



## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE UPDATE

### **Help Conserve Wildlife: Donate on Line 30 of N.C. State Tax Income Form**

With tax season underway, the Wildlife Commission is asking taxpayers to help conserve North Carolina's nongame and rare wildlife species by making a donation to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund, found on line 30 of the North Carolina state income tax form. Birds, mammals, fish, mollusks, reptiles, amphibians and crayfish without a designated hunting or fishing season all benefit from projects funded by donations. Learn more about the wildlife species that benefit from your tax dollars and how to donate to the fund. [MORE](#)



### **Public Comment on Proposed Regulations Open until Feb. 1**

The public comment period for proposed changes to the Wildlife Commission regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries, enforcement and game lands will close at 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 1. The Wildlife Commission conducted nine public hearings in January to gather comments on the proposed changes. Comments can be submitted online; emailed to [regulations@ncwildlife.org](mailto:regulations@ncwildlife.org) (must include name, phone number and mailing address in e-mail) or mailed to: Rule-Making Coordinator, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700. [Read the proposals and submit comments.](#)



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### **Wildlife Commission Announces Photo Competition Winners**

The Wildlife Commission has announced the winners of its 2018 *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine photo competition. Anton Sorokin, a graduate student at East Carolina University in Greenville, captured the top prize with his beautiful photo of a rough green snake. All winning photographs, including Sorokin's, will be on exhibit at the [N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences](#) in Raleigh and on the Commission's [website](#).

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### **Free Turkey Hunting Seminars Begin in March**

The Wildlife Commission and the [National Wild Turkey Federation](#) are offering 11 free turkey hunting seminars across the state in March. The seminars, which will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., are open on a first-come, first-served basis and participants 16 years old and younger will need parental permission to register. Pre-registration is required and participants [must register online](#). Topics will include biology, hunting methods, calls and decoys, firearms and ammo selection, camouflage clothing, and turkey processing and cooking techniques. Each seminar will conclude with a Q&A session and a brief overview of R3 (hunter recruitment, retention and re-activation) initiatives.



## **Rabid Bear Found Dead in Hyde County**

The Wildlife Commission reported in December that a black bear found dead at a game feeder tested positive for rabies. This marked the first known case of a rabies-positive black bear in the state. Rabies is a fatal disease, which can affect all mammals, causing inflammation in the brain with symptoms that can include lethargy, loss of balance, fever, anorexia and/or eye and nose discharge. While rabies in wild black bears is extremely rare, the Commission offers the [same precautions to bear hunters as it does for deer hunters to prevent disease transmission](#).



## **Nomination Period for Wildlife Conservation Award Ends Jan. 31**

The nomination period for the 2019 [Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award](#) closes Jan. 31. The agency presents this award annually to people who provide leadership in the conservation of nongame species, animals that have no open hunting, fishing or trapping season. Nominators must submit a completed nomination form and a detailed essay of the nominee's contributions to nongame wildlife conservation in the state. [MORE](#)





## Turkeys Trapped in North Carolina Released in Texas

A turkey trap-and-release effort originating in North Carolina is helping boost wild turkey populations in Texas. Over the last two months, the Wildlife Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services trapped several dozen eastern wild turkeys at airstrips in eastern and central North Carolina and transported them to restoration sites in east Texas. Biologists trapped the turkeys at the airports because they were posting a risk to aircraft by being struck on runways. [MORE](#)



## Burn, Baby, Burn: The Benefits of Prescribed Burning

If you see smoke near a Wildlife Commission game land this winter, chances are staff are conducting a prescribed burn – an intentional burning of vegetation under strict and specific circumstances that helps restore and maintain wildlife habitat. It is a cost-effective tool to create and maintain suitable and ample wildlife habitat in old fields, native grasslands and open-canopy woodlands on game lands. Staff conduct the majority of prescribed burns, also called controlled burns, between January and March when trees are less active metabolically. [Check out](#)

[our YouTube video for more information on the benefits of prescribed burns.](#)



## **Nongame News: Snorkle Surveys for Eastern Hellbender Yield Record-Setting Results**

[Eastern hellbender](#) breeding surveys conducted by Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) staff last year produced record-setting results. Over a nine-day span in 10 different streams, staff documented at least 118 active adult hellbenders engaged in breeding activities, such as fighting, congregating around nesting habitats and males defending their nests. All of this was captured on underwater cameras last year as part of the Wildlife Commission's annual hellbender monitoring and inventory surveys. The hellbender, a large aquatic salamander, is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the N.C. Wildlife Action Plan, a state Special Concern species and a federal Species of Concern petitioned for listing. Finding so many hellbenders in a short time was exciting news for WDP biologists. Learn more about the important projects and programs conducted by WDP staff on behalf of nongame and endangered wildlife by reading the [Wildlife Diversity Program Quarterly Reports](#).

## **Species Spotlight: Canada Goose**



With its characteristic "honk," widespread breeding distribution and ability to adapt to suburban environments, the Canada goose is likely the most recognized waterfowl species in North Carolina. The Tar Heel state is home to both migratory and resident (non-migratory) populations of Canada geese. They are almost exclusively herbivores, feeding on seeds and leaves of a wide variety of plant species. These large waterfowl are monogamous with males and females

bonding for life. However, if one dies, the other will find another mate. These are some of the first birds to mate in the spring. Learn more about the Canada goose by visiting the [Wildlife Commission's Canada Goose species page](#).



### Wild & Tasty Recipe: Goose Eggs with Chanterelles

Take a walk on the wild side this winter by cooking up a new "Wild & Tasty" recipe, which can found in this month's edition of *Wildlife in North Carolina*. Goose Eggs with Chanterelles is a dish courtesy of Clark Barlowe, a chef who runs Heirloom Restaurant in Charlotte and who specializes in preparing unique and locally sourced dishes. Although his recipe calls for goose eggs and chanterelles, you can substitute chicken eggs and mushrooms if you want. But why would you? [Check it out here](#).



### Other News and Events

[Pechmann Center in Fayetteville Free Fishing Workshops and Clinics in February](#)



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