

Wild Ohio

Spring 2010

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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WILD OHIO (ISSN 1061-1541) is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE

To subscribe, send requests to the address below. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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

Total distribution: 125,000
Total Paid/Requested Circulation: 95,606
Total free distribution: 29,394

1-800-WILDLIFE
for general information

1-888-HOOKFISH
for Lake Erie fishing report

1-800-POACHER
to report poaching

wildohio.com
division Web site

Total Copies Printed: 110,000 Unit Cost: 0.XXX Publication Date: XXXX

ON THE WEB

LOG ONTO THE DIVISION'S LIVE FALCON CAM
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Falcon Cam

A live, Web-based video stream
of an active peregrine falcon nest

Join the thousands of viewers across the country to watch peregrine falcons nesting on a ledge on the 41st floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus.

The ever popular Falcon Cam gained attention from 30,000 individuals during the peregrine falcon nesting season last year and more than 2,500 people watched the live falcon banding via the Web cam.



You can help fund the peregrine falcon management program by donating to the Wildlife and Endangered Species Fund by checking the appropriate box on your state income tax form.

ON THE WEB



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Show your love of Ohio wildlife with the new WildOhio gear. Whether you're a hunter, angler, or wildlife enthusiast, you'll find something to fit your style. Just click the e-store button on wildohio.com or visit wildohioshop.com for one-of-a-kind wildlife caps, tees, and more!

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WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

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Columbus, OH 43229

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CERULEAN WARBLER
PHOTO BY BRIAN ZWIEBEL

COVER FEATURE

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



BANDED DARTER

ON THE COVER: RAINBOW DARTER
A male rainbow darter in breeding colors rival our most colorful songbirds for sheer showiness.



DARTERS: JEWELS OF THE STREAM

Tiny but colorful, Ohio streams play host to 19 showy darters. **6-7**

FEATURES

WHAT MAKES A GOOD HUNTER?

Ten lucky young essay winners get the hunt of a lifetime.

8-9

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Birders and Hunters • They have much more in common than you might think.

10-11

THE CERULEAN WARBLER

Singing the Blues • Research is providing new information about the plight of the cerulean warbler and ways we can conserve this neotropical migrant.

16-17

A PASSION FOR BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY

An interview with Russell Reynolds, whose winning photograph appears on the inaugural Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp.

18

DEPARTMENTS

- 4** WILD THINGS • **NEWS FROM AROUND OHIO**
- 12** WATCHABLE WILDLIFE • **TIGER BEETLE**
- 14** WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT • **FIELD NOTES**
- 15** OUTDOOR SKILLS • **HOW OLD IS YOUR FISH?**
- 19** FOR WILD KIDS • **WORM HOTEL ▶**
- 20** BACKYARDS FOR WILDLIFE • **MAKING A BRUSH PILE**
- 21** WILD GAME GOURMET • **WILD TURKEY & FISH RECIPES**
- 22** READER'S PHOTOS • **IMAGES FROM AROUND OHIO**



NIGHTCRAWLER



News from Around Ohio

TWO NEW STATE RECORD SUNFISH CERTIFIED

An Ohio state record warmouth sunfish weighing 1.32 pounds (10.75 inches) was caught by Douglas Koenig of Salem, Ohio last July. He landed his fish from a Mahoning County farm pond. His catch replaces the previous state record 1.19-pound warmouth caught from LaDue Reservoir in 2006.



Another state record was also certified last summer – a pumpkinseed sunfish weighing 1.10 pounds (10.5 inches) caught by Scott Boykin of Uniontown, Ohio. He caught his pumpkinseed in a farm pond in Portage County last June. His record replaced the previous state record .75-pound pumpkinseed caught in 2001.

Ohio state record fish are certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. For more information on Ohio's state record fish program contact Tom Cross, Chairman, OWO State Record Fish Committee, 1497 Cross Rd., Winchester, OH 45697; (937) 386-2752; outdoorwritersofohio.org.



CHANGES IN FISHING REGULATIONS

After public input from open houses across the state, the Ohio Wildlife Council approved changes that will affect crappies in 44 inland lakes, Ohio River catfish, and Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch.

The council voted to add 38 lakes to the current list of six lakes that have nine-inch minimum size limits on crappies. A bag limit of 30 crappies on all lakes with nine-inch size limits was also passed. Check the 2010-2011 Ohio Fishing Regulations Brochure (Publication 84) for a list of the 44 lakes that now have a nine-inch minimum size limit and bag limit of 30 crappies. Ohio River anglers will be allowed only one channel catfish 28 inches or longer with no limit for channel catfish under 28 inches. In addition, only one flathead and one blue catfish 35 inches or longer may be possessed with no limit for flathead and blue catfish under 35 inches.

Also passed was a change in the timing of when bag limits are set for Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch. New bag limits will become effective on May 1 instead of March 1. Changing this effective date allows for the walleye and yellow perch quotas set by the Lake Erie Committee to be considered prior to setting the bag limits.

KINCAID STATE FISH HATCHERY RENOVATION

Kincaid State Fish Hatchery in Pike County is undergoing building improvements that will give the hatchery egg hatching capabilities. Building improvements include fingerling troughs that will allow staff to hatch more than 100,000 muskellunge eggs and raise 25,000 fry until they reach the four-inch fingerling stage. Kincaid staff raises muskellunge, hybrid striped bass, and rainbow trout that are stocked in public lakes across Ohio.

Due to the construction, the hatchery is temporarily closed for visitation until April 1.

DIVISION AWARDED AGENCY OF THE YEAR

The Division of Wildlife was named Quality Deer Management Association Agency of the Year for its dedication to the quality deer management philosophy and the positive results it has yielded. The Division was honored for "extraordinary results from new programs it has established, as well as through continued efforts to maintain excellence in seasoned programs."

Some examples of white-tailed deer management improvements enacted last fall by the Division include making a reduced-cost permit available during archery season that resulted in the harvest of more antlerless deer earlier in the season, as well as the harvest of fewer bucks than in previous years. Other programs include numerous controlled deer hunts, including hunts designated for people with mobility disabilities, youth, and women. The goal of the hunts is to present those who do not have access to hunting an opportunity to harvest game.



ATHENS FOOD BANKS RECEIVE DONATION

On the eve of the opening day of archery season in Ohio last September, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce made a \$1,000 donation to the Athens area chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Through the FHFH program, the Division of Wildlife will provide a matching \$1,000 to assist in the processing costs associated with donating venison to the food banks.

Last year the chapter had 148 deer donated, processed, and delivered to food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the region. On average, each deer can provide protein for 200 meals.

Hunters who wish to donate their deer to the program can find a participating processor nearest them at fhfh.org. Local Ohio FHFH chapter coordinators and more participating meat processors are needed. Those interested can visit the "Local FHFH" page at fhfh.org.

YOUTH PERCHFEST WINNERS

Trey and Leslie Pamer came out big winners while fishing with their dad and grandpa at the Lake County PerchFest last September. Trey, age 12, won first place in the youth division and first place for the largest perch in the youth division. His sister Leslie, age 10, placed fourth in the youth division. It was her first time perch fishing.

This year's PerchFest is September 10, 11, and 12. Go to perchfest.net or call 1-800-368-LAKE (5253).



OHIO ANGLER IS JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION

Daryk Eckert, of Stockport, became Ohio's first-ever junior angler world champion at the FLW (Forest L. Wood), National Guard Junior World Championship last August. He received first place in the 11 to 14 age bracket with three bass weighing 2 pounds, 12 ounces.

The junior anglers were paired with an FLW Outdoors Pro for the competition on the Allegheny River in Kittanning, Pennsylvania. First-place finishers in each age bracket received a \$5,000 scholarship in addition to a \$200 Walmart gift card courtesy of Goodwill.

Designed to highlight the best up-and-coming bass fishing talent in the country, the National Guard Junior World Championship also provides national recognition for the positive activities pursued by America's youth.



Wildlife

CALENDAR

March 10, 2010

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

- Aladdin Shrine Center •

Columbus, Ohio
This year's theme is "It all Makes Sense!" featuring insects, paddlefish, wild boar, saw-whet owls, skunks, small mammals, and wind power.

March 15-19, 2010

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

nationalwildlifeweek@nwf.org

May 6-16, 2010

BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING

see insert card for details

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR "WILD SCHOOL SITES"

Ohio teachers who have successfully used Project WILD in their classrooms can now provide students additional hands-on learning about wildlife and habitat through grants available from the Division of Wildlife.

Grants totaling \$500 each will be awarded on a competitive basis to 40 schools currently participating in Project WILD, a supplemental environmental education curriculum for grades K-12.

Funding for the "WILD School Site" grant program comes from state income tax check-off donations to the Wildlife Diversity Fund and fees generated from the sale of cardinal license plates.

Deadline for applications is May 31 to the Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229. Complete details of the grant program and an application packet can be found at wildohio.com. To learn more about Project WILD or to find an area workshop, please call 1-800-WILDLIFE.

By Jim McCormac

DARTERS:

Jewels of the Stream



Tiny fish lurk in our waterways that are every bit as showy as rainbow-hued aquarium specimens. They are darters; warblers of the underwater world. Male darters in breeding colors rival our most colorful songbirds for sheer showiness – the fish are just harder to observe.

Darters are tiny: one of Ohio's smallest, the Tippecanoe darter, tapes out at less than two inches. The largest are the logperch and greenside darters. Truly elephantine by darter standards, a whopper of either might hit 6 ½ inches.

Most darters are torrent specialists, thriving in the riffles and chutes of rushing streams. The majority of species lack air bladders; they sink rather than float. This adaptation serves these elfin members of the perch family well, by allowing the fish to better anchor themselves on the stream bottom. Propped up and held in place by stiff pectoral fins, darters lurk in the cobble, darting about in rapid spurts as they hunt tiny macroinvertebrate prey.

There are about 244 species and subspecies of darters, and nearly all occur in the eastern U.S. Scientific exploration of these aquatic sprites is quite active, and new species are being described

with regularity. The epicenter of darter diversity is the southern Appalachians, with the Ozarks a close second. For instance, Tennessee might well be re-dubbed the "Darter State"; an incredible 52 darter species have been documented in its streams. As one moves further from these darter hotspots, species diversity drops, but Ohio still plays host to 19 species.

Few underwater critters are as engaging as darters. When water temperatures and daylight length hit a certain mark in early spring, the males shift into their breeding colors. We're talking knock your socks off beautiful! The most colorful species rival anything to be found in salt water aquariums. Some of the names hint at their multicolored flamboyance: bluebreast, orangethroat, and rainbow darters. Those are just a few of the Ohio species. Elsewhere, one might find coppercheek, emerald, firebelly, and strawberry darters. These are appropriately charismatic names for enchanting little perches.

PHOTO BY: BRIAN ZIMMERMAN



Bluebreast darter

The purpose of these gaudy colors is to attract the girls. Once a match has been made, and a female fertilized, she'll dump her eggs. Lots of eggs. Some species can produce in excess of 1,000, and most bear at least a few hundred. Many darter species are hardly doting parents; the female merely buries her roe in the stream bottom and leaves. The eggs are without protection, and later the young must fend for themselves.

A much better piscine role model is the fantail darter. This species and a few others build hollowed-out shelters under rocks, in which the female sticks her eggs. The vigilant male guards the nest until the eggs hatch.

Darters are integral to the ecology of streams. Not only are they important predators of lower life forms, they in turn provide food for other animals such as larger fish, water snakes, and belted

kingfishers. A fascinating example of how darters fit into a bigger web involves a bivalve, or clam. The Northern riffleshell is among the rarest of the rare amongst bivalves, and is listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In order for a riffleshell to successfully reproduce, a gravid female must blast miniature immature clams – known as glochidia – into the gills of an appropriate host fish. The clamlets don't hurt the fish, and once they mature to a suitable size they'll drop off and begin a long life on the creek bottom.

One of few riffleshell populations in Ohio occurs in Big Darby Creek; not coincidentally one of the best remaining streams in the Midwest. Commonplace in the stream section where the riffleshells are found are darters galore. That's a good thing: various darter species are thought to be primary hosts for Northern riffleshells; the scaly yin for the clammy yang.



Banded darter

The Buckeye State once hosted 22 species of darters, but three are extirpated – gone from the state. Of the 19 that remain, eight are considered endangered, threatened, or of special concern. In a nutshell, fully half the darter species recorded in Ohio have disappeared or are imperiled to some degree.

These are alarming statistics and proof of the importance of water quality to the conservation of these finny treasures. As inveterate bottom-dwellers, darters are especially vulnerable to excessive siltation. When too much dirt washes into a stream, it can cover up the gravelly stream bottoms that darters require, essentially smothering their habitat. Many Ohio streams have suffered this fate, or been damaged by other forms of pollution. Channelization – turning a natural stream into a linear ditch, essentially – really does a number on darter habitat. Of Ohio's 61,532 miles of creeks and rivers, thousands of miles

have been straightened and dredged. The resulting damage to darter populations, and other aquatic animals, is incalculable.

There is hope. Adversely impacted streams can be fixed, in some cases. A case in point is Mac-O-Chee Creek, not far from Bellefontaine in Logan County. This cool, partly spring-fed brook had long been channelized – straightened into a furrow devoid of many of the aquatic habitats that it once had.

In 2007, the Division of Wildlife entered into a partnership with the landowner, Piatt Castles, and Oxbow River and Stream Restoration, Inc. The end result was the reestablishment of 1,500 feet of topnotch natural stream habitat. The "new" creek is full of bends and riffles, and aquatic fauna such as darters are returning.



Rainbow darter

Thanks to overall improvements in water quality in recent decades due to tightened stream protection standards, darters are expanding into areas where they haven't been seen in decades. Fish expert Brian Zimmerman, who studies darters throughout Ohio, reports exciting new range expansions of a number of species. He has found sand darters, for instance, in the Maumee River – the first record in 65 years! Zimmerman feels that most darter species are responding positively to better stream conditions, and will continue to expand as long as stream protection standards remain strong.

Even though the average person may never see a darter in the flesh, they'll probably be glad to know that darters enrich our streams. Thanks to the conservation efforts of organizations like The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and the many other organizations that look after the well-being of our waterways, there should always be darters swimming in our waters.

To learn more about darters, visit our "A to Z Species Guide" at wildohio.com.

Last spring, Ohio's youth responded to that question for the chance to participate in the Governor's Spring Youth Turkey Hunt. The hunt was an opportunity of a lifetime. Youth were paired with an expert turkey hunting guide and a celebrity hunting partner. The list of celebrities was impressive, from NFL players and a former OSU football coach, to award winning turkey callers and pro-staffers.

The camaraderie was exceptional. Youth from around the state met and visited with other youth and celebrities that have a shared interest in hunting. The hunt was exciting. Every one of the young hunters heard and pursued gobblers that morning. After the hunt was over each hunter went home with new friendships, memories, and probably an autograph or two.

Perhaps the most important reminder of this experience is the explanation of what makes a good hunter from the perspective of Ohio's youth. These essays give insight into future generations that will one day lead the charge of conserving our natural resources.



CONSERVATION, SAFETY, AND RESPECT SCORE BIG

Several essays focused on the importance of conservation, including Noah Ulrey of Wapakoneta, whose essay scored the highest among entries. Noah's high scores on his essay scored him a hunting spot with Governor Strickland and turkey calling legend Walter Parrott. Noah explained that "Good hunters are dedicated to the ethical stewardship and protection of our earth's natural resources and wildlife."

One of the prerequisites for entering the essay contest was the completion of a hunter education course. The lessons of safety were well remembered by the authors. Albert Bo Ray Huffman of Newark wrote that "The good hunter is always aware of his surroundings and his target. He knows his safe shooting range, and does not shoot at footsteps, shadows or movement." Marysville resident Benjamin Day noted that "Without safety, injuries would appear too often and hunting would become a thing of the past."

Affirming the lesson that regulations are a part of hunting safety, Travis Nieman of Cincinnati included in his definition that "A good hunter is lawful, trustworthy, and obedient; follows the rules of hunting; and is serious about

safety – he associates with others who feel the same." Furthering the expression that actions speak louder than words, Stephen Collopy of Ashville declared that "A good hunter is a role model for other hunters."

Listing several hunter attributes, Alexandria Cope of Alliance drew literary comparison of a good hunter to a recipe that called for equal parts "passion, safety, marksmanship, patience, and determination."

The attitude of respect was a common theme in many of the young hunters' writings. Dalton Rodgers of West Carrollton articulated his thoughts on respect by stating "I think that a good hunter is someone that has a great respect for the outdoors and wildlife, who is strong in their beliefs and ethics, and someone who cares for and puts back into the land." Monclova resident Christian Hoercherl's essay read "...You can show respect for landowners by asking permission to hunt and taking care of their land..." Fort Loramie native Janelle Gephart echoed the sentiments of respect in her essay, writing "When hunting, she treats the animals with respect, does her best to take game cleanly and humanely, and respects the property of others."

GOOD HUNTER ?

by Susie Vance

HANDING DOWN TRADITIONS

Readers of these essays can conclude that the traditions of hunting in Ohio are being passed on to the next generation. To those who strive to educate youth about our natural resources – who pass along their knowledge, care, and understanding of the outdoors – those lessons are being learned.

Returning to the reflections of Noah Ulrey, “A good hunter reveres all life and shows his love for God’s great outdoors by helping to conserve our natural resources while passing on his passion for hunting to others.”

PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH HUNTERS:

NOAH ULREY
Wapakoneta

TIFFANY HOPKINS
Georgetown

ALEXANDRIA COPE
Alliance

TRAVIS NIEMAN
Cincinnati

JANELLE GEPHART
Fort Loramie

STEPHEN COLLOPY III
Ashville

BENJAMIN DAY
Marysville

DALTON ROGERS
Carollton

CHRISTIAN HOECHERL
Monclova

ALBERT BO RAY HUFFMAN
Newark

GUIDES:

WALTER PARROTT

BILL MAY

RUSS FAULHABER

SCOTT BARE

JASON JALUTKEWICZ

GREG HEATON

DOUG WALLEN

ERIC TRAYNOR

RYAN BATES

KENDELL KEATON

ALLAN WRIGHT

In memory of Charles Murrey, Governor's Hunt guide and avid sportsman who was dedicated to passing the hunting tradition on to Ohio's youth.

HUNTERS:

TED STRICKLAND
Governor

SEAN LOGAN
ODNR Director

RICH MILLESON
ODNR Deputy Director

TONY CELEBREZZE
ODNR Deputy Director

DAVE GRAHAM
ODNR Division of Wildlife Chief

JOHN COOPER
Retired OSU Football Coach

JOHN HOHENWARTER
National Rifle Association Representative

SHANE HENDERSHOT
Zink Calls pro-staff and turkey calling champion

JOSH GROSSENBACHER
Zink Calls pro-staff and turkey calling champion

JORDAN PALMER
Cincinnati Bengals player

COREY LYNCH
Tampa Bay Buccaneers player (former Cincinnati Bengals player)

JEFF DAVIDSON
Bass Pro Staff



FINDING COMMON GROUND

B I R D E R S & H U N T E R S

by Mary Warren

They both care about wildlife and they both look forward to their first day in pursuit of their targeted species. They both spend a lot of money on their hobby, are willing to share their enthusiasm with others, and most importantly, both are conservationists that work to preserve habitat.

Who am I talking about? Birders and hunters.

Not surprisingly, these two groups have some misconceptions about one another – unless, of course, they participate in both birding and hunting. The reality is that these two groups have much more in common than either might suspect. Pete Dunne, an author and birding expert, puts it this way, “Both pursuits are avenues that allow me to engage in the natural world. When I carry my binoculars I am a member of the audience, watching a drama on stage. When I carry a gun, I become an actor in the play. I am comfortable doing either.”

Chip Gross, former Wild Ohio magazine editor, has a similar sentiment: “Maybe that’s the difference between wildlife watchers and hunters – participation.

Hunters participate in the endless cycle of life and death, predator and prey, while watchers simply observe. And I am not saying that mere observation of the natural world is somehow wrong or incomplete. But if ever a person chooses to walk down out of the stands and onto the playing field, he or she will come to know what only the hunter knows.”

One person that I spoke to said that he feels hunting and birding go hand in hand. There is a lot of “down” time hunting, and watching birds helps to pass the time. He says he can always find something interesting to observe.

I work in a place where the two main pursuits are birding and hunting, so I have had the opportunity to interact with both groups. Although I do not hunt (but love to fish!), I am a birder. I thought Wild Ohio would be a timely vehicle to write about the common ground among the two groups and suggest ways that both groups can relate in more effective ways.

It begins by dispelling the myths and learning the facts. That is not to say that all birders should become hunters or all hunters should become birders. But by understanding where each group is coming from, we can find ways to work together to conserve habitat. I think that is the key to coming closer together.

COMMON MYTHS

MYTH 1: BIRDERS CAN'T BE HUNTERS AND HUNTERS CAN'T BE BIRDERS

Tammy Koenig grew up on her grandpa's farm and quickly became an excellent shot. But the thought of seeing large animals hunted, animals that reminded her of her horse or pet cow, just didn't seem right to her. That all changed when she met her future husband.

At first she thought she would change him, but after a few trips in the field with him, she was thrilled to receive a bow as a birthday gift. She did it her way, practicing on targets and spending a lot of time at her grandpa's farm gaining knowledge and confidence. Tammy turned her hunting hobby into a full time career and is on national TV and teaches women's archery and bow hunting classes. So sometimes, coming full circle is possible.

On the other side of the coin, my son-in-law has always enjoyed hunting, but only recently has begun to notice what birds are stopping or nesting in his backyard. Or should I say he did notice them before as he has excellent observation skills, but now he wants to know the names of the birds that he sees and how he can attract different species to his property. The grandkids too, with grandma's help of course, enjoy watching the birds and have their own binoculars and bird books.



MYTH 2: BIRDERS ARE ANTI-HUNTING

Hunters kill birds and birders watch birds. How could the two have anything in common? In my opinion, hunters often feel uncomfortable and get very defensive when they encounter birders. And likewise, birders who run into hunters are not at ease either, probably because they have had little or no experience with hunters.

So what's a birder or hunter to do? Start with learning about why each enjoys their hobby and what they get excited about. Learn when the warblers are migrating and know the hunting seasons. Respect that each is experiencing wildlife in their preferred way and that is okay.

MYTH 3: HUNTERS ARE PUSHING SPECIES TOWARDS EXTINCTION

On the contrary, wildlife populations are strictly managed and harvests are regulated. The seasons and bag limits are based on scientific data. The vast wilderness continent that greeted our nation's early settlers has largely disappeared. Wildlife is forced to survive on shrinking habitat. As Aldo Leopold wrote, "No living man will see again the long-grass prairie, where a sea of prairie flowers lapped at the stirrups of the pioneers... No living man will see again the virgin pineries of the Lake States, or the flat woods of the coastal plain, or the giant hardwoods..." Even today, the loss of habitat remains the single greatest threat to wildlife.

It helps to know that birding is a relatively new adventure, but has been increasing in popularity since the 1970s. Hunting has been around much longer, but has declined in participation in recent years. Did you notice that Ohio's 2009-2010 hunting regulations lists the Audubon Christmas bird counts on the inside front cover? Again, when one group understands and acknowledges the other, respect follows. Instead of seeing the worst of each other, maybe in the future we can focus on the best of each other.

COMMON GROUND.... STAMPING OUT THE DIVIDE

And so it is the acquisition and the protection of habitat that will bring hunters and birders together. A true conservationist is one who goes beyond supporting their favorite organization, be it the National Rifle Association or National Audubon Society, because they get a cool hat or calendar. They may contribute by putting their convictions into action, helping at their local parks, wildlife refuges, rivers, and streams.

Hunters have long "paid their way" by the purchase of a Migratory Bird Hunting and

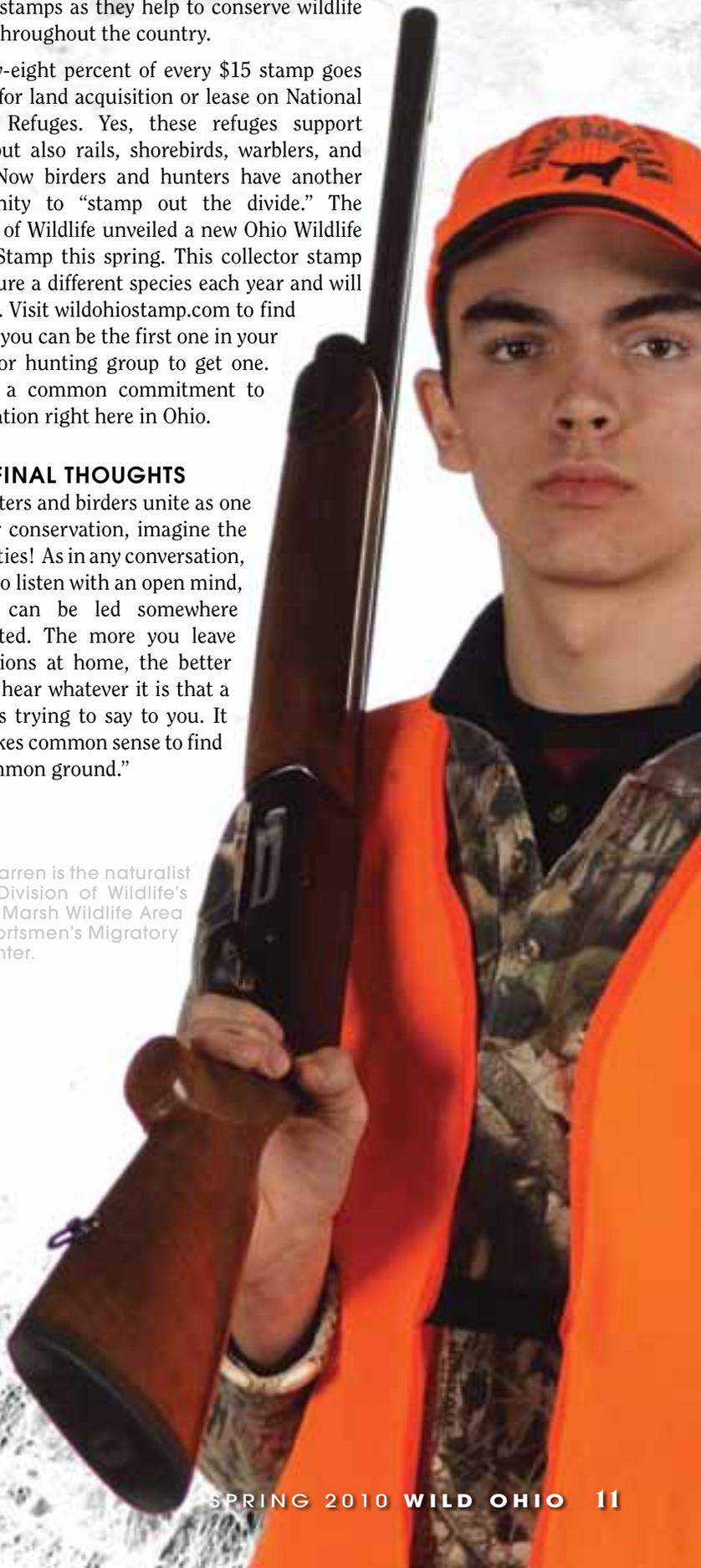
Conservation stamp, most popularly known as the "Duck Stamp." Hunters pay lots of fees to hunt, where birders can use the same public areas for free. But birders too are beginning to buy the stamps as they help to conserve wildlife habitat throughout the country.

Ninety-eight percent of every \$15 stamp goes directly for land acquisition or lease on National Wildlife Refuges. Yes, these refuges support ducks, but also rails, shorebirds, warblers, and wrens! Now birders and hunters have another opportunity to "stamp out the divide." The Division of Wildlife unveiled a new Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp this spring. This collector stamp will feature a different species each year and will cost \$15. Visit wildohiostamp.com to find out how you can be the first one in your birding or hunting group to get one. Make it a common commitment to conservation right here in Ohio.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If hunters and birders unite as one voice for conservation, imagine the possibilities! As in any conversation, it helps to listen with an open mind, so you can be led somewhere unexpected. The more you leave assumptions at home, the better you can hear whatever it is that a person is trying to say to you. It only makes common sense to find the "common ground."

Mary Warren is the naturalist at the Division of Wildlife's Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center.





Claybank tiger beetle (*Cicindela limbalis*), one of our rarest species.



The tusk-like mandibles of this six-spotted tiger beetle make it a formidable predator.



OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Jim McCormac

If you believe in reincarnation, pull whatever strings possible to avoid coming back as a small insect. Your demise is not likely to be pleasant. And for a small bug, capture by a tiger beetle is the worst imaginable fate.

Tiger beetles are the cheetahs of the insect world. Some authorities claim that in proportion to other animals these colorful beetles are the fastest runners of any land animals. Flat out, a tiger beetle can hit five mph, which is incredible given that they average little over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. Their prey has little hope of escape.

There are plenty of tiger beetles zooming about: an estimated 2,100 species are known worldwide. The pickings are far slimmer in Ohio, where only 20 species occur. Of the Ohio species, several are rare, such as the claybank tiger beetle (*Cicindela limbalis*), which is only known from one locale.

Many tiger beetles glitter like jewels, their shiny carapaces (shells) colored in iridescent hues of copper, green, blue or purple. A number of species are adorned with squiggles known as maculations; these intricate markings resemble Egyptian hieroglyphics.

As showy as tiger beetles are, they can be surprisingly hard to spot. Fond of barren habitats such as sandy blowouts, river gravel bars, and eroding dirt banks, the beetles' ornate markings serve to blend them with the substrate.

A conspicuous exception is the six-spotted tiger beetle (*Cicindela sexguttata*). Their lustrous green shells are nearly incandescent, making six-spots easy to detect. They frequent shaded woodland paths and openings, and are often seen darting ahead of the hiker, flitting off only to re-land 10 or 20 feet up the trail.

Tiger beetles are consummate hunters, using their incredibly long stilt-like legs to rocket after potential victims. Nearly anything up to their size is fair game, and woe to the creature that enters the sphere of a hunting tiger beetle. Bulging goggle eyes don't miss a trick, and once the victim is locked onto the beetle's radar, it shoots out with the acceleration of a Ferrari.

Quick as a wink, the prey is pounced on and the tiger beetle makes fast work of it, gnashing down with enormous scimitar-



The pale shell of a ghost tiger beetle (*Cicindela lepida*) allows it to blend with dry sands.
Photo by John Pogacnik.



Photo by Jim McCormac

Mating pair of festive tiger beetles (*Cicindela scutellaris*).

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Photo by Warren Uxley

Six-spotted Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela sexguttata*), a common Ohio tiger beetle.

Tiger Beetles

shaped mandibles. A bit of slicing and dicing, and the beetle carves its meal into pieces which it greedily wolfs down.

While being captured by one of these brutish insects may sound like a horror show – and it is if you are the meal – tiger beetle larvae are even more nightmarish. These big grubs bore deep burrows into the soil, and wait at the entrance to ambush passing prey. Their heads are flattened and soil-colored, sealing off the burrow entrance and effectively rendering the trap nearly undetectable. When something catchable bumbles near, the grub flips from the burrow with astonishing speed, and snares the target with powerful mandibles. Should the meal be strong enough to fight back, the grub uses specialized hooks to grasp the walls of its chamber and avoid being pulled out. After a short struggle, the prey will be pared into fragments and eaten.

High-end predators, whether they are insect, bird, or mammal, are often barometers of environmental health. This is certainly true of tiger beetles. Many species are habitat specialists, and their haunts have become imperiled. Protection of tiger beetle habitats, such as the Meilke Road Savanna Wildlife Area in Lucas County, will also conserve an entire suite of other species.

Look for tiger beetles in habitats with plenty of barren areas. Large gravel bars along rivers are good spots, as are open sandy places, including Lake Erie beaches.

Shaded woodland paths are great places to find six-spotted tiger beetles. Excellent sites to seek tiger beetles include Meilke Road Savanna Wildlife Area (Lucas County), and the beach at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Ottawa County); road banks in Shawnee State Forest (Scioto County); and along the boardwalk through Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserve (Hardin County).



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

SHOT FIRED AT STATE WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Three Champaign County men were apprehended last October when they shot at a state wildlife officer's cruiser, hitting the windshield with two state wildlife officers inside. The two officers were in the cruiser parked in a field on surveillance looking for poachers.

The suspect's vehicle pulled into the field and its headlights were directed at the cruiser. One shot was fired hitting the cruiser in the front windshield. Officers turned on their emergency lights and the suspects fled. Officers pursued the suspects 4.5 miles from Johnson Township to Concord Township, and the three suspects were apprehended with assistance from the Ohio Highway Patrol and Champaign County Sheriff Office.

On December 10, 2009, Champaign County Prosecutor Nick A. Selvaggio announced the return of three indictments by the Champaign County Grand Jury against the three men responsible for the October 30, 2009 shooting. Indicted were: Todd M. Noel, of Urbana, Ohio; Jesse W. Coffey of St. Paris, Ohio; and Jacob E. Shepherd of St. Paris, Ohio. "The 13-count indictment against Noel and Coffey and the 11-count indictment against Shepherd consist of multiple criminal code violations and hunter-specific code violations. In drafting the indictment, I wanted the grand jury to consider state laws not only applicable to the shooting, but also to the circumstances that led up to the shooting. Evidentiary factors supporting the unlawful hunting violations include hunting out of season, using an unauthorized type of

firearm, hunting without the permission of the landowner, causing physical harm to property and persons, and in Noel's case, not having a hunting license and deer permit," said Prosecutor Selvaggio.

"However, the criminal code violations that address the actual act of discharging the firearm and fleeing from the scene carry the heaviest sentencing potential," Selvaggio added.

Investigators from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio State Highway Patrol jointly assisted Prosecutor Selvaggio in presenting offense-related information to the grand jury.

The three men pled "Not Guilty" in the Champaign County Court of Common Pleas on December 29, 2009, at their arraignment. The cases are pending.

GINSENG PROBE REVEALS OVER 50 VIOLATORS

Ohio Division of Wildlife officers began an investigation early last fall that identified more than 50 violators and more than 120 violations of Ohio's ginseng law. As of this writing, approximately 200 pounds of dried ginseng has been seized by Ohio wildlife officers and agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The investigation, which included interviews with many Ohio ginseng dealers and diggers, continues with additional charges and suspects expected. Charges to date include digging ginseng without landowner permission, collecting or possessing ginseng during the closed season, failure to maintain records, and failure to certify ginseng prior to export.

Ohio certifies approximately 3,000 pounds of American ginseng, referred to as "Ohio's Green Gold," for export annually. There are 46 licensed ginseng dealers in the state and an estimated 2,000-4,000 diggers. Ginseng is one of the most sought-after medicinal plants in the world. The value of the dried wild root varies like most other commodities, but was as high as \$1,000 per pound in 2007. Ginseng's market value varies greatly from day to day; today's market value for quality ginseng is around \$500.

FINES AND RESTITUTION FOR DEER POACHER

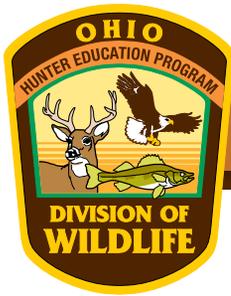
A Guernsey County man who pled guilty to wildlife-related charges was sentenced last August for the illegal taking of a buck white-tailed deer. After receiving a tip, an investigation led wildlife officers to a residence in Cambridge, where they found a buck deer in full velvet that the man had shot with a .270 rifle. The buck scored 143 2/8.

The poacher pled guilty to three wildlife charges including taking a deer during a closed season, possessing an untagged deer, and hunting without a valid hunting license. He was ordered to pay restitution and court costs that totaled \$3,891. His sentence also included 10 days of suspended jail time, a two-year hunting license revocation, two years probation, and forfeiture of the rifle used to kill the deer.

MAN RECEIVES STIFF PENALTIES FOR INTERSTATE TRAFFICKING OF DEER

On a federal level, another Guernsey County man was convicted last fall of interstate trafficking in live deer that hadn't been tested for disease. A 12-member federal jury found him guilty of 14 counts involving the sale and transport of 54 white-tailed deer to a hunting preserve in South Carolina in 2005. The man agreed to pay \$150,000 in fines and \$100,000 in contributions to wildlife funds. He also faces up to five years in prison.

State and federal law prohibits moving deer across state lines if they have not been tested for diseases such as tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease. The U.S. attorney's office said his actions posed potentially devastating risks to the hunting and cattle industries and public health in South Carolina.



Tiny to Trophy: Measuring Fish Growth

by Chris Aman, Fisheries Biologist

As fish hatch from eggs this spring, they emerge as “larval” fish a fraction of an inch long. To avoid being eaten, keep up with rapidly growing prey, and grow large enough to reproduce, they must increase their size by many times during their first few years. How long till these tiny fish are ready for the frying pan? Ohio Division of Wildlife biologists have a few tricks for finding out, and in the process, learn how to better manage Ohio fisheries.

As fish grow, they deposit layers of minerals on body parts like scales and bones. These minerals form rings that can show a fish’s age. During times of fast growth, like summer, these rings are wide. As growth slows in winter, they tighten, followed by a sudden change in ring pattern when growth begins again in spring. This sudden change is called an “annulus.” By counting these annuli, biologists can determine a fish’s age, much like counting the rings on a tree!

Biologists typically use two structures to determine fish age. Scales are most commonly used, as several may be easily and harmlessly removed from the side of a fish. After removal, scales are pressed into a thin sheet of acetate to form a clear impression, and read under a microfiche projector or microscope. Alternatively, ear stones, called *otoliths*

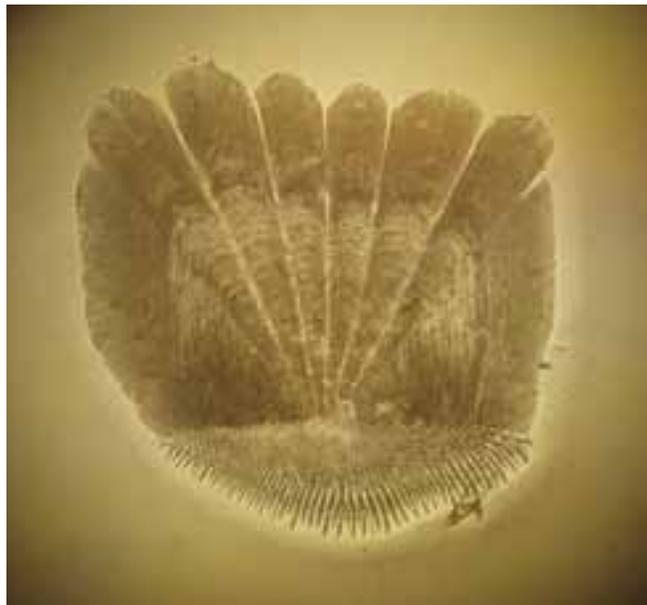
are used. Otoliths are more difficult to remove, but offer more accurate records of older fish’s age.

Growth rate can tell biologists a lot about a fish population. In lakes with lots of available food, fish grow rapidly, whereas

grow better at different temperatures, comparing growth rates across several lakes may suggest which lakes offer a better environment for a given species. By comparing fish growth to population sizes and prey numbers, fisheries biologists can adjust regulations or stocking rates to improve fishing.

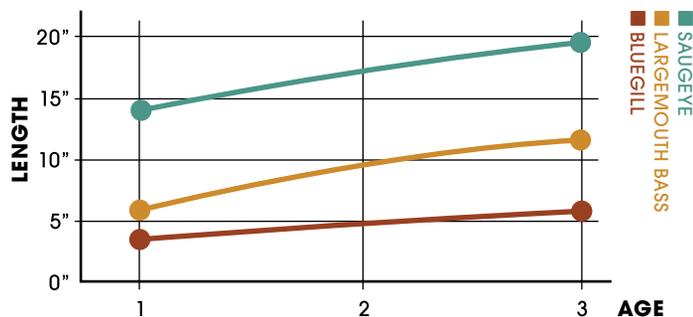
Different fish species have evolved to have different growth rates and ultimate sizes. Predators like the muskellunge often grow quickly on their high-protein diets, allowing them to reach large sizes and easily chase smaller prey. In fact, Ohio muskellunge have been recorded reaching sizes of up to 48 inches in five years! On the other hand, small size offers advantages too. Small plankton feeders like bluntnose minnows are well adapted to pursue the microscopic plants and animals they eat, while compact fish like bluegill use their size and agility to out-manuever predators.

Each year, fisheries biologists take to the water to obtain data on fish age and growth. Understanding these growth patterns helps fisheries biologists better manage our lakes and rivers. More information on various fish species can be found in the A – Z species guide on wildohio.com.



The single annuli seen here, indicates this walleye had lived through one winter.

scarce food, or lots of competition for available food, can lead to slower growth. For example, white crappie from a food rich environment can reach 7 inches by the end of their second summer, while it can take overabundant, stunted crappie almost seven years to reach the same length. Also, because different fish species



Different fish species grow at different rates.



Two saugeye after their first summer. Dramatic growth can differ within a species.

THE CERULEAN WARBLER:

Singing the Blues

by Marja H. Bakermans and
Amanda D. Rodewald

*School of Environment and Natural Resources,
The Ohio State University*

The cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), is a small, sky-blue Neotropical migratory bird that is experiencing population declines so steep that 70 percent of their global population is estimated to have been lost since the 1960s. As an intercontinental traveler (Fig. 1), cerulean warblers are exposed to threats on breeding and wintering grounds as well as along migratory routes. Not surprisingly, identifying the causes of population declines across such large areas remains a challenge. Recent studies funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Ohio Division of Wildlife are providing new information about how we can conserve cerulean warblers year-round.

LIFE UP NORTH: BREEDING ECOLOGY

Cerulean warblers breed in mature tracts of Eastern deciduous forest, with the highest breeding concentrations of ceruleans (nearly 50 percent of the global population!) occurring in the Ohio Hills. The Ohio Hills represent a 19.75 million acre Physiographic Region encompassing southeastern Ohio, southwestern Pennsylvania, the northern half of West Virginia, and a portion of eastern Kentucky. Cerulean warblers are considered area-sensitive, which means that birds prefer to settle and nest in large forest patches. At the same time, cerulean warblers are sensitive to characteristics within the forest stand.

The species is most likely to breed in forests with a broken canopy, as one would find in streamside and ridge top forests. In southeast Ohio, ceruleans are most abundant in forests that have canopy gaps, large trees (averaging 17 inches

diameter at breast height), grapevines, and thick understory vegetation. In this way, cerulean warblers seem to be selecting habitat features that mimic old forests.

Because cerulean warblers nest and forage high in the forest canopy, biologists are only beginning to understand their breeding ecology. Nests are usually located in large trees, as high as 30 - 80 feet from the ground. Using materials like grapevines, spider webs and lichens, ceruleans most often build their nests on horizontal limbs above open spaces. Research shows ceruleans nest 60 percent of the time in large, tall white oak – perhaps because of the high diversity and abundance of insects found in those trees.

Nest success of cerulean warblers fluctuates greatly between years, and recent studies throughout the Appalachians show that nest success can be extremely low (less than 20 percent). A suite of predators, like blue jays, flying squirrels, gray squirrels, and snakes, are likely responsible for most of the failed nests. Certain habitat features may reduce the risk of nest predation. Nesting success in southeast Ohio improved with increasing amounts of understory vegetation and grapevines surrounding the nest.



Adult male cerulean warbler
photo by M. Bakermans

LIFE DOWN SOUTH: NONBREEDING ECOLOGY

Cerulean warblers spend the winter months at elevations of approximately 1,500 to 5,000 feet amid cool, moist forested slopes of the northern Andes Mountains of South America – a region that has experienced high rates of deforestation. Until recently, most information about the non-breeding ecology of cerulean warblers was based on scattered and anecdotal sightings. Cerulean warblers have been recorded using a variety of forested habitats. Shade coffee plantations, particularly within forested landscapes, seem to be an especially important wintering habitat for ceruleans as well as several other species of Neotropical migratory birds.

Considered by many to be among the most sustainable tropical agricultural practices, shade coffee is a form of agriculture where coffee plants grow under a canopy of shade trees and along with other crops such as banana, citrus, avocado, and cacao (chocolate). Though not as dense as mature, unharvested forests, the complex vegetation of shade coffee plantations can structurally resemble forest and, in this way, maintain forest cover within landscapes.

Shade coffee plantations support diverse resident and migratory bird communities. Our recent research in Venezuela showed that numbers of Neotropical migratory birds, including cerulean warblers, were up to 14 times more abundant in shade coffee than mature, unharvested forest. Interestingly, most migratory birds using shade coffee participated in mixed-species foraging flocks, – groups of individuals that move together to facilitate locating food and/or detecting predators. Shade coffee seems to provide high quality habitat, as we found that ceruleans using shade coffee experienced both high survival and improved energetic condition over the winter season. As they do in the breeding season, a large proportion of cerulean warblers return to the same coffee plantations each year.

Unfortunately, new varieties of coffee that are tolerant to the sun (“sun coffee”) and retain no forest canopy, are replacing traditional plantations at an alarming rate. Sun coffee plantations reduce forest cover and carry negative environmental consequences and support little biodiversity with virtually no Neotropical migratory birds.



Arabica coffee being grown under a canopy of trees

Hatch-year male banded on the wintering grounds in La Azulita, Venezuela

photos by A. Rodewald

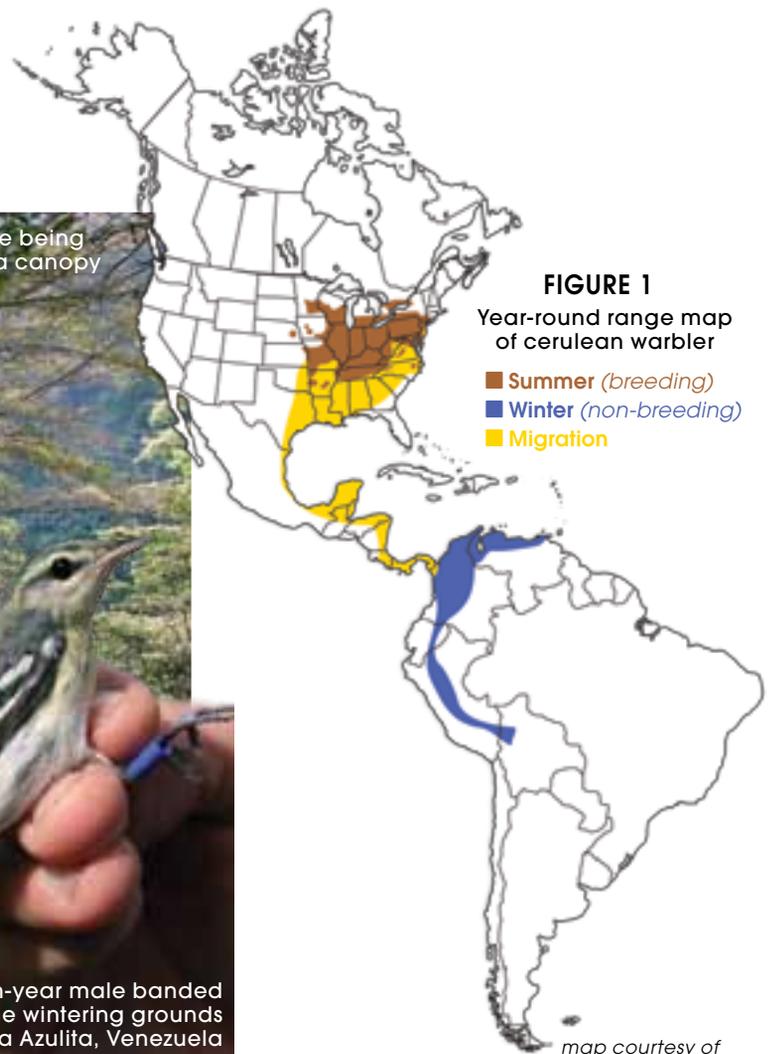


FIGURE 1
Year-round range map of cerulean warbler

■ Summer (breeding)
■ Winter (non-breeding)
■ Migration

map courtesy of
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2003

WHAT CAN WE DO TO CONSERVE CERULEAN WARBLERS?

There is still time to conserve cerulean warblers. On the breeding grounds, managers plan at the landscape-scale to protect large blocks of forest, especially those more than 100 years of age. On smaller scales, areas can be managed for high structural complexity and to promote old forest characteristics, either through certain harvest techniques, prescribed burning, or use of longer rotation periods (about 80 years) of cutting. On the wintering grounds, conservation groups should protect high-elevation cloud forests whenever possible, in light of rapid deforestation. In addition, socioeconomic incentives need to be identified to promote conservation and agroforestry, especially shade-grown coffee, as well as the maintenance of high structural and floristic diversity of farms.

As an individual, you can support conservation of winter habitat by purchasing environmentally and socially-responsible products. Try to purchase coffees certified as eco-friendly or

shade-grown by groups like Rainforest Alliance and Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (“Bird Friendly®” coffee), which guarantees traditional farming practices under a diverse canopy of trees. Other labels, such as “organic” (prohibits synthetic agrochemicals) and “fair trade” (provides fair wages to small producers), are worth supporting, though they do not necessarily support shade coffee farming. Consider purchasing certified sustainable wood products (see Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Rainforest Alliance) and engaging in ecotourism. You also might support organizations engaged in international conservation (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy) and agricultural education programs (e.g., The Tropics Foundation, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, Sustainable Harvest International).

Hopefully, we all can work together for conservation and stop the cerulean warbler from “singing the blues.”

Ohio's Birds have a Friend in Russell Reynolds

HIS PASSION FOR BIRDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
COME TOGETHER ON NEW STATE WILDLIFE STAMP

by Laura Jones

Russell Reynolds spent a lot of his childhood watching red-tailed hawks glide across Ohio's western skies. What his young eyes truly longed to see were bald eagles – unfortunately that was not a very realistic expectation in 1960s Ohio.

Fast forward four decades: Reynolds, now a 61-year-old grandfather living in Lima, has combined his passion for birding with photography, spending some of nearly every day in the field with his camera.

Last year, those dual pursuits paid off. Reynolds entered and won a Division of Wildlife photo contest. His image of a Baltimore oriole graces the inaugural 2010 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp.

Reynolds' journey to becoming a winning wildlife photographer includes a love of nature and a serendipitous land history.

He and his wife, Janice, moved to their rural residence about 16 years ago. Their modest house sits on the front end of five acres – nearly all of which has been landscaped to benefit and attract wildlife, while maximizing Reynolds' opportunities to photograph raptors, warblers, and other winged wonders. His winning Baltimore oriole photo was snapped from his back deck, where the colorful Neotropical bird perched to enjoy a strategically placed orange slice.

Learning more about one of his property's previous owners accounts for the serendipity in Reynolds' photography journey.

"The man we bought our land from was the grandson of a Division of Wildlife officer, a state game warden by the name of Charles Hanes, and he once lived on this property."

That discovery, says Reynolds, explained much about the habitat management efforts he inherited on the property. He reverently spoke about the late wildlife officer's personal legacy to conservation, and humbly about his own contributions.

"I've tried to care for what was already here. I put in paths and a bluebird trail for tree swallows and bluebirds. We planted a serviceberry and a couple of blueberry bushes for the cedar waxwings. But many of the berry-producing trees and plants around here are ones that Charles Hanes had put out. I'm reaping the fruits of his efforts, and it's been really enjoyable."

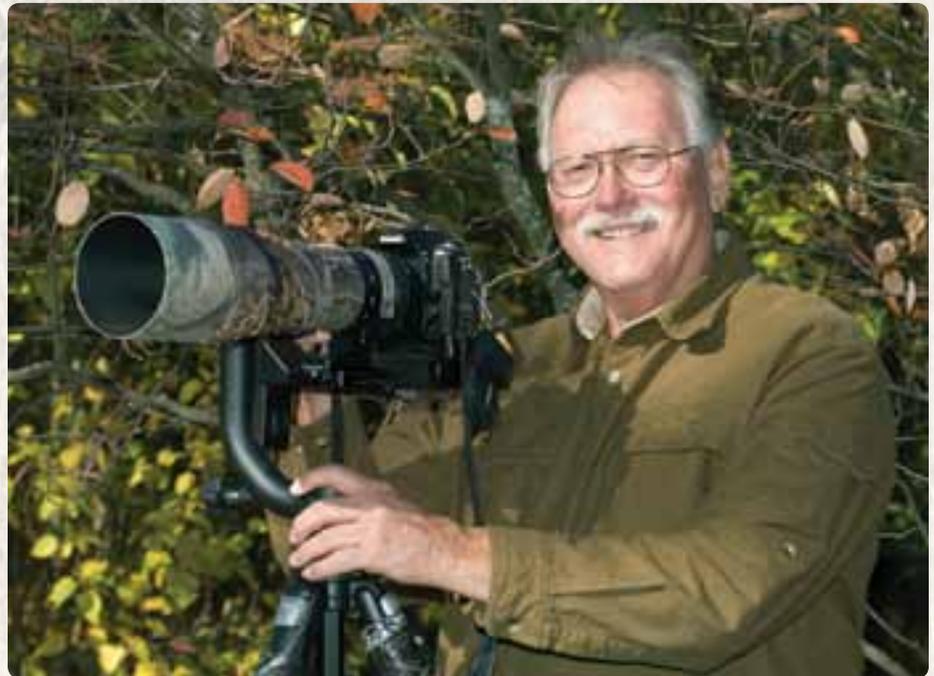
This story began with Russell Reynolds' wish to see bald eagles. It took almost 40 years, but that wish became a reality in May of 2000 at Bressler Reservoir. Not surprisingly, Reynolds captured the exciting moment on camera.

The Division of Wildlife began efforts to reestablish the bald eagle population in Ohio in 1979. By 2008, their numbers had rebounded so successfully that there was no longer a need to keep them on the state endangered species list – a clear sign of this majestic bird's recovery.

Which brings everything full circle. The new Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, with Reynolds' winning photo, will help fund efforts to restore, conserve and enhance wildlife and habitat – efforts such as the one that brought eagles back to the Buckeye State.

"I am so proud to be a part of something that's going to benefit Ohio's wildlife," Reynolds says. "It's just overwhelming."

You can also help wildlife by purchasing an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. To learn how, visit wildohiostamp.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE.



PUT YOUR "STAMP" ON OHIO'S WILDLIFE • BUY AN OHIO WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP TODAY!

- ▶ New, collectible wildlife stamp
- ▶ Cost is \$15
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Proceeds support:

- ▶ habitat restoration, land purchases, and conservation easements
- ▶ keeping common species common
- ▶ endangered and threatened native species conservation
- ▶ educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts.



FOR WILD KIDS

Earthworms: A Sure Sign of Spring

by Melissa Hathaway

Spring showers bring earthworms out from hibernation deep in the ground, which helps beckon American robins to come back north. Some Native American cultures called the month of March the “Worm Moon” because as the ground began to thaw, earthworm “casts,” would appear on the ground. Casts are small piles of digested earth and plant matter from worms – worm poop.

Besides being a source of food for birds and other animals, worms are a gardener’s friend by building healthy soil which nourishes plants. As worms eat their way through the dirt, they create underground tunnels that loosen and aerate the soil allowing in more oxygen and water.

Worms are also excellent recyclers that enrich the dirt with their constant digesting and composting. These little crawlers can eat their own weight in animal, leaf, and other plant matter every day. They absorb the nutrients they need and excrete the rest as casts, or castings, near the entrance to their tunnels. The casts look like small stacks of clay.

Look for earthworms on the sidewalk or driveway after a rain. You can also find them under leaf litter or decaying logs, or buried in a garden or compost pile. They come out mostly at night, so you may want to use a flashlight and look for them on top of the soil after dark. But as soon as you see one, you’ll have to move fast because the light will spook them into their tunnels.



WORM HOTEL



What you need:

-  Six to eight earthworms
-  Terrarium with screen lid or large jar, such as a mayonnaise jar, with holes punched in the lid
-  Mixture of rich garden soil (*dampened but not soggy*)
-  Sand if available
-  Decaying leaves, coffee grounds, bits of vegetables and/or fruit (*but not citrus*)
-  Dark colored construction paper and tape

Fill the container halfway with the damp soil and sand mixture. Add the earthworms, leaves, coffee grounds, and bits of vegetables and cover the container with a lid or screen top. Tape the construction paper around the container to block out light.

Now leave the worms on their own to do their decomposing. After several days, take the paper off the sides of the container to see what your worms have been up to.

Once you are finished with your worm hotel, spread the contents, including the worms, into a garden to enrich the soil.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...

An earthworm looks the same at each end, but they do have a front and a rear end. Do you know which end is which?

How did you figure it out?

Do the worms have a preference for any one of the food sources you put in your terrarium?

Do you see any tunnels along the sides of the terrarium?

Can you find any casts created by the worms?



Brushpiles for Wildlife by Donna Daniel



BUILDING A BRUSHPILE

A good brushpile starts with a sturdy foundation. You'll want to use materials that will last a long time. Otherwise, the pile will collapse which won't do the animals any good. At the very least, use large logs in your base. Stack them in a crisscross formation, as if building a log cabin. Or add stones, cement blocks, or field tiles – anything that provides a solid base. Consider using rolls of old fence wire, which will last a lot longer than wood. You can put the wire in on its side or upright if you will be building a tall brushpile. The idea is to use materials that will give the pile support from the inside and the bottom.

Can you tell the difference between a brushpile and a pile of brush? Chances are the animals that live in your backyard can. Brushpiles are deliberately constructed to provide a safe place for small animals. This might be a good time to start one with branches and limbs from spring yard work.

A pile of brush doesn't look much different from a brushpile, but it isn't likely to last very long or benefit wildlife as much. It's amazing how many animals will take advantage of the cover a brushpile provides – mice, rabbits, chipmunks, groundhogs, even butterflies will hide out in there.

Most of the animals that use a brushpile are low on the food chain. So they spend a good deal of their time hiding from other bigger animals that might eat them. People are also a threat to these small animals so you might not always be able to see what animals are using a brushpile. But, if you look closely, you can see signs that prove they're using it. Look for matted down vegetation around the brushpile showing the main path in and out of the pile. You might also be able to see tracks leading in or out, especially in snow or mud.

Brushpiles, when properly built, can provide good supplemental protective cover. A rabbit can get in a tangle of

branches while a hawk or owl chasing it cannot.

Before you build a brushpile on your property, plan carefully where to put it. From an animal's point of view, the best location is near a food plot or between two different types of habitat such as between a wooded area and a field. That way the animals can use it for cover while traveling back and forth.

But you also want to consider people when planning where to locate your pile. Think of what types of animals might use your pile: rabbits, groundhogs, chipmunks, snakes, toads, and small birds are just a few. Don't put your brushpile where you don't want these species of wildlife taking up residence, like next to your vegetable garden or near your house!

A brushpile in the middle of a mowed lawn won't be very useful at all. Put it in an area where you don't mind the plants growing up around it.

You'll see that a brushpile may speed up the process of succession, where a field grows into brush. You'll probably notice mulberry, blackberry, and other plants that birds feed on growing in and around your brushpile. That's because birds will perch on the pile and deposit seed for you.

Once you have a good base started, you can pile smaller branches and limbs up to 10 or 15 feet high. If you have a good solid base to begin with, over the years as the upper layers break down you can simply add more.

Finally, consider making a living brushpile with the cut and bend technique. This is where a tree is cut about 1/2 or 2/3 of the way through the trunk and the whole tree is bent or knocked over. As long as the tree is not cut too far through the trunk, it will continue to live.

Tree species that work well as living brushpiles are honey or black locust, red cedar, osage-orange, and Washington hawthorn. Make the cuts in the spring after the sap is flowing. It's best to use groups of three or four trees piled together, but single trees will provide cover, too.

The next time you are cutting trees or clearing an area, consider building a brushpile for wildlife and watch it for signs of life. You'll be amazed at how much a little cover can attract a little wildlife!





WILD GAME GOURMET AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV

hosted by Vicki Mountz

Recipes

CRUNCHY BAKED SALMON



- 1 1/3 cups French fried onions (*canned*)
- 1 teaspoon fresh dill, diced, or 1/2 teaspoon dried
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley
- 4 portions of salmon or steelhead trout fillets
- 2 tablespoons of Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup

Mix fried onions, dill, lemon rind, and parsley in sealable plastic bag. Roll with a rolling pin to crush onions. Mix mustard with maple syrup and brush over salmon, then pat seasoned onion crumbs over the top. Bake on a foil-lined sheet at 375 degrees about 15 minutes, until opaque and easy to separate with a fork.

Contributed by Danny Brooks

TURKEY KABOBS with FRUIT

- 1/2 to 3/4 pounds turkey breast, *cut in one-inch cubes*
- Pears, plums or other favorite fruit (*somewhat firm*)
- Green/red pepper, *cut in squares*
- Zucchini, onion or other favorite vegetables, *cut large for threading*
- Peach or apricot preserves
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- Teriyaki sauce
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- Salt and pepper

In saucepan, combine preserves, honey, lemon juice, teriyaki sauce, and butter stirring until heated and well blended. Thread pieces of turkey, fruit, and vegetables on 10-inch skewers (if using wooden skewers, soak in water for 20 minutes before using). Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Brush sauce over turkey and fruit. Grill until meat, vegetables, and fruit are cooked and well glazed, about 10 minutes. Turn and brush with sauce four or so times during cooking.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz



for more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



READER'S 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 on-line 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.

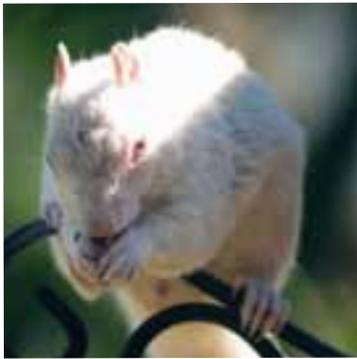


Karla Dasori of Mansfield took this photo of a fox squirrel with a white tail. Animals can be pure or partial albinos, the result of their cells being unable to produce melanin, a dark pigment that results in normal coloration in the skin, scales, eyes or hair. Partial albinos have some of the coloration typical of their species, but parts of their body appear white.

Karla Dasori, Mansfield



The Barr Family after a day of dove hunting.
Craig Barr, Allen County wildlife officer



"This is one of the white squirrels (albino) you see often in the Kettering area; this one was on my bird feeder."

John DiPietro, Kettering



"This is our grandson, Matthew, during last year's deer season."

Tom Moss



Three-year-old TJ Curtis with his first fish, a monster sunfish. "The look on his face as he reeled it in was priceless!"

Jim McConville, N. Ridgeville

Joshua Stears used a shotgun to shoot his first deer on Saturday of last year's youth deer hunt, then took another deer with a crossbow the very next day.



Connie McGreevy caught this Northern water snake on film as it came on the shore of a creek with its dinner. *Connie McGreevy, Delta*



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WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

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

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

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

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
MISSION STATEMENT**

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



Cousins Drew and Taylor Doan both got wild turkeys during last year's youth turkey hunt.
Darlene Doan, Montpelier



Carter Buchtel of Guernsey County bagged his first turkey on his very first hunt. (20 pounds, 8 3/4-inch beard)
Brad St. Clair, Guernsey County



Another happy hunter! Logan Cox with his first turkey (21 pounds, 10-inch beard).
Ken Cox, Ostrander



Grace got to go turkey hunting with her father for the first time on her fourth birthday. It was a special day for both of them because her dad also got his first turkey (20 pounds) after hunting for 10 years.
Bob Heed, Medina

Robert Clemens sent in this unusual turkey he bagged in Warren County last spring. He thought it might be a Gould's turkey. According to a Division of Wildlife biologist, it is not a Gould's, a rare subspecies found in the desert Southwest. Whether it is a pure domestic or a cross with a wild turkey is uncertain. Nonetheless, it was a whopper of a turkey weighing in at 25 pounds, 13 ounces!



Peter Schnieder, of Cincinnati took this longbeard (19 pounds, 10-inch beard) in Clermont County.



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

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*See inside story on page 18; an interview with photographer Russell Reynolds,
the winner of the first Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp competition.*

