

Outdoor Oklahoma

JULY/AUGUST 2020 – ONLY \$10 A YEAR

OUR
75TH
YEAR



In This Issue:
**2020 Readers'
Photography Showcase**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Panoramas

Oklahoma's Close to Home Fishing Program (CTHFP) is entering its 22nd year. The program's goal is to provide quality fishing opportunities in neighborhood settings for all ages. The Wildlife Department has undertaken a new push toward revitalizing the program. We have long realized that folks want to take shorter trips to maximize their time and cash flow. By identifying and using public areas across the state that have existing ponds, small lakes and creeks, we hope to encourage new anglers to get hooked on fishing, and to bring back people who may have stepped away from fishing.

Since becoming statewide coordinator of CTHFP in 2008, I have often reminisced about my younger days growing up in suburban Detroit, 50-plus years ago. It was so easy for my friends and I to hop on our bicycles and head to a local pond, lake or creek to see what was biting. We wouldn't keep anything we caught; we simply wanted to outdo each other for the most and biggest fish. We'd target panfish and catfish most of the time using worms. Other times, we would take a can of corn for bait in order to catch creek chubs, a large minnow-type fish. We never really worried about getting permission to access these spots. Back in the 1960s and 1970s, most of these water bodies had open access, and fences were few. These memories keep me energized to help current and future generations gain the passion I had growing up, and still have today. I now have grandchildren who are itching to go fishing with their Papa.

The Wildlife Department has developed criteria to help select CTHFP sites to maximize their availability to larger populations. We usually look for a city park with a pond of

less 10 acres. Ideally sites will have good features such as relatively clear water, well-maintained grounds, and facilities such as restrooms, parking, and picnic areas. We also look

for a lot of open shoreline to allow plenty of room for anglers. If some of these amenities aren't available or are needing repair, we can still sign them up and will assist the owner in making improvements. This is where your fishing license dollars kick in to fund local projects through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. The biggest bonus for these communities is that the Wildlife Department raises or buys and then regularly stocks keeper-size fish into all of these sites throughout spring and summer. A few of them also receive rainbow trout in winter.

The Wildlife Department is undertaking a five-year strategic plan, and implementing that plan is underway. The CTHFP is at the top of the list to make it bigger and better. Plans are to stock more and bigger fish, mainly sunfish and catfish. We also plan to assist with improvements around the ponds such as adding fishing piers, park benches and cleaning up the ponds themselves. So stay tuned! A new or improved fishing spot might be coming to your neighborhood soon for your leisurely pleasure. And even if you don't plan on fishing, go ahead

and take the kids to the local park. You might be pleasantly surprised, again!



Keith Thomas, now and then



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Thomas'.

Keith Thomas, Fisheries Biologist
Close to Home Fishing Program Coordinator

Outdoor Oklahoma

JULY/AUGUST • VOLUME 76 • NUMBER 4

Inside

Off the Beaten Path.2

Chasing Butterflies:
Seeking a Secretive Skipper 10

By Jena Donnell,
Wildlife Diversity Information Specialist

2020 Readers' Photography Showcase. . 12

Pages From the Past46

Outdoor Store48



ON THE COVER: A jumping spider holds a captured bee in this amazing photo that Wes Edens of Ada took in his pollinator garden near Vanoss. For more amazing photos, turn to the 2020 Readers' Photography Showcase on Page 12.



facebook.com/OkWildlifeDept

instagram.com/OkWildlifeDept

outdooroklahoma

@OkWildlifeDept



Published by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
J. Kevin Stitt, Governor

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Bruce Mabrey, Okmulgee — Chairman
Robert S. Hughes II, Bartlesville — Vice Chairman
Leigh Gaddis, Ada — Secretary
James V. Barwick, Edmond
Bill Brewster, Marietta
Chad Dillingham, Enid
Rick Holder, Creta
John Zelbst, Lawton

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
J.D. Strong, Director
Wade Free, Assistant Director of Operations
Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief, Administration
Barry Bolton, Chief, Fisheries Division
Bill Dinkines, Chief, Wildlife Division
Nathan Erdman, Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Nels Rodefeld, Chief, Information and Education Division

Nels Rodefeld, Editor
Micah Holmes, Managing Editor
Don P. Brown, Associate Editor

CONTRIBUTING STAFF
Brooklyn Bloomfield, Jena Donnell, Darrin Hill,
Mark Howery, Kasie Joyner, Damon Springer,
Keith Thomas

Outdoor Oklahoma editorial offices:
P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

PHONE
(405) 521-3856

WEBSITE
www.wildlifedepartment.com

E-MAIL
donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov

Art direction by Stroud Design, Inc.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Copyright ©2020 by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Outdoor Oklahoma (ISSN 0030-7106) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK, and additional mailing offices. Notification of address change must include both old and new addresses and ZIP codes, with six weeks' notice. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Outdoor Oklahoma, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

This program receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age and sex (gender) pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. To request an accommodation or informational

material in an alternative format, contact Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, (405) 521-3851. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Printed on recycled, recyclable paper.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com
for online credit card orders

Subscriptions are \$10 per year; \$18 for 2 years; \$25 for 3 years. Single copies \$4. Production and distribution costs not covered by subscription fees are borne by Oklahoma sportsmen and sportswomen through hunting and fishing fees.

ACCOUNT QUESTIONS

or bill-me-later orders:
Call (800) 777-0019

Off the Beaten Path

NOTES ON WILDLIFE • OUTDOOR TIPS • READERS' LETTERS • ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
COMPILED BY DON P. BROWN

ENID BUSINESSMAN JOINS WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Northwestern Oklahoma insurance executive D. Chad Dillingham of Enid was appointed by Gov. J. Kevin Stitt to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. Dillingham begins serving an eight-year term as the District 8 representative in July 2020.

Dillingham takes the seat held by Enid businessman John D. Groendyke, who has decided to step down from the Commission after 44 years of continuous service under seven different governors.

"I'd like to thank Governor Stitt for the honor of his appointment to serve the state in this capacity," Dillingham said. "It is truly an honor, and I am anxious to learn more about the great work being done in wildlife management, conservation, hunter education, and preserving access for all Oklahomans to continue enjoying wildlife and the great outdoors for generations to come."

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Director J.D. Strong praised the appointment.

"I've both bird-hunted and worked alongside Chad Dillingham in the past, and I can say unequivocally that Governor Stitt made an incredible pick in appointing him to replace the 'irreplaceable' Commissioner Groendyke. His family and his business are well-respected, and much of that is due to what Chad brings to the Dillingham name.

"The sportsmen and women of this state will soon learn what I most respect about Mr. Dillingham as they watch him make rational, well-reasoned decisions that are in the best interest of growing our state, spreading our outdoor lifestyle, and helping our fish and wildlife resources to thrive."



Dillingham is chief executive officer and co-owner of Dillingham Insurance, a 93-year-old private business headquartered in Enid and serving clients in 38 states with offices in Oklahoma City, Kansas City and Tulsa. He and his brother own and operate a 1,700-acre cattle ranch in northern Oklahoma.

Dillingham's involvement in community and statewide concerns is notable. He is on the Board of Regents for Northern Oklahoma College, the Board of Trustees for The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma, and Board of Advisors for the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center. He is director

of the Denny Price Family YMCA, past chairman and director of the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce, past director for United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma, past director of the local Boy Scouts of America organization, and graduate of Leadership Oklahoma.

He has worked diligently to support Enid Public Schools, leading promotional efforts for two successful bond issues totaling more than \$190 million and recognized with the 2016 Barbara Lynch Community Support Award from the Oklahoma State School Boards Association. He is active in several professional insurance organizations, has served as an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Enid, and is a member of YPO-Oklahoma City, Enid Rotary Club and the Grand National Quail Club.

He and his wife of 26 years, Lisa, have two sons and one daughter ages 24, 21 and 20. He enjoys hunting, fishing, ranching, boating, golf, and tennis, and he's been an active private pilot since age 16.

"As a lifelong rancher, outdoorsman and hunting enthusiast, I am proud to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity," he said. ♦♦✕

DONATIONS HELP GIVE BACK TO VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES

The Wildlife Department takes great pride in making available the Stars and Stripes License Project, which pays for hunting and/or fishing licenses for Oklahoma residents who are eligible veterans and those holding Gold Star lapel buttons and Next of Kin Deceased Personnel lapel buttons.

We thank our many thoughtful donors who believe, as we do, that our veterans and survivors of deceased veterans deserve this recognition. It truly is a small effort that allows all hunters, anglers and outdoor fans to say, "Thank you for your service."

The S&S Project operates strictly on donations received, because current law prohibits the Wildlife Department from giving away or buying hunting or fishing licenses. As long as

there are donated funds available, the program continues to accept applications and buy licenses for successful applicants. The number of licenses awarded each year depends on the total amount of donations received.

Anyone who wants to show their appreciation for those who served or are serving by donating to this worthy effort can go to license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com and click "Shop/Donate." Or for more information, go to www.wildlifedepartment.com/licensing/stars-and-stripes.

All donations to the Stars and Stripes License Project are tax-deductible. Please consider giving back to those who served by donating today. Thank you. ♦♦✕

EUFULA GIRL'S DUCK STAMP ART IN NATIONAL TOP 10

London Peterson, 16, of Eufaula placed among the Top 10 in the 2020 National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest with her painting "Morning Serenity" that depicts a pair of common goldeneye ducks.

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic art- and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program encourages students to explore their natural world, invites them to investigate biology and wildlife management principles, and challenges them to express and share what they have learned with others.

This year's contest included more than 14,000 young artists from across the nation who first compete at the state level with winners advancing to national judging. Submissions for the 2021 contest must be received or postmarked by March 1, 2021,



London Peterson



at the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, 107993 S. 4520 Road, Vian, OK 74962.

For contest rules and more information on associated curriculum, to to <https://www.fws.gov/birds/education/junior-duck-stamp-conservation-program/conservation-education-curriculum.php>. ❖❖❖

HUNTERS RETURN TO FIELDS SEPT. 1 FOR DOVE SEASON

Dove hunting season arrives Sept. 1, the first of the fall hunting seasons each year in Oklahoma.

Besides being the earliest hunting season to open statewide, it is also very popular in terms of participation thanks to usually mild weather, ease of hunting, and an ample supply of birds. The most recent Oklahoma Game Harvest Survey shows that about 52,000 hunters harvested about 1.01 million doves in 2018. That puts dove hunting second only to deer hunting in the number of hunters who participate each year.

But as most hunters know, doves can be fickle fowl. In most years, the hunting could be super for the first week or two, but the arrival of the first noticeable cold front from the north tends to push much of the dove population southward.

Here are a few tips to increase your odds:

- Location. Choose an area where food and water will attract doves. Setting up beside a pond in a grain or sunflower field could be ideal.
- Scouting. Find the areas birds fly to morning and evening, and notice their flight path. Locate several fields so you can have options about where to hunt.
- Gear. Decoys placed high above the ground can make the difference. And make sure your shotgun and ammo are right for the situation. Shot size and choke are important for increasing harvest chances.

Three dove species are found in Oklahoma: mourning, white-winged and Eurasian collared. Hunters may take all



three species, with the daily bag limit being 15 birds combined. However, there is no limit on Eurasian collared doves as long as the head or one feathered wing remains attached to the carcass.

The first part of dove season will close Oct. 31. The second part of dove season will be Dec. 1-29.

For full regulations and license requirements, go to www.wildlifedepartment.com. ❖❖❖

2019 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

“WE NEED TO KEEP THE HERITAGE ALIVE”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Each year, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International join to sponsor a creative writing competition for Oklahoma middle and high school students. A boy and a girl from two age divisions are selected winners. Students were required to write essays using the theme “Hunting: Sharing the Heritage” or “Archery: What I Like About Archery in the Schools and Bowhunting.” Winners in the age 15-17 category receive a guided antelope hunt in the Texas Panhandle, and winners in the 11-14 age category receive a hunting trip at the Circle P Pogue Ranch (or similar) and a scholarship to the Outdoor Texas Camp. In this issue, Outdoor Oklahoma honors senior category male winner Garret Bowdre, 17, from Calera High School.



OKLAHOMASTATIONSOCI.ORG

HUNTING: SHARING THE HERITAGE

By Garret Bowdre



I grew up hunting as a small boy, and my dad taught me everything I’ve ever known. Hunting is more than just something to do on the weekends. It’s something you live and breathe. It’s something you’re proud to do. Something you appreciate. Something you cherish. It’s what I want to be able to pass down to my boy or girl someday, and I want them to love it as much as I do. I want to be able to teach them what my dad taught me, to teach them how to appreciate animals and all they do for the world. How not to take advantage of a privilege given to us. How to hunt the proper way, and how to hunt all manners of animals. To do that I need to be able to hunt multiple different animals. Hunting is a dying art, and we need to keep the heritage alive so we are able to pass it down one day to our kids and teach them the proper way to hunt. Because if we don’t, the art will be lost forever. If the proper way to hunt is lost, we may never get it back. So, being able to hunt may not mean a lot to some people, but to me it is a way of life. And keeping the traditions of our ancestors alive is everything, because without them we wouldn’t be here.

Unfortunately growing up as I did, we never really got to do much because we didn’t have much money. Even when my dad and mom worked two jobs, they did the best they could. They always got me what I wanted even when we didn’t have the money or I didn’t deserve it. I know there are a lot better candidates than me out there and a lot more people who deserve it, but if I won, it would mean the world to me and my dad. He always wanted me to follow my dreams, and I owe it to him to try. So I’m going to give it my best, because in the end that’s all you can do.

The amount of knowledge you can learn on a hunt is exponential. There isn’t a better teacher than hands-on experience. And if there’s one thing I’ve learned in life, you can always get better at what you love, all you have to do is practice. Even if you just practice on a dummy sitting in the yard. You can still get better even if you don’t think so. You will eventually see the progress you’ve made. This is the kind of experience I want to show my kids one day. I want to be able to see their faces when they kill their first deer or rabbit. Or the first time they shoot a shotgun or rifle, because the smile on their face would be worth everything in the world to me. This is what I want to preserve so everyone can enjoy hunting. **X

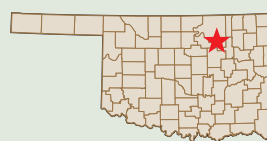
STATE RECORDS SET FOR **PADDLEFISH, BIGMOUTH BUFFALO**

New state- or lake-record fish have been added to the Wildlife Department's official database in recent weeks. Here is a snapshot of the big ones that didn't get away!



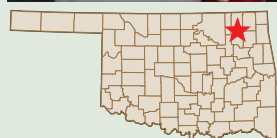
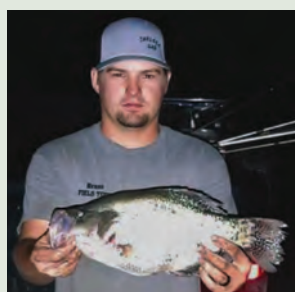
State Record Bigmouth Buffalo (Unrestricted)

Weight: 66 pounds, 4 ounces.
Length: 46.5 inches.
Girth: 33 inches.
Angler: Boe Meehan of Broken Arrow.
Method of Catch: Bowfishing.
Date Caught: April 15, 2020.
Lake Caught: Greenleaf Lake.



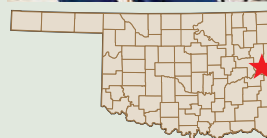
State Record Paddlefish

Weight: 143 pounds.
Length: 76 inches.
Girth: 44.5 inches.
Angler: Jeremiah Mefford of Keifer.
Method of Catch: Snagging.
Date Caught: May 23, 2020.
Lake Caught: Keystone Lake.



Oologah Lake Record Crappie

Weight: 2 pounds, 12 ounces.
Length: 16 inches.
Girth: 14 1/8 inches.
Angler: Brent Hunt of Chelsea.
Method of catch: Spinning rod and reel.
Date: April 23, 2020.
Area Caught: Lightning Creek.



Tenkiller Lake Record Hybrid Striped Bass

Weight: 10 pounds, 3 ounces.
Length: 26.25 inches.
Girth: 19.75 inches.
Angler: David Warrior of Mounds.
Method of catch: Rod and Reel.
Date: April 18, 2020.
Area Caught: Southern end.



Kaw Lake Record Hybrid Striped Bass

Weight: 12.65 pounds.
Length: 29.25 inches.
Girth: 21.75 inches.
Angler: Cameron Adams of Ponca City.
Method of catch: Rod and reel.
Date: April 8, 2020.
Area Caught: Lower end.



Kaw Lake Record Hybrid Striped Bass

Weight: 14.5 pounds.
Length: 30.25 inches.
Girth: 24.13 inches.
Angler: Bobby Walker of Ponca City.
Method of catch: Rod and reel.
Date: April 10, 2020.
Area Caught: Lower end.

What's the biggest fish you've ever caught? A 7-pound largemouth, a 2-pound crappie or a 45-pound blue catfish? While your fish might not be a new state record, it possibly could be the biggest fish ever caught from your favorite lake. Thanks to a network of record-keepers at lakes across the state, your next trophy could qualify as a lake record.

The Lake Record Fish Program was established as a way to serve anglers and recognize big fish and the lakes they come from. To find out more, go to www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/state-and-lake-records. ♦♦✕





Game Warden's Journal

ACCOUNTS FROM THE FIELD BY THE PUBLIC
SERVANTS WHO ENFORCE THE FISH AND
WILDLIFE LAWS OF OKLAHOMA



TEXOMA GUIDE PAYS FOR STRIPER LIMIT VIOLATIONS

By Jena Donnell, Information and Education Specialist

Lake Texoma, with its scenic shorelines and renowned fishery, is often called the “Striped Bass Capital of the World.” But that accolade relies on a healthy striped bass population and enforcement of regulations that limit the number and size of stripers removed from the lake.

So, when Oklahoma Game Wardens received a tip that a licensed fishing guide was keeping more than the lake’s daily limit of 10 striped bass per person, and exceeding the number of 20-inch-plus bass each person could legally catch and keep, they launched an investigation.

“We rely on tips from the public. But to make the case, we need to witness the violation or have proof the violation occurred,” said **Game Warden Billy Bob Walker**, based in Marshall County. “This particular guide was notorious for cleaning the day’s fish in a secluded cove instead of going to a dock with a cleaning station. Unless we knew the area of the lake he would be fishing that day, we didn’t have a way to catch him without going undercover.”

In August 2019, two undercover Game Wardens posed as clients and set out with the guide and a deckhand for a day of

fishing while Walker and a fourth plainclothes Game Warden observed from a nearby boat. When the guide was hired, it was agreed the guide would track the number of fish caught so that the daily possession and length limits allowed for the four people on the boat were not exceeded.

But when the operation was over, 42 striped bass had been kept, two fish over the daily possession limit. A majority of those fish were longer than 20 inches, when only eight fish were allowed over the lake’s length limit given the number of people on the boat.

An arrest was made and the guide was charged with 32 misdemeanors, one count per over limit fish. Nearly four months later, the guide pleaded guilty to all charges and agreed to pay the associated fines.

“Guides can be a great introduction to the sport of fishing. They can help everyone on the boat have a good time, enjoy Lake Texoma, and have a chance to catch a good fish,” Walker said. “But it’s important that we all work together to make sure the resource stays healthy and available to other anglers.”

General fishing regulations, along with special regulations that apply to specific public fishing waters, can be found in the Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing Regulations Guide, available online at wildlifedepartment.com or in print at license vendors statewide.



Oklahoma Game Warden Billy Bob Walker conducts a fishing license check while patrolling Lake Texoma. Walker was an observer during a recent investigation that revealed striper regulation violations on the lake.



Cooper Walker, son of Game Warden Billy Bob Walker, holds a striped bass at Lake Texoma, which is often called “The Striped Bass Capital of the World.”

TURKEY POACHING:

On April 9, a vigilant landowner near Reydon called Oklahoma **Game Warden Tucker Blackburn**, based in Roger Mills County, to report hearing two gunshots on his property. The landowner saw a pickup speeding away from the area and used his cell phone to take a picture of the vehicle. The landowner found turkey feathers, blood, and two shotgun hulls in the county road adjacent to his property. Blackburn arrived and collected the evidence. The next day, a suspect and suspect vehicle were identified. Oklahoma **Game Warden Lt. James Edwards Jr.**, based in Beckham County, contacted his friend, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Refuge Law Enforcement (South Atlantic/Gulf/Mississippi Basin Region) Chief Vic Coffman for assistance. Coffman contacted the suspect and advised him to contact Blackburn to turn himself in. Soon after, Blackburn was contacted by Roger Mills County Sheriff's Deputy Joey Bales, who reported seeing the suspect vehicle. The suspect called Blackburn and pulled over. Blackburn's investigation revealed 26 violations among four men in the suspect vehicle. Blackburn was assisted by Bales and



Oklahoma **Game Warden Clint Carpenter**, based in Custer County, in sorting through the evidence, including parts of nine turkeys. The four suspects were cited for 26 violations totaling \$12,014.00 in fines and court costs.

Game Wardens want to thank the landowner for taking immediate actions to report poaching! We cannot express how much we appreciate everyone who reports suspicious and illegal activity. We would also like to thank all agencies and officers involved in this successful investigation.



ROOST SHOOTING:

An investigation in late April involving the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uncovered the illegal killing of at least 28 federally protected migratory birds at a roosting site at Lake Texoma. **Game Wardens Cody Jones and Garrett Beam**, both based in Bryan County, and **Game Wardens Trey Hale and Billy Bob Walker**, both based in Marshall County, along with federal Officer Chris Owens, found more than 100 shotgun hulls, many broken eggs and empty nests at the roost site, where these birds build nests and raise their young. Teamwork led officers to the potential violators, and shotguns were seized as evidence. Each of the violators could face state and federal charges with fines totaling nearly \$23,000 and could lose their hunting privileges.

(Reports from the Oklahoma Game Wardens Facebook page.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please help make a difference! When violators break the law, they steal fish and wildlife from you! Report violations anonymously by calling Operation Game Thief at (800) 522-8039. You could earn a cash reward.



Game Bag

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS TO THE WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

We'd like to hear from you! Send your letters to *Outdoor Oklahoma Letters*, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or send e-mail to donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov.



Dear Wildlife Department,

I just had to share with y'all that I am a new hunter and a new true fisher. I started hunting my first season dove hunting two years ago, and it was extremely exciting. I outshot the guys. ... Deer hunting two seasons ago, I got my first doe in Lexington at the wildlife management area. I couldn't have been prouder. Then the following year, I was able to get my first buck at Lexington. ... Then I started picking up on fishing ... now I couldn't be more hooked, LOL. ... This year was my first year turkey hunting. I've been taking my girls hunting with me. ... Needless to say, we have put in many miles. ... I have had 10 surgeries altogether — my medical history is not the best — but I just wanted to say that I couldn't be more proud that's how far I have come ... as me being a new full-fledged female hunter and raising two girls. ... Thank you guys for all y'all do even though no matter how much work ... the woods are not handicap accessible. But it doesn't matter if you hunt or fish 100 yards off the beaten path or five miles, it's all still worth it and it's all priceless.

Jessica Revels, via text message

Dear Director J.D. Strong,

If I have a negative experience with an employee, I take it up with the employee. If I have a positive experience with an employee, I take it up with the boss. Hence the reason for this hand-scribbled little epistle.

Fishing has always been a large part of my life. I began fishing Oklahoma's streams and ponds and lakes about 1950. Bought my first license when I turned 16 in 1960. But ... I have not been able to enjoy my favorite pastime for the past dozen years or so.

I decided to correct this, and wanted to start by getting a senior's license. The ODWC online system defeated me, so I turned to my local (human) game ranger for assistance.

It was my very good fortune that **Game Warden Carlos Gomez** put me in touch with **Game Warden Paul Welch**. I was immediately struck by Paul's open, friendly attitude and, more importantly, professionalism. He not only mailed a copy of the license application, but also thoughtfully included a list of nearby fishing locations.

Please add an official "Ewe Dun Reel Guud" Award with Gold Star and Oak Leaf Cluster to his personnel file. His kindness will be celebrated in feast and song in the Henley hovel well into the foreseeable future!

Tech. Sgt. David L. Henley (Ret.), 138th Fighter Squadron "Tulsa Vipers," Oklahoma Air National Guard



Paul Welch

Dear Wildlife Biologist
Jeff Tibbits,

My name is Adam Cole. I am a non-resident angler from Georgia. I visit Oklahoma a couple times per year to snag paddlefish. **Jason Schooley** (Fisheries Senior Biologist) gave me your number and basically just want to say the OLAP on the Salt Fork River is an awesome piece of property to fish for these amazing animals. My passion for paddlefish goes way beyond just fishing for them. So, thank you for what you do; it's greatly appreciated.

Adam Cole, via text message



Jeff Tibbits

Editor's Note: Tibbits is coordinator of the Department's *Oklahoma Land Access Program*, which provides public hunting and fishing access on leased private lands throughout Oklahoma. For more information, go to www.wildlifedepartment.com/OLAP.

NEW LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAM SEEKS MENTORS

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, National Wild Turkey Federation and other conservation groups have joined to create a new “true recruitment” program called Learn to Hunt (LTH). The program is composed of 12 months of curriculum taught by local mentors from NWTF, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Forever, the Cherokee Nation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NWTF R3 Coordinator Kasie Joyner said the program should launch this fall, when social gathering is likely to return after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wildlife Department will conduct regional training for LTH mentors that will include overview of the curriculum and resource kits, and how to be an effective mentor. The once-monthly courses will be customizable with alternative activities. LTH groups will be given resource kits with a variety of gear and tools to aid in activities.

Joyner is seeking members of the cooperating conservation groups to sign up as mentors for Learn to Hunt. The LTH



targeted areas have a higher concentration of conservation group members, but all mentors are welcome and urged to reach out and join LTH. The targeted areas are:

- **Northeast Region:** Bartlesville (NWTF, QF-PF, DU); Tulsa (NWTF, QF-PF, DU); Tahlequah (NWTF, DU); Wagoner (NWTF, DU)

- **Southeast Region:** Ada (NWTF, DU); McAlester (NWTF, QF-PF, DU)

- **Central Region:** Oklahoma City (NWTF, QF-PF, DU); Shawnee (QF-PF, DU); Yukon (QF-PF, DU)

- **North Central Region:** Enid (NWTF, QF-PF, DU); Ponca City (QF-PF, DU)

- **West Region:** Elk City (NWTF, QF-PF, DU)

There is no other recruitment program in the U.S. like Learn to Hunt. If you want to become a mentor and help pass along America’s hunting traditions, please email kjoyner@nwtf.net or call (918) 629-4991. ☎✕

Outdoor Calendar

FOR NEW UPDATES TO THE OUTDOOR CALENDAR, PLEASE VISIT THE DEPARTMENT’S WEBSITE: WWW.WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/CALENDAR.HTM

NOTICE: Events listed were still scheduled at press time; events are subject to cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

JULY 2020

4	Oklahoma City free fishing day, no city permit required. Independence Day.
5	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Spirit of Fishing, 8 a.m., OETA.
10	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Okla. River Chapter Banquet, 5 p.m., Tuttle. Register: events.rmef.org/shop/8108 .
11	Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10:15 a.m., Edwards Park lake, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov .
12	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Bats/Mt. Lions, 8 a.m., OETA.
18	World Snake Day event, 2-4 p.m., Martin Park Nature Center, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov . Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10:15 a.m., Metro Tech Springlake, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov .
19	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Tenkara/Microfishing, 8 a.m., OETA.
21	Field Day: Understanding Impacts of Fire on Your Property, 9 a.m., Marietta. Register: www.noble.org . Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114.
23	Saddle Hunting Workshop, Tri-City Sportsmen NWTF, 5:30 p.m., Arcadia Conservation Education Area. Email: rick@nolanoutdoors.com .
25	Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10:15 a.m., Crystal Lake, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov .
26	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Fish with Steve Buck/PG13, 8 a.m., OETA.

- **Friends of NRA** events set in Ardmore, July 25; Oklahoma City, July 30. Info: www.FriendsOfNRA.org.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation.** Info: www.nwtf.org/events.
- **Ducks Unlimited.** Info: www.ducks.org.

AUGUST 2020

1	Oklahoma City free fishing day, no city permit required.
2	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Fish Hatcheries/OETA 45 Years, 8 a.m., OETA.
3	Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.
6	Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10:15 a.m., Edwards Park Lake, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov .
9	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Summer Crappie, 8 a.m., OETA.
15	Hunter Education Classes in Bristow, Owasso; register at license. GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx . National Honeybee Day event, 2-4 p.m., Martin Park Nature Center, Oklahoma City. Register: www.okc.gov .
16	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Spirit of Fishing, 8 a.m., OETA.
18	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114.
22	Hunter Education Classes in Ada, Durant; register at license. GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx .
23	Hunter Education Class in Dewey; register at license. GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx . “Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Bats/Mt. Lions, 8 a.m., OETA.
29	Hunter Education Classes in Altus, Elk City, Poteau, Broken Bow, Marlow; register at license. GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx .
30	“Outdoor Oklahoma” TV, Fish with Steve Buck/PG13, 8 a.m., OETA.

- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Coweta, Aug. 1; Sand Springs, Aug. 8; Perry, Aug. 8; Broken Arrow, Aug. 15; Bartlesville, Aug. 15. Info: www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events.
- **Friends of NRA** events set in Altus, Aug. 6; Enid, Aug. 8; Elk City, Aug. 15. Info: www.FriendsOfNRA.org.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation.** Info: www.nwtf.org/events.

**** FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons ****

Chasing Butterflies:

Seeking a Secretive Skipper

By Jena Donnell,
Wildlife Diversity Information Specialist



This view of a roadside-skipper shows how this small butterfly perches with one set of wings held horizontal and one set vertical.

Blackberry bushes growing along roadside creeks attract a number of pollinators in spring, including a wide variety of butterflies. But the bright colors and buoyant flights of the most familiar of butterflies don't distract Katrina Menard, former curator at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

"We're looking for a tiny, dark butterfly about an inch long. It will be hopping around the rocks in the sun to get warm."

Her mission: find a Linda's roadside-skipper — a modest member of the skipper family, the broadest category of butterflies. Before her project began, all Oklahoma records of the butterfly had been from visual observations. No specimens had been collected to verify those sightings.

Menard has been searching for the skittish butterfly in and around state parks in southeastern Oklahoma for four years. She's been examining blackberry brambles near creeks, small mud puddles, and patches of Indian woodoats from March to June each year. With the help of a fellow entomologist, she's been able to collect and positively identify a small number of the rare butterfly.

"The adults really like to feed, or nectar, on the blackberry blossoms. And the woodoats serve as a host plant for the larvae."

The grass can be found across Oklahoma, but Linda's roadside-skippers have only been spotted in a limited area, leading to a key question of the study: why?

"In terms of conservation, if we don't know why they're in Oklahoma, or why they're only in certain areas of Oklahoma, we won't know how to help them. We won't know which conservation efforts would be most beneficial for these butterflies."

Menard is also interested in studying the genetic differences between Linda's roadside-skippers and the more widespread common roadside-skipper.

"What we're finding is a complex of very related spe-



Katrina Menard hikes through the woods with her butterfly net in search of Linda's roadside-skipper.



JENA DONNELL/ODWG

Katrina Menard works to mount a roadside-skipper she collected in southeastern Oklahoma.

cies, and the morphological, or physical, differences are subtle."

With hopes of collecting both butterfly species for genetic tests, Menard continues her walk along a park trail with a net in hand. "I typically start the search in midmorning. Butterflies are exothermic and need to sit on leaves and rocks to get warm. If I start the search too early, they won't be active."

As she scans the creekside blackberries, she notices a familiar movement.

"Both Linda's and common roadside-skippers are very fast in flight and fold their wings up like an F-16 when perched," Menard said. "They can easily blend in with shadows and are difficult to see when perched. A lot of times you have to wait for them to move in order to spot them."

When the butterfly in question lands with wings held high, Menard raises a net and quickly catches the dark

skipper. As she slips the butterfly into a vial, she notes the small, white dots on the edge of the wing. "This is probably the common roadside-skipper, but DNA will have to confirm."

Menard has collected about 30 butterflies from searches of about 70 southeastern Oklahoma sites.

"Most of the Linda's roadside-skippers we've found have been in McCurtain and Le Flore counties, but we've been searching in several surrounding counties just in case they're farther west." 🌿



JENA DONNELL/ODWG

The skipper family is the broadest category of butterflies. Menard studied the genetic differences between Linda's roadside-skippers and the more widespread common roadside-skipper.



JENA DONNELL/ODWG

2020

Readers' Photography Showcase

Each year at this time, I pause and remember how truly blessed I am by the readers of Outdoor Oklahoma. You see, I'm blessed to experience the extreme creativity and vision of the artists who share their images for this annual Readers' Photography Showcase issue.

Many of the images are simply amazing. And those amazing images usually find their way onto the printed pages of this magazine, so that all who see them can also be amazed and blessed. But it's not just the most amazing captures of the natural world that determine which of the hundreds of images are selected to appear within our limited number of pages. Many other elements — focus, composition, lighting, background, mood, image manipula-

tion, image quality, and more — that contribute to a subjective eye's selection of "the best of the best."

In my eyes, all of our entrants are winners. And it's not because of the photos they submitted. It's because they were able to personally experience the outdoor moments that allowed them to capture the images.

This year, the field of about 780 entries had to be trimmed to the best 100 or so. In these images, you will find birds, mammals, insects, plants, landscapes, outdoor activities — all the best of Outdoor Oklahoma! I offer our sincere thanks to those who participated this year, and invite you all to come back for next year's Showcase! Now, on to the photos!

—Don P. Brown, Associate Editor

***"Last Chance:
Chewbacca had
just about enough
of his hunting
buddy's poor
marksmanship
in sub-freezing
temps."***

Ethan Hall of Yukon





American goldfinch: Michael Bryan of Bartlesville

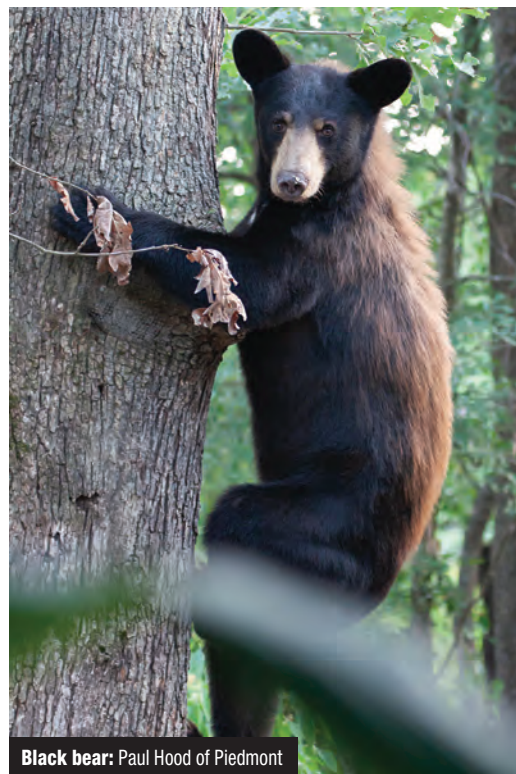
"I think he was checking for scent on this tall grass. With his eyes closed, he looks as if he's really enjoying the smell!"



White-tailed deer: Carmon Briggs of Pawhuska



Bobcat: Wes Edens of Ada



Black bear: Paul Hood of Piedmont



Northern bobwhite: Richard Water of Broken Arrow



White-tailed deer: Larry D. Brown of Woodward



Western diamond-backed rattlesnake: Jeremiah Zurenda of Indianoma



White-tailed deer: David Strozdas of Edmond



Black-tailed prairie dog: Jill Lemieux of Newalla



Eastern collared lizard: Mary Phillips of Moore



Red-headed woodpecker: Mary Phillips of Moore



White-eyed vireo: Chase Moxley of Oklahoma City



Bald eagle: Kaitlyn Criss of Owasso



Painted bunting: Debbie Peck of Fort Cobb



Short-eared owl: Kevin Wilson of Stillwater



Great egret: Chase Moxley of Oklahoma City

"I crossed the cattle guard and there was Mr. Bob White, perched on an old hedge post. I snapped over 50 pictures before he flew off. It was my lucky day."

Northern bobwhite: Cheryl Shull of Copan



Northern cardinal: Glenda Tange of Blanchard



Northern cardinal: Mike Scifres of Eufaula



American bison: David Billen of Edmond



Cooper's hawk: Sandra Oliver of Oklahoma City



Fox squirrel: Bob Chance of Tulsa



White-tailed deer: Ranae Maberry of Calumet



Bransen Shelton of Wright City

"A really big boar was roaming the woods, when suddenly he stood up to scratch his head on a small tree trunk."



Black bear: Desiree Branson Cline of Honobia



Raccoon: Richard Taylor of Lawton



Prothonotary warbler: Chase Moxley of Oklahoma City



Dale Parsons of Bartlesville



Texas spotted whiptail: Kristi Riera of Mustang



Red fox: Terry Brunholtz of Owasso



Red-bellied woodpecker: Blanca Wiedel of Prague



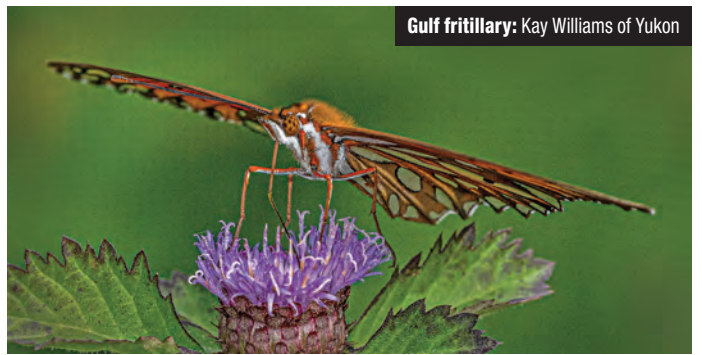
Ruby-throated hummingbird: Mark Robinson of Sapulpa



Lynx spider: Ashleigh Farrar of Broken Arrow



Indian blanket and spotted beebalm: Steve Ancik of Edmond



Gulf fritillary: Kay Williams of Yukon



Eastern carpenter bee: Eldon Harris of Norman



European honeybee: Holly Lackey of Checotah

"A snowy white egret doing the angry-bird-with-hair-on-fire routine, guarding his fishing spot."



Snowy egret: David Strozdas of Edmond

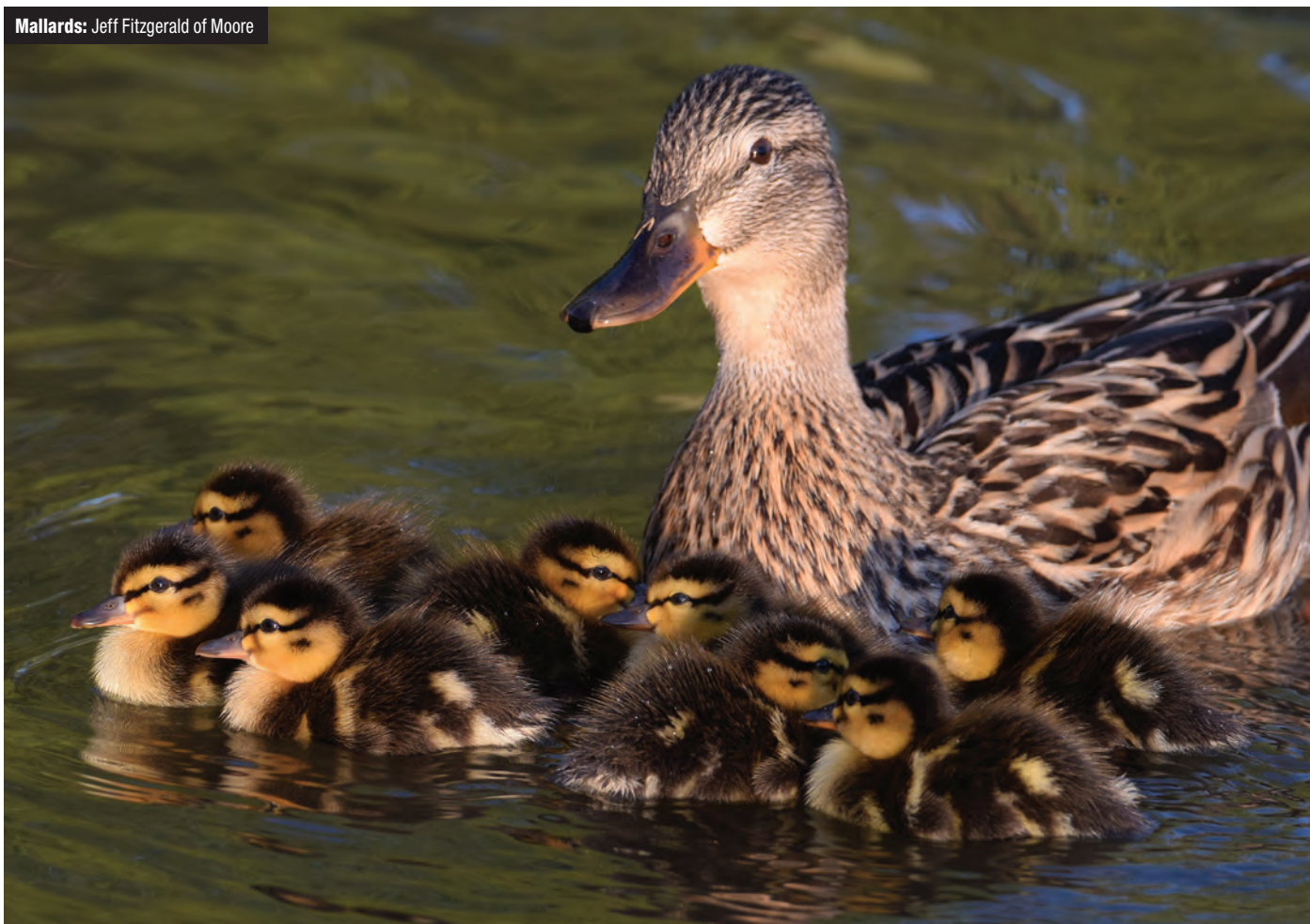


American bullfrog: Mark Mascilli of Taloga



American beaver: Don Barksdale of Fort Smith

Mallards: Jeff Fitzgerald of Moore





Tundra swans: Cynthia Reese of Shawnee



Black-bellied whistling-ducks: Randy Sander of Broken Bow



Brandon Pafford of Oklahoma City



Northern diamond-backed water snake: Jill Lemieux of Newalla



Northern shoveler: Jim Arterburn of Tulsa



Wolf spider: Seth Schubert of Moore

"I had the pleasure of this neon skimmer visiting my backyard in Tulsa."



John Wilson of Tulsa



Blue dasher: Brad Dishman of Owasso

Eastern pondhawk: Kay Williams of Yukon



"While walking a suburban trail in Tulsa, I spotted this pandorus sphinx moth."



John Wilson of Tulsa



Lake Texoma: Kay Bridgman of Kingston



Bald eagle: Sandra Oliver of Oklahoma City



Turkey vulture: Kristy Hiatt of Elk City



American wigeon: Larry D. Brown of Woodward



Scissor-tailed flycatcher: Michael Bryan of Bartlesville



Juvenile bald eagle: Mark Robinson of Sapulpa



Prairie rattlesnake: Jim Arterburn of Tulsa



Common nighthawk: Michael Bryan of Bartlesville



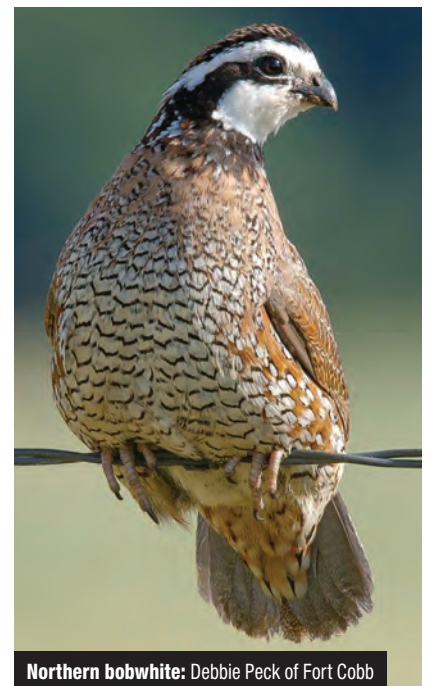
White-tailed deer: David Jameson of Lawton



Scissor-tailed flycatcher: Joe Stewart of Edmond



Wild turkey: Andy Horton of Bristow



Northern bobwhite: Debbie Peck of Fort Cobb



Swift fox: Larry D. Brown of Woodward



Eastern collared lizard: Eva Ryan of Kingfisher

"I love going to the Holy City in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge to look for and watch the lizards."



Lower Mountain Fork River: Stacy Little of Broken Bow



Steve Ancik of Edmond



Great blue heron: J Ross Vanhooser of Edmond



Holly Lackey of Council Hill



Northern rough greensnake: George Zimmer of Stillwater



Green treefrog: Greg Silva of Owasso



Greater white-fronted geese: Nick Spears of Ponca City



Andy Horton of Bristow



Wood duck: Joe Stewart of Edmond



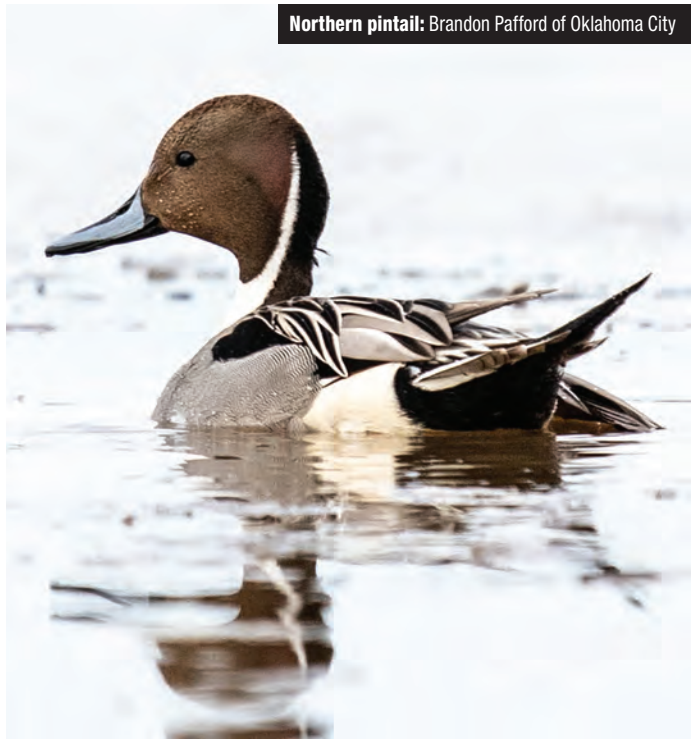
Hunter Little of Broken Arrow



Clancy Bower of Nowata



Juvenile black-crowned night-heron: Sherman L. Barr of Edmond



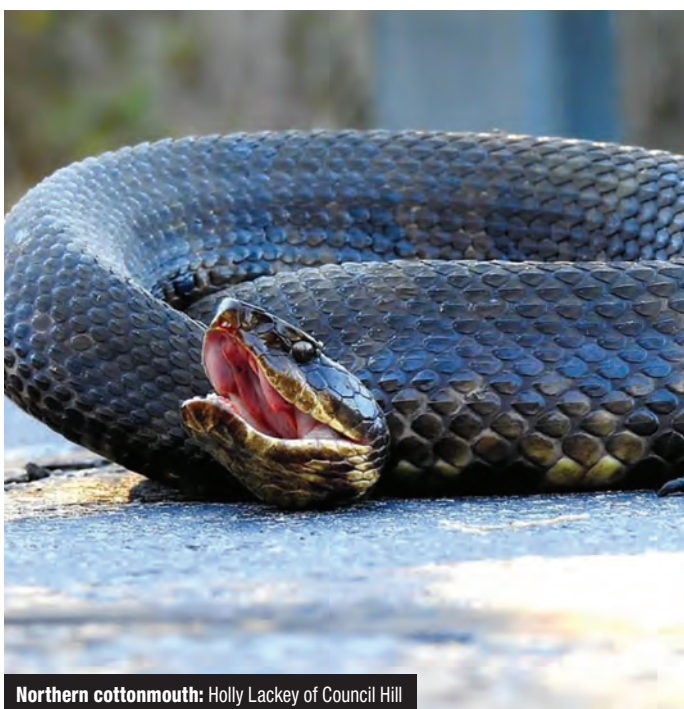
Northern pintail: Brandon Pafford of Oklahoma City



Ring-necked duck: David Strozdas of Edmond



Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge: Brooke Oliver of Bethel Acres



Northern cottonmouth: Holly Lackey of Council Hill



American bullfrog: Jeff Fitzgerald of Moore



American white pelican: Jim Arterburn of Tulsa



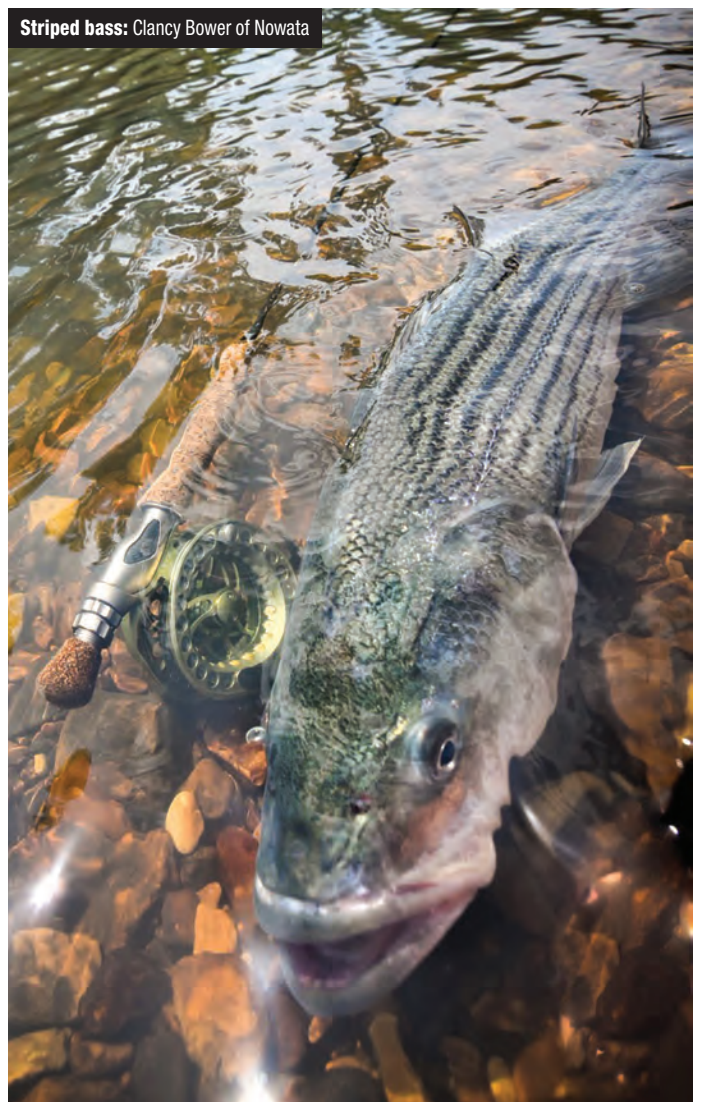
Mink: Mary Phillips of Moore



Lower Illinois River: Clancy Bower of Nowata



Osprey: Debbie Peck of Fort Cobb



Striped bass: Clancy Bower of Nowata



Bald eagle: David Morris of Mead



Black bear: Desiree Branson Cline of Honobia



Black-tailed jackrabbit: Greg Silva of Owasso



Bluegill: Josh Loree of Perkins



Red fox: Jim Arterburn of Tulsa



White-tailed deer: Traci L. Daniel of Ponca City

Pages From the Past

Outdoor Oklahoma magazine is 75 years old! Many memorable items have graced the pages of nearly 650 issues printed since 1945. Here, we look back at a few of those items, just to reminisce. From the June 1961 issue, items about the opening of Lake Carl Etling, and the first walleye stocking at Canton Lake.

Walleye Stock Introduced In Two State Lakes

Fisheries Workers Pushed As Fry and Eggs Arrive From Nebraska And New Work Methods For Stocking Outlined

THE STORY of how two Oklahoma lakes were initiated into what will likely become permanent Walleye fisheries, was revealed in a report prepared by Phillip Summers, walleye investigation project leader on Tenkiller and Canton reservoirs, following delivery of the initial supply of walleye the latter part of April.

In his report to Sam Jackson, supervisor of the fisheries division, who works with Mr. Summers and others in movement of initial stock, Summers pointed out the 5,000 walleye fry were transferred from the hatchery at North Platte, Nebraska to the two Oklahoma lakes and that the condition of the fry on arrival at both reservoirs was excellent and the introductions were completed with a minimum of loss.

300,000 fry were placed in Tenkiller Ferry and 200,000 in Canton reservoir.

Eggs Also

During the same week of that activity the shipment of 2,000,000 walleye eggs was received by airlines freight service from New York. The eggs were placed at the Holdenville state fish hatchery and introduced into the hatching jars. A considerable amount of the eggs were found dead on arrival, a condition which Summers said must have occurred enroute or previous to shipment.

Summer's report continues in part:

"Since the pond water temperature at the Holdenville hatchery was approaching 72° F at the onset of the hatching program it was necessary to consider icing and recirculating the water to obtain successful results during the operation. A 1½ inch water pump was purchased in Holdenville and used throughout the hatching process. This water recirculation was augmented with ice each day to try and maintain a temperature of 62° F in the hatching jars. A total of eight quarts of eggs were transferred from Holdenville to a field hatching battery on Tenkiller Ferry reservoir. The hatching battery was supplied by gravity flow water from a spring in the Lakeview area. A remainder of six quarts of eggs were hatched at the Holdenville battery and shipped to Canton reservoir as fry on May 2, 1961."

Release Areas

"Fry releases in both reservoirs were distributed in open water areas. These locations were chosen as an aid in survival success with reference to available foods and predation."

"The success of the walleye hatching would certainly not have been possible without the interest and effort put forth by Leon Huffstutlar and his two helpers at the Holdenville hatchery. Also credit is due Bobby Dorr for his handling of the field hatching battery and fry distribution into Tenkiller reservoir. It is felt that this first year's hatching and stocking efforts were successful and invaluable information was gained through the actual experience. The appearance of walleye in the creek of Oklahoma sportsmen visiting the two reservoirs depends on the fry survival of which we have little control."

Suggestion Offered

Sam Jackson, head of the fisheries division, pointing out that less extensive efforts have been made to initiate a Walleye program in Oklahoma, has urged that citizens who fish on the two lakes, Canton and Tenkiller, as well as on the Illinois and Canadian rivers keep in mind the fact that they should take none of the fish until they have been advised to do so, since they do not attain maturity until they are three years old and some of them can be eight inches or so in length the first year. The wildlife department plans to use some of the fish introduced this year for future propagation, if at all possible. On rare occasions Walleye have been caught in Lake Tenkiller and the somewhat smaller Sauger in eastern Oklahoma.

Photo Magic—Ranger Forrest Clark had assistance from Don Lindsey, who made this picture, or pictures, at Muskogee for a chuckle.





Bill May, Jack Williams, and Henry Labrier, were on hand for lake dedication.

IN RETROSPECTION

SOMETHING of the story of the early day surroundings at the new Carl Etling trout lake northwest of Boise City, was recalled by three pioneer citizens of Cimarron county who attended opening day festivities, April 28.

The three men were Bill May, Jack Williams and Henry Labrier.

It was May who recalled that the old two-story adobe-walled house surmounted by a rock cliff dwelling on the shores of the lake, and soon to be inundated when the lake reaches capacity, were built by an early day Spanish family, the head of the family being Abilino Trujillo.

May, who moved to the area in about 1891, recalls that the interesting dwelling was constructed by Trujillo in 1894 and that Trujillo managed a large flock of sheep in the area as did other early day Mexican and Spanish residents. The dwelling was later occupied by other settlers in the area, including Barry Brown and Rufus Wright, May said.

Labrier, who will be 95 in July, has lived in the country for 73 years and some of the land operated by his sons was a part of the property acquired by the wildlife department for construction of the lake. He recalls the early days when wild horses ranged in the Cimarron county area and mentions that there have always been Blue quail and in the early days there were a good many antelope, but that the deer were scarce.

Jack Williams is a native son of Cimarron county and recalls his father killed the last buffalo near Buffalo Springs in 1885.

Another early day citizen who was on hand for the festivities, was Harvey Brown, 92, and a citizen of the county since 1906.

Adobe house and cliff dwelling supply background for fishing scene.



O. E. Drake and son, Steven, Waka, Texas, with four of the trout they caught, including a tagged prize winner.

Wildlife workers weigh and tag trout trapped the day before dedication.



Calvin Sewell (standing), Wheelless, checks limit of 30 trout taken by five anglers in his family.



The Outdoor Store

OUTDOOR STORE items are sold in person at the Oklahoma City headquarters, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd. or online at license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com. Create or sign into your account, or just click on "Shop."



Get Your Durable Collector's Card

Upgrade your license to this durable card on custom art by a local artist and support the next generation of conservationists.

Buy online at License.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com



Oklahoma Habitat Donor Window Decals

Show your support of the Wildlife Department's Land Acquisition Fund with these striking window decals. All proceeds are earmarked to help provide hunting and fishing access to the public. — \$10 each



Outdoor Oklahoma Caps

These sharp, colorful fabric caps feature the "Outdoor Oklahoma" logo. Available selections may vary from those shown here (subject to availability). — \$18



Oklahoma Waterfowl Hunting Stamp

Oklahoma "duck stamps" are always popular with collectors and hunters. While each year's stamp features a different handsome design sure to add appeal to any stamp collection, funds from stamp sales are used for many kinds of waterfowl management projects. Specify year when ordering. — \$10

***Prices listed on these pages do not include online ordering convenience fee.*



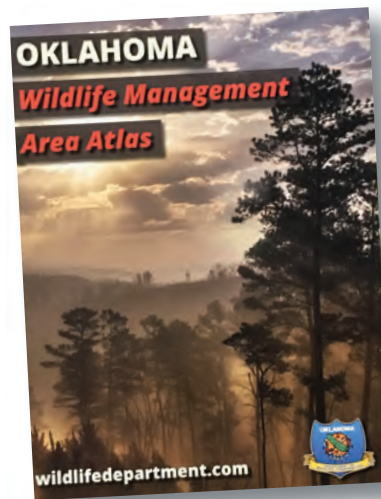
Wildlife License Plates

Dress up your vehicle while showing your support of our great state's wildlife resources by getting a wildlife license plate. Nine Wildlife Conservation Plates are available to serve as your regular, rear-bumper license plate. The plates cost just \$38 (original or replacement) or \$36.50 (renewals) above your regular annual registration fee with proceeds going to Oklahoma's Wildlife Diversity Program. The forms are available at local tag agencies, or online at tinyurl.com/WildTags.



Habitat Donor Caps

Top-quality, American-made caps display the Habitat Donor Patch of your choice, which designates you as a contributor to the Department's Land Acquisition Fund. Wearing this hat means you care about future generations and the great hunting and fishing tradition. Specify hat style on order form. — \$18



Oklahoma Wildlife Management Area Atlas

This updated edition has topographical maps of Wildlife Management Areas and now includes Department-owned fishing lakes across Oklahoma. At almost 100 pages, the atlas presents maps showing where to access areas, adds lands that have been acquired since 2010, and shows special features at each area such as parking sites, camping areas and food plots.

Your atlas purchase comes with a one-year subscription to the award-winning "Outdoor Oklahoma" magazine. — \$25



**GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS
ON GIVING ALL YEAR LONG!**

"Outdoor Oklahoma" Magazine

Start enjoying a full year (six big issues) of hunting, fishing, natural history, camping and much more when you subscribe to "Outdoor Oklahoma" magazine or give as a gift!

1 year — \$10, 2 years — \$18, 3 years — \$25

For bill-me-later orders for the magazine, call (800) 777-0019.

Order online at license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com, then click "Shop."



ANDY HORTON OF BRISTOW



This remarkable image of a barred owl gliding directly at the camera was captured by Andy Horton of Bristow on his home acreage in Creek County. It is among the best of the best that make up the 2020 Readers' Photography Showcase inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma!

Outdoor Oklahoma

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

