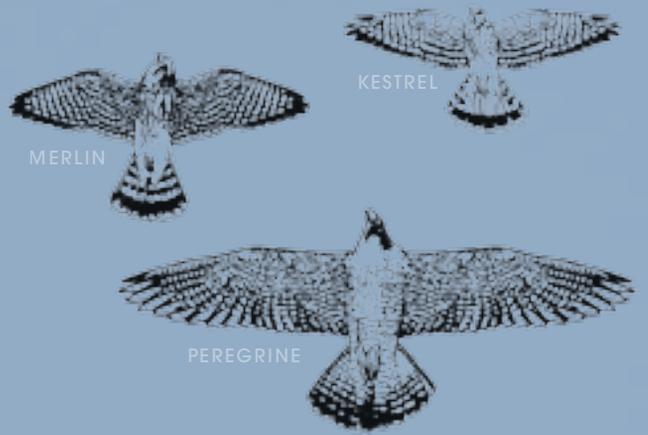
Photo by: Marty Jones

Merlin

as the cere, or the base of the bill closest to the face. The cheek and chin are buffy to whitish in color, but may be streaked. The mustache typical of Ohio's other falcons is very faint and is sometimes almost absent.

A heavily streaked chest of reddish-brown on a white background is coupled with a back ranging from slate-gray on males to dark brown on females. A dark tail with two to four gray or buffy bands is a distinct merlin characteristic. Yellow legs with black talons and a blue bill tipped with black finish out the field markings of this bird. In flight, merlins have pointed wings and a long, slender body typical of the true falcons.

Like peregrine falcons, merlin populations were impaired by the widespread use of the pesticide DDT in the 1960s. DDT caused reproductive failure in many birds of prey in that decade, but like so many resilient raptors, merlin populations rebounded following the United States' prohibition of DDT in 1972. The merlin is now a very wide-ranging bird, and according to the American Ornithologists' Union, there are about 1.3 million merlins worldwide in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and northern Africa.



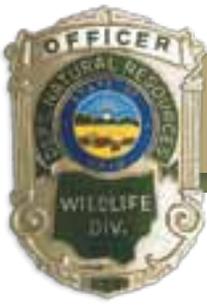
VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Photo by: Bernard Master

You do not need a wizard's powers to find the mystical merlin in Ohio. It takes only a keen eye. Winter is the best time for viewing merlins, so bundle up and head to a nearby cemetery or open park. Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, and Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland consistently have wintering merlins. Visit ohiobirds.org for the most recent sighting locations.

When you arrive, scan treetops and poles looking for anything resembling a kestrel or pigeon. With binoculars, take a closer look. Inspect the facial markings, chest streaking, and tail banding to determine if you've found a merlin. When you do, watch for a while to see it locate and hunt down prey, returning to its perch to decapitate and consume the catch. In the winter, your presence will likely not disturb the merlin as it is very tolerant of nearby activity.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes



OUT-OF-STATE BASS POACHERS PAY MORE THAN \$16,000

**THREE BASS BOATS, THREE TRAILERS,
AND TWO FREEZERS ALSO FORFEITED**

Three Tennessee men and three Georgia men paid steep fines and forfeited three boats and other equipment after investigators observed them “double and triple tripping” on Lake Erie last April. “Double and triple tripping” refers to catching a limit of fish, returning to shore, then returning to the water the same day to catch an additional limit of fish.

The six men pled guilty in Ottawa County Municipal Court and were sentenced for taking 141 more than the legal limit of smallmouth bass. The men paid a combined total of \$16,290 in fines, court costs, and restitution. The men were also ordered to forfeit three bass boats, three trailers, and two freezers with an estimated value of \$32,000. Including the forfeited items, the total cost in fines for the six men was \$48,290.

A total of 900 days in jail was handed down between all six men, but suspended pending completion of a probationary period of three years. Their fishing licenses were revoked for three years and their names will be entered into the Interstate Wildlife Violator’s Compact, most likely resulting in the loss of fishing privileges in 36 other states.

STATEWIDE GINSENG CASE NEARLY COMPLETE

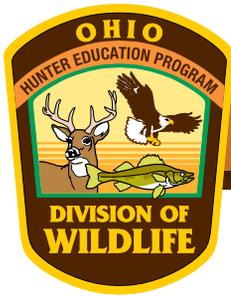
Operation Uprooted, which began in September 2009, has almost concluded with three more defendants to go to court. To date, 31 defendants have been found guilty of 57 various ginseng violations amounting to \$14,150 in fines and 117 pounds of ginseng root being forfeited. One former ginseng dealer, David Paulette, 62, of Malvern, Ohio, was fined \$6,000 plus court costs and his dealer’s license has been revoked. As a result of the revocation, Paulette cannot acquire, sell or possess ginseng for a 30-year period.

Internationally, wild ginseng is a highly-sought medicinal plant that grows in woodlands of the eastern United States and Canada. The rare plant is slow growing and in need of protection by state and federal agencies to ensure the sustainability of the wild ginseng population. Ohio has a regulated harvest season that ensures ginseng plants reach maturity each year and produce seeds prior to being harvested.

POACHER CONVICTED FOR KILLING RARE DEER

A Port Clinton man was convicted of several wildlife violations in connection with a rare hermaphrodite deer that he illegally killed in December of 2009. (A hermaphrodite is an animal having both male and female reproductive organs.) After shooting the deer on private property in Sandusky County, the man sent photos of himself and the deer to several area newspapers that published the photos with related news articles. Wildlife officers were alerted to violations associated with the deer and an investigation followed.

Upon serving a search warrant on his home, officers discovered that the man had killed two antlered deer, including the hermaphrodite, on the same day after already harvesting his limit of deer in Sandusky County earlier in the year. Convictions included providing false information to a deer check station, over limit on deer, possession of untagged deer parts, over limit on antlered deer, and hunting without a deer permit. He was placed on probation, ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$755 plus \$500 in restitution, and had his hunting privileges in Ohio revoked for two years.



Do It Yourself Skull Mount by Matt Neumeier



European skull mounts are a unique and eye-catching way to display your buck of a lifetime. Unfortunately, these mounts can cost more than \$100 and take weeks or months to have done professionally. The following step-by-step process will explain how to create your own professional-looking mount in three days for less than \$25. This is a great way to save money and have an attractive mount that can last for generations.

Step 1: REMOVE HIDE

Use a sharp knife or razor blade to remove the hide from the skull. Next, remove as much of the flesh and meat that you can, including the eyes, tongue, and jaw. Be sure to remove the spine at the skull which will expose the stem hole. The more you get now the easier it will be later.

Step 2: REMOVE BRAIN

There is a hole at the back of the skull about the size of a quarter that is the only access to the brain cavity. Use a butter knife or a screwdriver to work the flesh out. Get as much as you can as this will again save time later.

Step 3: SIMMER

To simmer the skull you will need a propane burner and a pot large enough to submerge the skull without submerging the antlers. Fill the pot with enough water to cover the skull. Add one small box of baking soda and a liberal amount of liquid dish soap and bring to a simmer for at least one hour.



Step 4: CLEAN

Remove and clean the skull until it's free of flesh. You can use knives, picks, brushes, and a garden hose with a high pressure attachment to remove all flesh, especially brain matter. If there is still some stubborn flesh, return the skull to the pot and simmer for 30 minutes. Repeat this step until clean. Let the skull dry completely, generally for two hours.

Step 5: POWDER

After the skull has dried, it needs to be placed in powdered borax. Twenty Mule Team Borax is commonly used and can be found at any grocery store. Put the skull in a container and cover with the entire box. Leave the skull in the container for one day, then remove and rinse off any of the remaining powder. Let it dry completely.

Step 6: BLEACH

The skull is now ready to be bleached. This step should be done outside and with gloves. Pour 40-volume peroxide, available at most beauty supply stores, into a disposable bowl and use a paint brush to paint it onto the skull. Allow it to dry in the sun. The more coats you use and the longer you let it sit in the sun the whiter the skull will be.

DISPLAY

Once the peroxide has dried you will have a very natural looking skull mount. To display the skull you can purchase a skull mount plaque or simply drill a hole through the thick part of bone below the brain cavity and hang on a nail.

WELCOME TO THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE'S NEW ONLINE CUSTOMER CENTER



THE NEW CUSTOMER CENTER WILL ALLOW YOU TO:

- Purchase and print licenses and permits from the convenience of your home computer or by visiting a license agent (*A complete list of authorized license sales agents will be available at wildohio.com.*)
- Check a deer or turkey online, by phone, or at a license agent*
- Submit lottery applications for controlled hunts and view your results when posted
- Purchase the annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, subscribe to *Wild Ohio Magazine*, or purchase gift certificates
- Register for a hunter or trapper education course

You can do all of this one-stop shopping in the convenience of your home via the Web. So plan ahead, buy online and save yourself the last minute rush or possible lines. VISA and Mastercard will be accepted for online purchases. Only licenses, permits, and game checks will be available at license agent locations.

LOGGING ONTO THE NEW SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME

Go to wildohio.com to link to the Wild Ohio Customer Center. Sportsmen and women who have provided an Ohio Driver's License or state ID card when purchasing licenses in the past are most likely already in the system. Keep in mind that youth hunters and those hunters who have never had a driver's license or state ID swiped during the license buying process must provide their full Social Security Number (SSN) when purchasing a recreational license as required by federal law.

United States citizens without an SSN must contact the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE. Non-citizens of the United States who cannot claim residency in Ohio will be asked for an alternate

form of identification. Customer ID numbers will be printed on all of the licenses and permits that you purchase, and on the mailing labels of *Wild Ohio Magazine*.

If not purchasing a recreational license, but making another transaction such as purchasing an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp or subscribing to *Wild Ohio Magazine*, you will need to provide your date of birth, last name, and last four digits of your SSN to be entered into the new system.



Those who have subscribed to *Wild Ohio Magazine* or renewed their subscription since June 2010 are automatically entered into the system and have a customer ID number that will be printed on your magazine's mailing label.

Using your customer ID number for further transactions will help speed up your transaction. When you log onto the system for purchases or other transactions, your customer account will be found when you enter your date of birth and one of the following:

- Customer ID number
- Driver's license number
- State ID number
- Last name and last four digits of SSN

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Licenses purchased online or at a license agent will be printed on an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper that can be folded down to credit card size. Licenses and permits will appear on the left hand column of the document and the remaining space will be printed with information relevant to the license or permit purchased. License paper will not be waterproof and must be laminated or protected inside a license holder or small plastic bag. Permits should not be laminated, but protected in a holder or plastic bag.

Permits purchased on the Internet and at license agent locations will function the same. Upon harvest, the hunter must immediately detach the temporary tag from the permit, fill-in the necessary information using a pen or pencil, and attach it to the deer or turkey.



CHECKING DEER AND TURKEY

There will be no need to transport deer and turkeys to a check station location. Hunters will be able to check their game simply by going to wildohio.com and linking to the Wild Ohio Customer Center or by phone at 1-877-TAG-ITOH (824-4864). All game must be checked by 11 p.m. the day of the harvest; metal tags will no longer be issued for permanent tagging. Each hunter will be issued a permanent tag number during the game checking process which will be written on a space provided as part of the deer or turkey permit. Game-check will be available online and by telephone between 5 a.m. and midnight seven days a week and during holidays. A complete list of license agents who will also check game will be available at wildohio.com.

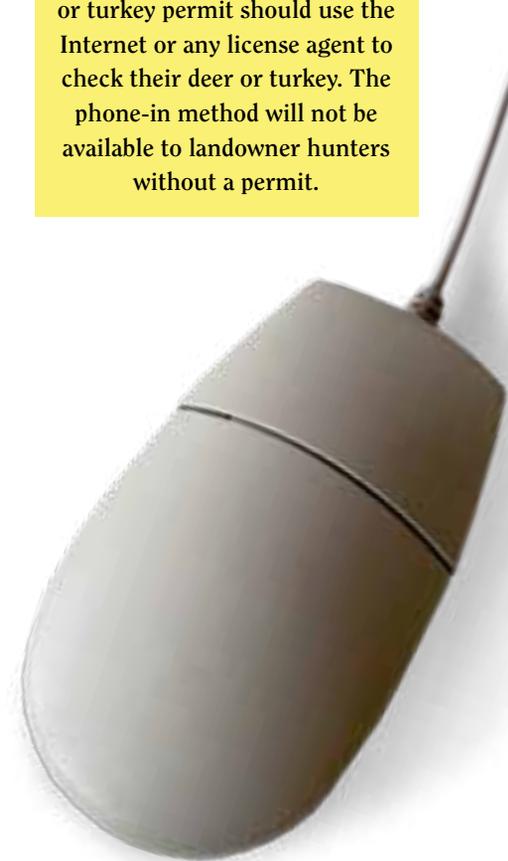


TURKEY CHECK PROCESS FOR 2011

Hunters will no longer be required to take their turkey to a check station for physical inspection. Hunters will have three options to complete the automated game check by 11 p.m. the day of the harvest:

- On the Internet at wildohio.com
- By telephone at **1-877-TAG-ITOH** (824-4864).*
- *At any license agent location*

* Landowner hunters who are not required to purchase a deer or turkey permit should use the Internet or any license agent to check their deer or turkey. The phone-in method will not be available to landowner hunters without a permit.



Beginning March 1, 2011 for the 2011-12 Seasons

For more information about the 2011 system, go to wildohio.com and click on the link "Upcoming 2011 License Sales and Game Check System" under the Ohio Wildlife News heading.



Helping Birds Through Winter



Blue Jay
Lee Korb

Ohio winters can be brutal. Many birds cannot tolerate the cold temperatures so they fly south to warmer climates. But for the birds that stay, Ohio winters are usually not dangerous because the birds have adapted to the conditions.

Sometimes winter weather can tax even the hardiest of species. The toughest times for birds and other wildlife are when temperatures dip below zero and storms produce deep snow and ice. Birds such as the wild turkey that must scratch the ground for seed are particularly vulnerable to these harsh conditions.

Although none of us can control the weather, there are some things we can do to help wildlife make it through weather extremes. If you have feeders in your yard, make sure they are full in the early morning and late afternoon. These are the times of day when birds need to feed most to replenish energy reserves to make it through cold winter nights.

If ice gets on your feeders, make sure to chip it off, especially if it is blocking the holes where the seeds come out. If

seeds get wet and temperature drops below freezing, make sure they are not frozen in the tray. Likewise, if snow piles up on the tray, clear it off. It won't matter how much seed is in the feeder if the birds can't get to it.

Even a couple inches of snow can make it hard for birds to get food; shovel an area around the feeder so birds can get seed from the ground easier. Find areas in your yard that are sheltered from the snow and scatter seeds. Finally, whether you have bird feeders or not, it's a good idea to include fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in your landscaping. These natural food sources will benefit wildlife the most when winter is at its worst.

WINTER ROOST BOXES

Help your backyard birds keep warm overnight with a specially designed roost box. Any backyard favorites that typically nest in boxes—bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and small woodpeckers—may seek refuge in it.

Although birds will roost in nest boxes, roosting boxes are designed differently to prevent the birds' body heat from escaping. Unlike a nest box, a roost box lacks ventilation holes, and the entrance hole is near the bottom so the rising warmth doesn't escape. Additionally, there are several dowels placed inside to provide perches.

The best place to put a roost box is where it can receive as much sun as possible. And, like a nest box, mount the opening away from prevailing winds. A good rule of thumb is to face it east or southeast.

Join the more than 82 million Americans who feed wild birds this winter and celebrate National Bird Feeding Month in February.





FOR WILD KIDS

Fun Animal Snacks



Is the weather too harsh to go outside and look for winter wildlife? Try making some of these animal-like snacks as a fun indoor activity when the cold winds blow. You can also look around your kitchen for other food items and use your imagination to create your own wild and wacky snacks! Tip: use peanut butter, cream cheese, cheese spread, or frosting for glue.

SNAKE SNACK

Roll dough into snakes (Use Q-tip dipped in food coloring for markings) then bake snakes

Two raisins for eyes

String licorice for tongue



animal samichy

Animal-shaped cookie cutters

Bread

A favorite sandwich filling such as cheese slices, peanut butter and jelly, or flavored cream cheese

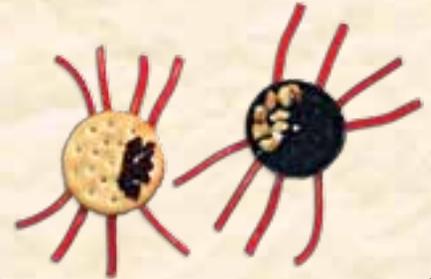


Sweet Salty Spiders

Two Ritz crackers (with peanut butter) or one Oreo cookie

String licorice for legs

Chocolate bits or small candy



Dirty Worms

Chocolate pudding

Oreo cookies, crumbled

Gummy worms



LADYBUG HUG

Half a red apple

Raisins

Peanut butter for glue

Stick pretzels



Partly adopted from Project WILD's growing up WILD



PHOTOGRAPHERS! You can post your photos on the Division of Wildlife's Web site Photo Gallery at wildohio.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 online photo gallery lets our *Wild Ohio* readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos. To post photos on the Web site, go to wildohio.com.



Justin Latta, age 12, with his first turkey.
Jeff Latta, Albany



Max enjoys a day of walleye fishing on Lake Erie with his Dad.
Travis Hartman, Bellevue



"My daughter, Kiah (3 1/2 years old), holding a beautiful Eastern milk snake that her great-grandpa found while mowing his yard."
Travis Weber, Shelby



"I found this massive 8-pointer which grosses 160 inches near Salem, Ohio."
Tony Hall, Leetonia



Madison Hall with her first turkey.
Tony Hall, Leetonia



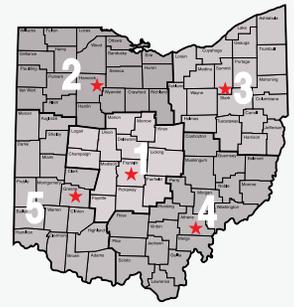
Chelsea Harper fishing with her grandpa caught this 16-inch crappie.
Ron Predmore, Columbus



WILD GAME GOURMET

AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV • hosted by Vicki Mountz

Recipes



BLUE CHEESE VENISON LOAF



- 1½ pounds ground venison
- 1 egg
- ¼ to ½ cup blue cheese; crumbled
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- ¼ cup milk
- ½ tsp. mustard, dry
- ¼ tsp. sage
- ¼ to ½ cup steak sauce
- ½ cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbls. Worcestershire sauce
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Bacon, fried crisp and crumbled
- Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix half the cheese and remaining ingredients, except potatoes and bacon, together. Spread venison mixture into ungreased loaf pan, 9 by 5 by 3 inches, or shape into a loaf in an ungreased baking pan. Bake uncovered 1 1/4 hours or until done. Drain off the excess fat.

Prepare potatoes as directed on the package and stir in remaining blue cheese. Spread potatoes on sides and top of meat loaf. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon and bake for additional 10 minutes, or until potatoes are lightly browned. Serve hot.

Contributed by Vicki Ervin

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

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

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

CAJUN VENISON SHISH KABOBS

- 2 pounds venison
- Dale's Steak Seasoning
- Any Cajun spice or black pepper
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 large white onion, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 pound bacon
- Favorite rice
- Toothpicks and skewers

Cut the venison into 1-inch chunks and marinate in Dale's Steak Seasoning for 30 minutes. Sprinkle favorite Cajun spice on meat to taste. Wrap each piece of meat with bacon and place toothpick through to hold in place. (Hint: soak toothpicks and wooden skewers in water so they do not burn). Alternate meat, green pepper, and onion slices on skewers. Grill over low heat, turning ¼ rotation every 2 to 3 minutes, or until medium rare. Rice makes the perfect side dish.

Contributed by Al Faber, Chief of Staff, Ohio National Guard



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.



for more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



Wild Ohio Magazine
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

WINNER SELECTED 2011 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Photo Contest

A male Eastern amberwing dragonfly has landed on the 2011 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, on sale March 1. Wildlife photographer Sharon Cummings captured the winning image on a pond located at her Graytown residence. Another photo by Cummings, this of a female Eastern amberwing, was voted first runner up.

Bruce Miller of Upper Arlington was the second runner up with his photo of a twelve-spotted skimmer. Miller said he photographed the notable dragonfly at Highbanks Metro Park, north of Columbus.

In the youth division, 13-year-old Noah Stork of Bellbrook photographed his winning image of a widow skimmer at Rocky Fork Lake in Hillsboro.

The \$15 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp was created as a meaningful way for Ohioans and others to support wildlife conservation efforts in the Buckeye State. For a limited time only, conservationists and stamp collectors will be able to purchase the 2010 inaugural stamp featuring a Baltimore oriole.

Interested in participating in the next photo contest? Then focus your camera on one of Ohio's 25 native salamander species. Your photo could appear on the 2012 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp!

Learn more about the photo contest and how to buy your Ohio
Wildlife Legacy Stamp at
wildohiostamp.com

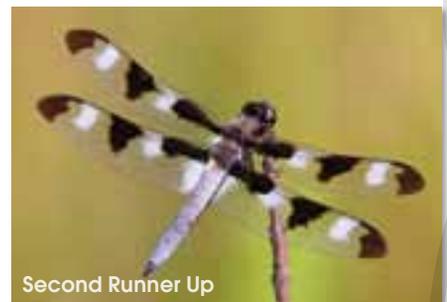


A photo of a male Eastern amberwing by Sharon Cummings, of Graytown, will be featured on the 2011 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp.



First Runner Up

BY: Sharon Cummings / Graytown, Ohio
IMAGE: female Eastern amberwing



Second Runner Up

BY: Bruce Miller / Upper Arlington, Ohio
IMAGE: Twelve-spotted skimmer



Youth Division Winner

BY: Noah Stork (age 13) / Bellbrook, Ohio
IMAGE: Widow skimmer