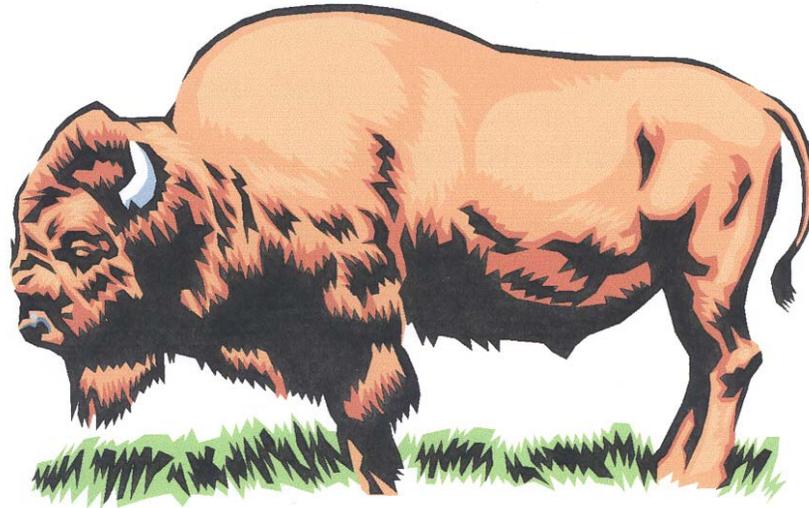


Ohio Wildlife History Timeline

Wildlife in Ohio History



1748



The Ohio Company builds a trading post near Piqua to trade items made in England for furs. Beaver are in big demand.

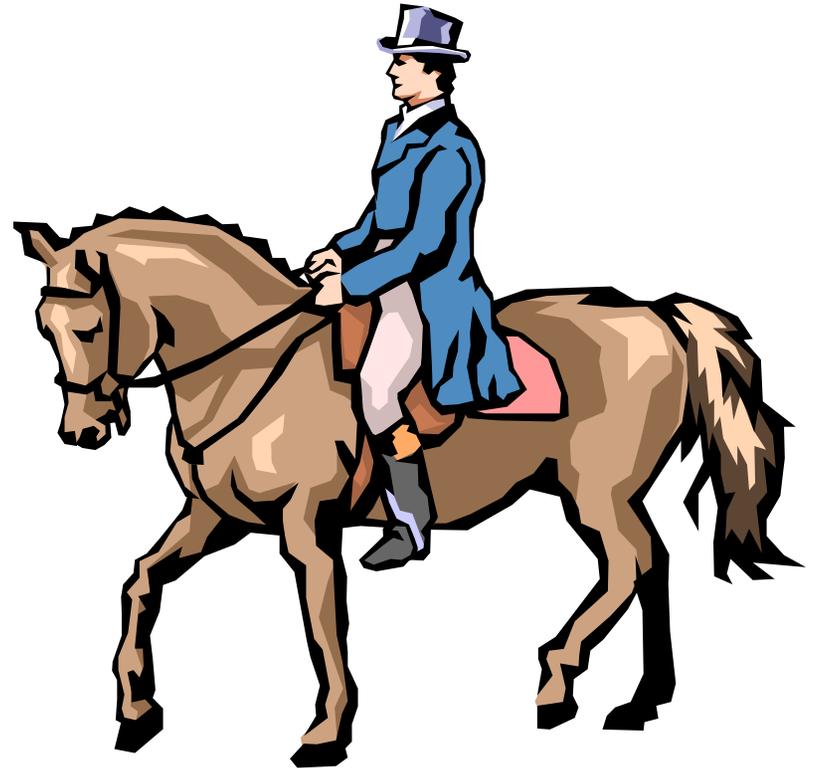
1770



George Washington mapped Ohio lands given to soldiers who fought in the French and Indian War. Wolves, cougars, bear, bison, and elk were found across the state.

Zane's Trace
(another name for a trail) is authorized by Congress. This led to the building of a horse trail that ran from Wheeling to Zanesville, Lancaster and Maysville, Kentucky. Before this, travelers used rivers or followed footpaths.

1796



1803



Ohio becomes a state. Last bison reported in the state was killed in Lawrence County. Bison will be eliminated from every state east of the Mississippi River.

1804



Settlers who were eager for something to read started the Coonskin Library in Athens County. To raise money for books, they sold hides from bears, wolves and raccoons. \$73.50 worth of furs purchased 51 books.

Squirrels were so numerous that a law was passed requiring taxpayers to kill them and turn their scalps in to the county clerk.

1807



1818



Athens County drops its bounty on wolves and cougars. Until then, their scalps could be turned in for money. The county paid \$3 for young animals and \$4 for adults. This is also the year of the Great Hinkley Hunt. Thousands of animals were killed around Hinkley, Ohio.



1829

The first Ohio law was passed to protect a wild animal. The law made it illegal to kill muskrats from May 1 to October 15. This marked the first time Ohioans recognized that wildlife should be conserved as a valuable resource.

1839



Ohio led the nation in wheat farming. Almost all of the original forests have been replaced by the growing number of farms and small towns.

Elk, once found across the state, are now gone. The last report of these large (up to 800 pounds) members of the deer family came from Ashtabula County.

1840



Ohio leads the nation in all kinds of farming. Most were small family farms producing wool, wheat, hay and corn. Ohio's population soars to 2 million, the third highest in the country.

1850



1855



There are no final records, but by this time bobcats, wolves, and mountain lions have been eliminated from the state. Most farmers despised these animals because these predators preyed on sheep, pigs, and calves.



1857

First law enacted for protection of fish. First non-game protection law passed, protecting songbirds.

1873

Ohio Fish Commission established.



1875



The Great Black Swamp is drained after a decade of ditch work and draining. This enormous wetland in northwest Ohio was likely the last wilderness in the state. It now boasts some of the state's largest farms.

1881



The last known black bear reported in Ohio was killed in Paulding County.



1883

Ohio's original forest land covered more than 24 million acres. By now, only 4 million acres remain. Most of the trees up to this time were simply cut down and burned.

1886

Ohio Fish
commission
becomes
Commission of
Fish and Game.
First game
wardens
appointed.



1888

A statute provided for a warden in every county and a chief warden.





1896

First state
fish
hatchery
opens in
London,
Ohio.

Lacey Act is passed, prohibits the transportation of illegally killed game across state lines. This curbed trafficking in plumage and other wildlife products.

1900



1902



Commission of Fish and
Game responsible for lakes
and public parks.

Wild turkeys and white-tailed deer are declared extinct in Ohio. Widespread loss of forests and uncontrolled hunting is blamed.

1909



1913



The last year that ospreys were reported nesting successfully in the state. The last nest to produce young was at Grand Lake St. Mary's. First resident hunting license required.

“Martha,” the very last passenger pigeon in the world, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. Passenger pigeons were once thought to be the most numerous bird species in the world. Single flocks sometimes contained billions of birds.

1914



1917



Migratory
Bird Treaty
Act. First
resident
trapping
license
required.

1919



First coyote is seen in Ohio. These animals have been spreading from the western states into new areas as forests were cleared and wolves were eliminated.

1920

First Ohio wildlife area, the Roosevelt Game Preserve, is purchased with license dollars.





1925

First resident
fishing license is
required.

1937

Pittman-Robertson
Act created.
Federal excise tax
on sporting arms
and ammunition
provides funding
to states for
management and
restoration of
wildlife.



1943



Ohio allows deer hunting again. Deer, which had become very scarce prior to 1900, have been making a slow comeback. Only three counties were open for hunting: Adams, Pike, and Scioto. 164 bucks were taken.

1947

A survey of
beaver
populations
turned up only
100 animals
scattered
across 11
counties.



Division of
Conservation
becomes
Division of
Wildlife under
the newly
created Ohio
Department of
Natural
Resources.

1949



1956

Wild turkeys are reintroduced. Wild birds are brought from other states and released into southeast Ohio, where forests are recovering. First statewide deer season.





1966

First wild turkey season in limited counties. Endangered Species Preservation Act is established. It is modified for 6 years until the current Endangered Species Act is established in 1973.

1968

Fire on the
Cuyahoga
River spurs
cleanup of
Ohio's
waterways.



1969

The National Environmental Policy Act established. Requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impact of their actions.



1970

Blue pike extinct in Great Lakes.





1973

Ohio's
Endangered
Species law
passed.

Ohio's bald eagle population is suffering from the effects of DDT and other pesticide poisoning, as well as the loss of wetland habitat. Only 4 pairs of eagles remain along Lake Erie.

1975



1978



Blizzards this winter decimate Ohio's bobwhite quail population. The beaver population tops 10,000 for the first time in decades. Beaver have become re-established across the eastern parts of the state.



1980

Lake Erie declared “Walleye Capital of the World” by Governor Rhodes.

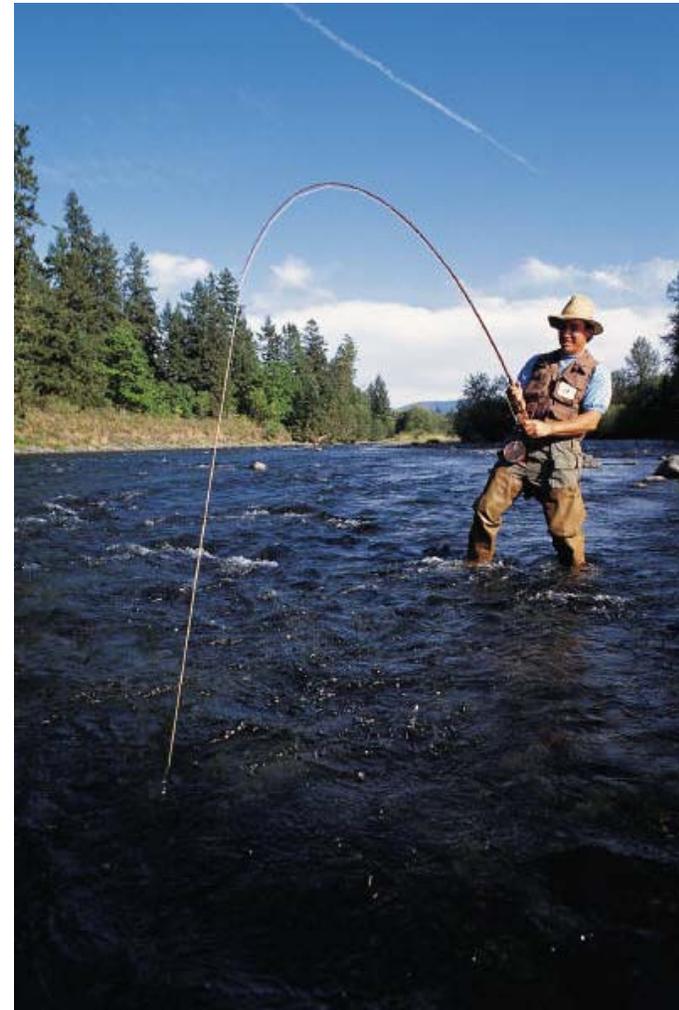
1983



State income
tax check-off
for wildlife
diversity
established.

Wallup-Breaux amendment to the Dingell-Johnson Act provides federal funding to states for management and restoration of sport fish, and for aquatic education, wetlands restoration, and boat safety.

1984



1986



River otters are reintroduced into 4 Ohio watersheds. 123 animals were released over the next 5 years into the grand river, Killbuck Creek, Stillwater Creek, and the Little Muskingum Creek.

1987

Sandhill cranes return to Ohio.
These large birds built a nest in a
marsh near Wooster. This is the
first nesting pair since 1926.
They are still rare today.



A pair of peregrine falcons adopts Toledo and begins nesting on an old hotel building. Ohio soon joins other states in establishing pairs in other Ohio cities as part of a regional effort to restore peregrine populations in the eastern U.S.

1988



1995



Ospreys return to Ohio and build a nest on an electrical tower located over the Ohio River. This was one year ahead of the Division of Wildlife's plans to release 36 birds from Maryland into the wild in 1996. Deer herd estimated at 550,000.



1996

Trumpeter swans are restored to Ohio when 15 birds are released at Magee Marsh in Ottawa county. These birds will be joined by more introductions in a project that will last ten years.

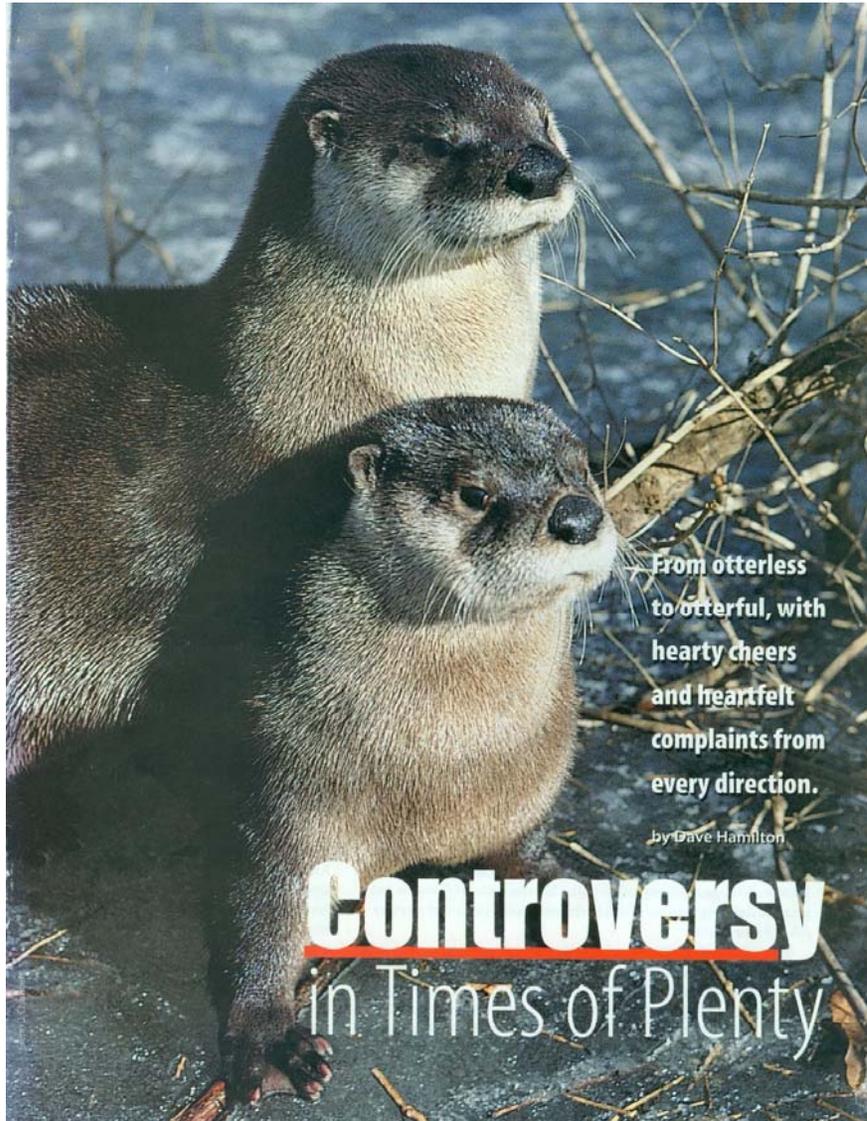
Snowshoe hares
are reintroduced
into Ashtabula
and Geauga
Counties.

Approximately
400 hares were
brought from
Michigan and
released on
wildlife areas.

1999



2002



After a very successful reintroduction program, river otters are removed from Ohio's Endangered Species list.

2007



186 eaglets are fledged from a modern record of 164 bald eagle nests in 45 of Ohio's 88 counties.

- This timeline was developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education.
- It is posted online at www.epa.ohio.gov/oeo/ee_resources.aspx , and copies can be ordered by contacting the Division of Wildlife at (800) 945-3543.

