

# DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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## WILDLIFE AND THE SETTLEMENT OF OHIO

Early Ohio was a true wilderness, 95 percent forest, the rest in prairie, marsh, swamp, and flowing water. The land supported a fauna of 50 kinds of mammals, more than 225 species of birds, and uncounted other vertebrates and invertebrates. Forest-type terrestrial animals were most abundant. Until about 1850, the now-extinct passenger pigeon—dependent on limitless acres of mast producing trees—was thought to be the most numerous species of bird in the entire world. Wild turkey and ruffed grouse were abundant and gray wolves, black bears, and mountain lions roamed nearly everywhere.

Before 1800, the vegetative cover was heavy and thick enough to keep soil erosion to a minimum; streams ran clear and cool and a multitude of springs flowed throughout the year. This abundance of “fair” and reliable water was a major factor in the awesome abundance of fish that greeted Ohio travelers before the 19th Century. There for the taking were huge populations of food and game fish such as pike, walleye, catfish, sucker, drum, and sturgeon, as well as a profusion of smaller fish that thrive in clear waters with clean bottoms. Historians have noted that the Indians were able to travel long distances by canoe because of the unending supply of food fish that were so easily harvested.

In the middle of the 18th Century, perhaps 10,000 Indians occupied the land that is now Ohio, and they were

the chief predators. With their small numbers and primitive hunting and fishing tools, they were unable to overexploit the native wildlife and lived in relative equilibrium with it. They hunted the larger mammals especially, such as white-tailed deer, elk, and black bear.

The early settlers in the territory that was to become Ohio were concerned with wildlife mostly as a temporary source of food, until they could establish their own crops and livestock. The first wildlife laws were enacted to protect those crops and livestock. A Northwest Territory law of 1799 encouraged the killing of wolves because “the raising of sheep ought to be encouraged...by every possible means.” Two laws in 1800 placed a bounty on wolves and added “panthers” to the list. From 1807 to 1809, after the gray squirrel population had become especially destructive to crops, Ohio taxpayers were required by law to submit squirrel scalps to the township clerk when paying their taxes, or be fined three cents for every scalp they were short.

Wildlife management was not thought of in those earliest days of settlement. The pioneers probably considered the enormous numbers of wild animals all around them to be indestructible—much as they thought of the vast hardwood forests (Fig. 6.1). Yet Ohio’s 24 million acres of primeval hardwood forest had been reduced to a mere four million acres by 1883. The first law to protect wild animals from humans was enacted by the young State of Ohio in 1829, an act “to protect the fur trade.” Killing of muskrats



Figure 6.1. Hunting in the hardwood forests has long been a popular activity in Ohio. Division of Wildlife file photo.

between 1 May and 15 October was prohibited except when these furbearers were guilty of being "injurious to works of a public or private nature." This was the first law enacted with the concept of conservation behind it.

In 1790, the pioneer population was only 3000, but statehood, in 1803, stimulated a rush of settlers into Ohio. Expansion of the National Road, from 1820 to 1840, and construction of the canal system, 1825 to 1845, opened up the entire state to travel and commerce. By 1850, the Ohio population had swelled to nearly two million. This irruption of humanity had enormous impact on the flora and fauna. Forests were cleared and prairies were grazed. The Great Black Swamp, a swamp forest in northwestern Ohio twice the size of Rhode Island, was ditched and drained in the second half of the 19th Century until by 1885 it looked much as it does today—an expansive plain of farm fields interrupted here and there by small woodlots.

Indians controlled most of the Ohio Territory until the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. Several subsequent treaties accomplished the removal of most of the Indians to reservations elsewhere until, in 1843, only a few remained in the young state. Settlement proceeded with abandon. By then the moose, elk, and bison had been eliminated from Ohio, and populations of deer and black bear were ebbing away. Predators such as the mountain lion, gray wolf, bobcat, and river otter were gone entirely or survived only in small, scattered populations. However, populations of the cottontail rabbit and red fox—creatures of more open land—were thriving.

Water mills became an important source of power for manufacturing (see Figure 9.1 on page 121), and by 1850 there were an estimated 500 to 1000 water-powered mills in Ohio. Migratory fish—including most of Ohio's finest food species—were prevented from reaching ancestral spawning grounds, and about this time the first noticeable declines in muskellunge, pike, and lake sturgeon occurred. Commercial fishing in both Lake Erie and the large inland waters by 1830 had reached considerable economic importance. Fishing gear became more effective, and mill-dam ponds concentrated hordes of migrating fish which then were easy to catch. Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, esteemed Ohio ichthyologist

and ornithologist from Cleveland, had been ahead of his time when, in 1838, he said:

The earlier settlers of this state derived abundant supplies of fish from the different rivers, but of late many of the finest species have forsaken their resorts owing, in a great measure, to the obstructions occasioned by the construction of so many dams. A sluiceway in every dam should be provided to allow them free passage up and down the streams in conformity to their instinctive laws of migration.

Apparently Dr. Kirtland's observations on the dam problem did cause public concern. Although no action was taken for 19 years, the first law for the protection of fish was passed 17 April 1857, "making it illegal to prevent the natural transit of fish in navigable streams and lakes." In 1871, chutes were mandated to be installed to permit the passage of fish across dams on streams.

The first nongame protection law was also passed in 1857, making it unlawful—on public lands or on the lands of another person—to kill or injure any sparrow, robin, bluebird, martin, thrush, mockingbird, swallow, cardinal, or catbird. In 1861, more species were added to this list. More than a century would pass before nongame wildlife management became officially recognized as a function of the modern Division of Wildlife.

## OHIO FISH COMMISSION SETS THE STAGE — 1873-1886

Fortunately, management of fish and game animals did not have to wait so long for official recognition as was the case with nongame wildlife. The year 1873 saw establishment (in a small way) of the first State agency to examine ways to improve fish populations; the Ohio Fish Commission was born with an annual budget of \$1000. The first three commissioners were appointed in June 1873. The accounts do not mention additional staff members, so it must be assumed the three commissioners did most of the work themselves. Their charge stated:

It shall be the duty of the commissioners to examine the various rivers, lakes, ponds and streams of the State of Ohio, with a view of ascertaining whether they can be rendered more

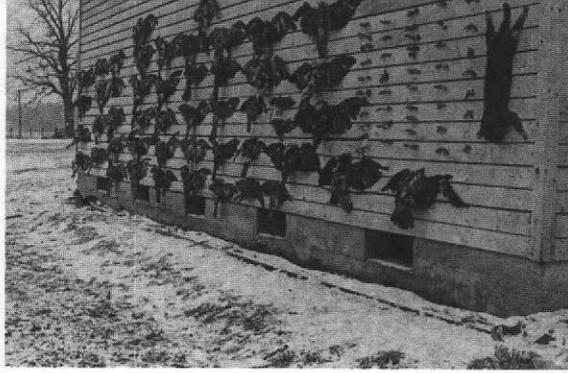


Figure 6.2. Early efforts to protect game species encouraged the misguided killing of predators. "Chicken" hawks were especially favorite targets. Division of Wildlife file photo, circa 1930.

productive of fish, and what measures are desirable to effect this object, either in restoring the production of fish in them or in protecting or propagating the fish that at present frequent them; said commissioners shall inquire into the matter of the artificial propagation of the fish in the various waters throughout the state; and any recommendations they may have to offer, at the next meeting of the General Assembly of this state.

In 1875, the Commission was allotted \$10,000 for expenses and for the necessary costs of propagating fish. The Commission approved introduction of the exotic German carp and landlocked salmon; but by 1880, fish populations were declining so rapidly the Commission noted unhappily, "It affords substantial grounds for believing the total extinction of fish life in Ohio is drawing near."

### COMMISSION OF FISH AND GAME DEVELOPS REGULATIONS AND PROGRAMS—1886-1913

In 1886, the Commission was expanded to five members and became the Commission of Fish and Game, now easily identifiable as the ancestor of the modern Division of Wildlife. The commissioners' duties were to "make more productive" the lands of the state, and they were allotted \$3500 to do so—a challenge indeed. The first Fish and Game Wardens were also appointed, from the political party in each county that had polled the most votes in the preceding gubernatorial election. An 1888 statute provided for a Warden in every county, plus a Chief Warden and special Wardens for Lake Erie and the inland reservoirs. The law enforcement arm was gradually developing.

The last decades of the 19th Century saw more wildlife laws instated. Punt boats and swivel guns for hunting waterfowl had been outlawed in 1861. More seasons for hunting and trapping were prescribed; deer hunting in particular became more restricted, no doubt in response to the growing scarcity of white-tailed deer. An 1874 statute introduced protection of landowners from hunters and punished trespassing "upon improved lands." After 1876, it was unlawful to hunt or disturb a wild (passenger) pigeon roost or nesting ground...a noble effort that unfortunately came too late. Damages by wildlife were still subjects of

legislation. Several laws encouraged the killing of hawks and owls (Fig. 6.2), and woodchucks were bountied in some counties. The scalps of English sparrows were even bountied in 1883. By 1884, the legislature was tinkering annually with the fishing laws. Protection of fish in the closing quarter of the 19th Century centered on fishing restrictions, closed seasons, and methods of enforcing the law. In 1883, it became a misdemeanor to catch fish except by hook and line in specified waters or to sell fish caught contrary to law. However, these were mostly paper laws; the first funds—\$1000—were allocated for enforcement of the fish laws in 1885, and had only small effect. Asian ring-necked pheasants were first released in Ohio in the late 1880's, and by 1896, the first law was passed regulating the dates when pheasants could be taken; no hunting was to be allowed until 10 November 1900.

Ohio had its first full-time Game Wardens in 1901. These "horse-and-buggy" Wardens did not receive a salary and were looked upon with disfavor by most of the populace. Although fishing and hunting licenses were not yet required, some laws were in effect, albeit very liberal, but the public was opposed to this kind of enforcement. Ohio's first nonresident hunting and trapping license became effective in 1904 and cost \$15. It is interesting to note that Ohio residents could still hunt and trap "free" as the first resident hunting license was not required until 1913. In 1902, the legislature made the Commission of Fish and Game responsible for Ohio lakes and lands dedicated to the use of the public for parks and pleasure under the Board of Public Works and the Ohio Canal Commission. This was another step toward a department of natural resources.

In 1908, as the need for better fish and game laws became apparent, a group of Ohio outdoorsmen decided to organize a League of Ohio Sportsmen. Initially made up of individual hunters and fishermen, the League was soon to have club affiliates from throughout the state. By 1915, the League had made its presence known in the State House, and Governor Frank B. Willis was persuaded to name two sportsmen to the Board of Agriculture which at that time administered the Division of Fish and Game.

Meanwhile the law enforcement capabilities of the

No. 19117 **RESIDENT** **ST.**  
**Hunter's License**

STATE OF OHIO

I Certify that Charles R. Williamson  
 a resident citizen of the Town or City of Cincinnati Ohio  
 and County of Hamilton, having paid the fee of  
**ONE DOLLAR**, required by law, is licensed to hunt and kill game  
 within said State until December 31st, 1913, subject to all the provisions  
 and penalties of the laws of Ohio regulating the hunting and killing of  
 wild birds and animals.

DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE

Age 26 Weight 140 Height 5'8" Color of Hair Dark  
 Color of Eyes Brown Complexion Fair

Dated at Cincinnati Ohio  
 this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1913.

C. H. Stephens Clerk  
 of Court of Common Pleas  
(County or Township)

Hamilton State of Ohio.  
(County)

Signature of Licensee Williamson

BE SURE TO READ THE LAW ON THE OTHER SIDE

**IMPORTANT—READ THIS**

Until November 15th, 1915, it is unlawful to catch, kill, injure or pursue with such intent, any Virginia partridge or quail; Carolina dove; ruffed grouse; Mongolian, English, ring-necked or other pheasant.

Wild duck and other wild water fowl may be killed from September 1st to December 31st, inclusive, except that it is unlawful to kill or pursue them on Sunday or Monday of any week, or between sunrise or after sunset, or with a gun larger than 10 gauge, or from any boat except a common row-boat with oars. Spring waterfowl shooting is prohibited by United States statute, which takes precedence over the State law providing an open season for Spring.

The following are the open seasons for the birds and animals enumerated, both dates being included in each instance:

Woodcock, September 1st to December 4th.

Squirrel, September 15th to October 20th.

Rabbit, (with gun only) November 15th to December 4th.

Fox, October 2nd to January 9th.

Raccoon, November 1st to March 1st.

Muskrat, January 1st to April 1st.

Skunk, November 15th to February 1st.

It is unlawful to hunt on Sunday.

It is unlawful to enter upon the lands of another for the purpose of hunting, without the owner's written permission.

Report violations of the Fish and Game laws to any local officer, or to

JNO. C. SPEAKS, Chief Warden,  
 Columbus.

Figure 6.3. The first resident hunting licenses in Ohio were issued in 1913, both sides of which are shown here. Photo by courtesy of Mike Serio.

The Divisions

In 1908, the General Assembly revised and consolidated the laws relating to the powers and duties of the Commissioner and Warden, their powers, enforcement laws, seizures, forfeitures, prosecution, right to jury, prima facie evidence, penalties, and a host of regulations relating to the taking of fish and game. Ohio's first paid Game Warden was appointed in April 1905 at a salary of \$35 per month; he also received a percentage of the fines collected from the violators he arrested. By 1915, the Wardens were receiving \$75 per month; but in 1917, as a result of inflation brought on by World War I, their salaries were boosted to an unheard-of \$100.

**DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME INITIATES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION—1913-1929**

In one sense, wildlife conservation got its first real boost in Ohio under the administration of Governor James M. Cox. In 1913, he created an Agricultural Commission and abolished the Commission of Fish and Game. In its stead, a Division of Fish and Game was created in the Agricultural Commission; Ohio's first Civil Service Code was enacted and all employees in the Division, except the Chief, were given Civil Service protection, after passing an examination. John C. Speaks was named Chief Warden of the new Division of Fish and Game in 1913 replacing J.C. Porterfield.

In 1913, Ohio's first resident hunting license law was enacted (Fig. 6.3) but only after a long and bitter fight in the legislature; and then only after quail were protected (Fig. 6.4) and farmers were permitted to hunt on their own land without buying a license. One of the points that helped in enactment of this law was the fact it was not a tax; it was a method of financing game restoration work without cost to the taxpayers, the entire cost being borne by hunters. Each resident license cost \$1.00 at this time and trapping was added to the license in 1917.

Ohio sportsmen found little to cheer about when Frank B. Willis became Governor in 1915. One of the first major changes he made was to abolish the Agricultural Commission and create a Board of Agriculture. The Governor and

Commission were gradually being codified and expanded. A Chief Warden and Deputy Wardens were appointed in 1900, one Deputy for each administrative district of the state. The Chief Warden and his secretary were first installed at the central office of the Commission of Fish and Game in Athens. The offices of the Commission and the Chief Warden were moved to the State House in Columbus the following year. The legislature enacted in 1900 a law empowering Deputies to seize instruments used in the "unlawful catching of birds, fish, or game." It further gave to the justice of the peace, mayor, or police judge final jurisdiction in all criminal prosecutions under this act, and in proceedings to condemn and forfeit property used in violation of any law relating to "protection, preservation or propagation of birds, fish or game."

A CHANCE FOR REAL SERVICE



Figure 6.4. Cartoon by William A. Ireland presenting the farmer's perspective on protecting quail in Ohio as published in *The Columbus Dispatch*. Quail were eventually placed on the songbird list in 1917.

numerous others didn't believe the fish and game program was important enough to have Division status and, therefore, need not be represented on the Board of Agriculture. He finally yielded to sportsmen's fast-growing influence and named two well-known sportsmen to the Board. While the surface had just been scratched, wildlife conservation was beginning to move. When James M. Cox became Governor for the second time, in 1917, he added a third sportsman to the Board of Agriculture. The Division of Fish and Game was appropriated \$145,200; \$10,000 was to purchase game birds and \$25,700 to propagate fish.

The first two decades of the 20th Century witnessed a great expansion of the Ohio fish farm system. Facilities at Chagrin Falls and London had been constructed, and Waverly leased, in the 1890's. To these, the Division added Akron, St. Marys, and Newtown in 1916; Zoar and Defiance in 1921; Bucyrus and Buckeye Lake in 1926; Piqua in 1927; and Coshocton, Dayton, Indian Lake, and Xenia in 1928. Mostly for inland waters, in 1923 the hatcheries produced for stocking a quarter-million each of largemouth and smallmouth bass, 175,000 rock bass, almost one-and-a-half million bluegills, nearly a million brown bullheads, and 175,000 crappies.

The hatcheries stocked almost two billion whitefish, 935 million cisco, and 76 million walleye fry in Lake Erie from 1913 to 1929. During this same period, 170,000 fish were transplanted downstate from Lake Erie; this supply was supplemented by nearly a quarter-million adult fish from the Portage Lakes. The annual report for 1917 stated that 25 to 40 carloads of the Buckeye Fish Car (Fig. 6.5) were

removed each year from Lake Erie for stocking in inland—primarily State-owned—lakes. This increased stocking activity can be correlated in 1919 with a \$2.00 nonresident fishing license. Together with the first resident fishing license in 1925 costing \$2.00, these moneys provided the Division with a \$400,000-operating income in 1927.

During World War I, A.C. "Al" Baxter was named Chief of the Division of Fish and Game replacing John C. Speaks. Within the next few years, Ohio's long-dormant fish and game program finally got moving. In 1918-1919, fish hatcheries were constructed, a game farm was purchased at Wellington, the first game refuge system in Ohio was initiated, and thousands of pheasant eggs were sent statewide from Wellington to farmers who hatched and released the birds. During this same period, a new fish and game code was updated with the expressed notion that ownership of wild animals rests with the State.

An agreement between Governor James M. Cox and the three members of the fish and game committee of the Board of Agriculture determined that politics had no place in the Division of Fish and Game. They obviously meant what they said because the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Division were of opposite political parties. N.E. Shaw, then Secretary of Agriculture, said numerous times, "There are



Figure 6.5. The famed "Buckeye Fish Car" was a railroad car with "FISH AND GAME" written on it. It hauled fish all over Ohio for stocking purposes in the early decades of the 20th Century. This 1920 photo features Howard Longstaff in the center with the apron. Division of Wildlife file photo.



Figure 6.6. Larry Wooddell, Commissioner of the Division of Conservation, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 1935-1939. Photo courtesy of Kent State University Archives.

no democratic bass or republican pheasants, and you don't ask a man his politics when you ask him to go hunting or fishing with you."

Fish and game propagation and development work in Ohio kept moving. In the meantime, the whole State government was reorganized under the administration of Governor Harry L. Davis, and the Division of Fish and Game was placed in the new Department of Agriculture. When A.C. Baxter retired as Chief of the Division of Fish and Game, Governor Alvin V. "Vic" Donahey appointed D.O. Thompson of Coshocton to replace him. The League of Ohio Sportsmen, in the meantime, was growing and having more voice in fish and game matters. The Ohio Division of The Izaak Walton League of America (Ikes) organized and there was competition for influence between the Ikes and the League. Needless to say, neither actually "won"; progress in Ohio's fish and game programs and policies slowed down. In the end after all of the controversies and haggling, a demand developed for a department of conservation in Ohio.

In 1922, Ohio had three female deputy Game Protectors among the ranks. One of the deputies was Rosetta Zimmerman of Washington Court House. The *Hillsboro News Herald* on 12 December 1922 gave an account of her going to Dayton to apprehend a man, bringing him back to Fayette County in the predawn hours to stand trial.

The European starling had been welcomed by nostalgic settlers in the 19th Century and was totally protected by law in 1896; but by 1929, it had worn out its welcome, and this protection was revoked. In the same year, a bounty was established on crows.

## DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN MANAGEMENT—1929-1939

Ohio sportsmen had wanted and had worked for a department of conservation with the director having cabinet status. What they got in 1929 was a Division of Conservation which remained in the Department of Agriculture.

Under this new, glorified Division of Fish and Game, sportsmen still did not have representation in Governor Myers Y. Cooper's cabinet nor did the Division have any authority on stream pollution. This new legislation did provide for an eight-member, nonpartisan Conservation Council, four Democrats and four Republicans, with authority over finances, program, and policy. J.W. Thompson was the first Commissioner and the following bureaus were established in the Division of Conservation: Accounting, Education, Scientific Research, Engineering, Inland Fish Propagation, Lake Erie Fisheries, Conservation Officers, Game Propagation, and Inland Lakes and Parks. Now the foundation had been laid for an overall, constructive program of continuity.

George White became Governor in 1931 and J.W. Thompson was replaced by W.H. "Bill" Reinhart of Sandusky as Commissioner. Bill tried to get Ohio's wildlife agency more active and succeeded in speeding up both fish and game production. He established a raccoon and rabbit propagation area at a game farm near Milan. Western rabbits were used as breeding stock. A joint resolution of the General Assembly in 1931 urged a survey be conducted and a report be issued on the rivers and water resources of Ohio. The same year a bill was passed to authorize appointment of a committee to "make a survey relative to conservation of game and commercial fish in the Ohio waters of Lake Erie." Inventory of the state's natural resources—baseline information essential for management planning—was getting under way. Reinhart served as Commissioner until 1935, when newly-elected Governor Martin L. Davey appointed Larry Wooddell (Fig. 6.6) of Ravenna to the position.

Game populations in Ohio were in poor condition during the first third of the 20th Century. Forest game animals, especially, declined coincident with shrinkage of the hardwood forest. Although the white-tailed deer season had been closed from 1896 to 1900, this protective measure came too late; in 1911, deer were reported "extinct" in Ohio, and another hunting season would not be opened until 1943. The year 1911 also marked formal recognition of the "extinction" of the wild turkey, not to be hunted again in Ohio until

Figure 6.7. Game Protectors were trained at Camp Perry near Port Clinton in the 1930's. Division of Wildlife file photo, 1933.

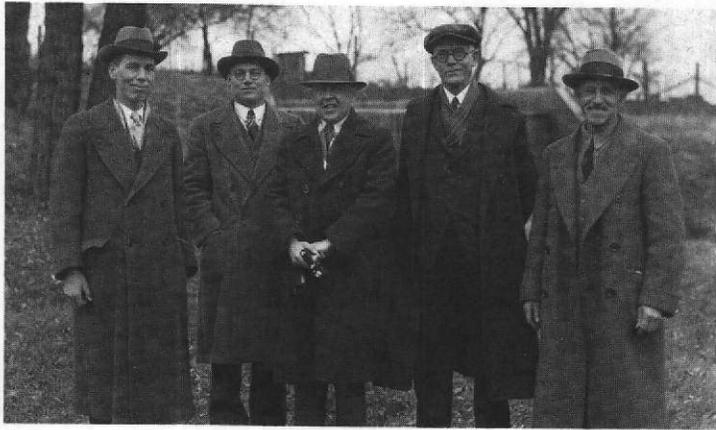
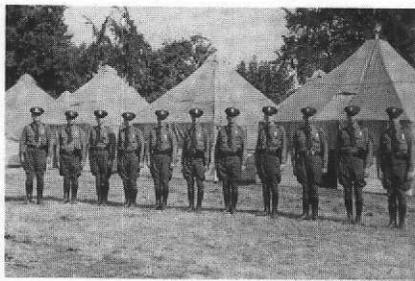


Figure 6.8. Wildlife professionals in the late 1920's and early 1930's, from left to right: Fred Westerman, former head of the Michigan Fish Division; Edward L. Wickliff, former head of Ohio Fish Management Section; Milton James, Division of Fish Culture of the United States Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; Dr. Raymond C. Osburn, former head of the Department of Zoology, The Ohio State University; and George Morcher, former hatchery Superintendent. Photo from *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin*, January 1961, page 5.

1966. Squirrel hunting seasons were gradually shortened from nearly eight months in the 1880's to about two weeks in the 1930's. The first bag limit—ten per day—was set in 1902, and the limit was gradually lowered to four in 1928, where it remains today. Ruffed grouse were legally hunted more than 100 days per year—with no bag limit—until 1896, when the season was restricted to five weeks; but in 1902, total protection began that lasted until 1917. Ten years of hunting seasons for grouse followed, averaging less than two weeks apiece; but by 1927, protection again was considered necessary. The closed season lasted until 1938.

The mid-to-late 1930's was arguably the most important period of growth and acceptance to date for wildlife management. Many wildlife populations were as depressed as the economy, and the dust bowl was ravaging the nation's midsection. New concepts in fish and game management, conservation education in the schools, and a stepped-up law enforcement program (Fig. 6.7) were put into effect by Commissioner Wooddell. The Division of Conservation hired several employees who were pursuing the new scientific management concepts. These pioneers of the new endeavor including Edward L. Wickliff (Fig. 6.8), Floyd B. Chapman (Fig. 6.9), Lee S. Roach, Thomas H. Langois, Dr. Edward D. Martin, Alexander W. Short, and

Figure 6.9. Game Management Agents of the Division of Conservation in the late 1930's, from left to right, seated: J. Scott Garbry, Carl Warren, Hubert Bezdic, and Gene Schwal. Standing: Joel Benjamin, Floyd Chapman, unidentified, and Cleon Webb. Division of Wildlife file photo.

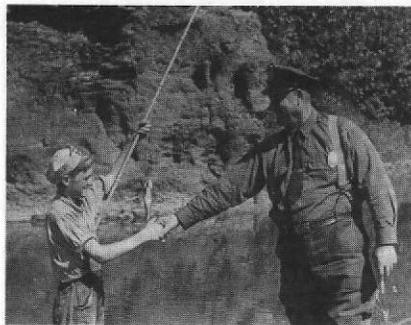


Figure 6.10. Joe Walker, Game Protector in Huron County, congratulated a young angler in 1935. Division of Wildlife file photo.

Walter M. Lauffer were strongly supported by Commissioner Wooddell, who in turn was supported by zoologists Dr. Raymond C. Osburn (Fig. 6.8), and Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, of The Ohio State University. Ohio sportsmen were taking increasing interest and by working closely with the new fish and game management agents (Fig. 6.10), were actively participating in wildlife and habitat restoration programs, thereby laying the basis for a number of Ohio's fish and game management programs. The General Assembly reserved fees from hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses exclusively for the use of the Conservation Council in 1935, and the "get-tough" enforcement program took about 30 percent of the total Division expenditure in that year.

Volume One, Issue One, of *The Ohio Outdoorsman* (Fig. 6.11) was produced in August 1936. The magazine, devoted to the conservation and restoration of Ohio's wildlife, was a monthly publication of the Division of Conservation. Dave Roberts from *The Cincinnati Enquirer* was named Editor of the magazine, and the articles in the first issue mirrored the topics of the time. The magazine sold for five cents a copy and 50 cents per year. It would become *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin* in 1937.

In response to these times, the National Wildlife

Figure 6.11. The first issue of the Division of Conservation's magazine was published in 1936. The title was changed in 1937 to The Ohio Conservation Bulletin which for 28 years provided timely and authoritative information regarding wildlife conservation in Ohio.

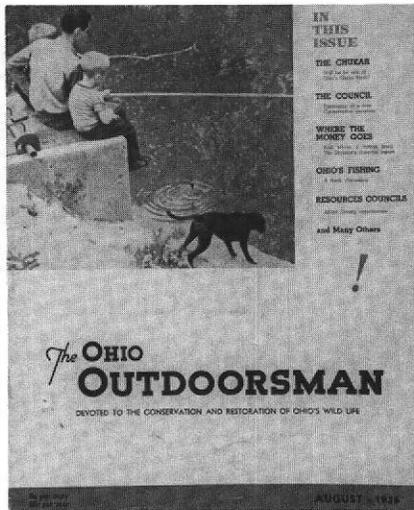
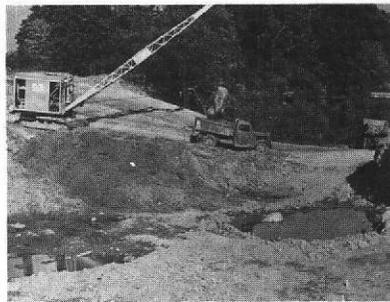


Figure 6.13. During construction of Jackson Lake in Jackson County in 1939, structures to promote fish populations were created prior to impounding the lake. Division of Wildlife file photo.



Federation was formed in 1936, Ducks Unlimited in 1937, and the Pittman-Robertson Act, legislation setting aside excise taxes for wildlife conservation, was passed by the United States Congress in 1937. All of these landmark accomplishments are flourishing today. Also in the late 1930's, Dr. Aldo Leopold of Wisconsin, author of *Game Management* and *A Sand County Almanac*, was at the height of his career as the pioneer of wildlife management based on scientific principles. Leopold defined game management and taught the importance of habitat.

During the growth of the Division, dozens of employees played key roles in their areas of expertise. Following are some examples: George Morcher (Fig. 6.8) was considered one of the best fish hatchery men in the country. He began employment in 1898 and retired with 39 years service in 1937 at age 84. The techniques he developed in raising bass under artificial conditions were used throughout the country. Frank Hard was a tough law enforcement man, feared by violators and respected by all Division personnel. He began his career with the Division in 1915 as Fayette County Game Protector and was made a District Wildlife Supervisor in 1940. He retired in 1960 after 45 years of distinguished service. Ollie Neimeyer for many years was Marion County Game Protector, beginning in 1916 when he took over the job of his deceased father. A firm believer in natural propagation by supplying natural food and habitat conditions for wildlife, he established in Delaware County



Figure 6.12. Donald G. Waters, Commissioner of the Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 1939-1946. Photo courtesy of Joan Waters.

the State's first game refuge. Ollie was a bird dog enthusiast and retired in 1954.

Credit for much of the success of Ohio's early pheasant stocking programs belongs to Tom Nash, one of the great pheasant raisers of his time. In his teens, he observed his father's efforts as a game keeper for nobility in Europe. In 1917, Ohio secured his services and placed him in charge of the Wellington and Urbana Game Farms. When Tom retired in 1942, he had raised more than two million pheasants and distributed hundreds of thousands of pheasant eggs for hatching. Tom's son Ed, who had worked closely with his father for 22 years, would take over his mantle. Howard Langstaff was another of the early Game Protectors who came up through the ranks. Appointed in 1917, he became District Supervisor in 1940, but in the meantime, he did everything from law enforcement to game management, fish management, and common labor when the need arose. Shortly after his appointment as Hancock County Game Protector, Howard was put in charge of the famed Buckeye Fish Car (Fig. 6.5). He played a large part in the pheasant stocking program in Hancock County, which in the late 1930's was one of Ohio's best pheasant hunting counties. Howard retired in 1964.

## DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDS MOMENTUM—1939-1949

In 1939, the General Assembly made its sixth structural reorganization of the conservation agency. A Division of Conservation and Natural Resources was created, consisting of a Conservation and Natural Resources Commission, a Commissioner, "and such bureaus and positions...as may be provided for by...the conservation and natural resources commission." The Commission remained in the Department of Agriculture. Members were appointed for eight-year terms and the Commissioner, Donald G. Waters (Fig. 6.12), was named by the Commission. The Commissioner, for the first time, had appointive power of employees, subject to Commission approval. The working force was composed of the following Sections, each under a Chief:



*Figure 6.14. Research became an important part of management in the 1940's. This rabbit was trapped and released by Dan Atzenhoefer as part of a research project in Huron County. Photo by Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, February 1940.*

Game Management, Fish Management and Propagation, Law Enforcement, Water and Engineering, Inland Lakes and Parks, Accounting and Budget, Public Relations, and Pollution Engineering.

Prior to 1939, some sportsmen were not quite sure what fish management meant or what fish management agents did to earn their money. Jackson Lake, a 253-acre body of water in Jackson County, was one of the first created in Ohio in which large-scale fish management practices were carried out before there was a body of water (Fig. 6.13). Scores of homes for fish (gathering places) were constructed and included log enclosures filled with brush and wired to lake bottom stumps, neat rows of logs placed side by side, and various other types of weirs attractive to fish. The excellent fishing that occurred when Jackson Lake was opened helped quiet the disbelievers in the work of fish management agents.

The year 1939 was the first time Ohio distributed pheasant chicks rather than eggs. The 30,000 birds produced at the Urbana and Wellington Game Farms, at the Marion and Lebanon correctional facilities with the help of prison farm laborers, and at the experimental project at Newark were released statewide in suitable habitat, as determined by the game management agents. For the first time, Conservation Division field men were urged by Commissioner Waters to assist local school authorities in organizing classes for instruction in the proper and safe methods of handling firearms. In 1939, Ohio's 88 county Game Protectors were receiving \$115 to \$125 per month, District Conservation Officers \$150 per month, and all were under Classified Civil Service.

The year 1940 was a most noteworthy year. The Conservation and Natural Resources Commission laid out the most forward-looking program adopted to that time. In addition to stepped-up programs in fish and game management and research (Fig. 6.14), propagation, stream improvement, lake construction, pollution abatement, and law enforcement, a new plan was set forth providing for an advisory committee, composed of one sportsman and one farmer in each of the seven conservation districts. At a

meeting called by the District Conservation Supervisor, farmers and sportsmen elected two men in each district who would present the sportsmen's views and recommendations to the Conservation and Natural Resources Commission at annual statewide fish and game hearings. The first training school for game protectors, fish management agents, and game management agents was held at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, where instruction was given in all matters pertaining to conservation. First aid training was given, and Ohio became the first state with all Game Protectors so trained.

The Division of Conservation and Natural Resources signed a lease giving fishing rights to the public on ten new lakes in eastern Ohio encompassing 16,000 acres. The lakes, controlled by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, increased Ohio's fishing water acreage by 50 percent. The Division now conducted supervised hunting on approximately 250,000 acres of private and public lands in Ohio, including State Forest areas with 107,098 acres; Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, 59,525 acres; Miami Conservancy District, 10,000 acres; and demonstration areas established on private lands, 71,379 acres.

By 1940, several federal laws had been passed having impacts on wildlife management in Ohio. Migratory bird treaties had been signed between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) in 1916 and between the United States and Mexico in 1936. The United States Migratory Bird Treaty Act implemented provisions of these treaties and conferred regulatory authority on the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Thenceforth, the hunting, killing, selling, purchase, or possession of all migratory birds—including waterfowl—in every state had to conform to regulations established by the Secretary of the Interior.

There were few changes in the program and policy of the Division during 1941. An ever-increasing number of employees were off to war service and many programs were drastically curtailed. The trend toward natural production of fish, together with the apparent success of the new headwater lakes "natural hatcheries" program, prompted the Commission to discontinue operation of five of the twelve State Fish Farms: Millersport, London, Piqua,

Bucyrus, and Defiance. One wintertime activity of wildlife field men during this period was the live-trapping of rabbits, pheasants, and squirrels. The animals were live-trapped on State refuges, where there was an abundance, and liberated throughout Ohio in open hunting territory with good cover.

Ohio's land acquisition and numerous wildlife management and restoration projects were given a real boost under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. Because of the necessity of having enabling state legislation, Ohio could not actually benefit from the program until late 1939. Under the Federal Aid Act, 75 percent of the cost of an approved project was borne by the federal government and 25 percent by the Ohio

Conservation Division. Federal funds were derived from a tax on firearms, shells, and cartridges. One of the strongest conservation features of this Act dictated that, to be eligible for Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funds, a state must by law restrict the use of all hunting license money to wildlife purposes.

Several early and important P-R projects were the 1450-acre Willard Marsh Area in Huron County and the Resthaven Wildlife Area in Erie and Sandusky Counties, comprising 2166 acres. During the first four years the Ohio Division participated, the total cost of the 18 approved projects amounted to \$411,000, of which \$308,000 was borne by the federal government and \$103,000 by the State. This was just the beginning; in the years to follow, Ohio sportsmen and outdoorsmen would benefit by millions of dollars worth of outdoor projects. P-R funds have helped Ohio restore dwindling populations of wood duck, deer, wild turkey, and other wildlife. In 1942, the importation of rabbits from western states by many Ohio conservation clubs was continuing, but was losing favor. Several studies showed shipping fever caused the death of many imported rabbits; their life expectancy was short and breeding potential almost nil. Such Division programs as the distribution of pheasant chicks, planting of food-bearing trees and shrubs, stream improvement, and building of headwater lakes continued (Fig. 6.15).

Ohio had its first deer hunting season in 50 years, 6-18 December 1943 in Adams, Pike, and Scioto Counties. In addition to a valid hunting license, a deer permit was required. Shotguns using No. 4 buckshot or larger and bows with barbless arrows were legal. The known legal harvest for Ohio's first modern deer season was 168 bucks (Fig. 6.16). The number taken by individuals on their own lands, and not required to report to a checking station, would probably push the total over the 200 mark.

The 15-point Ohio Conservation Program

Figure 6.15. Roosevelt Lake on the Roosevelt Game Preserve was (and still is) a popular lake in Scioto County. This 1941 photo by courtesy of Appalachian Foothill Promotions and Patrick W. Crabtree.

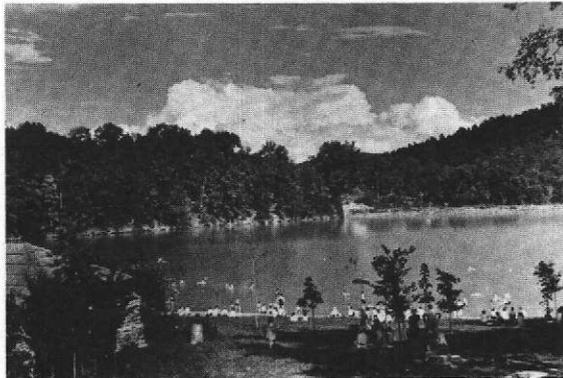


Figure 6.16. This buck was the first registered of 168 taken in the first modern deer season in Ohio during December 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ralston of Dayton played a part in this historic event at the Roosevelt Game Preserve in Scioto County. This 1943 photo by courtesy of Appalachian Foothill Promotions and Patrick W. Crabtree.





Figure 6.17. H.A. "Buck" Rider, Commissioner of the Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 1946-1949, and Chief of the Division of Wildlife, ODNR, 1949-1950.

was established in 1940 and with it came the formation of the present Wildlife District system. As reported in the February 1940 issue of *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin*, the new system was inaugurated to "decentralize the activities of the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources office in Columbus, whereby a Conservation Headquarters be established in each of the present Conservation Districts, which are seven [now five] in number." Believing Ohio's conservation policies could be strengthened, broadened, and improved, the Division proposed this program and invited the sportsmen and people of Ohio to give their whole-hearted cooperation in development of the Ohio Conservation Program. The Conservation and Natural Resources Commission operated during World War II, keeping the Ohio Conservation Program going forward as rapidly as possible under the handicaps imposed by war, but at the same time keeping an eye on the future. By 1943, the staff of the Division had put its post-war planning in the blueprint stage, so at the war's end the conservation movement in Ohio could move ahead without further interruption.

An appropriation of \$1 million by the General Assembly in 1945 authorized the Division to construct three more lakes: Rocky Fork, Highland County, 2000 acres; Cowan, Clinton County, 720 acres; and Stonelick, Clermont County, 300 acres. Most of the Division's men who had been in the military service had returned, and the war-curtailed programs were getting up a full head of steam.

In January 1946, Don Waters resigned after serving as Conservation Commissioner for seven years; H.A. "Buck" Rider (Fig. 6.17), assistant to Mr. Waters, was named Commissioner. Effective 1 March 1946, the cost of a general resident Ohio fishing license was increased from 50 cents to \$1.00 with most of the increased revenue going toward the construction and maintenance of new lakes. The Attorney General of Ohio ruled in 1946 that, "The Conservation and Natural Resources Commission had the authority to bring an action in the name of the State of Ohio to enjoin a threatened injury to or destruction of wild animals, which are the property of the state by the introduction into a stream or lake in Ohio of a substance which injures or kills such wild animals." This led directly to a far-reaching precedent in

1946, when the Electric Auto Lite Company agreed to pay \$18,000 as a cash settlement and to provide 400,000 minnows to replace aquatic life killed when pollution was discharged into the Little Miami River between Kings Mills and Loveland. The money and minnows were used to rehabilitate that section of the stream. An on-the-job training program for returned servicemen was initiated, and also in 1946 all Game Protectors and District Supervisors were provided with uniforms, thus dignifying their positions.

The Conservation and Natural Resources Commission decided to de-emphasize its efforts at artificially propagating game species; the major share of money available for game management and propagation was to be used in a statewide habitat development program. All game research was being handled at the Wildlife Research Station, The Ohio State University, through subsidies from the Division. About this same time, the duties of Game Protectors had been broadened to allow them equal time for game management, fish management, and law enforcement activities. Some became more involved than others. The Commission voted to open a season on deer in 1947 in eight northeastern counties: Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Portage, Columbiana, Jefferson, and Carroll. Open dates were 15-16 December for bow-and-arrow hunting and 17-19 December for gunners. In addition to the regular hunting license, each hunter had to have a special \$5 deer license.

In 1948, Ohio sold 931,270 fishing licenses, fourth in the nation, yet its \$948,660 fishing license revenue was tenth with California leading at \$3,280,000. In its long-range program to have a fishing lake in every Ohio county, the Fish Management Section (Fig. 6.18) planned to construct seven additional lakes for Pickaway, Hocking, Perry, Knox, Morgan, Washington, and Defiance Counties. The lakes would range from 150 to 500 acres. In the midst of Ohio's lake building program, the Commission resolved to change the term "State Park" to "State Fishing and Hunting Area," because acquisition and development of the new areas were through the use of funds derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The use of liberalized regulations on fishing were pioneered in the late 1940's beginning at Lake Alma in Jackson County in 1945.

Figure 6.18. Staff of the Fish Management Section at a meeting in 1947.

From left to right, first row: Edward Wickcliff, Chief of the Section; George Messerly; Mark White; Ethel Hillman, stenographer; Arnold Yingling. Second row: Ray Hughes, John Mann, Ray Riethmiller, Dick Oliver, Art Downing. Third row: Rendell Rhoades, Blain Miller, John Flinn, Lou Shipman, Bill Scott. Fourth row: Earnest Harner, Ed Perry, Jim Risner, Gene Oyer. Fifth row: Don "Bud" Range, Dean Now, Dan Armbruster, Roy McCracken. Standing: Clarence Clark, John Pelton, Bill Whiskers, Lowell Binkley, and Jack Canfield. Division of Wildlife file photo.



## THE DIVISION MOVES TO ODNR IN 1949 AND BECOMES THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

In 1949, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was formed, and the Division of Wildlife became one of the seven charter Divisions with H.A. "Buck" Rider as the first Chief (Fig. 6.17). Under the new organization, the former Conservation and Natural Resources Commission became the Wildlife Council (Fig. 6.19) with ODNR Director Marion an official member of the Council. Under the new law, duties and responsibilities of the Division of Wildlife and the Wildlife Council remained the same as for the previous ten years, except that the Inland Lakes and Parks Section of the Division was transferred to the Division of Parks in the new ODNR.

Other happenings in 1949 saw the bobwhite quail returned to the game bird list in Ohio—but not without controversy. After passage in both houses of the General Assembly, Governor Frank J. Lausche vetoed the measure, but the veto was overridden. Although the law specified that quail could not be hunted for at least ten years, the door had been opened. The Wildlife Council decided there would be no deer season in Ohio in 1949. Reports for the year showed five headwater lakes and two recreational lakes completed; income from hunting and fishing licenses exceeded \$2 million, the greatest ever; hunters took well over six million rabbits and Ohio ranked among the leading states in pheasant harvest; the best farmer-sportsmen relations in a decade existed and the largest carryover of

pheasants in five years was reported. Ohio's pheasant population was spread more widely into more than half the counties, due in large part to a federal aid habitat program called the 49-D (restoration) project, thus reducing hunting pressure in the former pheasant belt.

## THE 1950'S—LIBERALIZED FISHING, EXPANDED DEER SEASONS, AND INCREASED STATE HUNTING AND FISHING AREAS

A change in administration of the Division took place in 1950 when H.A. "Buck" Rider resigned as Chief on 15 March. The Wildlife Council recommended the appointment of Dr. Charles A. Dambach to succeed Mr. Rider. Dr. Dambach at the time was Associate Professor and Director of Conservation Curriculum of the Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Ohio State University. The appointment was subject to a leave of absence from The Ohio State University, and during the interim, Lee Roach (Fig. 6.20), Assistant Chief of the Fish Section, served as Chief of the Division from 1 April to 15 June 1950. Fishermen in 1950 had fewer restrictions than ever before when the Wildlife Council opened more than 160 lakes and seven streams to liberalized fishing—meaning no closed season, legal lengths, or bag limits.

On 1 July 1950, Oliver Hartley, Editor of the Division of Wildlife's 32-page monthly magazine, *The Ohio Conserva-*

Figure 6.19. The Wildlife Council in 1949. From left to right seated: Elizabeth Irvine (stenographer); Louis Bromfield (Chair); H.A. "Buck" Rider (Chief). Standing: Dr. Frederick C. Swing, Cincinnati; Dr. Paul B. Sears, Oberlin; ODNR Director Marion; Leonard Yochum, Sabina; Baldwin Rice, Greenfield; John E. Halliday, Gallipolis; E.R. Beetham, Cleveland; and Dr. Ben H. Talbut, Toledo. Photo from The Ohio Conservation Bulletin, April 1950, page 16.

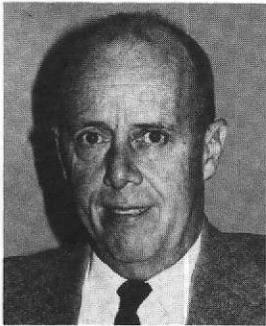


Figure 6.20. Lee S. Roach, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1950.



Figure 6.21. Dr. Charles A. Dambach, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1950-1955.

*tion Bulletin*, retired after 13 years at the helm. The magazine, considered tops among similar state publications, had done much to keep Ohio sportsmen abreast of conservation matters in the state. Erwin A. "Joe" Bauer was named to succeed Oliver Hartley.

Dr. Dambach (Fig. 6.21) became Chief of the Division of Wildlife on 15 June 1950 and Lee Roach was named Assistant Chief. The Council designated a four-day deer season for hunters in 19 Ohio counties. The season was from 2-5 January 1951, with both bucks and does legal game and one deer of either sex per hunter. As in past deer hunting seasons, only shotguns loaded with single ball or rifled slug, or bow and barbless arrows were permitted. Counties approved for this deer season, the first since 1948, were Adams and Scioto in the southern section and the following in the northeast:

Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Washington, and Wayne. Dr. Dambach also outlawed the use of pole traps for catching birds of prey.

In November 1950, the Wildlife Council met for the first time at the new Division of Wildlife headquarters building at 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus (Fig. 6.22). By 1951, the Division was strengthening its field staff to ensure more effective enforcement and field operations; modernizing enforcement equipment to increase efficiency and

service to the public; expanding fishing and hunting facilities by land acquisition and development, new lake construction, stream management, pollution abatement, and cooperation with other land management agencies; and increasing informational services to the public by preparation of appropriate maps, guides, and publications. This same year the Division adopted a two-week program of preservice training for potential new employees and an in-service training program for all field employees. At the conclusion, candidates were given two-and-a-half months of actual field training in enforcement and fish and game management. From this program would come many high-quality personnel who would help guide and direct future programs and policies of the Division.

For more efficient operation of the Division, the Wildlife Council appropriated monies to set up a statewide shortwave radio system to include seven base stations and 150 mobile units. The cost of a resident hunting and trapping license for the 1952 season was increased to \$2.00, the first increase since 1913. The pheasant season was extended five days for the 1951 season and was 15-30 November. There was no open season on deer.

During 1951, the Division of Wildlife purchased the 2000-acre Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, situated between Toledo and Port Clinton. Controlled hunting was enjoyed by those fortunate enough to receive hunting permits (by public drawing); 634 nimrods took 1246 ducks in 25 shooting days. In the same year, legislation was passed to allow for the operation of commercial shooting preserves.

In 1952, the Wildlife Council liberalized fishing in all public waters of Ohio. This meant fishermen could take any number of fish regardless of size and at any time of the year. Ohio's fish program got another boost this year through the passage in the United States Congress of the Dingell-Johnson Act (a companion measure to the Pittman-Robertson Act). Under this measure, the monies from a ten

Figure 6.22. The Hangar Building at 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, was built by the Division of Wildlife and has housed various units of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources over the years. Photo by Ron Keil, 1990.

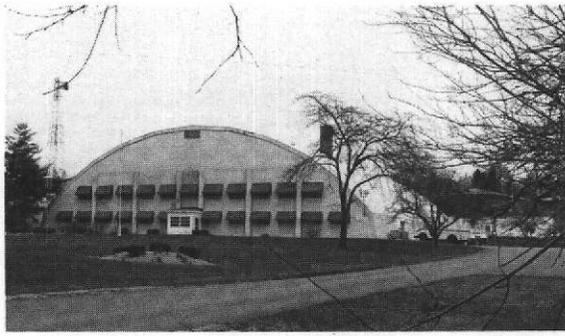


Figure 6.23. The significant recovery of wood duck populations has been assisted by the erection of "rocket" nest boxes in suitable habitat throughout Ohio.



percent excise tax on fishing tackle were set aside and apportioned to the states for approved fisheries projects. The federal government would pay 75 percent of the costs and the state 25 percent. Ohio would benefit greatly in this year and those to follow.

Quail studies were continuing. Experimental areas were set up in all wildlife districts to simulate the effects of hunting. Subject to approval of the State Board of Control, the Wildlife Council appropriated \$152,411 for the purchase of the 1300-acre tract in Wyandot County known as the Killdeer Plains area. Future plans were to develop it as a public hunting and fishing area. The Council also approved an open deer season, 11-13 December 1942, in 26 eastern and southern Ohio counties.

By 1953, a year after a \$1.00 increase in both the fishing and hunting licenses was put into effect, approximately \$1.5 million of added revenue to the Division had resulted, and it was paying big dividends. More lakes were being constructed, new public hunting areas were being acquired, and Ohio's force of experienced, well-trained technicians was proving its worth.

A summary was made in 1953 of Ohio's seven deer hunting seasons: 6-18 December 1943, three southern counties open (bucks only) 8500 hunters took 168 deer; in 1944, 9200 hunters harvested 117 deer; 2-8 December 1945, three counties open (bucks only), 7700 hunters took 62 deer;

no open season in 1946; in 1947, during the 15-19 December (hunter's choice) season in eight counties, 1000 deer were harvested by 9669 hunters; in 1948, the deer season was again hunter's choice with 13 counties open, 23,044 hunters bagged 1600 deer; no season was held in 1949 or 1950; in 1951, the 2-5 January (hunter's choice) season in 19 counties produced 3500 animals for 22,728 hunters. The 11-13 December 1952 season was for bucks only with the number of open counties extended to 27, and 14,081 hunters bagged 450 deer. Deer hunting in Ohio seemed here to stay with the possibility of a closed season now and then for herd build-up.

Both fish and game management had come a long way in the past few years and were destined to go even further. As a result of both Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson Acts, Ohio's research and development programs to provide more and better fishing and hunting had long since met with public approval. By 1954, Ohio's farm game habitat development program was statewide with trained personnel directing the project in each wildlife district. The program consisted of planting food-bearing trees and shrubs such as multiflora rose for wildlife in travel lanes and on odd areas too small or difficult to farm, erection of wood duck (Fig. 6.23) and squirrel nest boxes, and numerous similar projects. Multiflora rose spread to become a nuisance, and in 1986, use of it was declared illegal by the General Assembly.

Fish management activities in 1954 were similar. Newly constructed lakes had fish sheltering areas, aquatic vegetation was being controlled to provide more open fishable water, and rough fish control measures were initiated in a number of lakes in an effort to improve sport fishing. These were but a few of many projects.

By 1954, Ohio's muskellunge stocking program, begun in 1953, was showing promise. To obtain the young muskies required delicate technique. Breeder fish were netted from eastern and southern Ohio streams, stripped of eggs and milt, and returned unharmed to the streams. The fertilized eggs were taken to the Newtown Hatchery, where hatchery Superintendent Ed Perry babied the young fish to

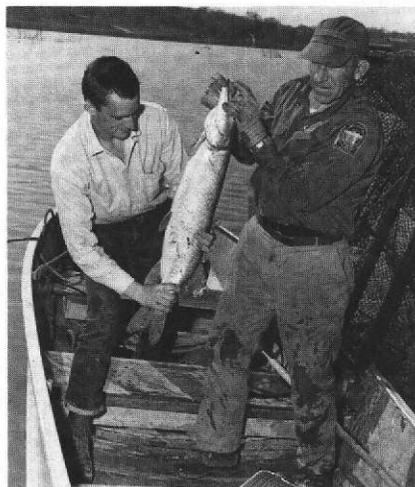


Figure 6.24. Jim Beekman (left) and Charles Cooper removing a muskie from a test net at Rocky Fork Lake. Division of Wildlife file photo.

Figure 6.25. *Hayden W. Olds, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1955-1963.*



advanced fry and fingerling size. The first lakes receiving young muskies were Rocky Fork (Fig. 6.24), Leesville, Piedmont, Forked Run, Veto, Knox, and Jackson.

The hard work and planning of Division of Wildlife field men during the past few years was paying dividends to hunters and fishermen. By 1955, there was tremendous hunting pressure and success on such public hunting areas as Delaware, Resthaven, Killdeer, Spring Valley, and Indian Creek. Releases of pheasants on public hunting areas and leased areas during the hunting season became vogue. Fishermen, too, throughout the state were catching lots of fish and having fun doing it, thanks to the lake building program and liberalized fishing regulations.

Studies continued to show that some Ohio quail range was as good as the nation's best, and that even though not hunted, the coveys fluctuated during severe winters; 70 percent of a covey could be killed by cold, but with good weather, rapid reproduction would rebuild the covey quickly.

"Wild" turkeys were showing early (but temporary) success in southern Ohio. Surveys showed at least 100 young turkeys were raised by the 200 adult birds released from game farms in 1952, 1953, and 1954. All of these, however, would disappear by the early 1960's. Another comprehensive study showed that of the more than 150,000 pheasants released in southern Ohio during the preceding 25 years not enough remained to fill a hen house. Waterfowl survey results in the Mississippi Flyway were made available to the Division of Wildlife for the first time in 1955, making it possible to set seasons at dates when peak numbers of waterfowl were in the state.

In November 1955, Dr. Dambach resigned as Chief, to become Director of the Natural Resources Institute, The Ohio State University. Dr. Dambach had served as Chief since June 1950 and was mainly responsible for establishing the research and development programs, which were so successful. Hayden W. Olds (Fig. 6.25) was named to succeed Dambach. Hayden Olds was no newcomer to Ohio, as he had served as Assistant Chief of the Game Manage-

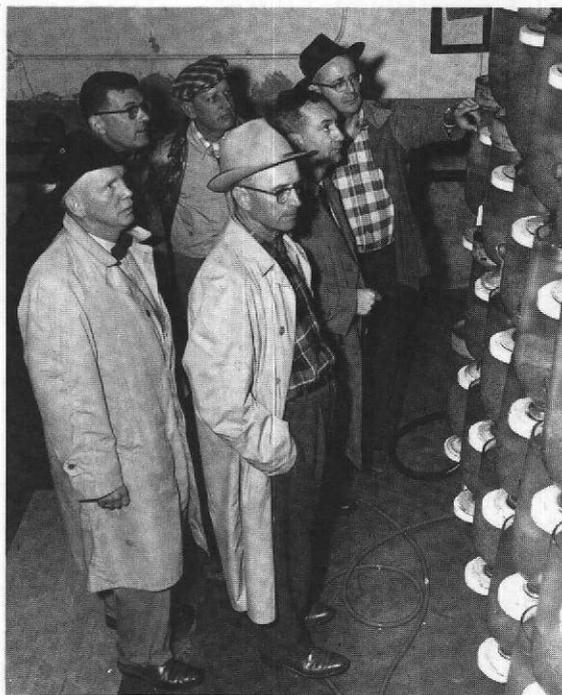


Figure 6.26. *John Pelton of the Fish Management Section pointing out fry in hatching jars to (clockwise) Dr. B.K. Jones, Leonard Yochum, John Halliday, Chief Hayden Olds, and Wilbur F. McCullough. Division of Wildlife file photo.*

ment Section before going to North Carolina as Assistant Director, then to Tennessee as Commissioner. Mr. Olds planned no sweeping changes in Ohio's well-rounded wildlife conservation program.

A fish management program, first started with little fanfare (Fig. 6.26), was the stocking of walleye fry into a number of Ohio's inland lakes. By 1956, it was paying dividends. One of the most successful of these early stocked lakes was Berlin Reservoir in northeastern Ohio, where the fish management supervisor Dan Armbruster noted good survival, good growth, and—best of all—natural reproduction.

The 1955 open deer season in 42 counties was highly successful from the hunters' standpoint, producing 4200 deer for the 36,419 hunters. Archers took 31. In 1956, the Wildlife Council, upon recommendation of the game management field technicians, decided to open the deer season in all 88 counties. It was again hunter's choice (bucks only in Adams and Scioto Counties), with gun dates 12-15 December and archery dates 24 November through 15 December.

C. William O'Neill was elected Governor in 1957, and he appointed Herbert B. Eagon as ODNR Director to replace A.W. Marion. There were no drastic changes in the program and policy of the Division of Wildlife in 1957. More thought was being given, however, to year-around multiple-use of Ohio's public hunting areas, some 46 of them comprising 52,000 acres. Several ideas proposed to the Wildlife Council were the installation of rifle ranges, where squirrel hunters could sharpen their eyes during the season when game is protected; trap shooting areas for the wing shooter; other

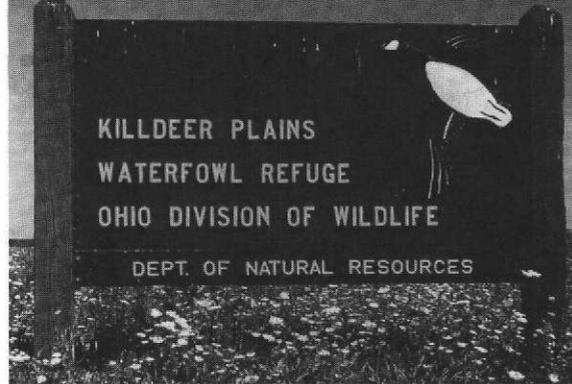


Figure 6.27. Management of Canada geese has been a major program at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Marion and Wyandot Counties. Division of Wildlife file photo.

The Divisions

areas for archers; and places to train bird dogs, beagles, and hounds. Specific dates would be set for field trials, with the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area as one of the best for this purpose. The second annual field day was held at the Killdeer Wildlife Area in November 1957, to acquaint the public with what was being done there to benefit outdoorsmen. One of the long-range objectives was the establishment of a nesting flock of Canada geese (Fig. 6.27).

Ohio's first statewide deer hunting season in 1956 was highly successful from both a game management and hunters' point of view as 3911 animals were harvested. Of these, about 44 percent were taken in the northeastern section, 42 percent in the southeastern; 10 percent in the central, 4 percent in the northwestern, and less than 1 percent in the southwestern section. In 1957, the Buckeye Big Bucks Club was founded by Merrill Gilfillan of *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin* to bring public attention to and appreciation of Ohio's trophy deer and to promote sound deer management practices. The first of the Club's award dinners was held in 1958, and they have been held annually ever since. The first major breakthrough on the quail problem occurred late in 1957 when the Farm Bureau Federation voted favorably for the hunting of bobwhite quail on State-owned land under supervision of the Division of Wildlife.

The year 1958 was an important one for the Division of Wildlife and Ohio sportsmen. Total walleye fry production at the Put-in-Bay Hatchery was 68 million, of which 32 million were stocked in Lake Erie and 22 million in inland lakes; others were traded to several states for different fish species. Land purchase approvals were given for an additional 1000 acres of public hunting lands and both the rabbit and waterfowl research and survey projects were allotted funds for the year. Fourteen wildlife trainees completed their training period and were given regular field assignments throughout the state. Michael V. DiSalle became Governor in 1959, and he and the General Assembly were faced with the bobwhite quail bill. To allow or not to allow quail hunting—that was the question. The bill did pass in both House and Senate, and Governor DiSalle signed the measure on 12 May 1959 ending a 46-year period when

quail could not be hunted in Ohio. The opening day of a 21-day quail season was set 16 November 1959 with a daily bag limit of six and a possession limit of twelve after the first day. Bobwhites might be taken only on areas owned by the State of Ohio or under lease to the State, and on licensed shooting preserves and other lands controlled under formal easements, licenses, or agreements with ODNR. Another regulation made it possible for individual landowners or groups of owners to request that their land be made available for quail hunting through agreement with the Division. Such areas had to be contiguous and at least 1000 acres in size.

Through 1959, the Division continued to acquire lands for public hunting and fishing areas and established a new Public Services Section. This new Section was responsible for publishing and making available to the public such informational material as maps of public hunting and fishing areas and leaflets and booklets relating Division activities.

## THE 1960'S—BEAVER, DEER, WILD TURKEY, AND CANADA GEESE UP; LAKE ERIE BLUE PIKE AND WALLEYES DOWN

During 1960, new careers began for 25 wildlife men, recent trainees, who had completed 90 days of preservice training and were assigned to regular positions throughout the state. The Wildlife Council approved the assignment of the Division chemist to devote full time to pollution abatement and control activities. This was a cooperative agreement between the Division and the Ohio Department of Health on a water pollution abatement and control program. Council also decided that the minimum acreage needed by individual owners or groups of owners for quail hunting in 1960 would be reduced to 500 acres.

For the first time in Ohio, hen pheasants could be shot during the regular game season, but only on five public hunting areas: Spring Valley, Greene County; Rush Run, Preble County; Pleasant Valley, Ross County; and Auburn Marsh and Hambden Orchard in Geauga County. A six-day beaver trapping season, the first in many years, was estab-



Figure 6.28. Dale E. Whitesell, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1963-1965.

lished in Ashtabula, Columbiana, and Mahoning Counties. The season was set for 16-21 January 1961. The county Game Protector had to place a seal on each animal before it could be sold. Pheasant season on private lands was extended to 26 days, double the length of the season ten years earlier.

In 1960, Ed Wickliff retired after 42 years of service to Ohio outdoorsmen, most of them in the Division of Wildlife's fish section. When asked one time what he considered his major project, he replied, "Liberalized fishing." Many of his studies and research projects led to the adoption of this advanced thinking. For 30 years, Ed wrote most of the fish and game legislation for the Division and he was always on top of happenings in the legislature. He was replaced by John Pelton (Fig 6.26).

By 1961, it was obvious that something was wrong in Lake Erie. Long considered one of the most productive freshwater lakes in the world, the big lake was changing. Such important species as walleye, blue walleye (blue pike), and whitefish were becoming so scarce that numerous Ohio commercial fishermen were being forced out of business. In 1936, Ohio commercial fishermen harvested 16.5 million pounds of blue pike, 2.5 million pounds of pickerel, and 300,000 pounds of whitefish from Lake Erie. The ten-year period 1948-1957 showed an average annual catch of 5.3 million pounds of blue pike and five million pounds of pickerel. Whitefish catch gradually declined to under 100,000 pounds.

Studies were being conducted by every state and province bordering Lake Erie, but all attempts to set uniform commercial fishing rules and regulations met with failure. Up to this time, Ohio commercial fishing regulations had been set by the General Assembly, but both the Ohio Commercial Fishermen's Association and the Wildlife Council felt that full authority over commercial fishing in the Ohio portion of Lake Erie should be vested in the Wildlife Council. This would come later.

While the Lake Erie problem was being tossed around like a hot potato, downstate fishermen and hunters were enjoying fine sport. Many lakes were producing excellent muskie fishing; public hunting areas were furnishing good

pheasant, quail, and rabbit hunting opportunity for thousands of hunters; and a new "hunting with permission" program, begun in southwestern Ohio, was gaining in popularity statewide.

James A. Rhodes became Governor of Ohio in 1963, and in May appointed Fred E. Morr as ODNR Director to replace Herbert B. Eagon. In July, Hayden W. Olds retired as Chief and Dale E. Whitesell (Fig. 6.28), a twelve-year employee of the Division, most recently as District Game Management Supervisor in 16 southwestern Ohio counties, was named to succeed him. The early years of Morr's term as Director were tumultuous times for Division personnel. Many employees were transferred or had their job duties changed.

In 1963, the General Assembly passed a bill providing for reorganization of ODNR. Under the new legislation, the Wildlife Council was changed to an advisory body and the Division of Wildlife Chief was primarily responsible for program and administration. The Wildlife Council's prime responsibility became approving seasons and other regulations. The Wildlife Council also was given a voice in the overall operation of the Department through provision for appointment of the Council Chair to the nine-member Recreation and Resources Commission. Under the new legislation, the Department Director was removed from the Wildlife Council, and the authority to plan and institute programs and policies was transferred from the Council to the Division of Wildlife. The Council would advise on Division policies, investigate and make recommendations in all matters pertaining to protection, preservation, propagation, possession, and management of wildlife in Ohio, and report to the Governor. The bill became effective 1 October 1963.

A realignment of Wildlife Districts resulted in elimination of the Sandusky office and relocation of the Chillicothe office to Division headquarters in Columbus. Under the new alignment, the Wildlife District offices were located as follows: District 1, Central Ohio, Columbus; District 2, Northwestern, Findlay; District 3, Northeastern, Akron; District 4, Southeastern, Athens; and District 5, Southwestern, Xenia. Although Sandusky was eliminated as a district



Figure 6.29. Jack Kamman, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, June 1965.

office, an enforcement unit of five agents and one supervisor headquartered there carried out enforcement duties on Lake Erie—commercial and sport fishing being supervised from the Columbus office.

During 1964, programs which had proved successful in the preceding few years were expanded. Quail hunting on private lands showed 600,000 acres open with some 3000 landowner agreements. The wild turkey trapping program continued and the Canada goose captive flocks produced record numbers of goslings.

Pollution investigation became a new responsibility for the Enforcement Section, which was directed to investigate every instance where pollution killed wild animals. Under this responsibility, the Division of Wildlife received \$25,000 from the Durez Plastics Company for a fish kill in the Scioto River at Kenton, the largest sum received to that date for pollution-killed fish.

The year 1965 was an unusual one for the Division of Wildlife as three different men served as Chief. Dale Whitesell resigned 31 May 1965 to accept a position with Ducks

Unlimited. Jack Kamman (Fig. 6.29), who had been Assistant Chief to Whitesell, was named Chief on 1 June 1965 and he served only one month before accepting the position of Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. On 1 July 1965, Dan C. Armbruster (Fig. 6.30), a career employee with the Division of Wildlife who had come up through the ranks, was named Chief.

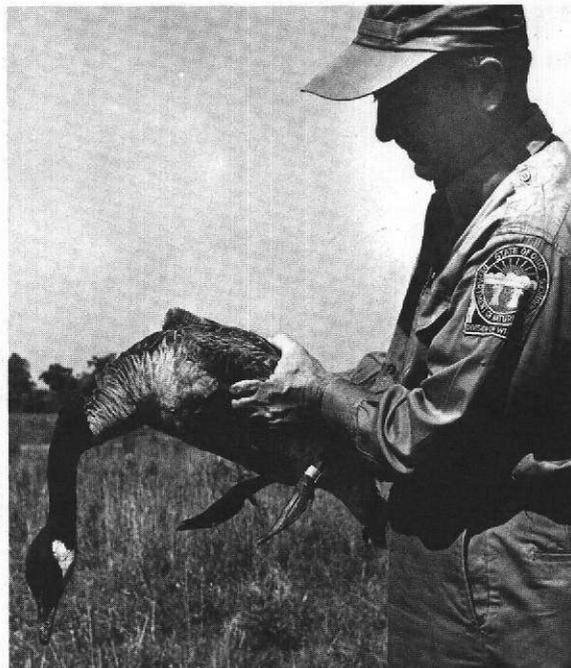
In 1965, the Division of Wildlife's various programs were all showing progress. New fishing opportunities were provided through negotiated agreements with four cities and villages providing water open to free public fishing; three new wildlife lakes totaling 532 acres in Columbiana, Ross, and Noble Counties were under construction and numerous small fishing ponds were constructed on several wildlife areas. Fish production at the State Fish Hatcheries showed a substantial increase over 1964. The Put-in-Bay Hatchery accounted for more than 28 million walleye fry, all of which were stocked in Lake Erie. The Akron Fish Hatchery produced almost ten million walleye fry, all stocked in eight inland lakes. Large-mouth bass and northern pike fingerlings produced at St. Marys Hatchery were stocked in selected and rehabilitated inland waters. More than 9000 muskie fingerlings, three to eight inches in length, were produced at the Akron, Newtown, Kincaid, London, and Xenia Fish Hatcheries. These were stocked in selected lakes throughout the state. In June 1965, *The Ohio Conservation Bulletin* became *The Wonderful World of Ohio*. Since 1937, the *Bulletin* had served well Ohio's wildlife constituency and many were sorry to see it go.

Investigations of fish and other animals killed by water pollution were intensified during 1965. And while the Division of Wildlife is not a pollution control agency, the law



Figure 6.30. Daniel C. Armbruster, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1965-1975.

Figure 6.31. Intensive management of Canada geese during the 1960's resulted in significant recovery of this species in Ohio. Division of Wildlife file photo by Carl L. Mosley, Jr.



does provide that the State holds the title of wild animals in trust for the benefit of all the people. The Division is carrying out this trust when it asks fish-killing polluters for payment of damages. As time went on and more was heard about environmental considerations, Division enforcement personnel played an increasingly important role not only in water pollution control but also enforcing the lake and stream litter laws.

In 1966, Ohio had its first wild turkey season. The season was a result of years of research and work on the part of the Division of Wildlife. The origin of this program was the relocation of turkeys from other states into suitable habitat in Ohio. From a total of 2659 applications, 500 names were drawn to hunt during the 4-7 May season. The nine counties open for the turkey season were Adams, Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington. Expansion of the turkey flock continued with an aggressive in-state trapping and relocation effort and effective regulations. The cost of a resident hunting and trapping license was increased to \$4.00 in 1967, the first increase since 1952. The Cooperative Hunting Program continued to grow beyond the 500,000-acre mark with 2816 farmer cooperators. More than 7000 goslings were produced in Ohio's three Canada goose management areas, double the production in 1966 (Fig. 6.31).

Considerable time and effort were put forth by the Division of Wildlife, the Wildlife Council, Ohio Commercial Fishermen's Association, and sport fishing groups in an effort to rehabilitate the Lake Erie walleye. Because the walleye situation in Lake Erie was becoming more critical, the Ohio Wildlife Council, upon recommendation of Chief Armbruster, prohibited the taking and possession of blue pike (blue walleyes) by sport fishermen on Lake Erie and in Sandusky and Maumee Bays effective 1 September 1967. About the same time the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife placed the blue pike on the list of rare and endangered species. This action might be compared to locking the barn after the horse is stolen, as only 52 pounds of blue pike were taken in 1966 compared with a high of 16.5 million pounds in 1936.

Coho salmon were released in the East Branch of the

Chagrin River in spring 1968 and, as hoped, many returned to the same stream in the fall. Although the cohos required a new stocking each spring to perpetuate the fishery, chances looked good for Ohio fishermen to harvest some of these fine game fish. The resident fishing license was raised to \$4.00, the first increase since 1952. The raise was necessary to put the salaries of Ohio game protectors and fish and game technicians more in line with those of other states and the federal government, which had been siphoning off many of Ohio's top-notch employees.

On 6 June 1968, the new stream litter law became effective. Officers of the Division of Wildlife were given the responsibility of enforcing the new law as a public service in addition to their wildlife duties. Over time, it was obvious that Game Protectors did the bulk of litter enforcement in Ohio. Thousands of arrests were made in subsequent years, and the law and its enforcement were well received in Ohio courts.

Ohio's wild turkey population continued to thrive and hunters harvested 66 birds during the fifth modern day turkey season in 1970. As a result of good management, beaver populations were expanding. From a population of 100 animals in 25 colonies in 11 counties in 1947, the 1969 survey indicated Ohio had 733 colonies in 35 counties and an estimated population of 3495. Approximately 700 beavers were harvested during the season as beaver continued to spread naturally through the state. The deer herd continued to increase and 2105 were harvested during the 1969 season, 227 by archers. The second primitive weapons deer hunt on Salt Fork and Wolf Creek Wildlife Areas produced 48 deer. Special permits were issued to 1346 applicants.

In 1958, there were only about 2500 Canada geese in Ohio, but the employment of sound management techniques had built the statewide population to 40,000 in 1969. As a result, the Division of Wildlife held its first controlled waterfowl hunting on three of its four management areas. Free permits were issued to 1789 sportsmen, who harvested 751 Canada geese during the 1969 season.

The new Sportsmen's Service Center at the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area was dedicated 10 October 1968, "to

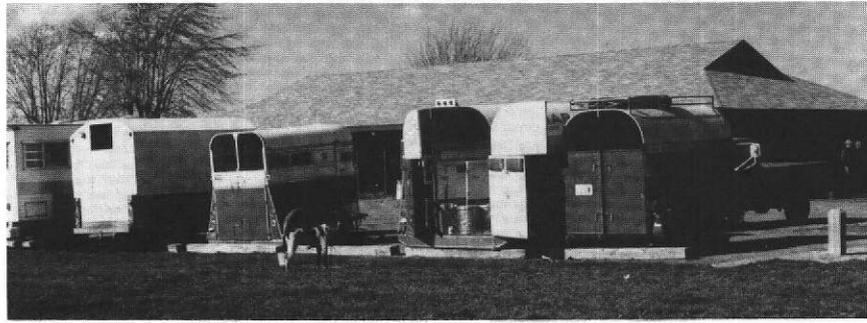


Figure 6.32. Trailers fitted for transporting dogs and horses for field trials are a common sight at the Sportsmen's Service Center at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County.

increase the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of our wildlife resources." Constructed with hunting and fishing license monies, this facility was to be used as an educational center and headquarters for field trials (Fig. 6.32), and by other conservation or related organizations.

Commercial fish production from 1961-1970 annually averaged only 11.7 million pounds, almost totally warmwater species such as white bass and catfish, plus yellow perch. Very few walleyes were caught. The Division of Wildlife was instrumental in the establishment of protective measures to benefit Lake Erie walleyes. Uniform regulations prohibiting the commercial taking of walleyes from Lake Erie during April and October were adopted jointly by the Province of Ontario and the States of Michigan and Ohio.

During 1969, the discovery of mercury-contaminated fish in Lake Erie set off a full-scale investigation and would have considerable bearing on the commercial fishery there. Ohio began a walleye rehabilitation project and banned the use of gill nets in the western basin of Lake Erie. The Wildlife Council approved Chief Armbruster's recommendation that Ohio close the commercial taking of walleyes from Lake Erie.

## THE 1970'S—ENDANGERED SPECIES AND NONGAME, LEGHOLD TRAPS, AND EDUCATION

The Ohio Huskie Muskie Club held its first muskie tournament in 1970. The club which started with seven charter members in 1961 grew to several hundred members by 1970. To become a member an angler must catch a muskie measuring at least 40 inches long and weighing at least 20 pounds. The Ohio Huskie Muskie Club was the largest of its kind in the United States, and the Division's muskellunge program had made Ohio one of the nation's top muskie fishing states. Ohio's state record muskie was caught by Joe D. Lykins at Piedmont Lake on 12 April 1972. The fish was 50.25 inches long and weighed 55 pounds, 2 ounces. The record stands through 1989.

In 1973, deer harvest management progressed to the

county level with the widespread use of county antlerless deer permits. Killing doe or antlerless deer was not widely accepted by hunters. Since 1965, the state had been divided into deer management zones and harvest regulations were tailored to meet the characteristics of each zone. Optimum deer population goals were established for each county and harvest regulations were developed and refined to meet those goals. In 1974, the statewide deer kill was 10,747. The next 15 years would see tremendous growth of the deer herd and record seasons for hunters.

A milestone in the management of nongame wildlife occurred in 1973 in Director Nye's tenure with passage of an endangered wildlife law by the Ohio General Assembly. Without question, the foundation for this law was laid by important federal legislation enacted during the late 1960's and early 1970's, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and endangered species legislation in 1966, 1969, and 1973. In 1974, the Division of Wildlife adopted the first list of endangered animals, and by 1975, a nongame program would be established in the Division with a full-time wildlife biologist hired to plan its development and, ultimately, coordinate the program. In the decade since creation of the nongame wildlife program, endangered wildlife management increased substantially.

In 1959, Laurel Van Camp, the Game Protector in Ottawa County, began to keep nesting records on the Ohio bald eagle population (see Plate 3). He did so after noticing a high rate of reproductive failure among bald eagles in the 1950's. In 1959, there were 15 nesting pairs, by 1975 there were only four pairs. Much of the nesting failure in Ohio and nationwide was found to be caused by eagles consuming DDT pesticides that were in the food chain. DDT was banned in 1972. In the late 1970's, the Division began a program to restore the state's eagle population.

In 1975, Dan Armbruster retired after a long term of twelve years as Chief, and Dale Haney (Fig. 6.33) was named Chief of the Division of Wildlife by Director Teater. Haney had served as an Assistant Chief with Armbruster, and like Armbruster was a career employee of the Division. He had served at the Resthaven Wildlife Area and as a Game Protector and District Law Enforcement Supervisor.



Figure 6.33. Dale Haney, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1975-1978.



Figure 6.34. Carl L. Mosley, Jr., Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1978-1982.

Haney's term as Chief was dominated by two big issues, dove hunting and a referendum battle to outlaw the leghold trap. Ohio's first dove season was established by Haney in September 1975. Another season followed in 1976, but both seasons were clouded with controversy. The season was halted in 1976 when the Ohio Court of Appeals in Lucas County ruled that the Chief did not have the authority to establish a season.

In May 1975, Gould Inc. paid \$260,000 in damages for the pollution-related deaths of mussels in the Muskingum River near McConnelsville. Over 43 million mussels were killed in the river from 1971-1974 by effluents containing copper. On the basis of previous baseline research by Clarence Clark and additional investigation and research by the Division and consultant John Bates of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a strong case was built. The indemnity was the largest ever collected by the Division.

Through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a "controlled international harvest" of walleye was initiated in 1975. Ohio reopened commercial fishing for walleye only in Lake Erie's central basin, the area of the lake from Huron east to Conneaut. Ohio's sport harvest of walleyes from Lake Erie in 1975 was estimated at 100,000 and was definitely on the rebound.

A blizzard ripped through Ohio in January 1977. The storm piled up record snowfall with record low temperatures. The storm decimated some wildlife populations such as bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, and Carolina wren. Major projects were implemented to restore populations of grassland nesting birds that were devastated by the blizzard. Quail and pheasant restorations were at the forefront. Several citizen-involvement projects were initiated and the Urbana Game Farm was reopened for quail production followed by pheasants being hatched there as well.

In 1977, a group of anti-hunting and trapping interests staged a successful petition drive to place an issue on the ballot amending the Ohio Constitution to outlaw the leghold trap. The petition was worded in such a manner possibly to outlaw all forms of trapping in Ohio. Issue Two was placed on the November 1977 general election ballot and the battle

raged. The summer of 1977 saw the Division of Wildlife waging a massive public campaign in opposition to Issue Two. Both sides fought an emotional campaign. Sportsmen formed a well-organized effort to defeat the issue. From this organization came the Ohioans for Wildlife Conservation which grew into the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America. Wildlife conservationists and sportsmen prevailed and Issue Two was defeated by almost two to one. The Division of Wildlife was steadfastly unified on the trapping issue and the results were historically significant. Issue Two resulted in a massive organization of sportsmen and conservation clubs. In several areas of the state, federations of clubs were formed and the groups became more interested and active in wildlife legislation and regulation issues. Coincidental to Issue Two, fur prices reached the highest levels of the century in the mid-to-late 1970's. Red foxes were selling for \$75 a pelt, gray foxes were selling for \$50 or more, and muskrats ranged up to \$8 plus per pelt.

In 1979, resident hunting and fishing license fees were increased to \$7 and hunter education and trapper education training was required for all first-time hunters and trappers. Also, for the first time a separate trapping permit was required for trappers. The permit cost \$5.00. During the summer of 1978, Dale Haney resigned as Chief to become employed with the Victor Trap Company. In December, Carl L. Mosley, Jr. (Fig. 6.34) was named Chief. He initiated efforts to restore pheasant and farmland wildlife populations and intensified information and education efforts (Fig. 6.35). Beginning in 1979, a system of surveys was employed to update and define more precisely county deer population goals based on hunter and farmer preferences and on deer-vehicle accidents. These surveys allowed for more direct input from Ohio citizens.

An Information and Education Section was formed at the central office, with emphasis on projects directed to school-aged children and the nonhunting and fishing public. The central office staff formulated and administered projects and designed educational teaching aids. The projects were implemented in the field by Game Protectors, education officers, and other field personnel. The hunter and trapper education courses which were now mandatory for first-time

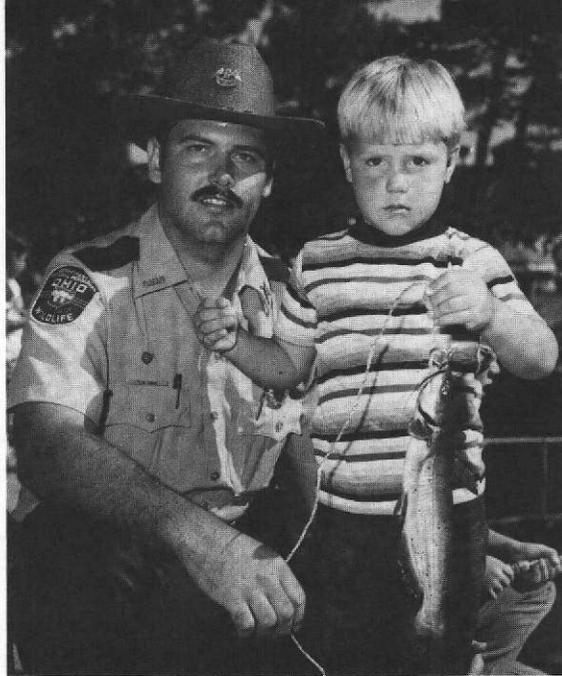


Figure 6.35. Terry Hawk, Game Protector, congratulating a successful young angler at the Ohio State Fair Kiddie Fishing Pond. Photo by Ron Keil.



Figure 6.36. Susan Fippin, Public Information Specialist, at work on a film-editing deck.

hunters and trappers were administered by the Section. The field staff of education officers soon grew from five to nine and the central office staff grew from three to eight (Fig. 6.36). Fish Ohio, a popular angler recognition program initiated in the mid-1970's, was also administered by the Section.

### THE 1980'S—RECORD NUMBERS FOR WALLEYES, DEER, WILD TURKEYS, BALD EAGLES, AND CHIEFS

The Lake Erie walleye daily bag limit was reduced from ten to six in 1980 in an effort to spread out the harvest of the booming Lake Erie walleye fishery. With the reduced bag limit, anglers still caught record season numbers throughout the 1980's. Governor James A. Rhodes coined Lake Erie "The Walleye Capital of the World" (see Figure 1.10 on page 6) when addressing outdoor writers at Governor's Fish Ohio Day at Channel Grove Marina in June 1980. The lakeside economy and the sale of nonresident fishing licenses boomed with the walleye fishery, and the fishing gained national recognition.

From 1981 through 1985, the Division of Wildlife acquired 74 small tracts known as wildlife production areas (WPA's) totaling 3429 acres in intensively farmed areas in northwestern and central Ohio. Acquisition of these WPA's and establishment of habitat on them was part of a comprehensive effort to restore upland wildlife populations by providing technical assistance and planting stock to private landowners, working with United States Department of Agriculture agencies to modify cropland retirement programs to benefit wildlife, and through seeding of roadsides and cooperation at the state, county, and township level to

delay mowing of roadsides.

The early 1980's also saw an increasing involvement by sportsmen clubs in conservation and wildlife issues in Ohio. These sportsmen became involved in Issue Two and continued their legislative and political involvement by attending fish and game hearings and lobbying as groups for regulations and legislation. On 9 September 1982, the "TIP," Turn-In-a-Poacher program was initiated. A board of trustees from the public administered the program in conjunction with Division employees. TIP was based on paying rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers.

Carl Mosley retired as Chief in 1982. Mosley was succeeded by Steven Cole (Fig. 6.37) as the next Division of Wildlife Chief. Cole had previously served as Executive Administrator of the Wildlife Management and Research Group. From 1982 through 1985, the Division had three different Chiefs in three years, referred to by some as "musical chiefs." In 1982, the Division acquired the Hebron National Fish Hatchery from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The hatchery located near Buckeye Lake was one of the most efficient in Ohio and greatly added to the Division's fish production capacity (see Plate 2). In 1983, Myrl Shoemaker became ODNR Director. Controversy soon developed with the Division, and Steve Cole was replaced by Richard Francis (Fig. 6.38) as Chief. Francis had served more than 30 years with the Division, spending the latter part of his career as Assistant Administrator of the Law Enforcement Group.

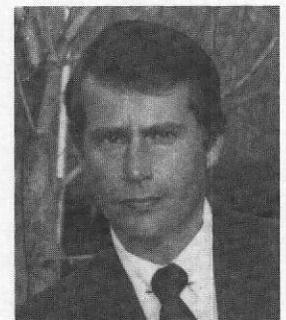


Figure 6.37. Steven Cole, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1982-1983.



Figure 6.38. Richard Francis, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1983-1984.

Figure 6.39. Project WILD has brought fish and wildlife activities directly to Ohio's school children. Photo by Ron Keil.



Figure 6.40. Max Duckworth, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1984-1985.



Figure 6.41. Clayton H. Lakes, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, 1985 to present.

Legislation for a State income tax return checkoff system allowing for taxpayers to contribute to a special account for nongame and endangered wildlife management was enacted in 1983 (see Figure 3.22 on page 30). During the first four years in which the option appeared on the State tax form, nearly \$2 million was contributed by taxpayers to nongame management.

The position of Field Supervisor was added to the Division of Wildlife table of organization in 1983. The 27 new positions were added for field supervision and support of Game Protectors. Project WILD was implemented in 1984 (Fig. 6.39). This national program is based on teaching wildlife management through integration of conservation principles into common school subjects such as math and history. The project was undertaken by the Division, the Ohio Department of Education, and the League of Ohio Sportsmen. Also in 1984, the General Assembly passed a bill to buy out the licensed gill net fishermen in Lake Erie. The bill was widely supported by sportsmen. The price to buy out the fishermen was approximately \$2.4 million.

Richard Francis was replaced by Max Duckworth (Fig. 6.40) in March 1984. Duckworth was a 30-year employee who was previously District Manager in District Three. The Division of Wildlife struggled with a financial crisis through 1984 and 1985. The Division historically has been financially sound, but with increased spending and a new system of Central Support Chargeback, whereby the Division paid other units within ODNR for certain services, the Wildlife Fund tumbled. Many programs were slowed due to a moratorium on equipment purchases and the addition of personnel. The crisis was short-lived as a public outcry led to complete reimbursement from the General Revenue Fund of the \$4.2 million paid as central support.

Also in 1985, the Put-in-Bay Hatchery was closed. It was to reopen later that summer as Max Duckworth stepped down and new ODNR Director Sommer appointed Clayton Lakes (Fig. 6.41) as Chief in August 1985. Lakes had served

the Division for more than 30 years in Fishery Management and was Executive Administrator of Fish Management and Research for several years. The Senecaville Fish Hatchery, the most modern hatchery in Ohio, was acquired at no charge from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1986 increasing to six the total number of active hatcheries operated by the Division (Fig. 6.42). The Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, a sizeable wetland on Sandusky Bay, was purchased, and the London Hatchery was expanded by 25 acres through a transfer of land from the Department of Corrections. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was signed in 1986 beginning an historic and monumental effort to restore the continent's dwindling waterfowl populations.

Legislation was passed that included provisions to reimburse the Division for licenses given to exempted groups of people, provide restitution payments for animals illegally killed, and allowed hunting on Sunday for waterfowl, fox, coyotes, and groundhogs, and on commercial shooting preserves. A river otter reintroduction project was initiated on the Grand River Wildlife Area. Bald eagles reached a high of twelve nesting pairs matching the numbers found in Ohio in the 1950's (see Plate 3). The statewide deer-kill in 1988-89 was 100,674 and the turkey-kill surpassed 3000 (see Plate 4), both of these figures were records. The Lake Erie walleye catch exceeded four million each year from 1986 through 1988, and the lake continued its reputation as the Walleye Capital of the World.

In the late 1980's, the Division initiated a comprehensive management plan based on species-related programs. In 1988, for the first time, eleven counties had a season limit of two deer per hunter. Lake Erie fishing and water quality continued to improve to allow the return of whitefish and develop a good steelhead fishery.

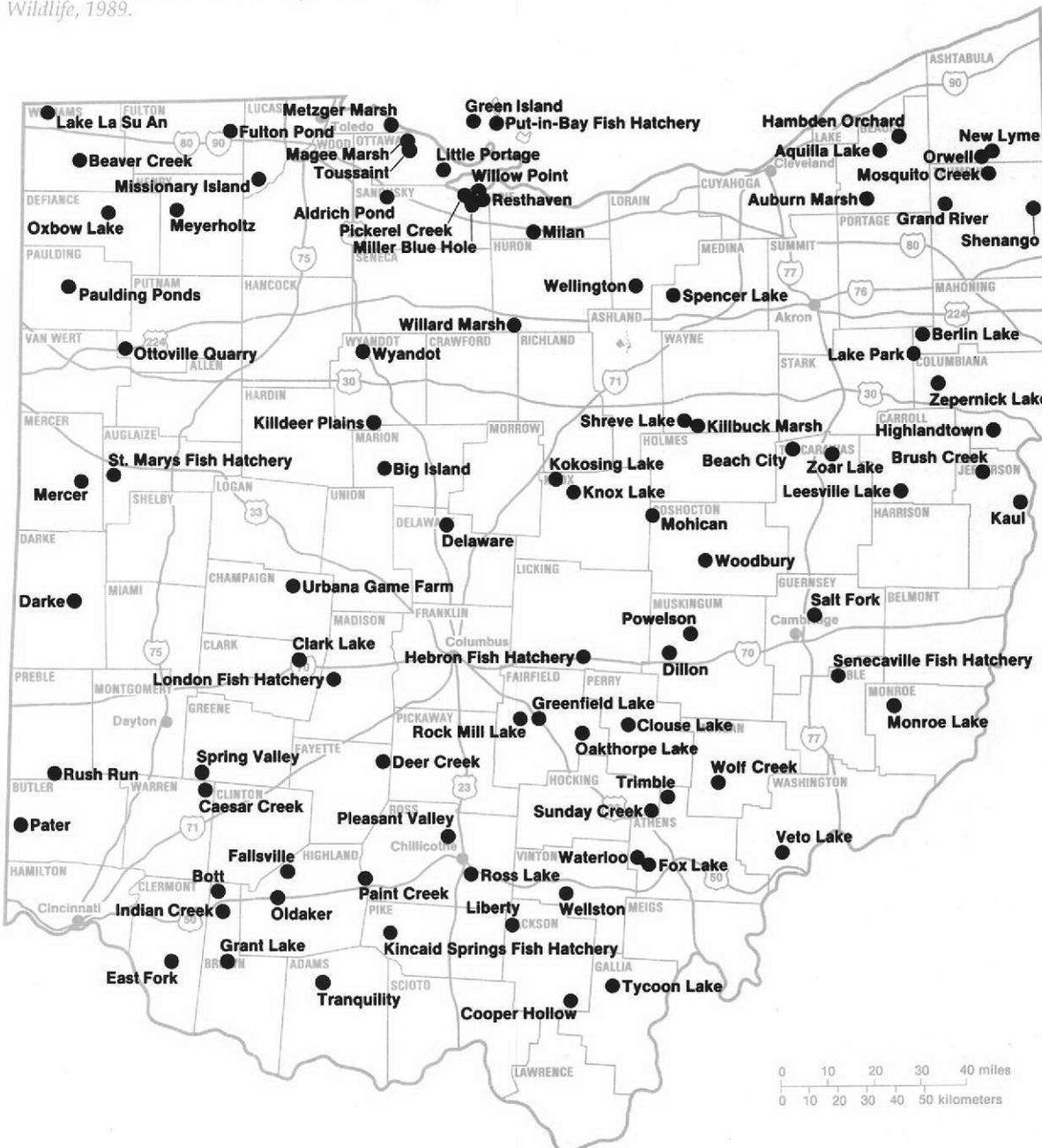
The Division was very active in federal farm legislation such as the 1985 Farm Bill to provide a stable base of farmland wildlife habitat into the 1990's. Intensified effort was



Figure 6.43. The official ribbon cutters for the 1989 opening of the mile-long boardwalk and trail at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County were from left to right: Frank McConoughey of Oak Harbor; Laurel Van Camp, retired game protector of the Division of Wildlife; ODNR Director Sommer; Lou Campbell, Toledo naturalist; and Richard Pierce, Assistant Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Division of Wildlife file photo.

The Divisions

Figure 6.42. State Wildlife Areas and State Fish Hatcheries in Ohio administered by the Division of Wildlife, 1989.



focused on the Ohio River to reach a management agreement with Kentucky and to improve access and fishing on the Ohio. The summer of 1989 saw introduction of per-

egrine falcons, with five birds fledged from the top of the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus; and the boardwalk was opened at the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Fig. 6.43), one of the 85 State Wildlife Areas owned by the Division (Fig. 6.42). Also in 1989, the Division purchased and moved into new office headquarters at the ODNR Fountain Square Complex in north Columbus.

A look into the near future shows continued fabulous Lake Erie fishing, record numbers of deer and wild turkey, continued improvement of most other wildlife populations, and increasing management and improved status of nongame wildlife. The Division of Wildlife in 1990 had 450 full-time employees and an operating budget of \$27 million.