

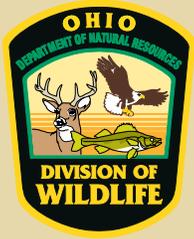
Wild Ohio

Summer 2005

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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WILD OHIO (ISSN 10611541) 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 offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to—
River Copy and Mail
4483 Industrial Parkway
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We are dedicated to conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and promoting their use and appreciation by the people so that these resources continue to enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans.

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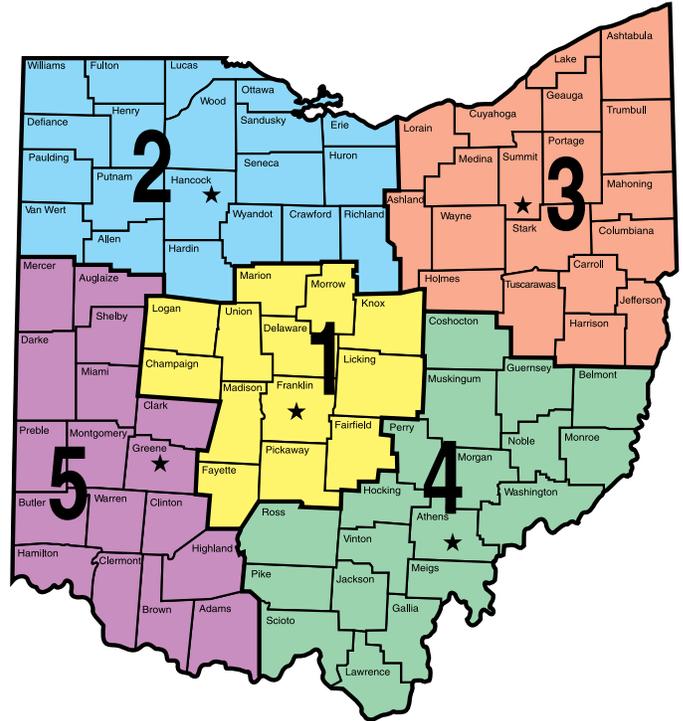
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On the Wildlife Calendar for Summer . . .

- June 4–12** National Fishing and Boating Week
- July 16** BUGFEST, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; noon to 4 p.m.
- August 3–14** Ohio State Fair, Columbus; visit the wildlife exhibits, walk through the butterfly house, shoot a bullseye at the archery range, or let the kids fish in the pond.
- August 27–28** Southeastern Ohio Hunting & Trapping Expo, Pritchard-Laughlin Center, Cambridge. Contact Guernsey SWCD at (740) 432-5624.

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What's happening on the woodland wildlife diversity scene? Read about the current status and the Division's management projects for Ohio's diverse forest wildlife.

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The Family-Friendly Hunting Dog

A well-trained sporting dog not only provides companionship afield, but makes a loyal and affectionate family pet.

Cover Photo:

The Eastern bluebird is a summertime favorite. But is it really blue? Read the Watchable Wildlife article on pages 4 and 5 to find out. Photo by Tim Daniel.

Tim Daniel



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Getting Wildlife Back to the Wild

Long hours and dedication by Ohio's wildlife rehabilitators get injured and orphaned animals back to their natural habitat.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



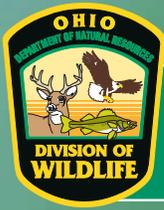
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National Wildlife Conference Set for Ohio

The North American Wildlife Conference is coming to Columbus, Ohio for the first time in its long history. The new president of the Wildlife Management Institute (conference sponsor), Steve Williams, shared some of his conservation philosophies with Division of Wildlife staff.

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Ohio's

watchable wildlife



bluebirds

Watchable Wildlife • Ohio's "Blue"

story and photos by Tim Daniel

Feathers come in all colors of the rainbow and beyond, making birds as vivid as tropical fish or drab as mice. One of the most desirable feather colors by human standards is blue. Blue is the color of the sky. Blue is the color of the sea. Blue is associated with depth and stability. Blue also symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, and truth. And birds that are blue are beautiful.

"Blue" bird species in Ohio include the blue jay, blue grosbeak, cerulean warbler, Eastern bluebird, and indigo bunting. These birds have vibrant blue feathers, which surprisingly are not really blue at all.

The cardinal has red feathers, the goldfinch has yellow feathers, the oriole has orange feathers, and the crow has black feathers. But the feathers of blue jays and other blue-toned birds are actually dark colors and it is the refraction of light that makes the feathers look dazzling blue to the human eye. How can this be? It depends on how the feather is made up. The colors we see on birds are formed in one of two different ways: by pigment or by structure. Only pigments represent true colors.

Pigment colors: Most feather colors are produced by pigments called carotenoids or melanins. Both kinds of pigment absorb certain wavelengths of light and reflect the rest. We see the reflected light as color. Carotenoids reflect bright yellow, red, and orange light, and melanins produce black, gray, or brown colors. Thus the bright red of a cardinal is truly red, and the black of a crow is really black.

Structural colors: Blue feathers are not truly blue because bluish pigmentation does not exist in bird feathers. The blue coloring comes from the refraction of light waves by microscopic particles or "structures" in a layer of cells on the feather. The same type of refraction results when different colors of a prism reflect from its surface. Iridescent colors, such as a male hummingbird's brilliant throat patch, also are structural.

Invisible colors: An interesting feature beyond how we perceive colors of birds is how birds see other birds. Many birds have patches of feathers that reflect ultraviolet (UV) light. Birds can see UV light, but humans can not. So what appears as a black or blue bird to us might look much more colorful to other birds.



indigo bunting



kingfisher



cerulean warbler



bluejay

Birds

Viewing Opportunities

Two of the most common and favorite “blue” bird species in Ohio are the bluebird and blue jay.

The Eastern bluebird is recognized by a bright royal blue back and rusty-colored breast. These cavity-dwellers can be seen near old field borders, highway rights-of-way, orchards, golf courses, and parks, especially where blue bird nest boxes are present. Some overwinter in Ohio, especially in the southern part of the state, roosting in their same nesting cavities. They will occasionally visit feeders for mealworms or peanut butter.

Blue jays are one of the most common birds seen in urban backyards, and a favorite visitor to feeders, despite being noisy and aggressive. Over a century ago the famous author Henry David Thoreau appropriately described the blue jay as “delicately ornamented.” The jay’s display of flashy blue may be a deception of light, but its noisy and boisterous call — “jay-jay-jay” — are genuine and reveals its true presence.



Bobcats, and Beetles, and Bears; Oh My!



Forest Wildlife Diversity Update

by Dave Swanson, Mike Reynolds, Mike Tonkovich,
and Lloyd Culbertson • photos by Tim Daniel

Many Ohioans are not familiar with some of Ohio's native woodland wildlife that are elusive yet present in the state. Some were abundant prior to European settlement and then disappeared from the state, but live here once again. This article highlights some of the forest wildlife diversity projects administered by the Division of Wildlife.

Black Bear

Historical records from settlers and early naturalists indicate widespread occurrence of black bears in Ohio before 1850. Habitat destruction resulting from human settlement accompanied by shooting and trapping of bears to protect crops and livestock resulted in their extirpation from Ohio. Beginning in the 1980s, sightings of black bear in eastern Ohio became more common as bear populations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia increased in abundance and expanded westward.

Since 1993, confirmed black bear observations have been received from 41 counties. During 2004, 91 black bear observations, representing an estimated 34 individual bears, were received by wildlife biologists. Forty-four of the observations were confirmed by Division personnel.



black bear

Bobcat

Bobcats were found throughout the Ohio country in early settlement times, but were considered extirpated from the state by 1850. Since 1970, verified (i.e., positive identification via road kill, incidental trappings and release) reports of bobcats have been somewhat more frequent. Currently, the bobcat is officially classified as an Ohio endangered species and provided full protection under the law.

There have been 74 verified bobcat reports from 32 counties since 1970, with 65 of the reports since 1990. Fourteen of the verified reports were in 2004. In addition, 307 unverified bobcat sightings have been reported from 66 counties since 1970.

Surveys of deer archery hunters, spring and fall turkey hunters, and squirrel hunters have been used to monitor the current status of bobcats in Ohio since 1997. In addition, incidental reports of bobcats from members of the Ohio State Trappers Association, as well as those received from citizens on Endangered Species Report Cards, are logged and investigated as they are received.

American Burying Beetle

The American burying beetle was once distributed throughout Ohio as well as in 34 other states, the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces. The last American burying beetle reported in Ohio was in 1974 near Old Man's Cave in Hocking County. It was listed as a state and federally endangered species in 1989.

A reintroduction program began in 1998 with 35 pairs of beetles collected from the wild in Arkansas and released on public land in southeastern Ohio. A total of 102 wild-caught beetles from Arkansas were released from 1998-2000. During 2001 and 2002, surveys occurred to locate previously released beetles, but no American burying beetles were captured. In 2002, a captive colony of beetles was established at The Ohio State University. In July 2003, 98 pairs of the captive-reared beetles were released on public lands in southeastern Ohio. An additional 78 pairs were released in July 2004.



American burying beetle

Green Salamander

The endangered green salamander is found in forested rock outcrops along the Ohio River in Adams, Scioto, and Lawrence counties. In 2002, a survey was conducted to determine the status of green salamander populations in Ohio.



green salamander



timber rattlesnake

Al Staffan

Seven populations were found, all on privately owned lands (including The Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve).

Timber Rattlesnake

In the 1800s, timber rattlesnakes were found in about 24 counties from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Today the snake can be found in limited numbers in Adams, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties. The Division of Wildlife's management plan for this species is to protect existing populations as opposed to increasing their occupied range.

Timber rattlesnake sightings by the public are a valuable tool used in identifying areas of possible snake occupation. Reports from the public resulted in 19 live timber rattlesnakes and three new den sites being found in 2004.

Forest Birds

Approximately 175 bird species nest in Ohio and about 100 of these species are dependent on some stage of forested habitat. Changing patterns of land use have altered the distribution of forested habitats and the abundance of forest nesting birds in Ohio.

Ohio's forest bird species are monitored by the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). This continental survey is cooperatively coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Data have been collected in a standardized manner on nearly 3,000 routes since 1966. Representative forest songbirds with reasonable data for Ohio include the cerulean warbler, scarlet tanager, Acadian flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, blue-winged warbler, and field sparrow. These species are annually monitored on Breeding Bird Survey routes throughout the state.

Cerulean warbler—This beautiful songbird was detected in 51 percent of the atlas blocks in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1982–1987) and is most abundant in southeastern Ohio where it occurred in 89 percent of the atlas blocks. Long-term trends indicate the population is declining at 4.2 percent per year in Ohio, even though mature forest cover has been increasing in recent decades.

Scarlet tanager—The scarlet tanager was detected in 89 percent of the atlas blocks in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas

Project and is most abundant in the heavily forested areas of eastern Ohio. Long-term data indicate the population has increased 0.9 percent per year in Ohio.

Acadian flycatcher—The Acadian flycatcher was detected in 84 percent of the atlas blocks and is most abundant in the heavily forested areas of eastern Ohio. Long-term data indicate the population has declined 2.1 percent per year in Ohio.

Yellow-breasted chat—The yellow-breasted chat was detected in 73 percent of the atlas blocks in the project and is most abundant in forested areas of eastern Ohio. Long-term data indicate the population has declined 2.2 percent per year in the state.

Blue-winged warbler—The blue-winged warbler was detected in 60 percent of the atlas blocks and is most abundant in the heavily forested regions of eastern Ohio. Long-term data indicate the population has increased 0.6 percent per year in Ohio.

Field sparrow—The field sparrow was detected in 99.5 percent of the atlas blocks in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Long-term data indicate the population has declined 3.5 percent per year in Ohio, but it still remains locally abundant in many areas. 



scarlet tanager

The Family-Friendly Hunting Dog

by *Melissa Hathaway*

Buckeye State sportsmen have been blessed with a diverse game bag, and a well-trained sporting dog will enhance the success and enjoyment of the hunt even more. As an added bonus, any of the wide variety of hunting breeds not only provides companionship afield, but can add to the quality of life in your home.

Diligent homework must be done and a multitude of factors must be weighed in choosing the right sporting dog for you and your family. This article does not provide anywhere near the amount of information needed to choose the breed that is the perfect fit for you, but is merely a starting point if considering ownership of one of the popular sporting breeds.

Common sense factors to consider:

- ◆ Choose a breed with abilities suited for your hunting activities.
- ◆ Does the adult size of the dog suit your living space?
- ◆ Talk to owners of the various breeds and go afield with them. Attending sporting dog field trials held at several wildlife areas is a great way to see the various breeds in action and talk to their owners. For information on field trials near you, contact a Division of Wildlife district office.
- ◆ Search the World Wide Web and refer to sporting dog magazines.
- ◆ Buy from a reputable breeder.
- ◆ Be prepared to formally train your dog.

Here is what some of the Division of Wildlife dog owners had to say about some of the specific breeds. Most importantly, all agreed that the sporting breeds are not only versatile hunters, but make great family pets. Although every dog will have his or her own individual personality, sporting dog owners most often describe their dogs as being very affectionate with undying loyalty and an eagerness to please.

Flushing Breeds:

This group is dominated by the English springer spaniel, but the Boykin spaniel also makes a fantastic flusher.

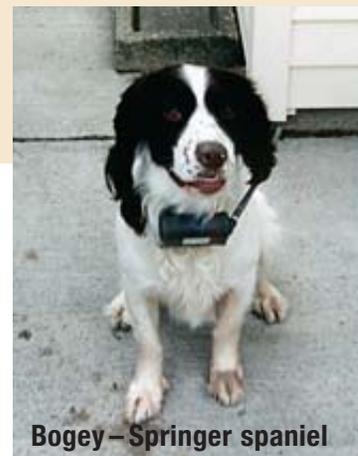
Springer Spaniel Owner: Tom Rowan, law enforcement supervisor

Rowan chose springer spaniels mostly because of their versatility. They are excellent retrievers as well as flushing dogs. He uses them to hunt waterfowl, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, and mourning doves.

The breed has a strong desire to please, are very family oriented and good with children, and very easy to house break. They can be a little hyper at times, but calm down by the time they are eight or nine years old, according to Rowan.

“One day duck hunting I shot a ruddy duck and crippled it. The duck swam out and Bogey went after it. The duck kept diving, and after the third time the duck dove, Bogey disappeared and I thought he drowned. Bogey went underwater, caught the duck, and brought it back.”

Rowan emphasizes that owners need to spend time with their hunting dogs including daily exercise. “It’s better to work your dog for 10 to 20 minutes a day than just an hour on Saturday.”



Bogey – Springer spaniel



Robin – Boykin spaniel

Boykin Spaniel Owner: Dave Davies, retired aquatic biologist

Bigger is not always better. The Boykin spaniel is one of the smallest, but most versatile sporting dogs around. These hardy, multipurpose retrievers have adept flushing abilities for hunting waterfowl and upland birds. Their keen sense of smell, eagerness to work, and ability to withstand warm temperatures make them ideal for the dove field. Davies uses his Boykin spaniel for hunting doves, as well as for recovery when deer hunting.

“Robin was hunting practically right out of the box.” She was very excited, but controlled, on her first trip to a dove field. Characteristic of the breed, she also loves the water and swims like an otter.”

Davies would not recommend a Boykin for everyone because they are very energetic and high spirited. “But she is such a joy and just perfect for what I was looking for in a breed.”

Pointing Breeds:

Pointing breeds include the Brittany, English pointer, German shorthaired pointer, German wirehaired pointer, English setter, Irish setter, Gordon setter, Vizsla, and Weimaraner.



Lucy – Brittany

Brittany Owner: Jim Laskay, photographer

Laskay received a Brittany puppy as a wedding gift from a friend who is a breeder. “It was important for me to know that my dog came from a good hunting family. My father, a past Brittany owner, also told me that the temperament and loyalty of the breed would be great

for when I have kids.”

Laskay’s Lucy gets very excited when he gets out his hunter orange small game vest. “Her first time in the field, she found two hen pheasants and pointed and held the birds like a seasoned pro. Although no birds were taken, just to see ‘my’ dog point was the best reward.”

Laskay adds that this smart, agile, high-energy breed needs at least 45 minutes a day to run. Doing research and asking questions of other Brittany owners helped him find the patience and learn the right things to do in the training process.” Training a sporting dog is like teaching a child. If you don’t show the child what you mean, they will never understand.”

Brittany Owner: Linda Keesecker, outdoor skills officer

Although Keesecker doesn’t hunt her Brittany, Lady, she explains that this very loving dog simply enjoys hanging out with the family. Brittannies are also very smart and enjoy playing and working. But she adds they can be stubborn and some of them can be a little hyper at times.



Lady – Brittany

German Shorthaired Pointer Owner: Sonia Wolfe, hunter education assistant

The Wolfe family chose a German shorthaired pointer, because of the breed’s scenting, pointing, and retrieving abilities. They use their dog to hunt grouse and doves. According to Wolfe, these dogs are not as hyper or temperamental, and will adapt to different hunting terrains, unlike some other breeds. And their short hair is easy to care for, especially when removing burrs after being afield.

“They are true lovers and will work hard to please you. They get along well with other dogs, even while hunting, and are wonderful with children. When we play ball in the yard Tia retrieves the ball and brings it back to us. She also kicks a soccer ball, alternating it back and forth with her front legs.”



Tia – German shorthair pointer



Boris – Deutsch drahthaar

Deutsch Drahthaar Owner: Daniel J. Crusey, private lands wildlife biologist

The Verein Deutsch Drahthaar is another very versatile hunting dog. “I use my dog as a retriever for duck hunting in the morning, and then switch to hunting upland birds later that same day. And he can track rabbits as well as any beagle.” Crusey and his dog, Boris (officially *Boris vom Bartigjäger*), hunt ducks, geese, pheasants, rabbits, woodcocks, doves, and grouse. In addition these dogs are also great blood trackers used for finding wounded deer.

Crusey choose the breed because the look of the dog is “absolutely beautiful.” The Deutsch Drahtaar breeding standards are higher than any other hunting dog breed in the world, with requirements to pass numerous breed and conformation standards.

continued on next page

The Family-Friendly Hunting Dog continued

“This breed makes a great family dog, and usually bonds closest with the trainer. When in the house they lay around like an old hound. When you put them in the field they turn on the juice and can go all day. It is the most intelligent breed of dog I have ever worked with.”

English Setter Owner: Dave Sherman, wildlife biologist

Sherman had hunted over several good English setters before getting one of his own. He found them to be friendly towards people and very affectionate, and decided this breed would be good with his young children. His daughter Darby picked the name Dandelion, so the dog’s official name is *Darby’s Dandelion*.



Dandelion – English setter

“I found English setters to be fairly calm when brought indoors, but have the drive to ‘hunt until they drop’ when in the field.”

Sherman plans to use his dog for grouse, woodcock, quail, and pheasant hunting. “I have a small pond in my backyard, and with few birds to point, Dandy will spend hours looking for and pointing frogs.”

Gordon Setter Owner: Jim Abrams, wildlife officer supervisor

Abrams currently has a male Gordon setter named Gus along with two golden retrievers. The Gordon is not the easiest to find locally, and Abrams got Gus from a breeder in Missouri. He especially enjoys Gus’s company while woodcock hunting, which comes in when the weather is moderate and the leaves are changing.

“The Gordon tends to be a “one person” dog, and Gus is ‘my’ dog. He stays close to me sometimes ignoring other people. When the house gets hectic with company, Gus finds a quiet place to lie down. But he does get along well with children



Gus – Gordon setter

and is even tolerant of their ear-pulling and tail-grabbing.”

Abrams notes that Gus does not care about playing with toys such as balls or rags (typical of golden retrievers). Instead, Gus enjoys standing at the window watching birds, and is constantly on the hunt when in the yard. His interest, whether in his outdoor kennel, at the window, or walking the fields is in birds.

Retrievers:

Retrievers include such breeds as Chesapeake Bay, Curly-Coated, Flat-Coated, Golden, and black and yellow Labrador retrievers.

Black Lab Owner: Dan Schneider, law enforcement administrator

Schneider has owned black Labs for more than 20 years. He chose the breed for its versatility in being able to hunt multiple species very well including waterfowl, pheasants, grouse, and doves.

He describes the breed as calm and reliable with a desire to please their owner. He describes his current dog Millie s “being so laid back that is hard for people to think that she will hunt at all. Yet I can put whatever species of bird we are hunting on the ground and Millie will find it and retrieve it.”

Black Lab Owner, Terry Sunderhaus, district law enforcement supervisor

Sunderhaus has owned Labs for over 30 years, and says they are wonderful family pets as well as hunters. The hunting Labs are usually stocky with shiny coats—very sleek-looking animals that always appealed to him. His current dog Nattie



Nattie
Black Labrador retriever



Millie – Black Labrador retriever

is his first female. He was surprised at how mild mannered she is, and he does not worry about her running off from the house like the male Labs he has had.

Sunderhaus uses Nattie for hunting mourning doves. “It is not uncommon to hunt doves around a pond, and if a bird drops into the water, the lab can retrieve it. Since temperatures are often warm when dove hunting, a dip in the

pond is a good way for a Lab to cool off.”

“As well as a hunting dog, there couldn’t be a better buddy for our daughter. She grew up with Labs all her life, and even today when she comes home from college, Nattie is a highlight of her visit.”

Chesapeake Bay Retriever Owner: Korey Brown, license coordinator

Brown has owned Truman, his first Chesapeake Bay retriever, for about seven years. Chessies are the quintessential waterfowl dog, known for their ability to tolerate extreme weather conditions, says Brown. That is what makes them such great upland game (dove and pheasant) and waterfowl dogs. He started swimming at seven weeks of age. He does add that Chessies are known for being very stubborn and singular in purpose.



Truman – Chesapeake Bay retriever

Golden Retriever Owner: Jay Reda, outdoor skills officer

Reda has owned golden retrievers for over 20 years. One of his first goldens worked with him as a wildlife enforcement K-9 partner. Most of the hunting activity for Reda and his dogs have included waterfowl, doves, pheasants, woodcock, and grouse.

Reda also uses his two current goldens, Teddy Bear and son Grizzly Bear, for retrieving demonstrations at special events. “These demos show proper hunter stewardship to the resource and help get people involved in aspects of hunting they may have overlooked.”



**Teddy Bear and Grizzly Bear
Golden retrievers**

“Goldens are very loving, affectionate, and loyal. As with all the working dog breeds they want to please. You are doing the dog a major injustice if you are not working with him on a regular basis.”

Reda adds, however, that the coat demands regular brushing, and the house will need regular vacuuming.

Hounds:

The hound group includes such breeds as American foxhound, bloodhound, Bassett hound, coonhounds, and beagles.

Beagle Owner: Chip Gross, retired editor of *Wild Ohio*

Gross has owned at least a half dozen beagles over the past 20 years. “I like the breed because they were bred to trail rabbits. They have a typical hound personality—I’ve never met a mean beagle—and they will hunt their heart out for you! One of the major reasons I got into rabbit hunting with beagles was because my two young sons were getting old enough at the time to begin hunting, and I knew that hunting behind hounds would be a good way to introduce the boys to hunting.

Today, my two sons are grown and married, but they still like to come home during winter holidays and hunt rabbits with dad and Bugsy.”

Beagle Owner: Kim Johnston, secretary

The Johnston’s beagle hunts with the family for rabbits on their property. “When Bailey is onto a rabbit, she is so driven. And she is such a lovable family dog with the need to be wherever we are.”



Bugsy – Beagle



Bailey – Beagle

Getting Wildlife “BACK TO THE WILD”

by *Melissa Hathaway and Lisa Smith*

BACK to the WILD near Castalia, Ohio couldn't have been named more properly. It is a federally- and state-licensed wildlife rehabilitation and education center where Mona Rutger has put her heart and soul into getting sick, injured, and displaced wild animals “back to the wild.”

Her mission is to rehabilitate and ultimately return wildlife back into their natural habitat. A second goal is to educate people about native wildlife and the harm done when well-meaning citizens bring wild animals into their homes to nurture back to health or keep as pets.

24-7 Care and Handling

Rutger calls her center a hospital for wild animals. With more than 2,000 animals entering the center each year, Rutger, her husband Bill, and small staff of volunteers have their hands full. The list of wild patients goes on and on including rabbits, fawns, foxes, bobcats, opossums, snakes, turtles, squirrels, owls, hawks, eagles, ducks, and songbirds.

“Most visitors only see the beautiful wild animals housed at our center and do not realize what goes on behind the scenes,” said Rutger. “Care of the animals is a 24-hours-a-day job, 7 days a week.”

Some of the labor intensive and costly care involves treating and medicating, exercising, keeping very young animals properly hydrated and body temperatures maintained; transporting animals to veterinarians for X-rays, diagnostic tests, and, surgeries; cleaning cages; and feeding the animals the proper diet. Specially formulated foods must be used. Most people who take wild animals into their homes feed them pet formulas or other improper foods that can cause malnutrition, nutritional disorders, seizures, and poor bone development or other deformities, according to Rutger.

One screech owl that has been housed at the center for several years plays the role of a surrogate mother by feeding all the young screech owls brought to the center. She retrieves mice placed in the cage and delivers them to the young owls. According to Rutger, this is very good for the young owls because they are getting a natural rehabilitation from one of their own species versus human contact.

“The big rewards come when you can put an animal back into the wild.”

— Mona Rutger, BACK to the WILD

“The big rewards come when you can put an animal back into the wild,” said Rutger. “Those that fully recover are released back to their natural habitat, while some with permanent injuries that would prevent them from surviving in the wild are permanently housed at the center and used in educational programs to benefit other wildlife.”

Leave Them Alone!

Education is a major focus for the more than 48,000 visitors each year, including school groups, scout troops, adult organizations, and individual families. Rutger and the staff are committed to teaching visitors about appreciation and respect for wildlife and their habitats, and how human carelessness can affect the environment and the wildlife that live in it.

Another important education message is “Leave them alone!” “A young animal should only be removed from the wild after all avenues to reunite it with an adult animal have been



Most people do not realize the labor-intensive care required to rehabilitate a wild animal.

Melissa Hathaway



Animals that could not survive in the wild due to permanent injuries are used in educational programs.

Melissa Hathaway



A volunteer discourages students from Maplehurst Elementary School from keeping native or exotic wild animals as pets.

Melissa Hathaway

explored,” said Rutger. “Too many people still believe the old wives’ tale that a mother animal will reject her young if it has a human’s scent on it. In most cases, the animal is not injured or abandoned and the parents are nearby. And wild animals never make good pets!”

Also, most people are unaware of the diseases and parasites that can be transferred from animals to humans. In addition, it is illegal to care for a wild animal without the proper permits.

The Adoption Option

BACK to the WILD and other rehabilitation facilities are private, not-for-profit facilities that depend on grants and donations to keep their doors open for wildlife. Rutger has gradually built the center into the large clinic and education center it is today since she began the venture 14 years ago. Many times individuals who bring her an injured animal will make a donation once they see the center. One individual made a large donation towards a new clinic and education center and the community collected the money to purchase the concrete.

Each year the students at Maplehurst Elementary School in nearby Norwalk hold a penny drive and donate the funds to BACK to the WILD. This year they collected and donated over \$1000.

One creative fund-raising drive is the center’s Wildlife Adoption Program. Adoption of an animal permanently housed at the center is used as school, scout troop, and clubs’ projects, as well as individuals seeking a unique gift for someone. The group or individual receives an adoption certificate and a photograph of the animal. The donation for adoption varies by animal and length of time the donor wants to support the animal.

A Special Place for Raptors

Glen Helen Raptor Center, situated in part of Antioch University’s Glen Helen Preserve in Yellow Springs, Ohio, is a rehabilitation center unique in history, location, and manage-



Lisa McGuire

After being rehabilitated at Glen Helen Raptor Center, this red-tailed hawk was released in the yard where a homeowner first found it injured.

ment. It has developed and evolved as an off-shoot from the mission of outdoor education to become a leader in rehabilitation of injured raptors in Ohio.

In 1970, then assistant director for Glen Helen outdoor education programs Steve Kress, currently an ornithologist with National Audubon Society and Cornell University, took in an injured red-tailed hawk. “He quickly saw the education potential in this rehabilitation project,” said Betty Ross, current Raptor Center director and president of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA). From that point on the Outdoor

Education Center continued to take in injured raptors; those unable to be released were integrated into the education programs. “This is one of the things that sets the Raptor Center apart. Our rehabilitation program developed from an educational goal rather

than a rehabilitation goal,” said Ross.

Even with education as the focus, the Raptor Center is an established rehabilitation facility that has become a “go to” destination in the state for injured raptors. In 1986, when Ross began, the Center took in 25 to 35 birds a year; now they take in close to 200. “Some of the birds we take in right now are referrals from other rehabilitators around the state.” Its location in the 1,000-acre Glen Helen Preserve and the surrounding mix of farm land, and a state park and nature preserve make it a good area for the release of birds back to the wild.

continued on next page

“People have a great interest in the outdoors and birds of prey... I spend a great deal of time explaining when they need to step in and help and when they don’t.”
— Betty Ross, Glen Helen Raptor Center

Getting Wildlife “BACK TO THE WILD” continued

As with all rehabilitators, spring is a very busy time at the Raptor Center. “We take in a lot of young birds.” Ninety percent of the admissions are made up of red-tailed hawks, kestrels, screech owls, great horned owls, and Cooper’s hawks. But injured birds of prey may show up at any time. Occasionally migrating birds are injured and there can be another spurt of healing activity in the fall. Ross estimates that about 50 percent of the birds taken in are successfully returned to the wild.



Betty Ross is a fulltime staff of one that handles rehabilitation, care, and education efforts at Glen Helen Raptor Center.

Jim Laskay

Betty Ross is a one-woman operation in many respects. Unlike many other facilities, she is a fulltime staff of one. An intern helps approximately nine months out of the year. Rehabilitation work and care of the resident birds is a daily chore that doesn’t necessarily keep regular hours and can require travel in and out of state to pick up and deliver injured birds. A former teacher and marketing professional, these skills have served her well in running Glen Helen Raptor Center. Education programs on and off site are offered year round. “People have great interest in the outdoors and birds of prey, and we use our education raptors as ambassadors for all wildlife. People want to be helpful and I spend a great deal of time explaining when they need to step in and help and when they don’t.”

photos by Mona Rutger

Rehabilitators Join Forces

The Raptor Center’s growth has paralleled that of the wildlife rehabilitation movement in Ohio. And Ross has been a leader in both organizations’ development.

Rehabilitators, ranging from veterinary clinics to zoos to park districts, to individuals had worked fairly independently until 1991 when the OWRA was formed. “OWRA has allowed us, as rehabilitators to accomplish a great deal,” said Ross. “We have established standards, developed a good working relationship with the Division of Wildlife, networked by sharing information and experiences, and provided educational opportunities for our members and the general public. Most importantly, having this organization has allowed us to get injured wildlife in the hands of those best able to help them recover.”

Attempting to rehabilitate or possess an injured or orphaned wild animal without the proper permit is against Ohio wildlife laws. To find a wildlife rehabilitator near you, contact a Division of Wildlife District Office or visit the Division’s Web site http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/resources/orphans/rehabilitators_04.htm. Also visit BACK to the WILD’S Web site at www.backtothewild.com and the Glen Helen Raptor Center’s Web site at www.glenhelen.org.

Injured or abandoned animals brought to the Back to the Wild center include an extensive list of species.



Profile of a Conservationist—Steve Williams

Steve Williams, former director of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), recently became president of the Wildlife Management Institute. Williams, while still with the USFWS, took time from his busy schedule to share some of his conservation philosophies at a Division of Wildlife staff meeting at Deer Creek State Park last November.

“The future of fishing, hunting, and trapping will depend on keeping sportsman partners engaged in conservation, broadening participation in outdoor recreation, and getting young people outdoors. I believe that conservation itself depends on the participation of those who most enjoy the outdoors.”

While director of the USFWS, Williams worked to conserve wildlife habitats, expand opportunities for fishing and hunting, and strengthen cooperative partnerships between the Service, states, conservation organizations, and the private sector.

“It was always my dream to someday lead the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,” said Williams. “When this dream came true, I made it a priority that the federal agency must strengthen its partnerships with state agencies and the rest of the wildlife conservation community, including industry, non-government organizations, private landowners, and those who enjoy the recreation that the outdoors has to offer.”

Under his direction, state agencies and angling groups were involved firsthand in developing the Service’s Strategic Plan for Fisheries that became a model to restoring the nation’s fisheries through broad-based collaboration. He also worked to strengthen partnerships among the Service, the states, and private industry in the wildlife law enforcement arena.

He was committed to providing first-rate opportunities for hunters by expanding programs on refuge lands. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and 17 sportsmen’s organizations to improve and maintain hunting and fishing access to federal lands through cooperation between government agencies and private organizations.

Williams was director of the USFWS for three years before taking the helm at WMI. Williams’ previous work with numerous state fish and wildlife agencies beginning in 1985 gave him the background and experience to understand the unique challenges of state resource agencies. He served as Secretary to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and held positions in the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He is a member of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, and other professional and conservation organizations.

First North American Wildlife Conference Set for Ohio

The Wildlife Management Institute will bring the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference to Ohio for the very first time in 2006. The 71st North American Conference will be held March 22–25, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus.

WMI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and professional management of North America’s wildlife and other natural resources. Its annual conference is a forum for the continent’s leading scientists, wildlife managers, educators, and administrators to address current issues, policies, and practices of professional management of the resources.



Steve Williams, former director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is now president of the Wildlife Management Institute.

USFWS photos



Williams on a hunting outing



Vicki Ervin

Williams discussing wildlife conservation issues with some of the Division of Wildlife staff

Record Buck Taken in Ohio

A white-tailed deer killed last fall in Warren County is an Ohio record, and if approved by national scoring organizations, will also rank among the top ten all-time largest deer in the world. Crossbow hunter Brad Jerman, of Springboro, shot the 11-point typical (symmetrical antlers) buck that scored 201 $\frac{1}{8}$ by a panel of scorers from the Buckeye Big Buck Club. Jerman's typical buck tied for the

state's top typical honor with a buck taken in Clark County in 1986. The Division held a special scoring day at the Division's District Five Office last January, and provided an opportunity for the media to talk to Jerman and the panel scorers about the deer and the way it was scored. As a bonus, Mike Beatty brought the Beatty Buck (state record non-typical) for photo opportunities of both state records together.

Tim Daniel

Brad Jerman and Division of Wildlife District 5 Supervisor Todd Haines.

Metzler Receives Wildlife Award



Tim Daniel

Eric Metzler, noted naturalist and active member in the Ohio Lepidopterists Society, received a Division of Wildlife Award at the annual Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus last March. Metzler was honored for his dedication and efforts to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of Ohio's moths and butterflies and their habitats. He was the first to discover the moth species *Spinipogon resthavenensis* at the Resthaven Wildlife Area in Erie County.

New State Record Saugeye



Lindsay Deering

The Ohio Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Inc. has certified a new state record saugeye. Roger Sizemore, of Orient, caught the 14.04-pound saugeye at Antrim Lake in Columbus. The fish measured 30 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length, and had a girth of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Oddity of Nature

Charles Rosier bagged a wild turkey with a very unusual double beard. The difference between this double bearded turkey and others with two beards is that the beards on this bird are not vertical but side by side. Rosier shot the turkey in Hocking County in 1991.



New Observation Deck at Mosquito Creek

Bike riders can now use the newly constructed wildlife observation platform at Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area in Trumbull County. It is part the Western Reserve Greenway Trail through Trumbull County and is leased to and maintained by the Trumbull County Metropolitan Park Commission.





Tom Cross

Ron Jones with a 30-inch steelhead taken from the Rocky River last December.

Ohio's Great Steelhead Fishing

Northeast Ohio's phenomenal steelhead trout fishery continues to grow in popularity attracting anglers from both Ohio and out-of-state.

U.S. Senator George Voinovich with his trophy steelhead taken at Lake County's "Outdoor Writer's Conclave" near the mouth of Big Creek (tributary of the Grand River) last March.



Tom Cross



Ohio Fur Takers Chapter 8

Trappers Make Donation

The Ohio Fur Takers of America donated \$250 and food to the Center of Hope in Ravenna. The organization raised the money at a fund-raising event, and donated meat from a hog and turkey bought at the Portage County Fair. The center provides meals and groceries to needy families. Photographed left to right are Jennifer Scales of the Center of Hope, and Ohio Fur Takers members Mike Velka, Bob Orms, Al Kisamore, and Bill Prange.

Outdoor Writer Receives Division Award

The Division presented long-time *Dayton Daily News* outdoor writer Jim Roby a "Division of Wildlife Award" in appreciation for his many years as an outdoors communicator. Photographed (left to right) are *Dayton Daily News* outdoor columnist Jim Morris, Jim Roby, and Division of Wildlife Chief Steven A. Gray.



Larry Moore

Saw-whet Owl Banding Project

Researchers are discovering that Northern saw-whet owls are more abundant than previously thought, including right here in the Buckeye State. A banding operation in Ross County, established as part of Project OwlNet, netted an amazing 45 saw-whet owls last October and November. This number far exceeds any other documented single-season total of these small owls in the state.



Jim McCormac

Grass Carp taken on Rush Run Lake

This 43-inch grass carp was caught by Mark Debrates (left) of Middletown on Rush Run Lake while bass fishing using a topwater lure last summer. Grass carp normally feed on aquatic vegetation, but the carp most likely was feeding on cicadas during the massive cicada hatch of 2004.

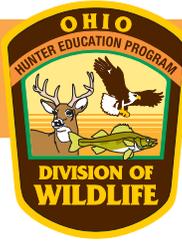


Matt Roberts

Turtle Time

Harrison County Wildlife Officer Neil Lynskey and his son Jacob got a surprise when they found two turtles on the same bank line last September. An 18-pound turtle was on the hook and a 30-pounder had its head caught in the line near the smaller turtle





On the Wilder Side of Education

by Jen Dennison, Wildlife Education Coordinator

How “wild” is your classroom or school? In other words, how much do your kids know about Ohio’s wildlife? Why is it important for Ohio’s students to know about wildlife? More importantly, is learning about Ohio’s wildlife important to you and your students?

Exploring math, science, art, history, and language arts with wildlife as a focus can be an exciting, innovative experience for students and educators alike. Using wildlife concepts in your classroom or program can breathe new life into tired subjects and therefore peak the interest and attention of students like no other topic can.

For example, when teaching measuring skills, instead of giving them a typical word problem such as “If two trains are traveling to a station and one is 20 miles away and the other is...,” wouldn’t it be more exciting for students to use a map to plan out and implement a bluebird trail at a nearby park? Your students are still learning measuring skills. But they also learn about bluebirds, bluebird habitat, and gain hands-on skills building bluebird boxes and installing them. They use statistics to see what nest boxes produce young bluebirds, which do not, and why. They gain experience in a community service project by working with the local park. And most importantly, they apply what they’ve learned, all based on wildlife.

This is just one example of the many ways you can use wildlife within your educational curriculum. The Division has several programs to help Ohio’s students and educators learn more about the wildlife that shares our state.

Project WILD and Aquatic Project WILD—These supplemental curriculums contain over 170 K–12 activities based on wildlife and wildlife management concepts. All activities are correlated to Ohio’s State Science Standards. These guides are available free of charge to educators who attend a workshop.

Science and Civics-Sustaining Wildlife—This new 9–12 grade curriculum from Project WILD focuses on creating wildlife habitat in your community. Social studies and science classes work together in projects to design and implement habitat improvement projects to benefit the people and wildlife of their community. The guide, containing over 30 activities, is correlated to Ohio’s State Science and Social Studies Standards, and is also available through a workshop.

WILD School Sites—This program is designed to help educators, students, schools, and communities create wildlife habitat improvement projects on school grounds. Those projects can then be used to supplement your school’s required curriculum. Free in-service workshops, materials, consultations, grants, and certifications are just some of the ways the Division can support your efforts to create a WILD School Site.

Wildlife Education Materials—Each wildlife district office and the Outdoor Education office offers free printed materials such as field guides and life histories. Available for loan are loaner trunks and activity kits on such topics as black bears, bald eagles, birds, bats, stream life, furs and skulls, white-tailed deer, wetlands, and owls. Slide programs and videos are also available for loan. Also check out the Division’s Web site at www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife under Wildlife Diversity for more information.



“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

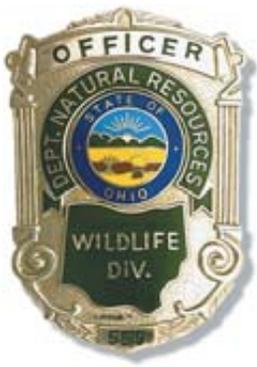
—Baba Dioum, Founding Member of the Executive Committee, International Union for the Conservation of Nature

For education materials, contact the Outdoor Education Section at 1-800-WILDLIFE or a wildlife district office. To find out more about Project WILD and other workshops and WILD School Sites call the Outdoor Education Section.

You can help support wildlife education in Ohio through the Wildlife Diversity Fund by donating portions of your tax refund or purchasing cardinal or bald eagle conservation license plates. 



Students at Indian Run Elementary School in Dublin, Ohio creating a WILD School Site.



Wildlife Law Enforcement

Field Notes

SCI Donation Supports Division Aerial Projects

The Central Ohio Chapter SCI donated \$10,000 towards the purchase of a compact airborne thermal imaging system for the Division of Wildlife. This system will be utilized in law enforcement to monitor compliance with Ohio's sport fishing, commercial fishing, and hunting laws. Besides being a very valuable tool in law enforcement activities, it will be used for wildlife management projects including many aerial wildlife surveys. One of the most exciting applications of this system is its ability to be used at night. Currently all of the wildlife surveys we conduct are during daylight hours and this system will give us the ability to capture data at night.



Tim Daniel

Tony Gioffre (left) and Tim Troiano (right) of Safari Club International and Division of Wildlife Pilot Joe Barber.

A Tale of Tangled Tails

by Trent Weaver, Montgomery County wildlife officer

A wildlife officer never knows what his day will bring. As Montgomery County wildlife officer, I received a call from a Kettering police officer about several injured squirrels trapped or caught in a fence. When I arrived at the scene I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Four young gray squirrels were stuck in a chain link fence with their tails tangled and matted together. They appeared to be otherwise healthy, and an adult squirrel was nearby.

I carefully untangled the four tails and left the squirrels there to be cared for by their parents. Even after freeing the young squirrels they all acted confused, but eventually headed toward the adult I had seen earlier.

Wild animals are quite resilient and are much better off in the wild than being taken in and raised by humans. The homeowners, who had watched the rescue from their kitchen window, can now enjoy seeing the squirrels with the naked tails frolic in their yard for quite some time.



Trent Weaver



Steve Cromes



William Runnels



Dan Shroyer

Ohio Wildlife Officers of the Year

Mark Battles, wildlife investigator, District Three, Akron, National Wild Turkey Federation (not pictured)

Steve Cromes, Pike County wildlife officer, Mississippi Flyway Council

William Runnels, Marion County wildlife officer, Shikar Safari Club International

Dan Shroyer, Carroll County wildlife officer, Ohio Bowhunters Association

Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

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

Q: We enjoy feeding and watching squirrels; however, they have caused problems by chewing holes in plastic peanut butter, coffee, and gasoline cans! Is this normal and what can we do about it?

—Ron Lee, Hamilton, OH



A: Squirrels, like other members of the rodent family, have teeth that are constantly growing and so they must chew to keep them worn down. For that reason it is common for squirrels to gnaw on things. Squirrels can and will also chew to get at food. Even when empty, a peanut butter, or coffee container would still smell of the contents. One solution would be to keep these items where the squirrels can't get to them or apply a taste repellent to deter them from chewing. To remove individual problem squirrels please call your nearest Division of Wildlife District Office for regulations and recommendations.

Q: Can you please help identify a bird I saw at my apartment complex pond? It is about the size of a mallard duck with a long, straight bill, orange legs, chestnut colored neck, grayish wings, and a dark, iridescent head.

—Cris Luchsinger, Franklin County (via email)

A: Your description sounds like an adult male green heron, a bird found near water throughout Ohio. Like other herons they will stalk shallow water areas and pluck fish, frogs, crayfish, and aquatic insects from the water. Leg color of female green herons is yellow. If approached too closely, green herons will fly away often giving a short alarm call: "skeow!" Green herons are one of the few tool-using birds. They have been known to use a variety of baits and lures to attract fish to the surface of the water.



Q: Why do I see female ruby-throated hummingbirds at my feeder but never males?

—The Helpers (via email)

A: There are many possible answers to this question. First, it could be as simple as the males are there but just not when you happen to be watching. Second, sometimes males aren't realized as such if the throat doesn't look ruby-red. In poor light or if the bird is not flaring the feathers then the throat appears dark and not noticeably red. Third, it is possible that the resident males may have already left your area. Even as soon as early August they begin their migration south for the winter and so some territories might be vacant. Finally, be sure to look closely at the birds you are seeing. Some of the "females" may actually be juvenile males. If there is even just one dark feather on the throat then the bird is a young male. 



School's out! . . . Now get OUTSIDE!

by Mary Warren

Do your parents ever tell you to “Go outside and play”? Just because school is out doesn't mean you should stop learning! “The Great Outdoors” is a fun place to learn and summertime is the perfect time to explore nature.

So turn off the TV and computer and get outside into the real world! There is no reason to be bored this summer. Try these “wild” activities to get you started on your very own outdoor adventure. Also try thinking of some wild summer projects on your own.

1. Keep a nature journal of all the wildlife that you see or hear. Record date, species, and location. Add some drawings or sketches too!
2. Mark off a one foot by one foot area in the grass. (You can use a string or whatever is handy to mark off the area.) Record everything that is alive within your area. This can be done alone or with a friend to make it more of a competition.
3. Go fishing and see what is biting! There is no better eating than a fish fillet sandwich made with a fresh catch you caught yourself.
4. Plant a garden for wildlife and see what comes. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to certain plants for nectar. Don't forget that weeding and watering your garden are important.
5. Visit a wildlife rehabilitation center near you to learn more about wildlife. (See the story on page 12 of this edition of Wild Ohio magazine.) You may even be able to volunteer or help in some way!

So whether you are at the beach, a park, a wildlife area, on vacation, or in your own backyard, take notice of the sights and sounds of “Wild Ohio” this summer!



Summer Road Trips

State Wildlife Areas and area parks:

Wherever you live in Ohio, you aren't very far from a state wildlife area, or state or local park. These are good places to look for and watch wildlife.

BUGFEST, Magee Marsh, July 16:

Discover the amazing world of insects at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Explore insects at various “hands-on” activity stations and earn your “Degree of Bugology!” Free admission. Located on State Route 2, 17 miles west of Port Clinton. For more information call (419) 898-0960, extension 31.



Ohio State Fair, Columbus, August 3-14:

Be sure to visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Park at the State Fair. The park offers fun and educational displays and hands-on activities for the whole family in a natural setting. Just a few of the things you can do and/or see there are live fish and wildlife on display, butterfly house, fishing pond, BB gun range, and archery range just for kids. You can also pick up lots of free materials about wildlife and Ohio's wildlife and natural places.

WILD GAME GOURMET

r e c i p e s

Wild Turkey-Stuffed Croissants

3 cups wild turkey meat, cooked and cubed (pheasant can be substituted)
3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 16-ounce can diced pineapple, drained
1 medium onion, diced
3 stalks celery, diced
Croissants

Dressing Ingredients

1 cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon Teriyaki sauce
½ teaspoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon poultry seasoning
½ teaspoon lemon pepper
1 tablespoon fresh or dried parsley
2 tablespoons sugar

Mix turkey, eggs, pineapple, celery, and onion. Combine dressing ingredients and pour over pheasant mixture; mix well. Cut croissants in half lengthwise and fill with turkey mixture.

(Contributed by Melissa Hathaway)

Pasta Salad with Fish

4 fish fillets, flaked (walleye or your favorite panfish)
16-ounce package pasta (shells) cooked and drained
3 hard-boiled eggs
3 stalks celery, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 small red onion, diced
½ cup black olives, chopped
2 teaspoons dill weed

Dressing Ingredients

¾ cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon mustard
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ cup sweet pickle relish
salt and pepper to taste

Mix fish, pasta, eggs, celery, green pepper, onion, and olives. Mix dressing ingredients and pour over pasta mixture. Mix well and chill for 30 minutes before serving.

(Contributed by Melissa Hathaway)

Wild Picnic Fare: Go wild on your next picnic by substituting these recipes for your traditional picnic dishes.



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

WILDLIFE Reflections

Wildlife Constellations of Summer

by Jen Dennison

This issue's "Wildlife Reflections" is the third in a four-part series of articles exploring the legends and mythology related to constellations that are named for wildlife.

Summertime can bring some of the best stargazing of the year. There's nothing like spreading out a blanket on the cool grass and lying back in a dark field and watching the stars. The longer you stay out, the more your eyes will adjust, allowing you to see some of the fainter constellations. Try to find a spot that is away from buildings or parking lot lights. Give your eyes at least 15 minutes to adjust fully to the darkness. If you light a lighter or a flashlight, you'll have to start all over again. If you're lucky, you'll catch a "falling star" to wish upon. Summertime has quite a few opportunities to watch for meteor showers, including the largest show, the Perseids in August. Look for the meteors to come out of the northeast sky just west of the Pleiades (PLEE-uh-deez), or "seven sisters."

In addition to the year-round constellations such as the Great Bear (Big Dipper), the Little Bear (Little Dipper) and the Dragon, you should see the following constellations June through August.

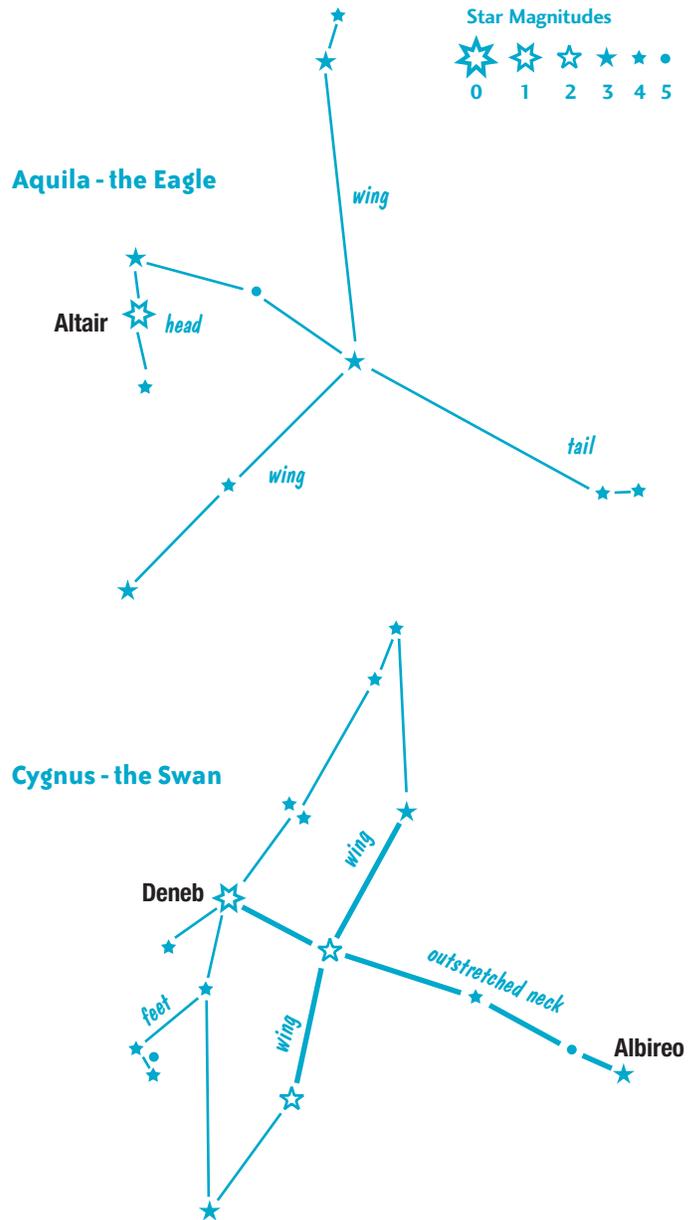


Eagle (Aquila)

This constellation has been identified as a bird since about 1200 B.C., and is said to be the eagle that held the thunderbolts of Zeus, king of the Greek gods, until he needed them. Named Aquila (uh-KWEE-la), this bird also shows up as one of the birds hunted by Hercules as part of his 12 tasks. This constellation is fairly bright, in the shape of a bird, and can be high in the eastern sky in June. It seems to be flying north along the Milky Way.

Swan (Cygnus)

This very large constellation also seems to be flying along the Milky Way, only south, towards the Eagle. This is also one of the birds hunted by Hercules. Cygnus (SIG-nus) was also the name of a young man who so impressed Zeus with his repeated attempts to save a drowning friend that he turned him into a swan, enabling him to dive more easily. Cygnus was eventually rewarded for his gallantry by a prominent place in the summer skies within the cloudy path of the Milky Way. The main beams of this constellation are also referred to as the "Northern Cross," the counterpart to the more famous "Southern Cross," which can be seen year-round in the southern hemisphere.



Meteor Showers

Meteor showers, are produced by small fragments of debris entering the Earth's atmosphere at extremely high speed. Each time a comet swings by the sun, it produces large amounts of small particles which will eventually spread out along the entire orbit of the comet to form a meteoroid "stream." If the Earth's orbit and the comet's orbit intersect at some point, then the Earth will pass through this stream for a few days at roughly the same time each year, producing a meteor shower.

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Wild Ohio Magazine Subscription, 4483 Industrial Parkway, Cleveland OH 44135.

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