

WILDLIFE FACT CARDS

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.

1796

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.

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.

1807

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

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 Almost all of the original forests have been replaced by the growing number of farms and small towns.

1840

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

1850

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 3rd highest in the country. Ohio's population reaches 2 million.

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 nongame 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.

1900

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

1902

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

1909

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

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.

1914

"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.

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-Roberson Act
created.

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.

1949

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

1952

Dingell-Johnson Act
passed.

1954

Last reports of native river otters come from Ashtabula, Monroe, and Coshocton counties. Polluted streams and loss of wetlands and riparian areas were a big problem for otters.

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 aspects of their actions.

1970

Blue pike extinct in Great Lakes.

1973

Ohio's Endangered Species law passed.

1975

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.

1978

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

1980

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

1983

State income tax check-off for wildlife diversity established.

1984

Wallup-Breaux amendment to the Dingall-Johnson act.

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.

1988

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.

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.

1999

Snowshoe hares are reintroduced into Ashtabula and Geauga counties. Approximately 400 hares were brought from Michigan and released on wildlife areas.

2002

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