

# Wild Ohio for Kids

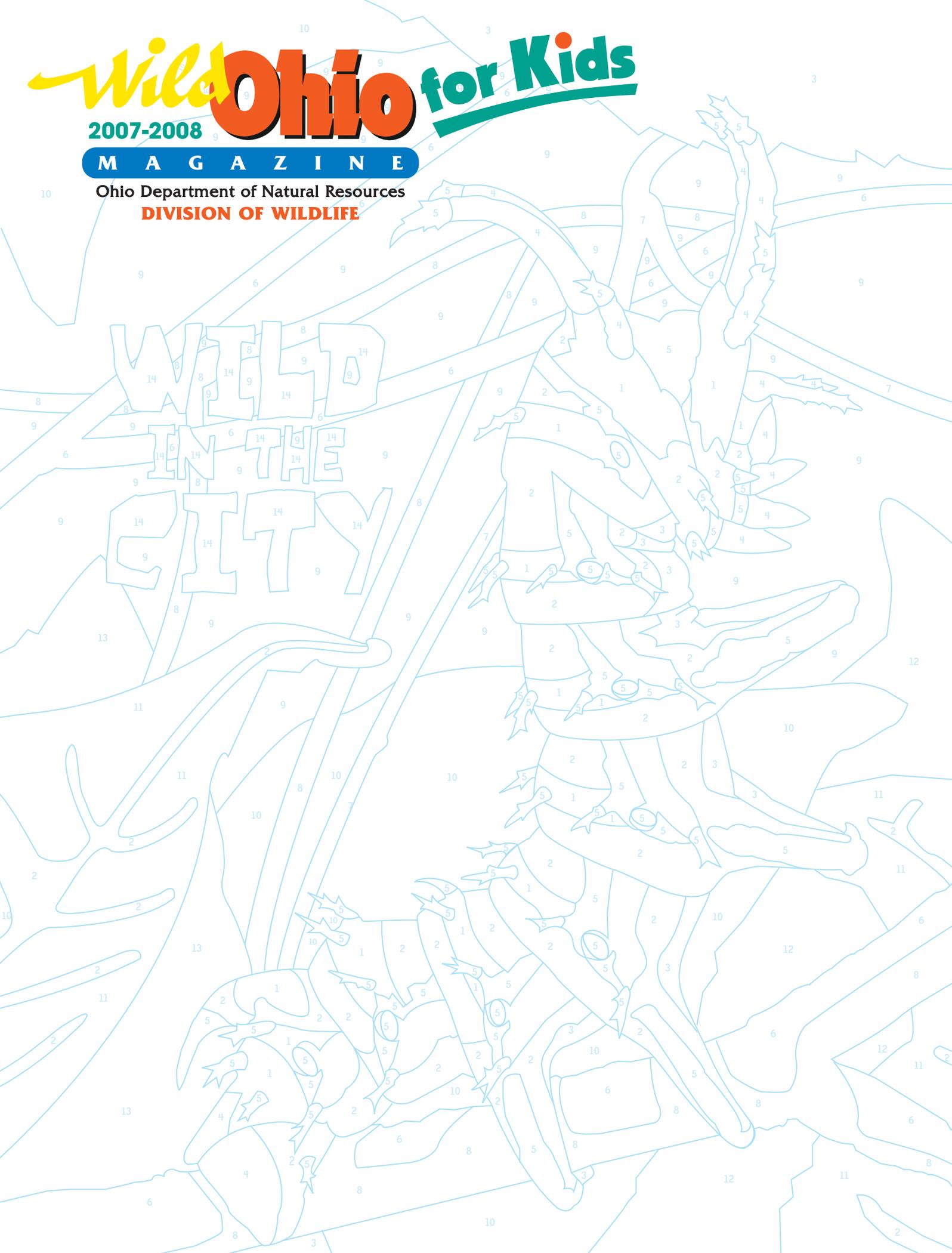
2007-2008

M A G A Z I N E

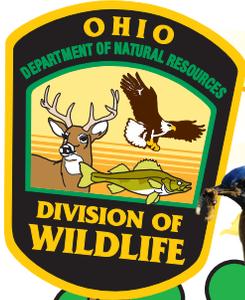
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

WILDO  
IN THE  
CITY



# Sharing Our



## EDITORIAL STAFF

Vicki Mountz  
Executive Editor

Melissa Hathaway  
Editor

Lisa Smith  
Technical Editor

Vicki Ervin  
Associate Editor

Chad Crouch  
Designer

Tim Daniel  
Photographer

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio

Sean D. Logan  
Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

David M. Graham  
Chief, Division of Wildlife

## IT'S FREE

Unlike the Division of Wildlife's regular *Wild Ohio* Magazine, the Kids Magazine edition is not available by subscription. *Wild Ohio for Kids* is published once a year at the beginning of the school year and is available at Division of Wildlife offices and from teachers and other educators who order bulk quantities of the magazine for their education programs.

## 1-800-WILDLIFE

ODNR Division of Wildlife  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G  
Columbus OH 43229-6693

[www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com)

## Where the Wild Things Roam...

Humans are fascinated by seeing wildlife, and the closer the better. Many of the same creatures that roam the woods and live in unpopulated, wild areas will also thrive in cities and suburbs - right in our own backyards! Wild encounters give us valuable recreational and educational experiences, and add something special to our lives.

Seeing wild animals outside the kitchen window can be fun and exciting -- up until the white-tailed deer start munching on the shrubbery, rabbits nibble on the garden plants, and raccoons raid the trash can. When problems like these arise, wild animals are no longer welcomed guests, but intruders.

These wild animals are only doing what they do best, trying to survive. They are taking advantage of the available food people have provided for them in the form of a garden or trash. They may also find a new home in places that are not always good for the homeowner. Making responsible, realistic choices when dealing with wild animals is important so humans can learn to live as neighbors to wildlife. Our goal should be to keep the "wild" in wildlife!

## Keep the "Wild" in Wildlife Quiz

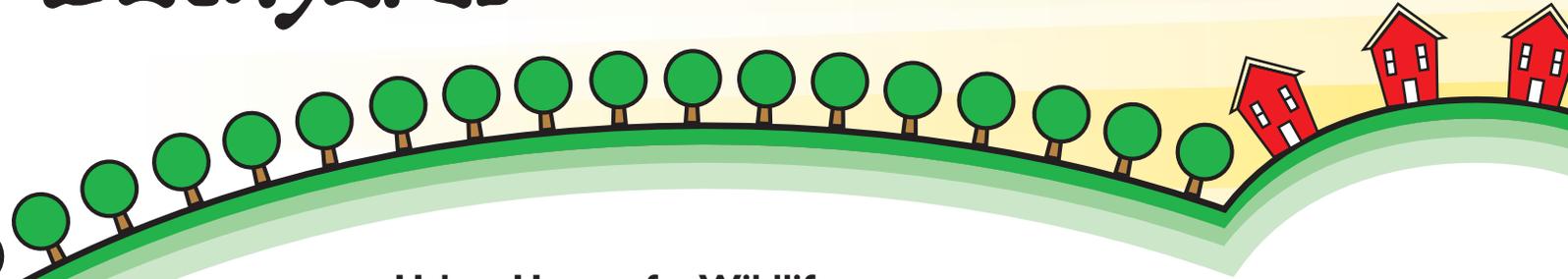
How much do you know about living with wildlife? Circle the correct letter.

1. You discover a nest of young rabbits in your yard. You don't see a parent around anywhere.
  - a. Take them inside and feed them warm milk from an eye-dropper.
  - b. Leave them alone.
  - c. Take them to a wildlife rehabilitator.
2. While picnicking beside a city park pond, some ducks come up to you looking for a handout.
  - a. Give them a little snack.
  - b. Call the park ranger.
  - c. Ignore them until they go away.
3. You see a raccoon climbing into your trash can at night.
  - a. Yell at it to scare it away.
  - b. Make your trash can "raccoon proof."
  - c. Put pet food or leftovers out for it to eat instead of the trash.
4. You discover bats hanging in your attic.
  - a. Wait until they leave in the evening and block their entryway.
  - b. Call a pest exterminator.
  - c. Catch them with a butterfly net and release them outside.

Answers on page 19



# Backyards



## Urban Homes for Wildlife

Habitat is the place where a wild animal lives -- its home. All good habitat provides wildlife with four major needs for survival: food, water, shelter, and space. Some of the different types of wildlife habitat found in Ohio are forests, grasslands, and water areas such as wetlands, rivers, and lakes.

Our urban world also provides habitat for a multitude of critters. Small woodlots in your neighborhood and trees in your yard are havens for wildlife. Gardens, unmowed fields, and grassy edges around your school and other urban properties provide valuable food, cover, and places to nest. Local park lakes, streams, and small garden ponds also provide habitat for many species of wild animals. Even downtown skyscrapers are homes for some wildlife.



Urban wildlife need shelter -- places where they can sleep, raise their young, hide or escape from predators, and be protected from harsh weather such as rain, snow, and heat. Using the space below, make a list of the types of wildlife shelter found in your backyard or schoolyard.

## Wildlife Shelter Word Search

BAT HOUSE	NEST CAVITY	POND	SNAG
BRUSH PILE	FIELD	ROCK PILE	SOIL
BURROW	NEST BOX	SHRUBS	TREE

B Y B U R R O W E Y  
 N E S T B O X B D T  
 C T I S A C S N D I  
 F D T E T K O U L V  
 B R U S H P I L E A  
 H C J H O I L T I C  
 I C K R U L R U F T  
 E J U U S E Y W V S  
 V W G B E T N B A E  
 G A N S P G H M G N



Can you unscramble these words to find two more types of shelter?

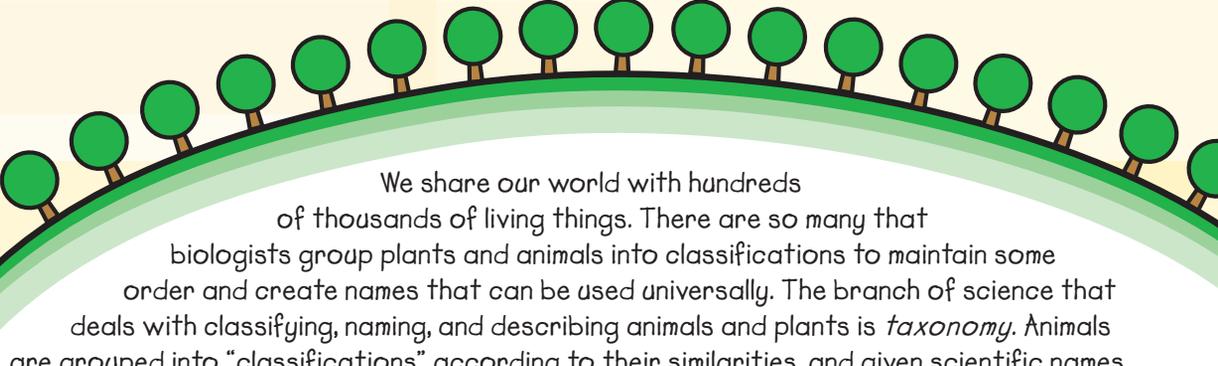
1. readgn \_\_\_\_\_

2. ecfne wor \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 9

# The Wonderful

We share our world with hundreds of thousands of living things. There are so many that biologists group plants and animals into classifications to maintain some order and create names that can be used universally. The branch of science that deals with classifying, naming, and describing animals and plants is *taxonomy*. Animals are grouped into "classifications" according to their similarities, and given scientific names as well as common names.



## AVES BIRDS

- Lay eggs
- Most can fly
- Breathe with lungs
- Have beaks and wings
- Have feathers
- Warm-blooded

## AMPHIBIA AMPHIBIANS

- Lay eggs in water or damp place
- Young go through a larval stage
- Breathe with lungs, gills, or skin
- Cold-blooded
- Live on land and water as adults
- Have moist skin
- Most have four legs, a few have two

## INSECTA INSECTS

- Two compound eyes and several simple eyes
- Have wings
- Have antennae
- Usually have six legs
- Head, thorax, and abdomen body parts

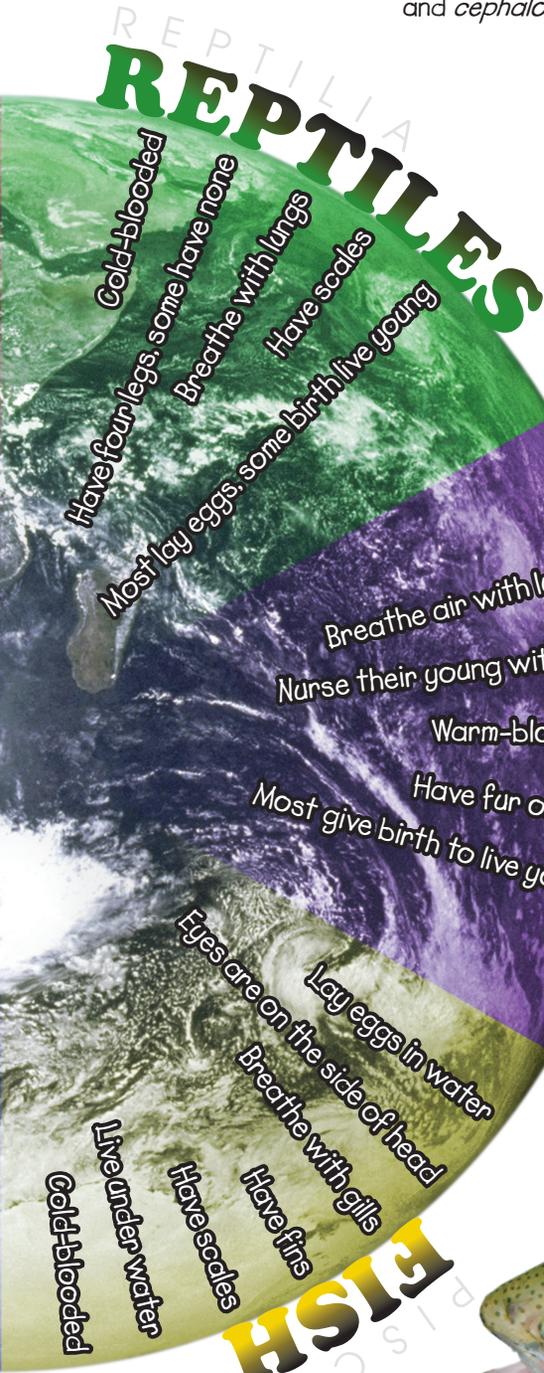


# Animal World



Vertebrates are a group of animals that have bony backbones or other support systems made of cartilage. These animals include mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Invertebrates are animals that do not have backbones and include insects and spiders.

**Spiders** are not insects, they are Arachnids. Spiders have 8 legs, two body parts (abdomen and *cephalothorax*), no antennae, eight simple eyes, and no wings.



# Take a Walk on



## MAMMALS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Neighborhood Safari

Use the taxonomy lists on pages 4 and 5 to make lists of all the wildlife in your neighborhood categorized by their animal classification. Start with your own property by searching inside and outside. Don't forget to look in window sills, sidewalk cracks, gardens, trees, under logs and rocks, and other places small critters might be living. Then take a walk around your neighborhood to add even more wildlife to your lists. If you have a park nearby include it in your search too. Don't forget to look around ponds or other water. Also, try to identify the species. For instance, don't just write down "bird," but list what species of bird it is such as American robin. If you run out of room, continue your list on a separate sheet of paper.

## BIRDS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## REPTILES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Page 22 Answers: **Down:** 1) Mantis, 3) Endangered, 4) Shelter, 6) Camouflage, 8) Eys, 9) Taxonomy, 10) Bat, 13) Mimicry, 14) Habitat, 16) Pupa **Across:** 2) Omnivore, 5) Change, 7) Vertebrates, 11) Insects, 12) Adaptations, 15) Cardinal, 16) Prey, 17) Nocturnal

# the Wild Side!

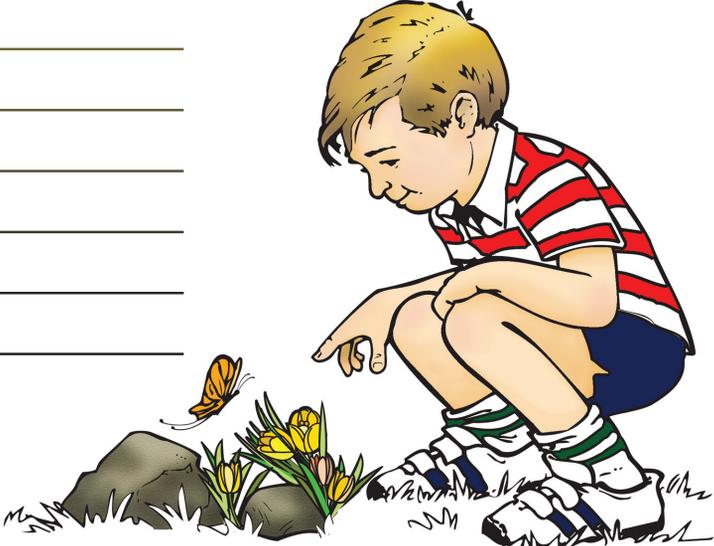


## INSECTS

## FISH

## AMPHIBIANS

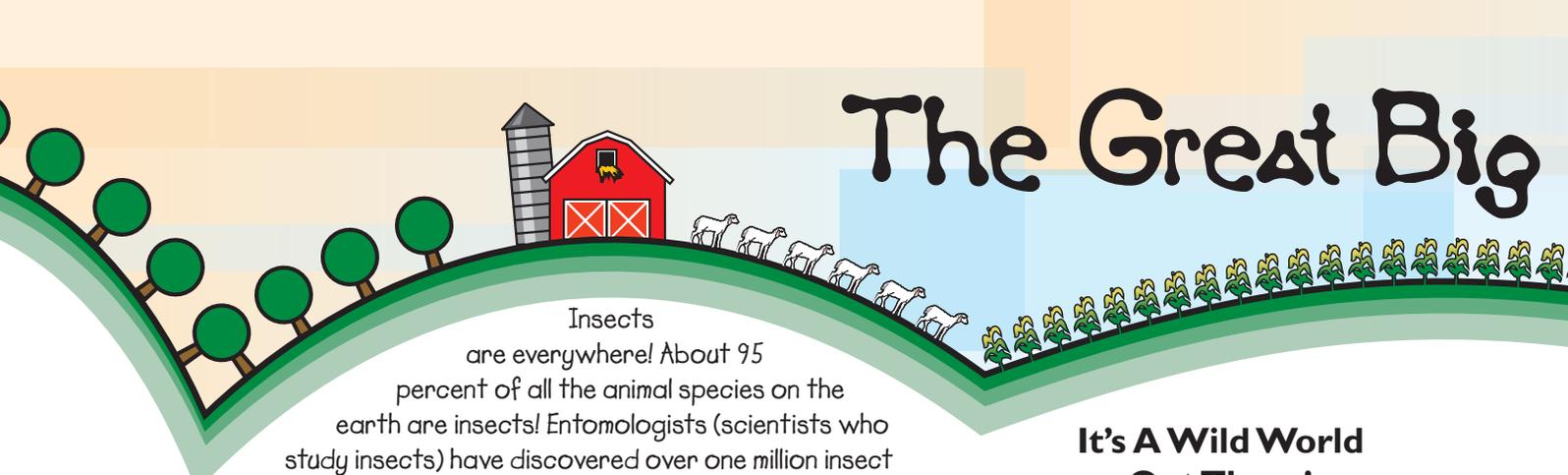
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



How many animals did you find for each of your lists? Use your lists to make a bar graph showing the numbers of animals you found in the different classifications. Which classification of animals was the most abundant?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total	
Mammals	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reptiles	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amphibians	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insects	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<input type="checkbox"/>

# The Great Big



Insects are everywhere! About 95 percent of all the animal species on the earth are insects! Entomologists (scientists who study insects) have discovered over one million insect species throughout the world.

Insects are sometimes thought of as “creepy crawlers” or get a bad rap because some sting, bite, spread disease, or destroy crops. But insects are very valuable in the web of life as a food source for many other animals. They also break down plant and animal matter to enrich the soil, and pollinate fruits and vegetables. And they add grace and color to our natural world.

## Food for Thought! The Food Chain

The order that animals feed on other plants and animals is called a food chain. Plants get their energy to live and grow from the sun and nutrients in the soil. Animals get their energy from the food they eat -- plants and other animals. The chain grows as one living creature eats another. Prey refers to animals that get eaten. Predators are the animals that do the eating. Insects play a vital role in many food chains as insects are prey for many other animals, even other insects.

Herbivores are animals that feed on plants. Carnivores feed on other animals. Omnivores feed on plants and other animals. Can you think of an animal that is a herbivore; a carnivore; an omnivore? Use the blanks below to write down your animals. On the second line, list something that animal might eat.

## It's A Wild World Out There!

Wildlife species have many fascinating traits, or adaptations that help them survive in their habitat. Animals use their physical features and innate behaviors to help them find food, attract mates, deal with the weather, escape from predators, and meet the everyday challenges of life. An animal's coloring, physical body size and shape, unique body parts, keen senses of sight, smell, and hearing, the sounds it makes, and its behaviors are all adaptations.

Wildlife, including insects, possess special physical features and remarkable defenses to keep them from becoming another animal's meal. Camouflage is the ability to blend in with the surroundings. The colors, patterns, and textures of many insects can make them go unnoticed by predators. The walking stick has great camo; it looks exactly like a twig!

Mimicry means to imitate something, and the insect world is full of mimics. The tiger swallowtail caterpillar is a real pro. When very small, it looks like bird droppings. When it grows larger, it develops eyes that make it look like a snake. Now what predator would want to eat either of these?



---

Herbivore

---

Carnivore

---

Omnivore

---

Food

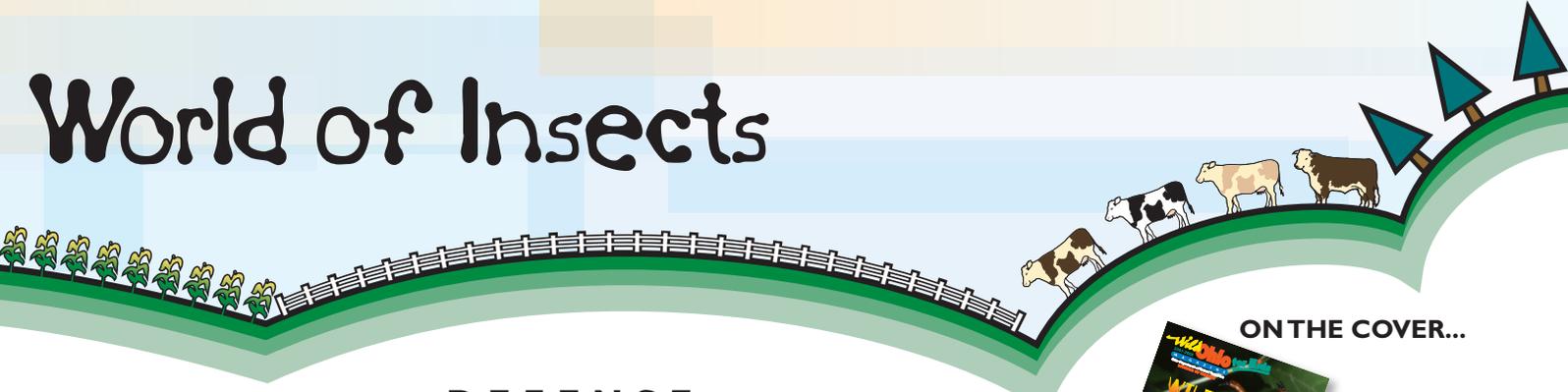
---

Food

---

Food

# World of Insects



## D-E-F-E-N-S-E

Insects have some pretty amazing defense mechanisms. See if you can match the insect with the way it protects itself from predators or the weather. Then use the circled letters to complete the secret message.



ON THE COVER...

the fearsome looking hickory horned devil

## Word Bank



Green Darner Dragonfly



Hickory Horned Devil



Honey Bee



House Cricket



Katydid



Lady Beetle



American Burying Beetle



Walking Stick



Viceroy Butterfly

1. Poses as a twig or small branch \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hears with its front legs \_\_\_\_\_
3. Scares away its predators by its ferocious appearance \_\_\_\_\_
4. Poses as a leaf \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can see in every direction at once \_\_\_\_\_
6. Stings \_\_\_\_\_
7. Raise their young underground \_\_\_\_\_
8. Hides under leaves to be protected from cold winter temperatures \_\_\_\_\_
9. Uses orange wings to mimic a cousin that is foul-tasting to birds \_\_\_\_\_

### SPECIAL PHRASE

\_\_\_ y \_\_\_ l o \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ f \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ s \_\_\_ !

### BONUS QUESTION 1

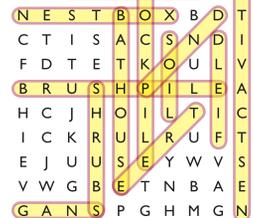
Do you know what insect is Ohio's official state insect? \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 17

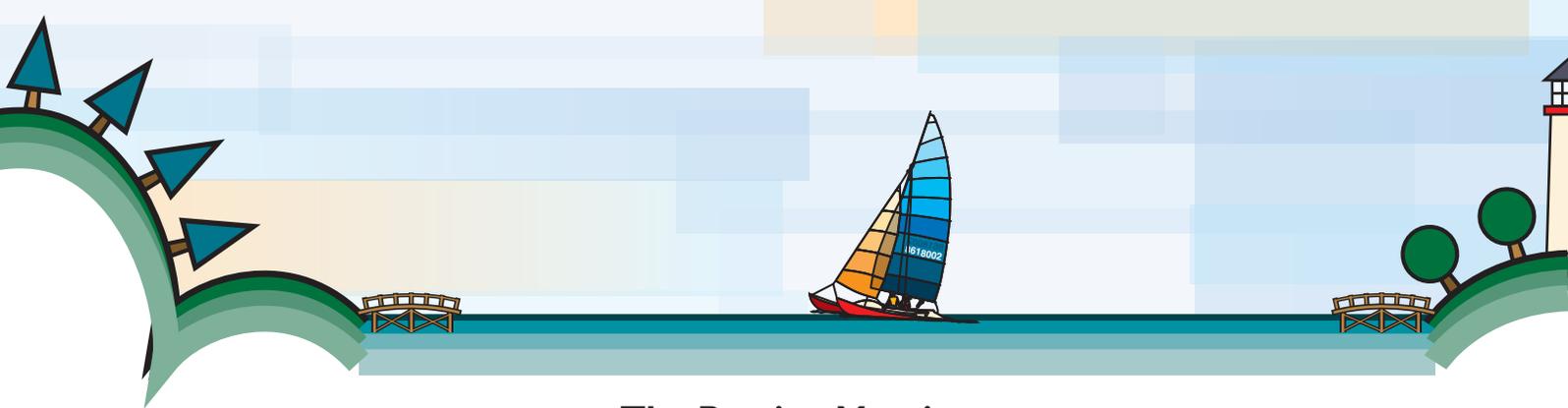
Page 19 Answers:

- 1) 41st floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, 2) falcon wanderer, 3) nestling or eyas,
- 4) both parents, 5) Canton, Cleves, Cleveland, Cincinnati, 6) Review the map on Ohio's Falcon Nesting Sites,
- 7) Canada, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, 8) 25

Page 3 Answers: B Y B U R R O W E Y



1) garden, 2) fence row



## The Praying Mantis

One insect that is fun to observe is the praying mantis (or mantid). It got its common name because of the way it holds its large forelegs together up off the ground as if it is “praying.”

Perhaps the common name for the praying mantis should be “preying mantis” because of the way mantises hunt their prey. They are carnivorous, eating other insects (including other mantises) and spiders. They have also

been known to eat larger animals such as tree frogs and hummingbirds.

Praying mantises are ferocious predators and great hunters. They have wings, but spend most of their time sitting motionless in one place waiting patiently until their prey comes within reach. They also sometimes stalk their prey, slowly inching closer until close enough to nab their prey. Mantids are camouflaged to blend in with leaves or twigs unnoticed by other insects.

When an unsuspecting insect comes close, the mantid lunges out and grabs it. Their long body with strong, pincher-like front legs are adapted for quickly catching and holding onto their prey. The only parts of their prey they don't eat are the wings.

Female praying mantises are cannibals, known for their strange habit of sometimes biting off the head of their male partner while they are mating.



1. Label the body parts of the praying mantis in the lower right photo. (Refer to the taxonomy chart on insects on page 4.)

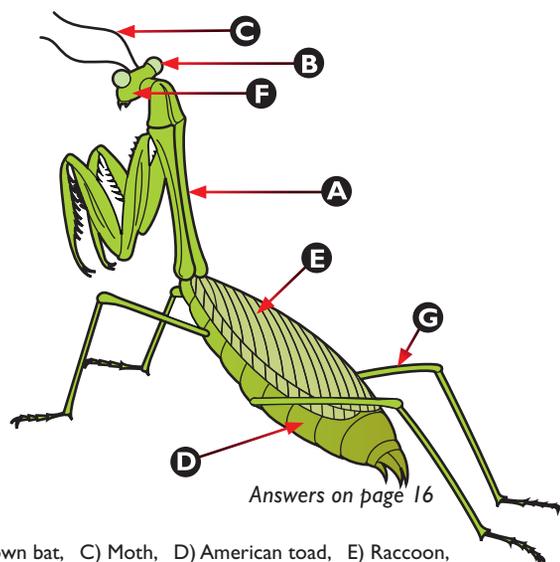
- A \_\_\_\_\_
- B \_\_\_\_\_
- C \_\_\_\_\_
- D \_\_\_\_\_
- E \_\_\_\_\_
- F \_\_\_\_\_
- G \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is the praying mantis a **vertebrate** or **invertebrate** ?

(Circle the correct answer.)  
hint on pages 5

3. Is the praying mantis a **herbivore**, **carnivore**, or **omnivore** ?

(Circle the correct answer.)  
hint on page 8



Answers on page 16

Page 20 Answers: A) Flying squirrel, B) Little brown bat, C) Moth, D) American toad, E) Raccoon, F) House cricket, G) Lightning bug (or firefly), H) Screech owl

## Butterfly Gardening

Many butterfly species are dwindling because their habitat is being destroyed. Planting a butterfly garden is one of the best ways to help butterflies and one of the easiest methods of attracting them to your yard or school yard. When you garden for butterflies, you should also garden for caterpillars.

Successful butterfly gardens have both host plants and nectar-producing plants. The flowers of plants provide nectar, which is food for butterflies. Host plants are plants where butterflies lay eggs and the caterpillars feed on the plant before becoming adult butterflies. Many caterpillars are picky eaters and will eat only one kind of plant.

## Fun Kids Searching for Swallowtails

One of the easiest butterflies to attract is the black swallowtail. Host plants for the black swallowtail are those in the parsley family. Buy a parsley plant (or seeds) from a local garden store. Plant the plant (or seeds) in a flower pot or other container; place it



# Butterfly Explorer

(your name)

outside in the sun. (Don't forget to keep it watered.) Better yet, plant your parsley in a flower garden. The flowers growing in the garden will also help attract the swallowtails. Good nectar sources for black swallowtails include butterfly bush, butterfly weed, phlox, clover, Mexican sunflower, and thistle.

Watch your parsley plant for visiting butterflies, and check it for caterpillars daily. Look closely because the caterpillars will blend in with the green parsley. Also check the leaves for pinhead-sized white specks. These are butterfly eggs.

**Note:** Monarch butterflies are also easy to attract. The host plants for monarchs are those in the milkweed family such as butterfly weed and swamp milkweed.



## Fun Kids Swallowtail ID Pot

If using a clay pot for your parsley, you can draw directly onto the pot. If using a plastic pot, you can draw on a separate piece of paper and stick that onto the pot. Draw and color a black swallowtail and write "Swallowtail" above the butterfly. On the opposite side of the pot, draw and color a black swallowtail caterpillar and write "Parsley" above the caterpillar. This will help you identify black swallowtail butterflies and caterpillars that appear on your plant.

(Specialty markers for terra cotta pots are also available from craft stores.)

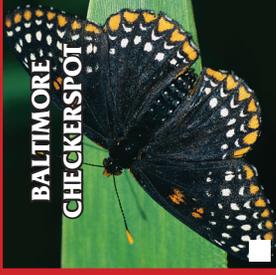


## Pullout Poster

The center of this magazine is a butterfly poster you can pull out and display at home or at your school. You can simply tear it out or ask an adult to help you pry open the staples between pages 12 and 13. Be sure to push the staples back down once you've pulled out your poster so not to scratch you later.



# OHIO The Butterflies



BALTIMORE CHECKERSPOT



AMERICAN COMMA



RED ADMIRAL



COMMON BUCKEYE



VICEROY



LITTLE WOOD-SATYR



QUESTION MARK



MOURNING CLOAK



AMERICAN PAINTED LADY



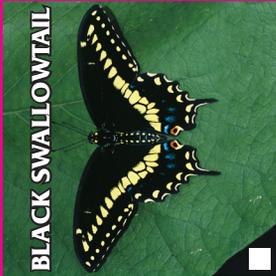
RED-SPOTTED PURPLE



HACKBERRY



COMMON WOOD NYMPH



BLACK SWALLOWTAIL



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL



CABBAGE WHITE



ORANGE SULPHUR



AMERICAN COPPER



CORAL HAIRSTREAK



ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL



GIANT SWALLOWTAIL



SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL



CLOUDED SULPHUR



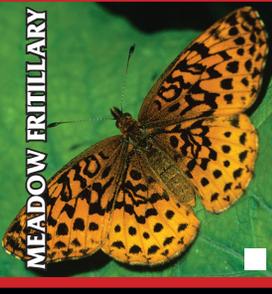
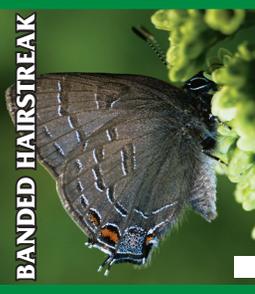
HARVESTER



BRONZE COPPER



You can use this poster as a checklist.  
Simply mark the white box of the  
butterfly you have seen.



**MONARCH**

**EUROPEAN SKIPPER**

**COMMON SOOTY WING**

**PECK'S SKIPPER**

**SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER**

**FROSTED ELFIN**

**PERSIUS DUSKYWING**

**KARNER BLUE**

- Swallowtails
- Sulphurs
- Coppers
- Blues
- Skippers
- Whites
- Harvesters
- Hairstreaks
- Brushfooted
- Endangered

All photos (except monarch) by ©David Parshall  
"Special Thanks" to Dave Parshall for his time, effort, and donation of photos

## Carrying on the Family Line

Like humans, wildlife produce offspring to continue their species. If they did not reproduce, their species would become extinct -- there would be no more of their kind in the entire world. Wildlife in danger of becoming extinct are considered endangered.

Some wildlife begin life looking very much like their parents. Other young animals in their earliest stages don't look anything like their parents and go through a "metamorphosis" (physical change) before becoming adults.

## Life Cycle of a Buckeye Butterfly

Buckeyes and other butterflies go through a metamorphosis that includes four different life stages - egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

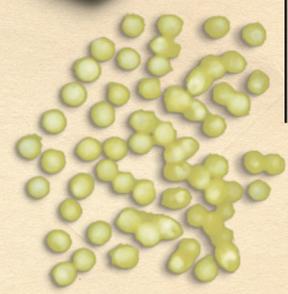
1. Egg: Adult females lay eggs on the leaves of host plants.
2. Larva: Most commonly called a caterpillar. It spends most of its time eating the leaves of the host plant. It molts (sheds its skin) a number of times as it grows.
3. Pupa: The caterpillar begins producing a silky, sticky muscus and uses it to create a covering around its body -- a pupa, or chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, its wings and other body parts are taking form.
4. Adult: Once the caterpillar is fully transformed into an adult, the beautiful creature we know as a butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.

Place the proper number next to the photo of the correct stage in the buckeye's life cycle.

## Kids This Life Cycle Observer!

If you were successful in the "Searching for Swallowtails" activity on page 11 and found a caterpillar on the host plant, you can bring it indoors and watch its miraculous transformation into a butterfly.

Place the caterpillar with leaves of the host in an aquarium or gallon jar, and cover the container with a screen or netting. (You will need parsley, dill, or fennel for a black swallowtail, or milkweed for a monarch.) Spray the leaves often with water and replace leaves with fresh ones once they are wilted or mostly eaten. Follow the "Life Cycle of a Butterfly" on this page as you watch the changes from caterpillar to butterfly. Then release it outdoors.



# Backyards for Wildlife

National polls show that 40 percent of U.S. households do something to attract wildlife to their homes, from installing bird feeders or ponds to planting food for our favorite wildlife creatures. Some urban properties have better wildlife habitat than others depending on how much food, water, shelter, and space are provided.

Below are some features that can help improve wildlife habitat in backyards and schoolyards. On the first line below each feature, write some animals that might use the feature. On the second line, write down what survival need the feature provides for wildlife. Try not to use the same animal twice.

flower garden




---



---

brush pile




---



---

bird feeders




---



---

snag




---



---

birds baths and sprinklers




---



---

nest boxes



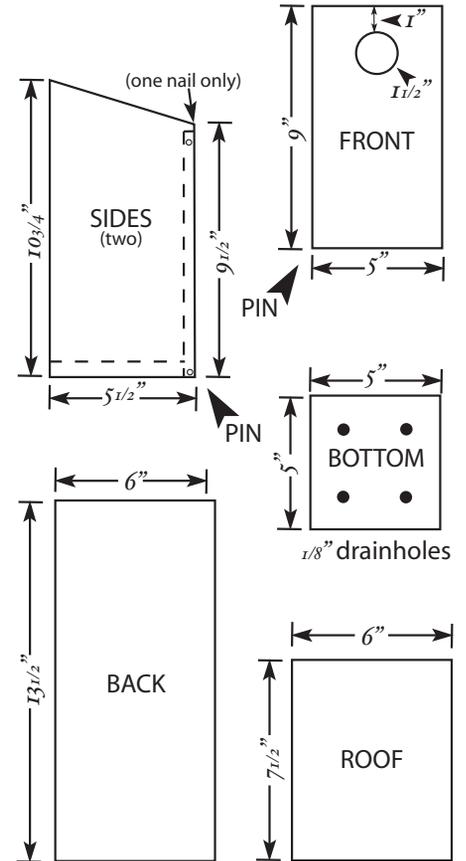

---



---

## try this Build A Nestbox!

Have an adult help you make your own nest box. You can browse our website at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com) for Nest Box Plans or call 1-800-WILDLIFE and ask for Publication 419 (Nest Box Plans). \*Below is a blue bird nestbox plan that requires special rules for installing. For details, see Publication 419 or visit the Ohio Bluebird Society at [www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org](http://www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org).



## try this Helping Wildlife!

On a separate sheet of paper, draw your backyard or schoolyard and include some things you could add to help wildlife.

# The Winged

## Become a Backyard Birder

Birds are all around us in urban habitats. Do you know the birds that live in or visit your neighborhood? Become a backyard birder and learn to identify the different birds you see. Start by identifying the birds below. Write the correct number of the bird next to its photo. You may want to use a field guide to identify the birds. If your family does not have one, borrow one from your local library. The Division of Wildlife also has bird field guides you can use.

- |                               |                   |                       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. American goldfinch         | 2. Blue jay       | 3. Northern cardinal  |
| 4. Downy woodpecker           | 5. House finch    | 6. Carolina chickadee |
| 7. Mourning dove              | 8. American robin | 9. Tree swallow       |
| 10. Ruby-throated hummingbird |                   |                       |



A. \_\_\_\_\_



B. \_\_\_\_\_



C. \_\_\_\_\_



D. \_\_\_\_\_



E. \_\_\_\_\_



F. \_\_\_\_\_



G. \_\_\_\_\_



H. \_\_\_\_\_



I. \_\_\_\_\_



J. \_\_\_\_\_

### BONUS QUESTION 1

Do you know which bird is Ohio's official state bird? \_\_\_\_\_

### BONUS QUESTION 2

Which of these birds is a migratory game bird, (they can be legally hunted during a set hunting season)? \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 21

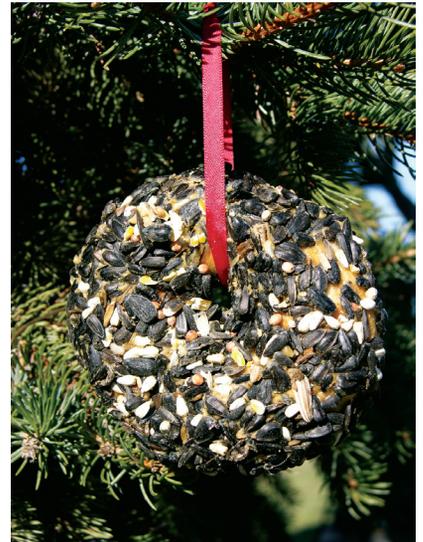
Page 10 Answers:

1) A. thorax, B. eyes, C. antenna, D. abdomen, E. wings, F. head, G. legs, 2) invertebrate 3) carnivore



## Bagel or Pine Cone Feeder

Take a large pine cone or stale bagel half and spread it all over with peanut butter. Roll the pine cone or bagel in bird seed. Tie a string around the top of the pine cone or through the hole in the bagel and hang on a tree.



# World of Birds



## Spotlight on Birds

Choose a favorite bird that you see in your neighborhood and complete the Life History Notes card for that bird species. A field guide to birds or a Web search will provide a good start, including the Division of Wildlife's website at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) (click on our publications link).

**Bird Spotlight**

Bird Species: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Migrant or Year-round Resident  
*(Circle one)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Adult Length

\_\_\_\_\_

Peak Breeding Time

\_\_\_\_\_

Clutch Size  
*(typical number of eggs)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Incubation Period  
*(how long it sits on the eggs)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Young Fledge  
*(fly from the nest)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Broods per Year  
*(group of young)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Typical Foods

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional observations

## Try This Birds in Poetry

An acrostic poem is a poem where the beginning letter of each line spells a word. That word is the subject of the poem. Read the acrostic poem about birds below. Then write an acrostic poem about the bird in your Bird Spotlight. (Note: Your acrostic poem does not have to rhyme unless you want it to. Rhyming will make the activity more challenging.)

Birds fly here and birds fly there,  
In fact, birds are everywhere;  
Robin, cardinal, finch, dove, jay,  
Diving, soaring, perching, at play,  
Singing, feeding, and brightening our day!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## City Canyons for Peregrines

Some of Ohio's cities have some pretty awesome downtown city dwellers -- peregrine falcons. In 1988 when two peregrine falcons nicknamed "Nellie" and "Commodore Perry Grine" were discovered nesting on a ledge of a tall building in downtown Toledo, they made Ohio history. They were the first peregrine falcons ever recorded to nest in our state.

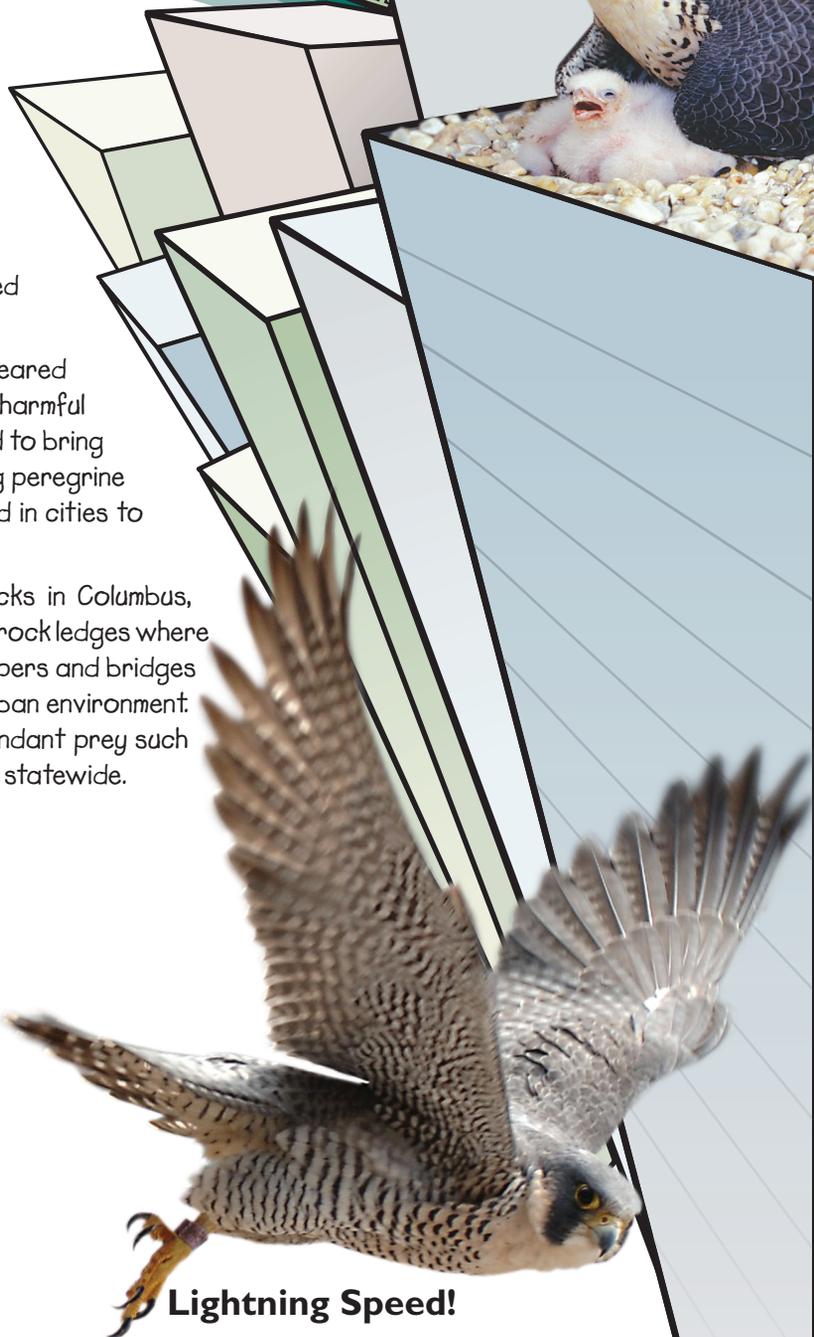
The population of peregrine falcons completely disappeared east of the Mississippi River by the 1960s because of harmful chemicals in the environment. A national plan was developed to bring back peregrine falcons to the eastern United States. Young peregrine falcons, just ready to make their first flight, were released in cities to jump start the population.

In Ohio, the Division of Wildlife released peregrine chicks in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Akron. Ohio does not have suitable cliffs and rock ledges where peregrines like to nest, but tall structures such as skyscrapers and bridges made a great substitute. The birds adapted well to this urban environment. Now thanks to these urban cliff-like nesting sites and abundant prey such as pigeons and starlings, Ohio has 23 nesting pairs in cities statewide.

## Tracking the Falcons' Whereabouts

Each year Division biologists place identification leg bands on the young in each of Ohio's peregrine falcon nests to track their movements. Many Ohio peregrine offspring have shown up in other cities, where many found mates and raised peregrine families of their own.

Justin Stoner of Brookside Elementary School in Worthington helped band "Sonic" in 2005. Justin was one of the winners that year in an annual contest for school students to select a nickname for the young falcons hatched in the Columbus peregrine falcon nest.



## Lightning Speed!

This crow-sized ace flier is known for its speed and grace. Peregrine falcons are capable of spectacular aerial maneuvers, and have been clocked at over 200 miles an hour while diving for prey. City peregrines feed mostly on birds such as sparrows, starlings, and pigeons. Using their great speed, they deliver a powerful blow to the prey with a half-closed foot. The peregrine then catches the dead bird in mid-air or picks it up when it falls to the ground.



## Watch Ohio Falcons Up Close!

You can learn more about Ohio's peregrine falcons by logging onto the Division of Wildlife's website at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com). You can get a special treat when you log onto the website in the spring and watch the Columbus peregrine pair and their young via the live FalconCam! Live streaming will begin on the website as soon as nest activity begins in the spring. If all goes well, watch LIVE as the eggs hatch in late April or early May.

### Falcon Cam Web Search

Navigate through the website to find the answers to the peregrine falcon quiz. Go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com) to begin.

1. Where do the FalconCam peregrines nest? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The peregrine falcon's scientific name is *Falco peregrinus*. What does the name mean? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a young falcon in the nest called? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which parent incubates the eggs and cares for the young? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name four other Ohio cities, that start with the letter "C" where peregrine falcons nest. (Hint: Click on "Ohio's Falcon Nests.") \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the closest peregrine falcon city to you? \_\_\_\_\_
7. List three other states or another country where the Columbus peregrine offspring have moved. (Hint: Click on "Tracking Columbus Falcons.") \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. One Columbus nest offspring named Buckeye moved to Cleveland and found a mate. How many offspring did they raise between 2000 and 2006? \_\_\_\_\_

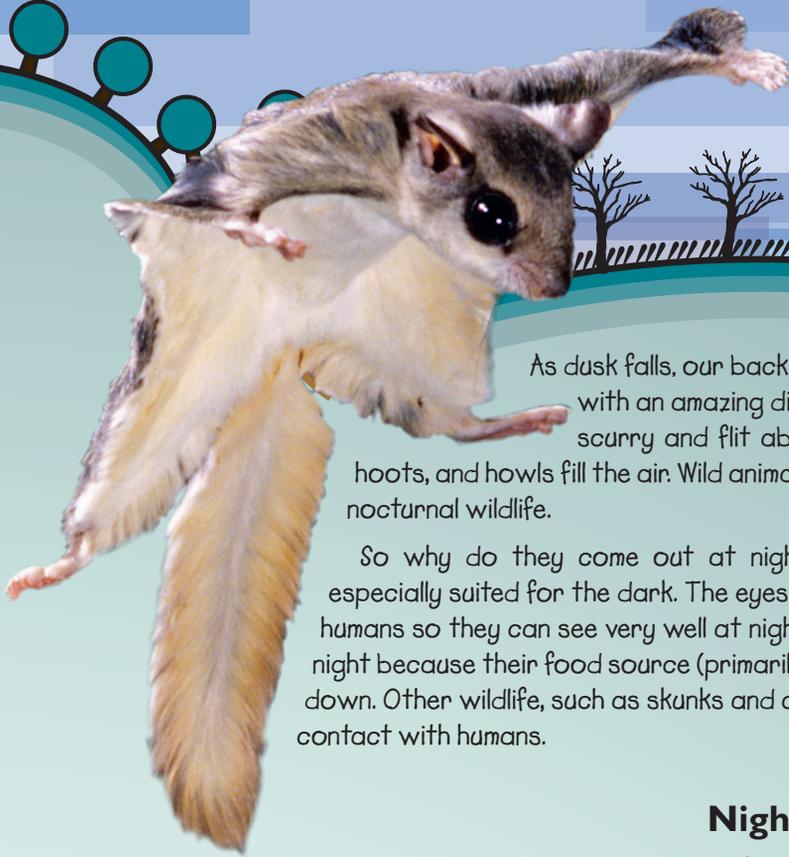
Answers on page 9

#### Page 2 Answers:

- 1) **b.** Leave them alone. Wild animals are very devoted parents and rarely abandon their young. In most cases, the animal parents are hidden nearby so they won't draw the attention of a predator. And it is not true that parents of a young wild animal will reject it if it has been touched by humans.
- 2) **c.** Ignore them until they go away. You should never feed any wild animal, except for songbirds. Feeding ducks and many other wild animals can make them sick or harm them in other ways.
- 3) **b.** Make your trash can "raccoon proof." Trash cans offer an easy meal for raccoons and other animals. Make sure it has a secure lid.
- 4) **a.** Wait until they leave in the evening and block their entryway. Bats make great neighbors because they eat pesky insects, like mosquitoes. But they sometimes make a home in attics. Once blocked from entering your attic, they will easily find a new place to live.



# What Lurks in



As dusk falls, our backyards come alive with an amazing diversity of wildlife. They scurry and flit about our yards and their night calls, hoots, and howls fill the air. Wild animals that are active at night are called nocturnal wildlife.

So why do they come out at night? Some wildlife have adaptations especially suited for the dark. The eyesight of owls is 100 times better than humans so they can see very well at night. Some animals such as bats hunt at night because their food source (primarily bugs) are active once the sun goes down. Other wildlife, such as skunks and coyotes, are night prowlers to avoid contact with humans.

## try this Insect Convention

Many nocturnal insects are attracted to light. Drape a white sheet across a shrub, fence, or clothesline in a dark spot of your yard after dark. Place a battery lantern or flashlight on the ground a few feet in front of the sheet with the light shining on the sheet. (A black light if available works even better). There are most likely over 100 different species of moths in your yard. Your sheet might soon look like an insect convention with a wide variety of insects in attendance!



## Nighttime Safari

You can do some of the best wildlife watching at night. So wait until dark, grab a flashlight, and step outside into the world of nocturnal wildlife! Turn on your flashlight and search around gardens, bushes, trees, rocks, water sources, porch lights, and street lights. Also listen for the calls of nocturnal wildlife. Some animals may be heard but not seen. For additional sensitivity, put a piece of red cellophane over your flashlight. You'll still be able to see the animals but the light won't bother them as much.

Write the name of the nocturnal animal below its photo and write the number of the correct caption that goes with each photo in the box.

1. The bumps on its skin are sometimes referred to as warts.
2. These little guys don't really fly, but are excellent gliders.
3. These animals use echolocation to find their prey in the dark. While flying, they send out high-pitched sounds that bounce off other objects including their prey. They listen for the bounced sound and can determine where prey is located.
4. Despite their name, they don't screech. Their call sounds more like a sad wail or a quivering voice, like a horse whinny.
5. These "bandits" have adapted very well to urban settings and are some of the most common city dwellers.
6. These creatures use a light producing organ in their abdomen to attract a mate.
7. Their call is made by rubbing their legs and wings together.
8. They are often found swarming around lights after dark.

Answers on page 10



**A**



**C**



**E**



**G**

# the Shadows?



**B**



**D**



**F**



**H**

## try this



### Moth Buffet

Moths, like butterflies, feed on nectar. Make a bowl of fruit mash with rotten fruit such as a mashed up banana and a little orange juice. Soak a sponge in the fruit mash. Poke a hole through the sponge and use the hole to hang the sponge on the end of a small branch of a tree. After dark check the sponge. Moths have straw-like tongues that allow them to suck the fruit from the sponge.



## Here are a few cool looking moths you might see



**Polyphemus Moth**



**Cecropia Moth**



**Luna Moth**

Page 16 Answers: A) Downy woodpecker, B) American robin, C) American goldfinch, D) Tree swallow, E) Ruby-throated hummingbird, F) House finch, G) Blue jay, H) Mourning dove, I) Carolina chickadee, J) Northern cardinal, Bonus question 1: Northern cardinal Bonus question 2: Mourning dove





## Go WILD in Your Schoolyard!

Would you like to see and learn about more wildlife right in your schoolyard? Over 80 Ohio schools now have WILD School Sites, and your school can too! You and your classmates can do hands-on projects to create habitat for wildlife. Just ask your teacher to call the Division of Wildlife's WILD School Site program at 1-800-WILD.LIFE.

### Ohio Schools that have WILD School Sites

<b>ASHTABULA</b>	<b>MCKINSEY ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>OSAGE</b>	<b>WESTERN RESERVE-ELLSWORTH EL.</b>
<b>ATHENS</b>	<b>ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>LUCAS</b>	<b>VINCENT ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL</b>		<b>CLAY HIGH SCHOOL</b>
	<b>MORRISON ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>MAHONING</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL</b>
<b>BUTLER</b>	<b>THE PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>		<b>JACKSON MILTON ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>FREEDOM ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>LYNN-KIRK ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>MARION</b>	<b>WESTERN RESERVE-ELLSWORTH EL.</b>
	<b>MAUDE MARSHALL ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>EPWORTH PRESCHOOL AND DAYCARE, INC</b>
	<b>MORGAN ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>MEDINA</b>	<b>TAFT (FAIR PARK) ELEMMENTARY</b>
	<b>SHAWNEE ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>HIGHLAND LOCAL</b>
	<b>UNION ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>MONTGOMERY</b>	<b>SHARON ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>WASHINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>MORROW</b>	<b>INDIAN RIFFLE ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>CHAMPAIGN</b>	<b>MECHANICSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>	<b>RICHLAND</b>	<b>JAMES A. GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL</b>
<b>COLUMBIANA</b>	<b>WESTGATE ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>ROSS</b>	<b>CENTRAL ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>CUYAHOGA</b>	<b>BASSETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>		<b>ADENA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b>
	<b>GREEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>STARK</b>	<b>UNION SCIOTO LOCAL SCHOOLS</b>
<b>DEFIANCE</b>	<b>HICKSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>		<b>ALLIANCE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>DELAWARE</b>	<b>BUCKEYE VALLEY WEST ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>FAIRFIELD</b>	<b>PICKERINGTON ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>SUMMIT</b>	<b>NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>FRANKLIN</b>	<b>GAHANNA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH</b>		<b>PLEASANT VIEW SCHOOL FOR ARTS</b>
	<b>HUBER RIDGE ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>ARROWHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>BARRETT ELEMENTARY</b>
	<b>THOMAS A EDISON ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>TUSCARAWAS</b>	<b>BATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>WILSON HILLS ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>UNION</b>	<b>DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>GEAUGA</b>	<b>WEST GEAUGA MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>		<b>FISHCREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>JEROME LIPPMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY</b>
<b>GREENE</b>	<b>FAIRBORN DIGITAL ACADEMY AT BLACK LANE EL.</b>		<b>LEDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>HAMILTON</b>	<b>ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF</b>		<b>OLD TRAIL SCHOOL</b>
<b>HANCOCK</b>	<b>CHAMBERLIN HILL ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>BUCKEYE CAREER CENTER</b>
	<b>VAN BUREN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>		<b>CLAIRBORNE-RICHWOOD ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>HENRY</b>	<b>HENRY COUNTY OUTDOOR ED. CENTER</b>		<b>JACKSON ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>HIGHLAND</b>	<b>FAIRFIELD LOCAL SCHOOLS</b>		<b>LEESBURG-MAGNETIC SPRINGS ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>HOLMES</b>	<b>HOLMESVILLE SCHOOL</b>		<b>RAYMOND ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>LAKE</b>	<b>LEROEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>WARREN</b>	<b>MASON CITY SCHOOLS ENVIRO. STUDY AREA</b>
<b>LAWRENCE</b>	<b>SYMMES VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>WASHINGTON</b>	<b>BARTLETT ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>LICKING</b>	<b>CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</b>		<b>CLARK CENTER ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL</b>
	<b>HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>WAYNE</b>	<b>CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>NEWTON ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>CORNERSTONE ELEMENTARY</b>
<b>LORAIN</b>	<b>HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY</b>		<b>TRIWAY JUNIOR HIGH</b>
	<b>LINDEN SCHOOL</b>		<b>WOOSTER HIGH SCHOOL</b>



**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-WILD.LIFE

#### DISTRICT ONE

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

#### DISTRICT TWO

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

#### DISTRICT THREE

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

#### DISTRICT FOUR

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

#### DISTRICT FIVE

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

[WWW.WILD.OHIO.COM](http://WWW.WILD.OHIO.COM)

