

Wildlife at Lewis Field and Plum Brook

Here are some species that frequent GRC's facilities in Cleveland and Sandusky.



White-tailed deer

- White-tailed deer
- Canada goose
- Fox squirrel
- Red-tail hawk
- More to come!

White-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus



White-tailed deer, grazing and resting
Walcott and West Area Road - December 2003

Avg Size Length: 60-95 in.
Avg Weight: 120-300 lbs.

The white-tailed deer is Ohio's state animal. Its diet consists of wild fruit, grains like corn, leaves, stems, buds, acorns, and other vegetation. They like open woods, farms, old fields, anywhere along water sources.

Not long ago, deer had been pushed out of our state as we settled the land and cut down most of the original forest for cropland. Deer returned since much of the farmland in the hilly part of Ohio is becoming forest again (the land was poor for crop farming), and poaching was brought under control. Deer thrive in mixed habitat – trees of different ages, mixed with brushland and cropland are good deer habitat.

Male deer (bucks) grow antlers in early spring. Does, or female deer, usually do not have antlers. The strongest buck may mate with many females. Antlers fall off in winter when the mating season is over. Fawns are born in the spring. In good deer habitat, does often have twins. Fawns can walk when they are only one or two hours old. They rest and stay hidden when they are not nursing. The newborn deer have spotted coats that help them hide in tall grass and weeds. When they are about one month old they join the doe in search of food.

In the summer, the white-tailed deer's coat is a reddish tan; the winter coat is grayish tan. The large white tail or "flag" is often a signal of danger for other deer.
(ODNR)

Canada goose

Branta canadensis



Canada goose, resting

In front of Substation C on Walcott Road - Dec 2003

Main diet: grasses, grains, other vegetation.

The state's population of Canada geese continues to grow. In 1979, ODNR estimated there were about 18,000 geese nesting in 49 counties. In 2001 they estimated 120,000 geese were nesting in all 88 counties.

Although native to Ohio, they were not common in Ohio during the first half of the 1900s. Starting in the 1950s, federal and state wildlife officials brought them back from near extinction from hunting and wetland loss. But increases in habitat and growth of urban areas where hunting is not allowed has resulted in an overabundance.

The problem is not how many geese we have, but where they are. The popularity of office and apartment complexes with ponds and mowed grass has attracted high goose populations. (ODNR)

Depending on who you talk to, there are up to eleven subspecies of Canada Goose. The largest is the giant, with a wingspan of 6 feet and weighing up to 24 pounds. Many of the geese you see in Ohio in the winter are introduced geese that do not migrate.

When they do travel, Canada Geese stay in family groups. The parents fly with the young of the year. If you watch a large flock of geese come in for a landing, you can often see the different family units peel off in smaller clusters.

Canada Geese mate for life. They begin to build their nest as early as mid-March, usually a large mound of vegetation lined with down, usually located within sight of water. 4 to 7 eggs make up a typical clutch and incubation is done solely by the female. The male guards the nest. Incubation takes 25 to 30 days and the goslings are led to water within a day after hatching.

After hatching, the gander becomes much more tolerant of others. If there are other clutches of goslings around, they will often group together in flocks called "crèches" and be looked after by all the adults.

Although male and female look alike, the gander has a slower, low-pitched "ahonk" while the goose's voice is a much quicker and higher-pitched "hink". Mated pairs will greet each other by alternating their calls. (Great Plains Nature Center: <http://www.gpnc.org/canada.htm>)

Fox squirrel

Sciurus niger

- Will be posted soon!

Red-tailed hawk

Buteo jamaicensis



Red-Tailed Hawk

Photo courtesy of Reggie Duncan

- Will be posted soon!