

Wild Ohio

Winter 2004-2005

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



SPECIAL ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



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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
Cleveland OH 44135

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The Division of Wildlife offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, you should contact: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203; or, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Diversity Affairs Office, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-1, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

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.

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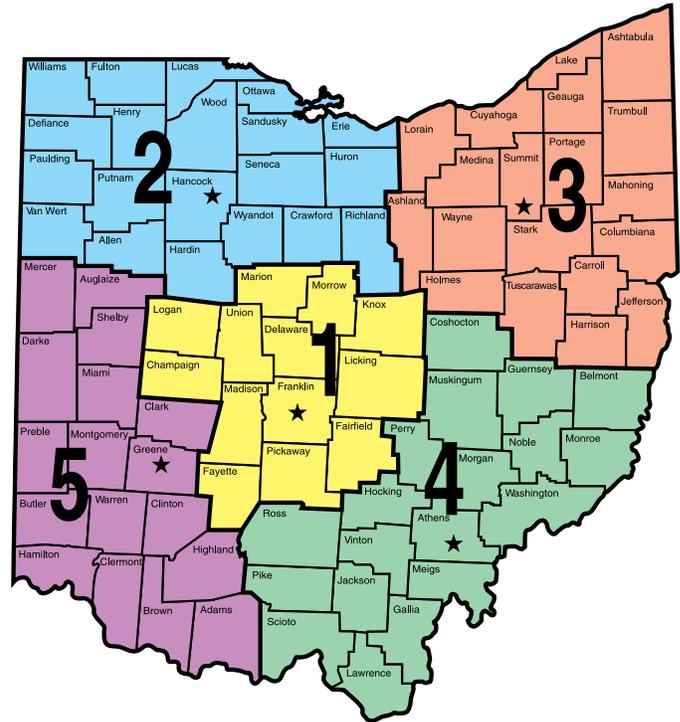
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1-800-WILDLIFE

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Toll-free for a Lake Erie fishing report

1-800-POACHER

Toll-free to report poaching

<http://www.ohiodnr.com>

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Web site



Winter Wildlife Calendar . . .

- February 26** **Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamp Competition**, Roberts Center, Wilmington. Open to the public 1–4 p.m.
- March 6** **Division of Wildlife Open House Forums** (2005 Hunting Regulations). Contact your wildlife district office for hours.
Canada Goose Day, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County. For information, call (419) 898-0960, ext. 31.
- March 9** **Wildlife Diversity Conference**, Aladdin Shrine Complex, Columbus. This year's theme is "Big, Bold, and Beautiful" and will focus on such species as bald eagles, otters, and bullfrogs. Watch for details on the Division of Wildlife's Web site.

Features



ODNR Director Sam Speck participates in a Division of Wildlife turkey release. A total of 186 wild turkeys were released at seven sites in central, northwestern, and southwestern Ohio.



photos by Tim Daniel

Annual Report—Fiscal Year 2004

6–12

Division of Wildlife revenues and expenditures, as well as reports and photos highlighting wildlife diversity, wildlife management, fish management, law enforcement, and information and education projects.

Cover Photo: Beginning in the early spring listen closely after nightfall for the familiar call of the barred owl, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” The barred owl can be found in 83 of Ohio’s 88 counties, especially in mature forests of the south-eastern portion of the state. Photo by Tim Daniel.



Readers’ Photos

13–16

A Special Letter from a Reader

Dear Melissa:

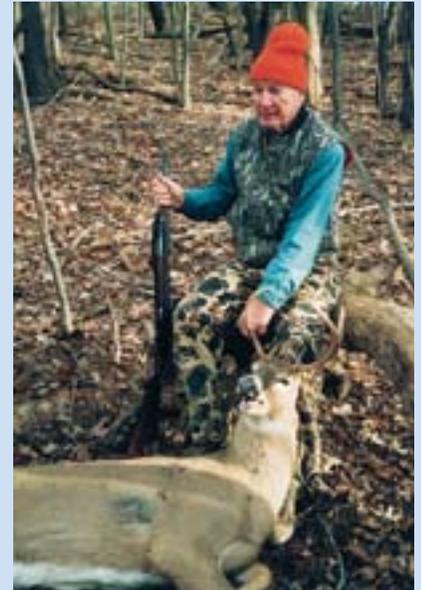
I am sending along a photo of the deer I tagged on 12-2-03. I got him in Jefferson County on private property.

I am telling you the good old days are here right now. I was born in 1925 and have hunted all my life. Rabbits and squirrel were all that was available in my early days. In the 1960s we had lots of pheasant. Today the deer and turkey are everywhere.

Wild Ohio is a great magazine. Keep up the good work.

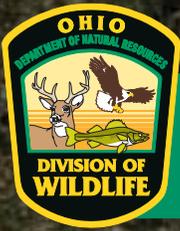
Sincerely,
Carl Thomas

(See more reader’s photos on pages 13–16.)



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Ohio's watchable wildlife



Watchable Wildlife • *Barred Owl*

by Tammy York • photos by Tim Daniel

Dinner for whom? A lot of practice and a little bit of talent mixed in with a sense of adventure and you might just have what it takes to call in Ohio's barred owls.

Being nocturnal in its behavior, the barred owl is hard to see, but easy to hear if one is nearby. One of the most common calls the owl makes is, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" Another call that you might hear is referred to as the monkey call which can be a little unsettling because it sounds like a screaming monkey.

"They are fun to listen to," said Dave Swanson, forest wildlife research biologist at the Waterloo Wildlife Area Research Station. "They are my favorite owl. The barred owl is one of a few birds that begins calling in the early spring."

Barred owls are found across North America, southern Canada, and the mountainous regions of Mexico and Central America. In Ohio, this beautiful bird can be found in 83 of Ohio's 88 counties with the majority of them located in the

southeastern portion of the state, where they are the most common large owl. Ohio has perfect barred owl habitat. The forests are older and more mature and have more tree cavities (large, hollowed-out holes). Even though the owls prefer nesting in a tree cavity, they will nest in abandoned hawk, crow, or squirrel nests.

Breeding activity begins in late February and two to three rough, dull, white eggs are laid in mid-March. The female incubates the eggs during the 28-day incubation period, and the hatch occurs in mid-April. The owlets do not open their eyes until they are one week old.

In late May and early June the young barred owls climb up the tree in search of suitable perches. The young owls are able to climb the tree by using a combination of their talons, wings, and beaks to slowly pull themselves up. They will take their first flight between seven and nine weeks of age.

An adult barred owl stands 18 to 22 inches tall and is brown and gray with white bars running across its feathers, hence the



name barred owl. It is also referred to as one of the hornless owls because it does not have ear tufts like that of a screech owl or great horned owl. Large brown eyes set the barred owl apart from other owls too, as most owls have yellow eyes.

The wingspan of a barred owl is about three and a half to four feet. But don't expect to hear one in flight. The feathers of their wings are fringed which helps the bird to be nearly silent as it flies. The barred owl's ears are located on the sides of its head and are slightly offset to each other enabling it to triangulate prey such as small mammals, reptiles, fish, snails, bats, songbirds, crows, woodpeckers, or rabbits. (Triangulate means to divide an area into triangles to determine distance or relative positions.)

If you would like to experience the thrill of hearing a barred owl try using one of the many barred owl calls. These calls will help you mimic the call of the barred owl, possibly even so well that you might get an invitation to dinner.



Viewing Opportunities

Barred owls are year-round residents. The best time of year to call barred owls is in the early spring between late March and late May.

Good opportunities to hear barred owls are at Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area (Jackson County), Delaware Wildlife Area (Delaware County), Egypt Valley Wildlife Area (Belmont and Guernsey counties), Forked Run Wildlife Area (Meigs County), Kokosing Lake Wildlife Area (Knox County), Salt Fork Wildlife Area (Guernsey County), Shawnee State Forest (Scioto and Adams counties), Tranquility Wildlife Area (Adams County), Waterloo Wildlife Area (Athens County), Wayne National Forest (Lawrence, Athens, Hocking, and Washington counties), Wolf Creek Wildlife Area (Morgan County), Woodbury Wildlife Area (Coshocton County), and Zaleski State Forest (Vinton County).



Annual Report of the ODNR Division of Wildlife for Fiscal Year 2004



Message from the Chief

This Annual Report Issue of *Wild Ohio* highlights the Division's accomplishments throughout 2004 including work in fish management, wildlife management, law enforcement, and information and education. The year was very productive with a number of exciting new ventures initiated to benefit the state's wildlife and expand wildlife-related recreation for Ohioans.

Last year was the "Year of the Bald Eagle" in Ohio. A major milestone was surpassing the mark of 100 eagle nests in the state as 131 eaglets fledged from a record 108 nests. During the 25th anniversary of Ohio's bald eagle program, bald eagles soared across the state and the success of the bald eagle indicates how the habitat and conservation of our national symbol has improved.

Youth hunting and fishing programs continued to expand to further strengthen the hunting and fishing heritage in the Buckeye State. Of special note was Ohio's first-ever youth Deer-Gun Season. The Division received hundreds of photos and letters from elated young hunters and parents in appreciation of this new season. This special hunting event is just one way the Division hopes to involve youth in the big picture of wildlife conservation, which is so important to the future of Ohio's wildlife and the enjoyment of these resources by future generations.

The Division extends our gratitude for the ongoing support of hunters, trappers, anglers, bird watchers, and the state's many other wildlife enthusiasts who pay for fish and wildlife programs. Here's to another prosperous year for Ohio's wildlife.

Steven A. Gray, Chief

Ohio Wildlife Council —
Standing, L to R: James R. Lynch
(Columbus), Gary Grant (Continental),
Howard L. Calhoun (Akron), Larry B.
Mixon, Sr. (Columbus).
Seated, L to R: Charles E. Franks
(Newark), Karen Stewart-Linkhart
(Xenia), Horace W. Karr (Pomeroy),
Lee Howley (Vermilion)



photos by Tim Daniel

Financial Report

Expenditures

Wildlife Management - \$11,276,666

The Wildlife Management and Research Group is responsible for managing all wildlife, assisting landowners with habitat improvements, managing land for wildlife and wildlife-oriented recreation, and conducting research to be used in improving wildlife populations.

Law Enforcement - \$3,815,253; Wildlife Officers - \$7,488,208

Enforcement is a fish and wildlife management tool designed to protect the wildlife resource, ensure fair and equitable use, protect state property, and implement wildlife, litter, and pollution statutes. Wildlife officers are assigned to each of Ohio's 88 counties and Lake Erie.

Fish Management - \$9,201,312

The Fish Management and Research Group maintains the aquatic resources of the state. Biologists and other fisheries personnel manage water areas by improving spawning habitat and fishing access, recommending regulations, monitoring fish populations and angler harvest, stocking, and conducting research.

District and Statewide Operations - \$7,975,379

Expenditures in this category include money spent for fiscal and business management, licensing and permits, property management, computer services, the construction crew, environmental research and review, and wetlands habitat restoration.

Information and Education - \$4,586,301

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

Capital Improvements - \$1,848,754

These funds are spent on land purchases and the repair, maintenance, renovation, and construction of facilities such as fishing access sites, boat ramps, hatcheries, and offices.

Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity

Income for these projects comes from the proceeds from the sale of wildlife license plates and donations to the wildlife checkoff program on state income tax forms. This income is used for projects in fish and wildlife management, information and education, and law enforcement. These monies are used specifically to achieve management goals established for endangered species and wildlife diversity.

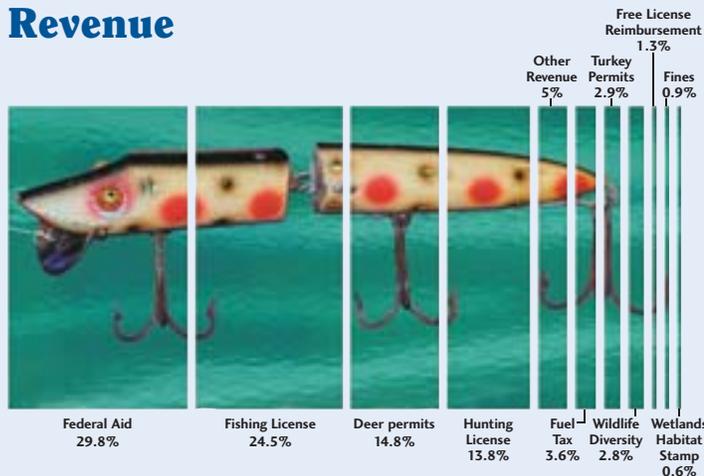
Statement of Revenue – Fiscal Year 2004

Fishing License	\$13,264,825
Hunting License	7,488,676
Deer Permits	7,986,860
Turkey Permits	1,543,921
Free License Reimbursement	716,319
Federal Aid (P-R Wildlife Restoration & D-J Sport Fish Restoration)	16,110,008
Wetlands Habitat Stamp Sales	331,828
Wildlife Diversity & Endangered Species Fund ...	1,541,624
Fines	461,653
Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax	1,922,935
Other Revenue	2,676,079
Total	54,044,727

Non-Resident Licenses Issued in FY04

Non-Resident Fishing	78,440
Non-Resident Hunting	22,309

Revenue



Statement of Expenditures – Fiscal Year 2004

Administration	\$1,814,389
Information & Education	4,586,301
Law Enforcement	3,815,253
Wildlife Officers	7,488,208
Fish Management	9,201,312
Wildlife Management	11,276,666
District & Statewide Operations	7,975,379
Capital Improvements	1,848,754
Total	48,006,261

Expenditures



Wildlife Diversity



Tim Daniel

Wild Karner blue butterflies were again observed at Kitty Todd Nature Preserve in Lucas County. More than 1,500 adult butterflies have been raised at the Toledo Zoo and released to supplement the wild population.

AP/Wide World Photos



It was the “Year of the Bald Eagle in Ohio,” when another record 108 bald eagle pairs produced 131 young.

Nearly 200 of the endangered American burying beetles raised at a captive colony at The Ohio State University were released into the wild. Plans are underway to establish a satellite captive beetle colony at The Wilds.



Tim Daniel

Other Wildlife Diversity Highlights

- Expenditures for endangered wildlife and wildlife diversity projects totaled \$2,559,140.
- Besides the reproductive success of the bald eagle, 31 osprey pairs fledged 50 young, 15 trumpeter swan pairs fledged 43 cygnets, 15 peregrine falcon pairs raised 54 young, and nine sandhill crane pairs produced six young.
- The Division awarded \$120,452 to nine recipients in the first competitive State Wildlife Grant program. Topics included mussels, the American burying beetle, Indiana bat, Lake Erie watersnake, and amphibians.
- The Division partnered with various institutions to enhance the wildlife conservation message by providing funding for publications and/or displays to numerous museums, zoos, park districts, and wildlife conservation organizations.
- Funding for wildlife education loaner trunks was provided to Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) wildlife specialists in 20 counties.

- More than 500 people attended the annual Wildlife Diversity Conference. The theme was “Good Things Come in Small Packages,” and highlighted smaller species such as brook trout, spiders, and aquatic insects.



Tim Daniel

Eastern spadefoot toads have now been documented from seven counties in southern and southeastern Ohio.

Wildlife Management



The Times Leader, Martins Ferry, Ohio

A dedication was held at the Egypt Valley Wildlife Area in May, in which the National Wild Turkey Federation assisted with the acquisition of an additional 800+ acres. Other land acquisitions included acreage on the Scioto River in Pickaway County, acreage at Delaware Wildlife Area, North Bass Island, La Su An Wildlife Area, New Lyme Wildlife Area, and conservation easements at Black Run.

Rick Fife

A total of 186 wild turkeys was released at seven sites in central, northwestern, and southwestern Ohio.

Ohio's first-ever youth only deer gun hunt was a great success with 5,325 successful hunters.



Hunters had the second highest deer harvest ever (197,790). Healthy deer populations remain and disease surveillance once again showed no problems with Ohio deer.

Other Highlights:

- The Division partnered with The Ohio State University (OSU) to establish the "Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory."
- The Division of Wildlife was awarded two grants by the National Shooting Sports Foundation to promote Ohio hunting opportunities and to identify barriers to hunting access on private lands to use in implementing future access programs to meet the needs of Ohio's hunters and landowners.
- Division personnel provided grassland habitat management training to more than 230 agricultural agency employees as part of the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.
- The Division provided \$30,000 to Pheasants Forever to create Ohio's first Habitat Team. The team will provide services, such as planting and herbicide treatments, to landowners interested in establishing grassland habitat.
- The Division in partnership with Ducks Unlimited assisted 66 landowners with the establishment of 430 acres of wetland habitat through the Private Lands Wetland Restoration Program. The Pastures-to-Prairies Program provided funding to 25 landowners to plant 908 acres of new grassland habitat.
- The Division continued to provide funding to 19 SWCD wildlife specialists.
- Thirty wild turkey hens were released in Pickaway County during the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention, which had the largest attendance in convention history.
- Two-hundred-one gobblers were captured, banded, and released in 23 counties.

Fish Management



Ohio governor Bob Taft holds a walleye he landed at the annual Governor's Fish Ohio Day on Lake Erie. The Division worked with interagency partners to establish Total Allowable Catches for walleye and yellow perch in Lake Erie and continued work to develop future fisheries management plans for both species.

D'Arcy Egan, *The Plain Dealer*

The Division's six state hatcheries raised more than 38 million fish, including 423,000 steelhead smolts, 151,000 catchable rainbow trout, 47,000 brown trout, 8.7 million saugeye, 2.6 million walleye, 1 million yellow perch, 245,000 channel catfish, 21,000 muskellunge, and 593,000 hybrid striped bass.

Tim Daniel

Other Highlights:

- Updated lake maps on the Division's Web site and improved other online fishing information.
- Completed the final design for Egypt Valley Lake.
- Reinstated the inland angler survey program on 33 lakes.
- Conducted aerial assessments of fishing pressure on Lake Erie, and developed new sampling programs on smallmouth bass in the Central Basin.
- Continued cooperative research with OSU on spawning stock dynamics of walleye and yellow perch in Lake Erie.
- Lake Erie staff hosted an interagency field exercise to calibrate bottom sampling gear among research vessels from Ohio, Michigan, U.S. Geological Survey, and Ontario for Lake Erie fishes.
- The Division worked with outside partners to help fund conservation easements for permanent protection of almost 44,500 feet of riparian habitat on Ohio streams.
- Division biologists conducted surveys of headwater streams that provided information on the overall health of these systems, including the diversity of fish species and abundance of threatened and endangered species.



Doug Maloney

A total of \$860,000 was spent on improvements to boating access sites across the state through the Division's Angler-Boater Fund.

- Division personnel collaborated with other ODNR divisions to develop a database of dams that were candidates for removal to improve fish habitat and movement.
- Biologists monitored Ohio River tributaries for the presence of Asian carp and participated in developing a national Asian carp management plan.
- Completed a cooperative project with OSU in examining long-term trends in mussel abundance and diversity.



Jim Quinlivan

Wildlife officers made 6,806 arrests for wildlife crimes and other criminal violations resulting in \$452,356.63 in fines collected.



Wildlife officers contacted 46,790 anglers, 33,285 hunters, and 291 trappers in the field.

photo courtesy of Randy Roberts, *The Courier*

Other Highlights:

- "Operation Cornerstone" was completed after many years of complaints from the public. Eight Ashtabula County men were arrested on felony charges for commercialization of sport-caught yellow perch. Eight convictions resulted in \$55,000 dollars in restitution paid to the Division.
- "Operation Rip Rap," centered around commercialization of sport-caught white bass in the Sandusky River, was completed. As of this printing, seven of the 13 defendants pleaded guilty to charges, resulting in over \$12,000 in restitution.
- Wildlife officers investigated 130 water pollution incidents statewide where 20,280 wild animals (primarily fish and other aquatic animals) died. The Division collected \$9,441.88 in damages for five settlements.
- The 1-800 Turn-In-a-Poacher phone line received 3,216 phone calls from concerned citizens reporting wildlife violations, of which 908 TIP reports were written with 475 reports assigned to an officer to investigate.
- Forty-three incidents of personal injury or property damage related to hunting were investigated by wildlife investigators.
- Officers conducted 288 special enforcement projects targeting known wildlife criminals, known problem areas, and state wildlife property protection. Individual contacts totaled 4,975 with 842 arrests or citations issued.



Tim Daniel

Officers conducted 33 aircraft surveillance projects, including seven nighttime projects.

- Lake Erie investigators conducted seasonal special enforcement projects involving walleye, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass sportfishing, international boundary surveillance, and license compliance, and conducted 245 commercial fish inspections.
- During the spring walleye run on the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, wildlife officers made 1,451 contacts and issued 338 summons for litter, snagging, and possessing snagged walleye.

Information & Education



Tim Daniel

Over 50 instructors were trained and certified for Ohio's "National Archery in the Schools" program. Seventeen schools were chosen to pilot this new program.



The Division provided hands-on fishing opportunity to over 100,000 people and distributed 3,800 rod and reel sets and cane poles, and 15,000 tackle boxes through new angler education projects. Aquatic education materials were distributed to almost 60,000 students.

Tim Daniel



Ohio State Fair activities included an air-gun range, archery range, native Ohio fish and wildlife displays, butterfly house, and youth fishing activity. Over 15,000 youths participated in the fishing activities. Tim Daniel

Other Highlights:

- The Division trained 26,765 students in 800 instructor-led and 237 home study hunter education courses.
- The statewide hunter education instructor corps reached 1,696 with 104 new instructors certified.
- Twenty-six programs of the *Wild Ohio* television show aired on 27 outlets across Ohio.
- An average of 145,000 copies per issue of the quarterly *Wild Ohio* Magazine was produced. The fifth *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine was produced and distributed to 300,000 young people.
- Over 150 new instructors were trained for our "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program, which reached over 50,000 Ohio students.
- Twenty-six new Project WILD facilitators were trained, bringing the number of active facilitators statewide to 127, and 60 workshops were held with 1,120 individual educators trained.
- The Division provided \$200,000 to the ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation to help fund their State Parks Naturalist Program.
- The Division funded 10 schools with \$500 each to create WILD School Sites on school property.
- The Division continued to fund the Center of Science & Industry's "What's Wild" elementary school program and "Nature in Balance" middle school program reaching over 57,000 students.
- The Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center attracted over 150,000 visitors.
- Over 23,000 visitors toured our Aquatic Education Visitor Center on South Bass Island.



An interactive shooting simulator and archery range were custom fitted into trailers to provide a mobile training and recreational shooting promotion for use at fairs, youth events, conservation clubs, etc.

Readers' PHOTOS



Many *Wild Ohio* readers sent us wildlife, fishing, and hunting photos during the past year to show how much they enjoy Ohio's many wildlife resources. We regret that there is only enough space to print a few of the best photos we received. If you take a good quality photo, we may publish your photo next year. Please note, we can not return photos, so if sending a print photograph, please **have an extra copy made** before sending it.



"I took this 12-point piebald deer in Noble County. It has a 23½-inch spread; the longest tine is 12 inches long."
 – Eli Burkholder, Middlefield, Ohio



"We've heard of our eyes being too big for our stomachs, but in this case they were too big for their mouths."
 – Richard and Carol Bilton, Collins, Ohio



"This is the second year a hummingbird has built its nest on top of my fish wind chime."
 – Michelle Weaver, Canton South, Ohio



"Just wanted to show you this pretty buck in Morgan County. My sons say it's a young hunter's dream!"
 – Mary Eppley, Clarington, Ohio



Frogs on a brick wall.
 – Marcia Colelli, Massillon, Ohio



This albino robin has been seen around a manufacturing company for two years. "I was very pleased she made it through the winter."
 – Jerry Dalrymple, Pleasant Plain, Ohio



"This is my Jack Russell terrier hunting squirrels."
 – Jud Jaros, West Alexandria, Ohio



"This ginseng was found by William J. Nichols of Logan County during the 2003 season. It weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces."
 – Wilma Boggs, Bellefontaine, Ohio



“This frog photo was taken at Mosquito Creek Reservoir, a truly exciting area with the comeback of bald eagles and release of trumpeter swans.”
– John Sims, South Euclid, Ohio



“Out of hundreds of photos taken in my backyard, I especially like this photo of turkey and deer feeding together.”
– Phil Gregor, Warren, Ohio



“Here is a photo of my 6½-month-old son Nicholas with my deer taken in Lorain County.”
– Scott Naselsky, Columbia Station, Ohio



Cicada emerging from its shell.
– Richard R. Morrisey, Lima, Ohio



This group of white pelicans that visited Walborn Reservoir in Stark and Portage counties last March created quite the buzz for area birders. White pelicans are rarely seen in Ohio.
– Jarod Roof, Portage County Wildlife Officer



A nest of young robins. – Bill Whitsel, Fairborn, Ohio

More Readers' Photos

Kids and the Outdoors



Twelve-year-old Stephanie Wollmann enjoys photographing wildlife. This is just one of the many excellent photos she sent us.
– Melissa Hathaway, Editor, *Wild Ohio* Magazine.



Twenty happy young hunters participated in the first Youth Dove Hunt at the St. Mary's Fish Hatchery property last year.
– Bill Knapke, Mercer County Pheasants Forever Chapter



Allie Urbanek found this set of deer sheds plus two others while on a winter hike. – David Novak, Richfield, Ohio



"I hope you find as much pleasure in this photo of our grandchildren as we did; two sisters enjoying each other and the outdoors."
– Dolly Jackson, Parma, Ohio



"This is my 14-year-old daughter Mindy and me with Mindy's fourth deer harvested since she started hunting with me four years ago." – Herb Leen, St. Paris, Ohio



"Here are my two sons, Justin and Jordan, with Justin's first Fish Ohio bluegill caught in a neighbor's farm pond."
– Jeff Latta, Albany, Ohio



Craig Littler, Jr. shot a longbeard turkey in Athens County during the youth turkey season.
– Craig Littler, Athens, Ohio



“My nephew Michael Reed harvested his first drake mallard on opening day of the Youth Waterfowl Hunt at Magee Marsh.” – Michael Hougan, South Euclid, Ohio



Dustin Bowers, “the Master Hunter,” shows off the t-shirt his grandmother had made for him that includes some of his hunting photos.
– Jill Bowers, St. Marys, Ohio.

“This is my first trapping harvest (a raccoon) after passing the trapper’s education course. I also harvested my first white-tailed deer during the gun season.”
– Jessica Byrd, Meigs County



“This photo shows my 10-year-old son Nick with the first steelhead trout he caught all by himself at Arcola Creek.”
– Paul Bishop, Jefferson, Ohio

While scouting for muskrat sign on my Fairfield County trap line one chilly winter morning, I happened to see a black, shiny object under the rippling water. I leaned down to pick it up realizing that it was buried deeper than I thought. As I continued to dig into the gravel, what I assumed was an old cow jawbone washed up from a nearby dairy farm actually turned out to be a molar of an estimated 11,000-year-old mastodon! I finally extracted the five pound object from the water and stood there gazing at my new find.

As soon as I arrived home, I immediately placed the tooth in a plastic bag filled with some water, and wrapped it in a towel to keep the tooth from drying out. My family was amazed when I announced my treasure. My daughter, with assistance from Tim Daniel, visited the ODNR Division of Geological Survey with the tooth. Many excited biologists confirmed that it was in fact a mastodon tooth dating back to the ice age.

I chose to permanently loan the tooth to the Division of Wildlife. The state of Ohio may not have existed at the time of this great

Mastodon Tooth Donated to Division of Wildlife

by Gary Graham, Lancaster, Ohio



Tim Daniel

Wildlife Chief Steve Gray and Gary Graham.

animal, but I see it as wildlife in this area whether it lived 10 years ago or 10,000.

So next time you are walking upstream looking for muskrat sign or walking through a field on your way to the deer stand, don't forget to look down every once in while. You never know what is right under your nose.

New Addition to Wetland Research Program

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Erie County became part of the Division of Wildlife's wetlands research program last fall. The reserve is considered one of the finest natural estuaries in the Great Lakes and an important center for the study of coastal habitats. Management responsibilities were shifted from ODNR's Division of Natural Areas & Preserves.

The facility is operated in partnership with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It is the only such NOAA estuarine research facility on the Great Lakes. The unique freshwater habitat serves as a field laboratory where scientists conduct coastal wetlands research and where students can learn about the critical



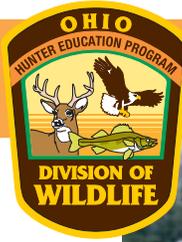
Frank Lopez

role of estuarine habitats in coastal ecosystems. The reserve and its visitor center are also popular destinations for birding and nature enthusiasts who come to observe the many species found in the 573-acre wetland.

The reserve and its nature trail are open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset. The visitor center is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday and closed Monday and Tuesday.

The bluebills, seen through a blind on Deer Creek Lake, were painted for the Division of Wildlife by Dick Benson of Washington C.H., Ohio. This artwork is featured on the cover of Publication 295, *Waterfowl Hunting Seasons*.





Practice Makes Perfect at Division Shooting Ranges

by Kevin Dixon

The Division of Wildlife operates 21 public shooting ranges around the state to provide constituents the opportunity to experience and enjoy recreational shooting. Many shooters use the ranges to sight-in their equipment and hone their shooting skills.

The Division of Wildlife ranges are classified as class A, B, C, D or O.

Class A ranges: supervised, wheelchair accessible, and have shooting benches and restroom facilities;

Class B ranges: unsupervised rifle and pistol ranges;

Class C ranges: unsupervised clay target shotgun ranges;

Class D ranges: unsupervised archery ranges; and

Class O ranges: include other public ranges not classified by the Division of Wildlife.

All of the class A, B, C, and D ranges are operated by the Division and are located on specific wildlife areas throughout the state. The ranges are funded primarily by hunting, fishing, and trapping license revenues, not by general tax dollars.



Tim Daniel

Class A Ranges

Of the 21 Division of Wildlife ranges, five are Class A facilities and require a range permit. The cost is \$5 for a one-day permit and \$24 for an annual permit. The permit fees offset the cost of the attendant, restrooms, maintenance, trash removal, and improvements. The permits can be purchased at any license outlet or at any of the Wildlife District Offices, but not at the ranges. Shooters age 17 and under visiting Class A ranges are not required to purchase a permit, but must be accompanied by an adult (18 and over) holding a valid permit.

Hours of Operation for Class A ranges

Hours of operation may vary. All Class A ranges are closed on Monday and Tuesday as well as on the following days: Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Please contact the wildlife area of the range you are interested in for specific information.

Hours of Operation for Class B, C, and D Ranges

These ranges are open free-of-charge. No permit is required and no range attendant or restroom facilities are provided. Archery ranges are open everyday except during holidays, sunrise to sunset, except at the Spring Valley Wildlife Area. The archery range at Spring Valley Wildlife Area is only open the same days and times as the Class A Rifle/Pistol Range.

When visiting a Division shooting range, please invite a friend, family member, or child and share the experience.

For more information about public ranges in Ohio go to the Division of Wildlife Web site www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife and click on shooting ranges; obtain a copy of the Division publication *Public Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife Viewing Areas* (Publication 77), and review page 15; or call 1-800-WILDLIFE.

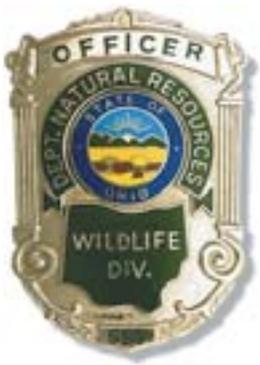


Tim Daniel

Division of Wildlife Class A Ranges:

Deer Creek Wildlife Area	12552 Post Rd., Route 1	Mt. Sterling	(614) 644-3925
Delaware Wildlife Area	8589 Horseshoe Rd.	Ashley	(614) 644-3925
Grand River Wildlife Area	6686 State Route 534	Farmington	(330) 889-3280
Spring Valley Wildlife Area	1863 Rox-N. Burlington Rd.	Waynesville	(937) 862-5162
Woodbury Wildlife Area	23371 State Route 60 S.	Warsaw	(740) 824-3211

*Ranges are closed during January and February with the exception of Spring Valley



Wildlife Law Enforcement

Field Notes

The past year was very busy for wildlife officers and investigators across the state, and the annual report section of this Wild Ohio issue highlights some of the Law Enforcement Section's activities. Below are some additional notable arrests. The Division of Wildlife extends our appreciation to the many concerned citizens who reported illegal wildlife activity and helped protect Ohio's wildlife.

Some Notable Wildlife Arrests



Jim Quinlivan

- In a long-term undercover enforcement operation that culminated in June 2003, wildlife officers continued to follow-up with Operation E & T. The investigation, conducted by the Division of Wildlife in cooperation with several other states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, involved the illegal possession, taking, and commercialization of reptiles and amphibians. As of July 1, 2004, 201 citations were issued to 35 individuals for violations involving reptiles and amphibians in Ohio.

- Working on a tip from a concerned sportsman, Lake Erie investigators apprehended a group of men from Wisconsin for over bagging on walleye. Thirty-three anglers from Wisconsin and three from Florida were apprehended and 34 charges resulted in \$3,700 in fines and forfeited fishing equipment.
- After being apprehended from attempting to flee from officers on a spotlighting complaint, several individuals discovered that their days of poaching had come to an end. A follow-up investigation revealed numerous wildlife violations in Licking, Muskingum, and Coshocton counties which had occurred during the past several years. Most of the violations involved the illegal taking of wild turkey and white-tailed deer. Forty-three charges were filed between 12 individuals. In addition to fines and court costs, the poachers received suspended jail time, community service, revocation of hunting privileges, supervised probations; and they were required to forfeit firearms, archery equipment, and illegally taken deer head and turkey mounts.
- Wildlife officers responded to Hoover Reservoir near Westerville on an illegal fish net complaint and discovered a gill net was set and full of fish. After conducting

surveillance two men were apprehended removing the net from the water. The net contained over 100 fish, mostly saugeye. The suspects were charged and convicted of violating several sport fishing regulations and were ordered to pay \$1,000 restitution for the fish in addition to a \$600 fine. The seized fish were donated to a Columbus area food pantry for the needy.

- A Sandusky man was ordered by the courts to pay \$2,475 in restitution to the Division of Wildlife for intentionally running over 99 ring-billed gulls with his vehicle.
- A landowner in Tuscarawas County caught two individuals digging ginseng on his property without permission. Officers arrested both individuals and further investigation revealed a ginseng buyer falsifying records and failing to keep required sales records. Four other individuals were also charged with harvesting ginseng during the closed season and without permission. All seven individuals were convicted. The ginseng buyer was ordered to return the ginseng to the landowner, valued at an estimated \$1,200, and his ginseng buyer permit was suspended for one year. The six illegal ginseng diggers were ordered to pay fines and court costs.

Shikar-Safari Award

Morgan County Wildlife Officer Jerry Rolli received the Shikar-Safari International Officer of the Year award. He was recognized for his 32 years of service to the Division of Wildlife.



Vicki Ervin

(Left to right) Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray, Shikar-Safari representative Tony Gioffre, Officer Jerry Rolli, and Division of Wildlife Law Enforcement Administrator Dan Schneider.

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: Is it true that Canada geese mate for life?

—Bob Hammond, Mt. Vernon, OH

A: A general interpretation of the term “mate for life” implies that an animal has one and only one mate its entire life. In regards to wildlife this statement can be misleading and is false. In actuality, geese, and birds of prey like eagles, hawks and owls may keep the same mate from year to year. However, if something happens to one of the pair, the remaining bird can and will acquire a new mate very quickly.

Q: Can you please identify this turtle? The picture was taken at Mosquito Creek.

—John Sims Jr. via email



A: The turtle in the photo appears to be a midland painted turtle, one of Ohio's

most abundant turtles that live in water. They are often seen basking on logs and along the banks of most bodies of water throughout the state. They are primarily aquatic, but females will travel great distances from water to lay eggs. With the coming of winter, these turtles seek deep water and burrow into the mud or debris at the bottom. The small amount of oxygen they need is absorbed directly from the water. Warmer water temperatures in spring will wake them from their winter “sleep.”



February is National Bird Feeding Month. The National Bird-Feeding Society wants people to make winter a little easier for wild birds by providing food, water, and shelter.

February 13-16: Great Backyard Bird Count. Groups and individuals are invited to count birds in backyards, parks, and other local areas. Reports can be made by logging onto BirdSource at <http://www.birdsource.org>.

Winter Bird Feeding

Bird Feeding is a fun and interesting hobby for the entire family. To help ensure you get the most enjoyment out of your efforts and provide for the birds to keep them coming back, here are some winter bird feeding tips:

- **Keep feeders well stocked in winter, especially at sunrise and sunset. These feeding times are crucial to help birds survive cold winter nights.**
- **Prevent ice and snow from accumulating on a bird-feeder. It won't matter how much seed is in the feeder if the birds can't get to it.**
- **After a snowfall, sweep or shovel snow out from under your bird feeder so the birds can get at food that is on the ground.**
- **Black-oil sunflower and suet are high-energy foods and great choices to make available in winter.**
- **Offer clean, ice-free water by using a birdbath heater.**



For Wild Kids

First Impressions

by Jamie Graham • photos by Tim Daniel

Many people react to wildlife in different ways. Bats are scary to some people and snakes are often considered slimy and yucky when really they are neither. Even if some animals are scary looking, they are actually all a part of nature.

Write the number of the slimy or scary animals in the box that matches what good it does for the environment. Then with a friend, compare your answers. Help each other understand that animals that seem slimy or scary might be our friends.



1-Bluegill



2-Great Horned Owl



3-Little Brown Bat



4-Bobcat



5-Spider



6-Black Rat Snake



7-Eastern American Toad

- A. I am a reptile that eats mice and insects, helping to keep both populations under control. I am not slimy, but dry and shiny.
- B. I am easy to find. I live in many backyards. I won't give you warts if you touch me.
- C. While I am slimy, the slime protects me from diseases. I am fun to catch and can be found anywhere whether it is a small pond or Lake Erie.
- D. I hunt at night using echolocation (listening to sounds to determine the location of prey). I am a mammal that eats many bugs.
- E. There are over 600 kinds of me in Ohio. I eat lots and lots of invertebrates (animals or insects lacking backbones).
- F. My familiar hoot can be heard throughout Ohio. I am one of the few predators who will eat skunks.
- G. Viewing me is rare since I can only be found in southeast Ohio. I feed on a variety of animals such as rabbits, insects, and even fish.

Answers: A-6, B-7, C-1, D-3, E-5, F-2, G-4

WILD GAME GOURMET

r e c i p e s

Venison Gravy on Biscuits

1 pound ground venison
1 4-ounce can mushrooms
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can milk
salt and pepper to taste

Brown venison in large frying pan. Add mushrooms and cook a few minutes. Add mushroom soup and milk and stir and cook until smooth and hot. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve over hot biscuits.

(Contributed by Vicki Mountz)

Hash Brown Venison Quiche

5 cups frozen shredded potatoes, thawed
¼ cup butter, melted
1 cup cooked ground venison
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
¼ cup onions, diced
3 eggs
¾ cup milk
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper

Press the hash browns between paper towels to remove excess moisture then press into bottom and up sides of ungreased 9-inch pie plate. Drizzle with butter. Bake at 425°F for 25 minutes. Combine venison, cheese, and onion; spoon over crust. In a small bowl, beat eggs, milk, salt, and pepper. Pour over potatoes. Reduce heat to 350°; bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until a knife inserted near center comes out clean. Allow to stand 10 minutes before cutting. Yields 6 servings.

(Contributed by Kendra Wecker)

by **Vicki Mountz,**

the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine

For some folks breakfast is the favorite time of day. Try these wild, warmer-uppers this winter season.



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

WILDLIFE Reflections

Wildlife Constellations of Winter

by Jen Dennison

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

Sitting alone in the early morning darkness at your favorite deer hunting spot, or perhaps taking a late evening walk with your kids in the crisp winter air, you're bound to look up at the night sky. The stars shine bright and clear. Can you find the Big Dipper? What about Orion? Or Cassiopeia? If you're scratching your head and saying "Huh?" keep reading.

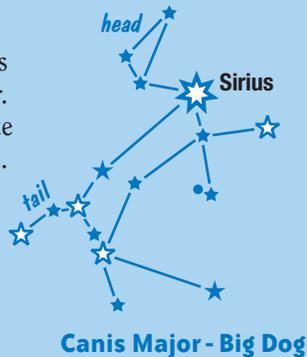
The Big Dipper, Orion, and Cassiopeia are all constellations. A constellation is a group of stars that form a pattern in the sky. These patterns or imaginary pictures have been named for persons, animals, or objects from myths and legends that the Greeks, Romans, Native Americans, and other ancient cultures have made up over the past 6,000 years. These stories explain the shapes and names of the constellations, but what they really do is help us find and remember which stars are which.

There are 1,000 to 1,500 stars visible on a dark, clear night. The patterns of the constellations help to break up this massive amount of stars into manageable pieces of the puzzle that make up the night sky. So follow along in this series as we take a look at what constellations are visible during the different seasons. We'll be focusing on constellations that reminded those ancient cultures of the wildlife humans admire so much.

Taurus and the Pleiades

Taurus (TOR-us), the Bull, is the first constellation of winter. It is usually first visible in late October through early March. The constellation is the shape of a triangular bull's head with two very long horns. In many ancient cultures, the horn was a symbol of fertility and bountiful riches.

But what is most interesting is the cluster of seven stars at the end of the higher horn. This cluster, the Pleiades (PLEE-uh-deez), or seven sisters as it is known in some cultures, is one of the most commonly known groups of heavenly objects. It is referred to by at least 28 different cultures, including two mentions in the Bible. But one of the most interesting stories comes from the Native Americans. The legend tells of seven maidens who were being pursued by a ferocious bear. Kneeling to pray for help, they called upon the Indian gods, who raised the ground where they were standing high into the air. Angered, the bear clawed at the earth in a

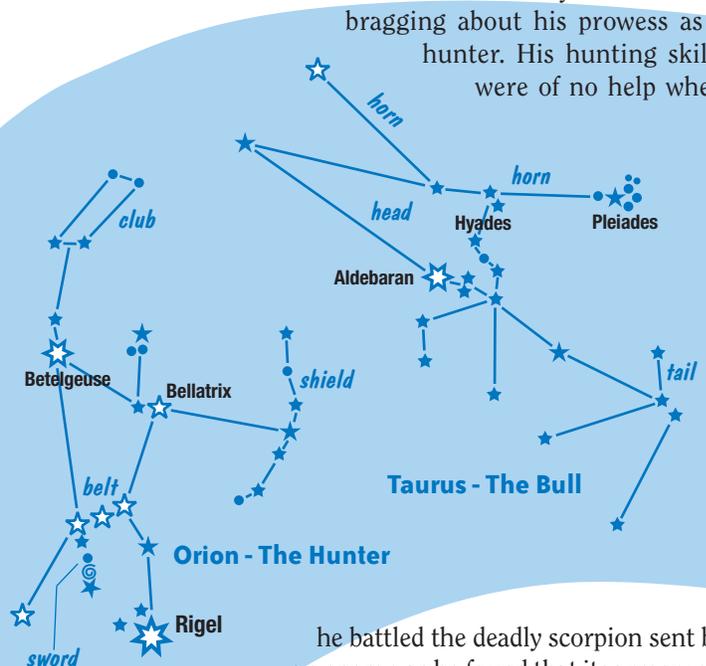


vain attempt to reach them. After leaving huge claw marks in the unyielding earth, the bear finally gave up and retreated. The maidens were turned into stars and placed in the sky, forever out of harm's way. The site where the story occurred is what we now call the Devil's Tower in Wyoming.

Orion-The Hunter

Orion (o-RYE-un) is the next winter constellation to appear. It rises out of the southern sky around late November and stays until early March. Orion is the master of the winter skies. He lords over the heavens with his hunting dog Sirius (SEAR-ee-us) trailing at his feet. Like most of these myths, there are several variations. The most common story tells of Orion

bragging about his prowess as a hunter. His hunting skills were of no help when



he battled the deadly scorpion sent by an enemy, as he found that its armor was impossible to penetrate with sword or arrow.

The scorpion killed Orion and the great god Zeus would not restore Orion to life, but placed him in the heavens for eternity. Some stories say that Orion is chasing the Bull. Others say he is running from the Scorpion, which doesn't appear in the sky until spring, after Orion has disappeared over the horizon.

Canis Major (Big Dog) and Sirius

The larger of Orion's two hunting dogs (the other being Canis minor), this constellation appears in mid-December to early January. Sirius, the brightest star in Canis Major, is also known as the Dog Star. Its appearance in the sky marked the Greek New Year.

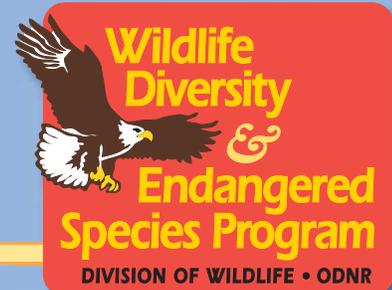
Other winter constellations include Cancer the Crab, Leo the Lion, Hydra the Dragon, and the Lynx.

The constellations, shown in a new graphic way, are based on those shown in *The Stars, A New Way to See Them* by H. A. Rey.

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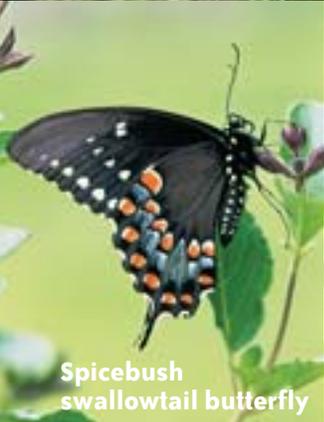
Eastern box turtle



Cave salamander



Ohio mussels



Spicebush
swallowtail butterfly



Indiana bats



Bald eagle

photos by Tim Daniel



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