

Commentary: This listing of dates and events is a thumbnail sketch of Pennsylvania's wildlife conservation history. Browsers will find milestones in conservation history, ranging from the enactment of important natural resource laws to species re-introductions, and a variety of other interesting historical wildlife trivia. Follow the footsteps of Pennsylvania's, as well as the nation's, wildlife conservation movement by scrolling through the pages. More detailed information can be found in ***The Pennsylvania Game Commission, 1895-1995, 100 Years of Wildlife Conservation***, a 233-page book published by the Game Commission in 1995.

PENNSYLVANIA'S WILDLIFE CONSERVATION HISTORY

1643 - Swedes established the first permanent settlement within the present limits of Pennsylvania and in 1643 fixed their capital at Tinicum, Bucks County.

1681 - March 4 -- Charter granted by King Charles II of England to William Penn to found a colony in new world, which later became known as Penn's Woods or Pennsylvania.

1681 - William Penn in his Charter of Rights required settlers to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared.

1682 - October 29 -- Penn landed in Pennsylvania at Chester.

1683 - Hunting permitted on all lands under William Penn's Charter.

1683 - First bounty offered on wolves -- 10 and 15 shillings.

1721 - August 26 - Pennsylvania's first Game Law enacted by Sir William Keith (provincial governor). Deer may be hunted from July 1 to January 1. Fine for shooting out of season -- 20 shillings. Indians are exempt.

1721 - Illegal to hunt on "improved lands" without owner's permission.

1721 - Illegal to hunt "pigeon, dove, partridge or other fowl in the open streets of ... Philadelphia." Fine - five shillings.

1749 - Squirrels (red and gray) were classed as predators; a three-pence-a-head bounty was placed on them.

1749 - Deer may be hunted from August 1 to December 1. Out of season fine - 40 shillings.

1749 - January 27 - Illegal to hunt deer on Sundays, except in "cases of necessity."

1760 - Unlawful to hunt or trap on Indian lands.

1760 - Deer may be hunted from August 1 to January 1.

1766 - America's first fox hunting club - Gloucester Fox Hunting Club - organized in Philadelphia.

1776 - July 4 -- The province declared its independence of England.

1776 - September 28 -- Adoption of the first Pennsylvania Constitution.

1782 - June 20 - Bald eagle adopted as our national emblem by Congress.

1790-1800 - Philadelphia was the capital of the United States.

1797 - Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman) set up his first apple tree nursery along Brokenstraw Creek in Warren County.

1827-30 - John James Audubon's "The Birds of America" was published.

1828 - The United Bowmen of Philadelphia, the country's first archery organization, is established.

1839 - Adams and Dauphin counties establish first game bird seasons: woodcock, June 20 to January 31; wild turkey, pheasant (ruffed grouse) and partridge (bobwhite quail), September 1 to January 15.

1840 - Only Pennsylvania citizens may kill deer in Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties.

1841 - Unlawful to kill "small insectivorous birds" from April 1 to August 10 in Chester County, York County's Hellam Township, Lehigh County's Northampton and Hanover townships, Delaware County's Aston, Concord, Middletown and Thornbury townships, Northampton County's Lower Saucon and Bethlehem townships, and Montgomery County's Upper and Lower Merion townships.

1843 - Unlawful to kill "robins, flickers, bluebirds, woodpeckers, thrush and other insectivorous birds" in Allegheny and Franklin counties. Fine - \$2.

1844 - Unlawful to kill insectivorous birds in Bucks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Luzerne, Northampton and Philadelphia counties from March 1 to August 31.

1845 - Illegal to chase or hunt "unwounded deer" with dogs at any time in Warren County. Fine - \$25.

1848 - March 24 - Unlawful to hunt or pursue "any deer" with dogs in Butler, Carbon, Dauphin, Elk, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe and Pike counties. Fine - \$20.

1850-1885 - Venison and other game was placed on free lunch counter of better saloons in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

1851 - August 1 - Deer hunting banned for five years in Cumberland and Franklin counties.

1855 - August 1 - Illegal to kill insectivorous birds at any time in Bedford, Blair, Bucks, Butler, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northumberland, Tioga and Westmoreland counties.

1856 - April 10 - Deer hunting banned for five years in Adams County.

1858 - April 21 - Unlawful to kill any "bluebird, swallow, martin or other insectivorous bird," or to take eggs or destroy nests statewide. Several acts followed this over the next 40 years strengthening the law.

1858 - First statewide small game seasons set (counties could circumvent these seasons by setting their own): pheasants, September 1 to January 1; woodcock, July 4 to January 1; and partridge and rabbits, October 1 to January 1.

1862 - Unlawful to hunt rabbits with ferrets in Allegheny, Dauphin and Lancaster counties.

1864 - Unlawful to shoot ducks in any counties bordering Susquehanna River or its tributaries on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and anytime between April 1 and September 1.

1866 - Pennsylvania Fish Commission established.

1867 - Last native elk killed in Pennsylvania about this time.

1869 - New deer season set: September 1 to December 31.

1869 - Blinds first prohibited for taking upland game, and baiting, trapping or snaring of game birds was forbidden.

1871 - National Rifle Association chartered as a non-profit corporation under the state laws of New York.

1873 - Illegal to take wild ducks or geese with swivel or punt gun.

1873 - Illegal to discharge a firearm within a quarter mile of a passenger pigeon nesting area, and to shoot at roosting pigeons. Fine \$25.

1873 - All Sunday game hunting banned.

1873 - First statewide bag limit for wild turkeys set: two per day.

1873 - Illegal to kill fawns "when in its spotted coat."

1873 - Pennsylvania's first comprehensive Wildlife Act (forerunner of the Game Code) passed.

1873 - Dogs first barred from running deer and elk.

1873 - Unlawful to use ferrets in hunting game.

1875 - Act passed prohibiting killing or disturbing passenger pigeons on roosts or nesting grounds -- nonresident required to pay \$50 for license to trap or net these birds.

1878 - June 3 - First statewide waterfowl season: September 1 to May 15.

1878 - October 1 - Pike County banned deer hunting for three years.

1883 - Removal of protection from English sparrow.

1883 - May 17 - Waterfowl season changed: September 1 to January 1; may hunt on only Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

1883 - May 17 - Unlawful to chase or hunt waterfowl in any "craft or boat propelled by steam or sails."

1885 - "Scalp Act" passed, which enlarged bounty list by adding weasels, hawks, and all but three species of owls.

1886 - Pennsylvania Forestry Association is founded.

1886 - February 11 - The Audubon Society is founded in New York City by "Forest & Stream" magazine.

1887 - "Scalp Act" repealed because of frauds and useless slaughter of hawks and owls -- 180,000 killed in two-year period.

1887 - President Theodore Roosevelt founded the Boone and Crockett Club.

1890 - Pennsylvania State Sportsmen's Association formed at Corry.

1892 - Pheasants successfully established for first time in Pennsylvania when several hundred were released in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

1893 - All dogs required to wear collar with tag showing dog tax was paid (early dog license).

1893 - May 23 - Pennsylvania Forestry Commission created through legislation.

1893 - May 30 - Legislature approved purchase of first state park, Valley Forge.

1894 - "Bird Day" first observed in public schools at Oil City.

1895 - June 25 - Act creating the Board of Game Commissioners.

1895 - June 25 - Game Commissioners authorized to appoint 10 game protectors.

1896 - April 25 - Congress created Division of Biological Survey in U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

1896 - First Game Commissioners appointed (6); began service November 17.

1896 - November 17 to July 7, 1898 -- Dr. B. H. Warren of West Chester (formerly Lewisburg) served as first Secretary of Game Commission.

1896 - Pennsylvania chapter of the Audubon Society was formed.

1897 - First extradition from another state (New Jersey) made for a Game Law violation.

1897 - Night hunting of ruffed grouse banned.

1897 - First appropriation authorized by Legislature for game administration (for postage only) -- \$800 for two years.

1897 - Salt licks and hounds are forbidden in deer hunting.

1897 - Sale of game birds killed in Pennsylvania made illegal.

1897 - Spring shooting of wild ducks prohibited.

1898 - July 8, to his death on August 10, 1919, Dr. Joseph Kalbfus of Harrisburg served as the second Secretary of Game Commission.

1900 - Congress passed the Lacey Act forbidding the interstate transportation of

wildlife taken in violation of state law.

1900 - Gifford Pinchot founded the Society of American Foresters in Washington, D.C.

1901 - May 21 - Animals confiscated for Game Laws violations "shall be forwarded to the nearest hospital." Later changed to needy institution; eventually abolished.

1901 - Department of Forestry established by General Assembly.

1902 - Ring-necked pheasant classified as game bird; statewide seasons established.

1902 - July 20 - International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was organized at Yellowstone National Park (originally called National Association of Game Wardens and Commissioners).

1903 - Nonresident hunter's license first established -- fee \$10.

1903 - Passage of the law protecting beavers.

1903 - April 11 -- Game Commissioners authorized to appoint "deputy game protectors." Seven appointed immediately. There were 30 by year's end.

1905 - Unlawful to trespass on posted private property.

1905 - April 22 -- Law passed protecting passenger pigeons for 10 years; carried a \$25 fine for killing one. Birds became extinct in 1914.

1905 - April 22 - Dogs chasing deer declared a "public nuisance;" may be shot by anyone.

1905 - Game Commissioners may appoint "special deputy game protectors."

1905 - Statewide duck bag limits set for first time: 10 per day; 100 per season.

1905 - State Game Refuge Law enacted.

1905 - First State Game Refuge established in Clinton County about 12 miles south of Renovo on Sproul State Forest; it closed in 1946.

1905 - Pennsylvania became one of the first states to protect black bears.

1905 - Buckshot banned for deer hunting.

1906 - In this year 14 game protectors were shot at -- 7 were hit; 3 were killed; 3

seriously wounded; 1 slightly injured; 1 citizen killed while helping Game Commission.

1906 - Deer first stocked (50 from Michigan).

1907 - April 15 -- New waterfowl season established - September 1 to April 10. No bag limits.

1907 - Last year it was legal to shoot a buck or antlerless deer in deer season.

1907 - The first Pennsylvania buck law was passed; under it does were given absolute protection.

1907 - Passage of the law prohibiting the use of automatic guns in hunting game. (Pennsylvania was the first state to bar these guns.)

1907 - Night hunting prohibited for all protected game birds.

1909 - Passage of the law prohibiting aliens from owning guns in Pennsylvania -- repealed 1967.

1909 - Bucks declared legal with "horns visible above the hair."

1909 - Use of wild turkey call forbidden -- repealed 1937.

1909 - May 1 -- Taxidermy permit established.

1909 - May 1 -- First rabbit daily bag limit set at 10.

1911 - The use of steel traps in taking bears prohibited.

1911 - Illegal to hunt waterfowl before sunrise; an earlier law permitted hunting one hour before sunrise.

1911 - June 15 -- Game Commission authorized to appoint 30 game protectors.

1913 - A revised bounty law was approved by General Assembly.

1913 - Last year agency received a General Fund appropriation (\$97,400) from Legislature.

1913 - March 4 -- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture empowered by President William Taft to adopt regulations and establish hunting zones and seasons for migratory birds (Weeks-McLean Migratory Bird Act).

1913 - April 17 -- Resident hunter's license law enacted -- fee \$1.00.

1913 - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture banned wood duck hunting in Pennsylvania and 14 other states for 5 years.

1913 - May 8 -- Wild turkey hunting banned statewide for two years.

1913 - March 21 -- The General Assembly placed mourning doves on the list of protected birds. Dove hunting was not permitted again until 1945.

1913 - Elk, first purchased in 1913 - 50 from Yellowstone National Park and 22 from private preserve in Pike County; in 1915, another 95 were purchased from Yellowstone; in 1918 or 1919, about a dozen elk were donated to the agency by an Altoona businessman; in 1924, another six were purchased from Wind Cave Game Preserve in South Dakota; and in 1926, another 4 were purchased from Wind Cave Game Preserve.

1913-1923 - Hunting license tags made of Fabrikoid.

1913-1928 - Hunting licenses sold by county treasurers only.

1914 - September 1 -- Last passenger pigeon died at Cincinnati Zoo.

1915 - April 21 - Game Protectors and deputies empowered to enforce all fish, game and forestry laws.

1915 - April 22 - Game Commissioners authorized to appoint up to 60 game protectors.

1915 - First bear bag limit established: one per person. Before this the bag was unlimited.

1915 - Ring-necked pheasants first stocked in appreciable numbers in Pennsylvania.

1915 - Wild turkeys first trapped and transferred in Pennsylvania.

1915 - Wild turkey bag limits revised: one per day, one per week, and two per season.

1915 - Passage of the law prohibiting aliens from owning dogs in Pennsylvania -- repealed 1957.

1915 - The use of pitfalls and pens in taking bears prohibited.

1916 - Treaty Between the United States and Great Britain for the Protection of Migratory Birds in the United States and Canada signed.

1916 - Wild turkeys purchased and stocked.

1917 - The Auxiliary Game Refuge Law was passed.

1917 - Unlawful to shoot game of any kind from an automobile.

1917 - Wild turkey bag limit revised: one per season.

1917 - Night hunting of all game animals, excepting raccoons, forbidden.

1917 - Beavers first stocked in Pennsylvania, a pair from Wisconsin.

1917 - June 7 -- Turkey calls outlawed. Legalized again in 1937.

1918 - July 3 -- U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act passed by Congress.

1918 - Commissioners decided to publish for game protectors and sportsmen's clubs a list of Game Law violators, including names, addresses, offenses and penalties.

1919 - The Legislature passed a law authorizing the Game Commission to purchase lands to be known as State Game Lands, and to be used for game refuges and public hunting grounds.

1919 - July 8 -- First muskrat and skunk season set: November 16 to February 28.

1919 - July 12 -- Game Commissioners authorized to appoint up to 80 game protectors.

1919 - August 10 -- Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, executive secretary, and "Woody" Kelly, field superintendent of game refuges, were killed in an automobile accident at a railroad crossing in Warren County when their car was struck by a train.

1919 - August -- Seth Gordon, Paxtang, succeeded Joseph Kalbfus as Executive Secretary.

1919 - Gambel quail stocked in Pennsylvania for the first and only time.

1920 - First State Game Lands purchased (No. 25, containing 6,288 acres, in Elk County, for \$2.75 per acre).

1921 - Penalty provided for shooting a person in mistake for wild game.

1921 - Bucks declared legal with antlers four inches above the top of the skull.

1921 - May 17 -- Furbearing Animals Law enacted: unlawful to use poisons, chemicals or explosives to take any protected furbearers, or to dig or smoke them out of dens.

1921 - April 21 -- Hunting license must be displayed on back for first time; prior to this displayed on back of arm above elbow.

1921 - May 5 -- Hunting parties required to keep rosters.

1921 - Rabbit daily bag limit reduced from 10 to 5.

1921 - May 10 -- Buckshot banned for bear hunting.

1921 - Game Commission first given authority to revoke hunting licenses of violators for one to five years.

1921 - A Poconos property owner filed the first beaver damage complaint with agency.

1921 - Commission publicly disagreed with federal government for issuing permits to kill robins "destroying cherries, berries and other small fruit" from May 16 to July 15.

1923 - Trappers must place name tags on traps and visit traps every 36 hours.

1923 - The Department of Forestry was renamed Department of Forests and Waters.

1923 - Resident hunting license fee increased to \$1.25.

1923 - Landowners given right to kill deer for damage to crops.

1923 - Herons and ravens put on list of protected birds.

1923 - Game Commission given authority to establish antlerless deer season. (First season -- December 19-21 in Washington and Quincy townships, Franklin County; 100 licenses allotted at \$5 each; 8 legal and 1 illegal deer taken.)

1923 - Act of Legislature made it illegal to kill bucks unless they had two or more points to one antler, but act provided that a deer with an antler six or more inches long (measured from top of skull) without points would be considered legal.

1923 - Deer-proof fence law enacted.

1923 - First open season on elk; the last was held in 1931. Over the nine-year period, 98 elk were harvested.

1923 - Fur dealer's license created.

1923 - Hen pheasants protected.

1923 - Nonresident hunter's license fee increased from \$10 to \$15.

1923 - All game laws were codified.

1923 - June 29 - Safety Zone-Property Damage Law passed. Illegal to shoot or discharge a firearm within 150 yards of occupied building without owner's permission.

1923 - June 2 -- Bear Damage Law adopted establishing an annual \$3,000 fund to pay claims for livestock, bees and poultry damages.

1923 – Hunters must file a report form provided with hunting licenses that details “all wild birds and wild animals” taken by the license holder within 30 days of the license’s expiration.

1923 – Hunters must mail in to the Game Commission a report form provided with hunting licenses that details “all wild birds and wild animals” taken by the license holder within 30 days of the license’s expiration.

1923 - Terms of Game Commissioners increased from three to six years.

1923 - Construction of the Appalachian Trail began; completed in 1937.

1923 - Agency required to spend 20 percent of revenue on game stocking and feeding.

1924 - First written examination given to select men for position of game protector.

1924 - Hunting license tags made of aluminum.

1924 - Hunters harvest a record 929 bears in a six-week season. The record stood for more than 60 years.

1925-1941 - Hunting license tags made of tin plate.

1925 - Statewide waterfowl bag limits set: ducks, 15 per day, 60 per season; geese and brant, 5 per day, 30 per season.

1925 - Hungarian partridges first stocked in state; last stocked in 1943.

1925 - Farmers permitted to keep deer for food when killed while causing crop damage.

1925 - Game Commission first given discretionary power to fix seasons and bag limits.

1925 - Cost of antlerless deer permit reduced from \$5 to \$2.

1925 - Bear cubs given protection.

1925 - Deer law amended to declare a buck illegal unless it had two or more points to one antler.

1926 - July -- Executive Secretary Seth Gordon retired.

1926 - July -- John B. Truman, Harrisburg, began term as Executive Secretary.

1927 - 185 antlerless deer killed by special agents of Game Commission in Cumberland and Lycoming counties to reduce crop damage problems.

1927 - Resident hunter's license fee increased to \$2, with 75 cents from each license earmarked for land purchase and management.

1927 - Number of members of Board of Game Commissioners increased from six to eight.

1928 - Propagation of game first undertaken by Game Commission by having refuge keepers raise ring-necked pheasants from eggs supplied them.

1928 - First statewide season on antlerless deer; closed in 16 counties.(Deer must weigh at least 50 pounds, dressed).

1928 - November -- Executive Secretary J.B. Truman retired.

1928 - November -- John Slutterback, Paxtang, appointed Executive Secretary.

1928 - Agency permitted hunting for small game, turkeys and bears on only Thursday, Friday and Saturday as part of experiment to conserve game.

1929 - Migratory Bird Conservation Act adopted; authorized the federal government to buy lands for bird refuges.

1929 - Field officers of Commission first uniformed.

1929 - Bow and arrow legalized for hunting game.

1929 - Responsibility for the issuance of hunting licenses placed in the Department of Revenue.

1929 - Department of Revenue given power to revoke hunter's license upon recommendation of Game Commission.

1929 - Fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, established on State Game Lands -- 5 cents

per acre.

1929 - July -- First monthly Service Bulletin (forerunner of **Pennsylvania Game News**) of Game Commission published in mimeographed form.

1929 - August 24 -- Jordan State Game Farm, near Harlansburg, Lawrence County, dedicated for pheasant propagation. Abandoned in 1946 -- operations transferred to Western Game Farm near Cambridge Springs, Crawford County.

1929 - September 21 -- Eastern Game Farm, originally called Fisher Game Farm, near Schwenksville, Montgomery County, dedicated for quail and pheasant propagation.

1929 - Hunting licenses sold by county treasurers and issuing agents.

1930 - Game Commission and Department of Forests and Waters purchased 123,256 acres from Central Pennsylvania Lumber Co. for average price of \$3 per acre; 51,845 acres became game lands, the rest, state forest.

1930 - April -- First Game News published in mimeographed form.

1930 - Juniata Wild Turkey Farm operations started near Honey Grove. Abandoned in 1945 -- operations transferred to State Wild Turkey Farm, Barbours, Lycoming County.

1931 - Elk given protection.

1931 - Propagation of Reeves pheasants began at Game Refuge #35 in Susquehanna County.

1931 - Ruffed grouse designated the "State Game Bird".

1931 - Maximum purchase price per acre that may be paid for State Game Lands established at \$10.

1931 - First open season on both buck and doe deer, with only spike bucks protected. Kill -- 24,796 bucks, 70,255 antlerless deer -- total 95,051.

1931 - June -- Executive Secretary John Slautterback retired.

1931 - Game Commission President Ross L. Leffler, McKeesport, served as acting executive director from July to mid August.

1931 - August -- Charles G. Stone, Greenville, began term as Executive Director.

1931 - Traps with jaw spreads wider than 6.5 inches and snares prohibited.

1931 - June 23 -- Hemlock named the official state tree.

1931 - Game Commission empowered to sell gas, oil and mineral rights of game lands.

1932 - April -- Game News first printed in magazine format -- circulation 5,000.

1932 - January -- Executive Director Charles G. Stone resigned.

1932 - January -- Ernest F. Hardwood, Hazleton, began term as Executive Director.

1932 - 150 game protectors and 800 deputies helped scour the state in a search for aviator Charles Lindbergh's kidnapped child.

1932 - January -- Reeves pheasants released in Cameron, Chester, Jefferson, Luzerne and Lycoming counties; 723 were stocked over next five years in the state; no wild populations were established.

1932 - Gypsy moth caterpillars appear in Pennsylvania for the first time. They infested a 400-square mile area of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

1933 - Inauguration of program giving day-old pheasant chicks to sportsmen's clubs.

1933 - May 5 -- Mountain laurel named official state flower.

1933-34 - Civil Works Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Projects Administration spent \$4 million on expansion of State Game Lands.

1934 - First trapping season on beavers since they were given protection in 1903.

1934 - Ring-necked pheasants first stocked in large numbers.

1934 - March 16 -- The U.S. Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act became law (commonly known as Duck Stamp law). The first stamp, featuring a pair of mallards, sold for \$1; 635,001 were sold.

1934 - March 31 -- Sharp-tailed grouse (25 pairs) released near Valley Forge by PGC.

1934 - August 1 -- Loyalsock Game Farm near Montoursville, Lycoming County, dedicated for pheasant propagation.

1934 - Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is established on Blue Mountain in northern Berks County.

1934 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act required all agencies working on

wildlife issues to coordinate their efforts.

1935 - Use of dogs prohibited in hunting and chasing bears.

1935 - First migratory waterfowl refuge in state established at the Pymatuning Dam.

1935 - Unlawful to cast artificial light upon big game while possessing means of killing it. Fine - \$100.

1935 - October -- Executive Director E.F. Hardwood resigned.

1935 - William Shaffer, Edgewood, served as Acting Executive Director from November through December.

1935 - Congress established the Soil Conservation Service as a permanent agency in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

1935 - An Act of Congress established the Howard Nursery in Centre County for the production of seedlings.

1936 - Permanent game protector training school established at Brockway.

1936 - Cooperative Farm-Game Program implemented.

1936 - The first Roadside Menagerie Law was enacted.

1936 - January -- Seth Gordon, Harrisburg, began second term as Executive Director. His first term was August 11, 1919, to July 15, 1926.

1936 - First student class enrolled at game protector Training School -- the first group of its kind in the world -- July 2 to February 28, 1937, with 27 men graduating.

1936 - Sale of timber from State Game Lands first authorized.

1936 - State Game Lands acreage totaled more than 500,000 (100 SGLs in 52 counties).

1936 - First North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference convened by Jay "Ding" Darling, U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey director.

1936 - Chukar partridges first stocked in Pennsylvania - 68 released in northwestern counties.

1936 - Wild turkey mating pens used for first time. Farm-raised hens were placed in open-top enclosures; wild gobblers flew in and mated with them.

1936 - Protection removed for first time from squirrels which had become a nuisance in urban areas.

1937 - Pennsylvania Game Law was recodified.

1937 - Maximum purchase price per acre that may be paid for State Game Lands increased from \$10 to \$30.

1937 - Game propagation areas authorized by law.

1937 - Unlawful to use firearms or bow and arrow while intoxicated, or under the influence of drugs.

1937 - Possession of loaded guns in automobiles or other vehicles forbidden.

1937 - Game Commission (instead of Department of Revenue) again given the authorization to revoke hunting licenses.

1937 - Hunting accident reports to Game Commission required within 72 hours from person causing injury to himself or another while hunting or trapping.

1937 - Game Commission given broader powers in the establishment of seasons and bag limits.

1937 - Minimum age to qualify for hunting license reduced from 14 years to 12 years old.

1937 - Board of Game Commissioners changed to Pennsylvania Game Commission.

1937 - Unlawful to use more than three shells at a time in a magazine shotgun or pump gun while hunting small game.

1937 - Law enacted providing for the establishment of regulated shooting grounds.

1937 - Bounty removed on bobcats.

1937 - Archery preserves first established -- one in Forest County and one in Sullivan County. Abandoned July 1, 1954.

1937 - Second student class enrolled in Training School -- June 20 to February 28, 1938 -- with 25 Pennsylvania men and 2 men from Conservation Department of North Carolina completing the course.

1937 - September 2 -- Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act

became law.

1937 - The Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico was signed.

1937 - January 29 - Ducks Unlimited incorporated in the District of Columbia.

1937 - Legal to use turkey calls.

1937 - Mourning doves reclassified as game birds.

1937 - October 21 -- Taxidermy board convened in Harrisburg for first time to hold examinations.

1937 - The General Assembly passed the Pure Streams Law, a legislative effort to curb water pollution.

1938 - First statewide season for only antlerless deer (buck season was closed) -- 171,662 harvested.

1938 - Pymatuning Museum dedicated on October 15.

1938 - The Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit established at State College.

1938 - September 28 - U.S. Biological Survey approved Game Commission's first proposed project for Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act funding. The project called for an economic survey and inventory of furbearers.

1938 - President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed March 20 to 26 as the first "National Wildlife Week."

1939 - Appointment of Game Commissioners from 8 specified geographical districts.

1939 - Guns discharging a .22 or .25 caliber rim-fire cartridges prohibited in killing big game.

1939 - Cost of antlerless deer permits reduced from \$2 to \$1.

1939 - Persons 12 to 14 years old must accompanied must be accompanied by family member 21 or older; persons 15 years old, an adult at least 21.

1940 - June 8 -- U.S. Bald Eagle Protection Act became law.

1941 - Third student class enrolled in Training School -- June 7 to February 28, 1942 -- with 24 men graduating.

1942 - Hunters urged to donate deer skins, and their sale was sanctioned, to make vests for members of armed forces.

1942 - March -- Shortcomings caused by World War II compelled the commission to close its conservation school until 1946.

1942 - April 23 -- Legislature authorized use of nonmetallic trap tags until six months after World War II concluded.

1942-1960 - Hunting license tags made of vulcanized fibre.

1943 - May 21 -- Game Protectors vested with power to arrest for sabotage (Act 281).

1944 - 2,000 wild-trapped South Dakota ring-necked pheasants were released in state's northern tier.

1945 - Agency established a film-lending library.

1945 - Mourning dove hunting reopens in Pennsylvania for the first time since being closed in 1913.

1945 - New State Wild Turkey Farm at Barbours, Lycoming County, began operations.

1945 - Free hunting licenses authorized for Pennsylvania residents in active service of the U.S. armed forces or allies.

1945 - Commission authorized to post beaver colonies against trapping.

1945 - Hunters must tag big game before moving the carcass (the law previously allowed for tagging up to four hours after the kill) and report the harvest to the Game Commission on a harvest report card supplied with hunting licenses within five days of the close of the season.

1945 – Hunters no longer required to submit to the Game Commission an annual report form provided with hunting licenses detailing all wild birds and animals they harvested over the course of the license year.

1946 - Western Game Farm near Cambridge Springs, Crawford County, began pheasant propagation operations.

1946 - Game Protectors responsible for managing game lands.

1946 - Fourth student class enrolled in Training School -- June 1 to May 31, 1947 -- with 28 men graduating (training period increased from 9 months to one year).

1947 - Game Commission implemented its wood duck nesting box program.

1948 - January 4 -- Game Commission Training School renamed the Ross Leffler School of Conservation.

1948 - Fifth student class enrolled in School of Conservation -- June 1 to May 31, 1949 -- with 25 Pennsylvania men and one man from the Game Commission of the state of Washington completing the course.

1948 - October -- Executive Director Seth Gordon retired.

1948 - October -- Thomas D. Frye, Camp Hill, began term as Executive Director.

1949 - Non-resident trapper's license established, fee \$25.

1949 - The 75 cents formerly set aside from each resident hunter's license fee for the purchase of Game Lands was eliminated and substituted therefor was the sum of not less than \$1.25 from each resident hunter's license to be used for the development of food and cover for wildlife, the purchase, trapping and distribution of game and the protection of farm-game cooperative property.

1949 - Procedure for abrogation of antlerless deer seasons liberalized.

1949 - Resident hunter's license fee increased from \$2 to \$3.15.

1949 - The U.S. War Department deeded 14,000 acres of the former Tobyhanna Military Reservation, Monroe County, to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for wildlife management purposes.

1950 - Sixth student class enrolled in School of Conservation -- May 1 to April 20, 1951 -- with 20 men completing the course.

1950 - September -- "Pennsylvania Game News" magazine size reduced from 9 by 12 inches to 6 by 9 inches.

1950 - Game Commission and U.S. Forest Service signed a cooperative agreement directing the PGC to manage wildlife on the Allegheny National Forest.

1951 - A serious rabies outbreak began in Pennsylvania. There were 241 confirmed cases in this year.

1951 - Semi-automatic (auto-loading) shotguns legalized for hunting and killing of small game, predators and unprotected birds.

1951 - Special open season authorized for hunting deer with bows and arrows

exclusively, under a special \$2 archery license.

1951 - Hunting, trapping or dressing out of game prohibited within cemeteries and burial grounds. Game protectors may remove game or vermin with proper permission.

1951 - Abrogation procedure for antlerless deer seasons eliminated.

1951 - Special antlerless deer season authorization given Commission, under a county quota system (with no abrogation permitted), with antlerless deer hunting licenses costing \$1.10 each for county desired; 60 percent of licenses issued by county treasurers and 40 percent by the Department of Revenue, Harrisburg.

1951 - Game Commission started rearing wild ducks from purchased ducklings on a farm on State Game Lands No. 213, Crawford County (named State Wild Waterfowl Farm in 1956), and started banding birds.

1951 Bounty removed from goshawk June 1.

1952 -- Special antlerless deer season law amended before 1951 Legislature adjourned, by increasing the license fee from \$1.10 to \$1.15 and by providing that such antlerless deer hunting licenses shall be issued solely by the county treasurers in counties where antlerless deer may be hunted.

1952 - River otters received "closed season" protection.

1952 - Governor John Fine ordered the agency to reduce fox numbers in eastern Pennsylvania to eradicate rabies. More than 100 game protectors were involved in the three-month campaign.

1952 - Seventh student class of 17 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- May 25 to March 28, 1953 -- with 12 men completing the course.

1953 - Bucks declared legal only with 2 or more points to one antler or spike 3 inches or longer.

1953 - Mandatory license revocation required in addition to cash penalties as prescribed for unlawfully killing a deer, three years, and a bear, five years, at any time other than during any regular season for deer or bear.

1953 - 49 sharp-tailed grouse, a gift from Manitoba, released in Elk and McKean counties.

1953 - Groundhogs may be hunted year-round.

1953 - September -- Executive Director Thomas D. Frye retired.

1953 - October -- Deputy Executive Director Logan J. Bennett, Bowmansdale, began term as Executive Director.

1953 - Governor John Fine banned hunting from October 30 to November 11 because dry forest conditions presented a substantial fire threat.

1953 - March -- PGC launched its Small Marsh Program to aid waterfowl.

1954 - Soil Conservation Service leased to Game Commission 89.8 acres near Howard, Centre County, for use as a tree nursery.

1954 - Bounty removed from weasels June 1.

1954-55 - Conneaut Marsh Dam, covering 550 acres, built on SGL 213.

1955 - Tinicum Wildlife Refuge established in Philadelphia.

1955 - Department of Agriculture prohibited importation or release of San Juan rabbits in state.

1956 - Howard Nursery in Centre County deeded to Game Commission by Soil Conservation Service.

1956 - Commission designated the farm where wild ducks are reared and banded on State Game Lands No. 213, Crawford County, as the State Wild Waterfowl Farm.

1956 - Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Act establishing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

1956 - Wildlife appeared on U.S. postage stamps for the first time. Species illustrated were wild turkey, pronghorn antelope and king salmon.

1956 - The Federal Water Pollution Control Act was passed by Congress.

1956 - Maximum purchase price per acre that may be paid for State Game Lands was increased from \$30 to \$100.

1956 - The sum of \$1.00 from the sale of every antlerless deer license required to be used solely for cutting or otherwise removing over-shadowing tree growth, to produce underbrush sprouts and saplings for deer food and cover on game land.

1956 - Annual fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, on State Game Lands increased from 7 1/2 cents to 10 cents per acre.

1956 - Eighth student class of 20 men enrolled in the School of Conservation June 30 - March 15, 1957 -- with 18 men completing the course. Six research biologists also

completed the course.

1956 - All hawks given protection during the months of September and October in northeastern Pennsylvania bounded roughly as follows: U.S. Highway Route No. 22 from Easton to Harrisburg, north along the Susquehanna River to Muncy, northeast along State Routes 405, 118 and 29 to the New York state line, and east and south along the state line to Easton.

1957 - Game Commission authorized to accept, for the Game Fund, donations from any person, firm, corporation or association.

1957 - Hunting of deer of both sexes with bow and arrow during the archery season authorized -- the requirement of an antlerless deer license during archery season eliminated.

1957 - Unnaturalized foreign-born residents permitted to own or possess dogs.

1957 - September 12 -- Executive Director Logan J. Bennett died in office.

1957 - October -- Deputy Executive Director M.J. Golden, Harrisburg, appointed Executive Director.

1957 - October 17 -- Illegal to import or release nutria in state.

1958 - Federal government, through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, approved acquisition and establishment of Pennsylvania's first federal waterfowl refuge. It is the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, initially comprising 6,161 acres in Crawford County.

1958 - Commission inaugurated a firearms and hunter safety education program. Entire field staff qualified as instructors for the National Rifle Association's firearms safety and hunting arms courses.

1958 - Game Protectors with special qualifications were designated as "land managers" for the first time. They're responsible for management of game lands in several counties.

1958 - Safety Zone Program created, whereby Game Commission provides safety zone signs and free subscription to Game News to landowners of at least 50 acres who permit public hunting on their properties.

1958 - Extended (or late or winter) rabbit season initiated.

1958 - Ninth student class of 25 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- July 1 to March 21, 1959 -- with 21 men completing the course. Three research biologists also completed the course.

1959 - The traditional muskrat trapping season was extended for the first time to include a spring season.

1959 - The white-tailed deer named official state animal.

1959 - Use of body-gripping 10" x 10" trap authorized for taking beavers, provided an underwater set is made.

1959 - Unlawful to shoot at any wild bird or wild animal while it is on a public highway, or to shoot across a highway unless the line of fire is high enough above the elevation of the highway to preclude any danger to users thereof.

1959 - Tenth student class of 25 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- June 16-April 9, 1960 -- with all 25 completing the course. Three research biologists also completed the course.

1960 - Statewide radio communications system of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the State Council of Defense was inaugurated June 6 at approximate cost of \$500,000 -- system had been partially operative since the previous fall.

1960 - Goose Management Area started at Pymatuning adjacent to propagation area on more than 7,000 acres of land owned by Department of Forests and Waters and Game Commission.

1960 - Extended (or late or winter) grouse season initiated.

1961 - Hunting licenses made of waterproof tagboard.

1961 - An experimental deer check station was established at Franklin to gather sex and age data from harvested deer. Others were set up in following years. There were three from 1962-66; four from 1967-70; six in 1971-76; seven from 1977-79 and six in 1980.

1961 - Unlawful to assist in the taking, killing or wounding of any game in close season.

1961 - Ammunition for killing big game destroying property -- legal only when fired from other than .22 or .25 caliber rim-fire cartridges.

1961 - Three-day licenses to alien non-residents who are also non-residents of the United States 16 years of age and older may be issued to hunt on regulated shooting grounds for \$3.15.

1961 - Raccoon dog trials may be held from sunset to sunrise.

1961 - No group hunting deer together shall consist of more than 25 persons.

1961 - Auto-loading and magazine shotguns, unless limited to 3-shell capacity in magazine and chamber combined, must be plugged so that the plug cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, while hunting any wild birds or wild animals other than big game. Penalty -- \$10.

1961 - A second wild turkey, deer or bear may be taken if the first one, when presented to a district game protector, is deemed unfit for human consumption and provided written authorization is given by the game protector.

1961 - Extended (or late or winter) squirrel season initiated.

1961 - September 27 -- Law exempting landowners from liability for any injuries sustained by persons hunting or fishing on the landowner's property passed by General Assembly (Act 687).

1961 - Archery preserves were abandoned.

1962 - Korean pheasants first released in state on a 10,000-acre tract in Bedford County (186 cocks and 50 hens). Other releases followed in subsequent years.

1962 - Controlled hunting started on Goose Management Area at Pymatuning.

1962 - Eleventh student class of 21 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- March 26 to February 9, 1963 -- with 18 men completing the course. Four research biologists also completed the course.

1962 - October 24 -- Golden eagles provided protection under the U.S. Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

1962 - November 5 -- Project 70 ratified by state voters; it provides \$120 million to state and local governments to develop community recreation and conservation programs. The Game and Fish Commissions were allocated a total of \$10 million to buy hunting and fishing areas threatened by imminent development.

1963 - Hunting license fees increased -- adult resident hunter's license increased from \$3.15 to \$5.20; junior resident hunter's license created at cost of \$3.20 for hunters 12 through 16 years of age; non-resident hunter's license increased from \$20 to \$25.35.

1963 - Civil Service coverage extended to 237 salaried Game Commission employees.

1963 - Annual fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, on State Game Lands increased from 10 to 20 cents per acre (8 cents to local school district, 8 cents to county, 4 cents to township road supervisors).

1963 - Unlawful to use recorded calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of calls or sounds in taking of wild turkeys.

1963 - Foxes may be taken with aid of artificial light such as is ordinarily carried in the hand or on the person.

1963 - Unlawful for any person hunting on open lands to leave rubbish or debris except in proper receptacles, to dig in or drive automobile on cleared field except with permission, or to leave vehicle blocking ingress or egress to person's property, cattle-ways or fields.

1964 - Buckshot required for deer hunting in area designated by Game Commission in southeastern Pennsylvania -- to present.

1964 - Extended (or late or winter) archery deer season started in certain sections of the state; expanded to statewide season starting in 1967.

1964 - September 3 -- President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

1964 - A "Special Regulations Area" is created by the Game Commission in parts of counties bordering Philadelphia to reduce the mushrooming deer herd there. Rifles are prohibited in new hunting area, but hunters are provided more days to hunt antlerless deer.

1964 - Questionnaires were randomly distributed on a broad scale to measure small game harvest.

Trophy deer records program established in Pennsylvania by Game Commission, using Boone and Crockett Club scoring system. Bear skulls were added to measuring program in 1969.

1965 - Successful hunters required to tag turkeys.

1965 - Early small game season (squirrel and grouse) initiated.

1965 - Twelfth student class of 25 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- March 29-February 19, 1966 -- with 23 men completing the course. Four research biologists also completed the course.

1965 - April -- Governor William W. Scranton gave agency final approval to purchase 2,900-acre Middle Creek Waterfowl Project in Lebanon and Lancaster counties.

1965 - Millionth acre of State Game Lands purchased in Cornplanter Township, Venango County, April 12 -- State Game Lands 253 -- first achievement of its kind in the United States. Formal dedication June 19, 1965.

1965 - August -- Executive Director M.J. Golden retired.

1965 - August -- Glenn L. Bowers, Dillsburg, began term as Executive Director.

1965 - August -- Governor William W. Scranton signed the Clean Streams Law.

1965-70 - Project 70 provided Game Commission with \$5 million from state bond issue to acquire land, primarily to serve metropolitan area populations, at price above legal \$100 per acre ceiling. About 17,000 acres purchased.

1966 - Congress enacted the Endangered Species Preservation Act requiring the Interior Secretary to develop and publish a list of rare and endangered native animals, and conduct research on and buy habitat for them.

1966 - Pymatuning Goose Management Area renamed Pymatuning Waterfowl Area.

1966 - Antlerless deer season may be extended in case inclement weather prevents desired or adequate harvest.

1966 - Triple Trophy Award created by Game Commission for hunter who harvests antlered white-tailed deer, black bear and wild turkey in single hunting license year.

1966 - April - Three areas established for controlled duck hunting at Pymatuning Waterfowl Area. They accommodated 100 persons.

1966 - Game Commission removed the payment of all bounties effective June 30.

1967 - The agency, in conjunction with Harrisburg's WITF-TV, produced a monthly one-hour television show.

1967 - Persons permanently confined to a wheelchair or who must use crutches or other similar means of support to pursue daily activities eligible to secure permit to hunt from motor vehicle.

1967 - Hunting hours to be established by resolution of the Game Commission instead of by the Legislature.

1967 - Aliens permitted to own and possess firearms.

1967 - Antlerless deer licenses may be issued to resident hunters in the armed forces or recently discharged after county's allocation of these licenses has been exhausted.

1967 – Chronic Wasting Disease first identified in Colorado.

1967 - Use of manufactured or man-made fencing to direct the movement of

beavers into traps prohibited.

1967 - First statewide extended (or late or winter) archery deer season.

1967-77 - \$125 million from state bond issue made available under Project 500 to Game Commission, Fish Commission, Forests and Waters Department and Historical and Museum Commission for development of recreation, historical, conservation and reclamation projects.

1968 - "Road hunting" practice, from a motor vehicle, unlawful.

1968 - Spotlighting prohibited between mid-night and sunrise.

1968 - Game Commission field officers required to be in full uniform at all times while on duty.

1968 - First spring gobbler hunting season.

1968 - Antlerless deer season may be extended in case of inadequate harvest.

1968 - Game Commission disapproved use of "hard" pesticides.

1968 - January 19 -- Governor Raymond P. Shafer signed "Project 500" legislation (Act 443). It provided \$500 million for recreational projects, strip and deep mine reclamation and local sewage treatment plant construction.

1968 - Thirteenth student class of 25 men enrolled in School of Conservation -- March 25 to February 15, 1969 -- with all 25 men completing the course.

1968 - Agency embarked on a car purchase program that eventually provided a state-owned car for every full-time field officer.

1968 - October 2 -- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act passed by Congress.

1968 - Appalachian Trail designated a "National Scenic Trail."

1969 - March 21 -- The state's first-ever "Permanent Bird Day," designated by General Assembly to urge residents to learn more about birds.

1969 - Passage of U.S. Endangered Species Conservation Act to provide expanded efforts to protect endangered species and their environments. It extended coverage to vertebrates, mollusks and crustaceans.

1969 - Bear skulls added to Game Commission trophy records program.

1969 - Hunter safety training mandatory before youths under 16 years of age can

purchase hunting license.

1969 - Brig. General Nicholas Bide retired as a member of the Game Commission after more than 34 consecutive years of service as a Commissioner -- the all-time record.

1969 - Peregrine falcon identified as an "endangered species" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

1969 - All species of hawks given complete protection in northeastern Pennsylvania.

1969 - Use of more than two body-gripping 10" x 10" traps for taking beavers prohibited.

1969 - Pennsylvania Power and Light Company deeded 5,469 acres to Game Commission to be added to State Game Lands 211, Dauphin County. Game Commission deeded 1,702 acres of State Game Lands 211 to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company to be site of future pumped storage generating project -- largest land exchange in Commission history.

1969 - Beaver season may be extended if weather conditions prevent desired and adequate beaver harvest.

1969 - The thirteenth field conference and school of instruction for game commissioners, field officers, Harrisburg office staff and other employees was held at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, July 21-24.

1970 - Clean Air Act became law.

1970 - Bobcat classified as a game animal and given immediate protection as a state endangered species.

1970 - March 9 -- General Assembly named brook trout the official state fish.

1970 - 14th student class of 24 men enrolled in School of Conservation - March 30 to March 20, 1971 - with 22 completing the course.

1970 - Bear season closed for the first time in 36 years.

1970 - June 22 -- All hawks and owls, excepting great horned owls, protected under the Game Law. Great horned owls received federal protection in 1972.

1970 - December 5 -- Department of Environmental Resources is created by Act 275. It merged the Department of Forests and Waters, Department of Mines and Mineral Industries and portions of departments of Agriculture, Labor and Industry, Health and State Planning Board's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. The new super agency went on line January 19, 1971.

1970 - Agency traded 200 wild-trapped ring-necked pheasants to South Dakota for 200 sharp-tailed grouse.

1971 - January -- First Game Commission meeting open to the general public was held.

1971 - The agency's television show "Pennsylvania Outdoors" was aired biweekly by seven state Public Television stations.

1971 - Responsibility for hunting license sales transferred from the Department of Revenue, which conducted the operation since 1929, to the Game Commission.

1971 - May 18 -- Pennsylvania Constitution was amended to provide for the preservation and restoration of state's natural resources (Section 27).

1971 - Shohola Wildlife Management Area in Pike County dedicated.

1971 - Forest-Game Cooperator Program established.

1972 - Hen Ring-necked Pheasant Shooting Area established in northern counties.

1972 - 15th student class of 24 men enrolled in School of Conservation - March 3 to March 3, 1973 - with 19 completing the course.

1972 - Game Commission studies concluded winter deer feeding is of little value.

1972 - March 10 -- All hawks and owls given complete protection by federal law.

1972 - Pole traps outlawed in the state.

1972 - DDT was banned.

1972 - Small game season limits replaced with possession limits.

1972 - Game Law amendment made it illegal to possess a loaded firearm in a vehicle. A previous regulation made it illegal to possess a loaded firearm "on or along" a road.

1972 - Hunters permitted to take two turkeys per license year - one each in the spring and fall seasons - for the first time since 1915.

1972 - The daily closing time for spring gobbler season is extended from 10 to 11 a.m.

1972 - Agency mandated that 50 percent of a county's antlerless deer license

allocation is reserved for residents of that county during the first month of sales. The action was cancelled by legislation later in the year.

1972 The agency's "Triple Trophy Award" was terminated. It was available to hunters who took a bear, deer and turkey in one season. The award was first offered in 1966.

1972 - Senior citizens general hunting license created for persons 65 and older. The cost was \$5.20.

1972 - Adult resident hunting license fee increased from \$5.20 to \$6.70; junior resident, from \$3.20 to \$4.20.

1972 - County treasurers use drawings for the first time to determine who would receive antlerless deer licenses.

1972 - Agency mailed "Game-Take Surveys" to four percent of state's hunters to measure harvest trends for the 1971-72 seasons. Surveys were distributed in the field by game protectors for past six license years.

1972 - September 23 -- National Hunting and Fishing Day is celebrated for the first time.

1972 - Federal Water Pollution Control Act became law.

1973 - December 28 -- The U.S. Endangered Species Act became law.

1973 - Quail are eliminated from the propagation program; they had been raised by the agency since 1931.

1973 - Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area opened to the public on April 1.

1973 - October 4 -- Compound bows legalized for taking game.

1973 - Adult resident hunting license fee increased from \$6.70 to \$8.25; junior resident, from \$4.20 to \$5.25; antlerless, from \$1.15 to \$2.35.

1973 - Game Law amendment made it illegal to remove a kill tag from a harvested deer, or to have a deer tag in your possession while afield after you've killed a deer.

1973 - Game Law amendment required hunters to mail in a deer harvest card within five days of taking the animal.

1973 - June 1 -- Illegal to import, sell or release Monk parakeets in Pennsylvania.

1973 - Bear check stations were established at 25 locations across state. All bears

must be checked and tagged within 24 hours of harvest.

1974 - Penalties increased for the illegal taking of elk, bear, deer and turkeys. Elk and bear fines increased from \$200 to \$400; deer, from \$100 to \$200; and turkeys, from \$25 to \$50.

1974 - Antlerless deer license fee increased from \$2.35 to \$3.35.

1974 - Muzzleloader deer license created; the fee is \$3.25.

1974 - First muzzleloader deer season; 65 deer, including four bucks, were taken. The season was held for three days on 37 state game lands.

1975 - 16th student class of 29 men enrolled in School of Conservation - July 14 to June 26, 1976 - with 25 completing the course.

1975 - A new Game Law provision permitted 12- and 13-year-old hunters to be accompanied by an adult member of the family who is at least 18 years of age.

1975 - First muzzleloader deer split season. It was held December 26 and 27 and January 1-3. Hunters took 174 deer.

1976 - Muzzleloader deer season expanded from a five-day split season to a 20-day season running from Dec. 27 to Jan. 15. The season was confined to 39 state game lands and two Susquehanna River islands. The reported harvest was 340 deer.

1976 - Game Law amendment made it illegal to damage a tree while constructing a tree stand or using a portable one on public and private properties, unless the person has written permission from the landowner.

1976 - Archery and muzzleloader licenses are printed as stamps to be affixed to hunting license.

1976 - Peregrine falcons hacked along Susquehanna River in Bradford County. Effort failed.

1976 - December 3 -- State's first airborne hunting arrest: two Indiana, Pa., men apprehended for using a helicopter to take a buck. They later pled guilty to \$750 fine in federal court.

1977 - The "Sportsmen Policing Our Ranks Together" program was launched by the agency.

1977 - Steel shot required to hunt waterfowl in Crawford County, on the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area and within 25 yards of the Susquehanna River from Northumberland to the Maryland line.

1977 - New deer winter feeding policy established stressing population control, with winter feeding only under the most extreme conditions.

1977 - No bear season was held.

1977 - Antlerless deer season was held on a Friday and Saturday following buck season, instead of the traditional Monday and Tuesday.

1977 - Clean Water Act became law.

1977 - Hunter education course expanded from four to six hours.

1977 - 17th student class of 24 men enrolled in School of Conservation - July 11 to June 24, 197 - with 21 completing the course.

1977 - July 20 -- More than 30 game protectors and deputies render assistance during the devastating Johnstown Flood.

1977 - Muzzleloader deer season expanded to 60 state game lands; the reported harvest is 866 deer.

1977-78 - Two attempts made to hack peregrine falcons on an old bridge abutment in Susquehanna River's Dauphin Narrows, just north of Harrisburg. Both efforts failed.

1978 - No bear season was held.

1978 - Game Commission launched its Endangered Species Program.

1978 - Game Commission designated the Blue Mountain area of southeastern Pennsylvania as the "Kittatinny Ridge Birds of Prey Natural Area."

1979 - Falconry hunting seasons established.

1979 - "SPORT Ethics Award" established.

1979 - Issuing agents sell muzzleloader deer licenses for the first time. They were previously sold by only county treasurers and agency offices.

1979 - Nonresident general hunting license fee increased from \$40.35 to \$50.50. The nonresident trapping license was also increased from \$40 to \$350.

1979 - Dog training extended to 24 hours a day by legislation. It was previous allowed from sunrise to 9 p.m.

1979 - Allegheny County established as a "special regulations area."

1979 - Lake Erie Zone established for waterfowl hunting.

1979 - Muzzleloaders permitted for use for the first time in Southeastern Special Regulations Area.

1979 - Muzzleloader deer season held statewide for the first time; the reported harvest is a record 2,459 deer.

1979 - Pennsylvania Biological Survey was formed to inventory and assess the state's fauna and flora. Sponsoring organizations were National Audubon Society, Game Commission, Fish Commission and Department of Environmental Resources.

1979 - A bald eagle, maintained in captivity for one year, was released at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster counties.

1980 - "Working Together for Wildlife" program was launched to raise funds to expand the agency's wildlife management activities, particularly for non-game species.

1980 - Trapper Education Program was implemented by the agency.

1980 - Protection removed on cub bears during bear season for the first time since 1925.

1980 - September 1 -- Deer, bear and woodchuck hunters required by law to wear at least 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material on head, or on chest and back combined.

1980 - Resident motorists may pick up road-killed deer after they obtain permit from a game protector or deputy.

1980 - Fine raised for dogs that chase deer and elk from \$25 to \$100.

1980 - North and south zones established for waterfowl hunting; used in conjunction with Lake Erie zone established in 1979.

1980 - Lawful to submit up to three antlerless license applications in one envelope for first time.

1980 - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act adopted; authorized U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to spend \$20 million over four years to help states develop non-game management programs.

1980 - Annual fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, on State Game Lands increased from 20 to 39 cents per acre.

1980 - A rabies outbreak occurred in southcentral Pennsylvania; it spread throughout eastern Pennsylvania over next 10 years.

1981 - Turkey production was stopped at the Meadville State Wild Turkey Farm. Pheasants are raised in their place.

1981 - Agency stops production of waterfowl at the State Wild Waterfowl Farm in Crawford County; remaining stock is released into the wild in 1982.

1981 - Game Law amendment permitted agency to suspend hunting licenses of convicted violators if they fail or neglect to pay their fines.

1981 - Quail season closed for the first time since 1953.

1981 - 18th student class of 29 men and one woman enrolled in School of Conservation - June 7 to March 13, 1982 - with 24 graduating. Cheryl A. Stauffer Trewella was the first woman to be enrolled in and graduate from school.

1981 - Crawford County's "Waterfowl Area" renamed Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area.

1981 - The General Assembly passed legislation creating the state's first bear hunting license. License price: residents, \$5; nonresidents, \$15. The first allocation is 125,000.

1981 - Four peregrine falcons successfully hacked from a ledge on the 34th floor of the Philadelphia National Bank.

1981 - Motorists permitted to pick up road-killed deer as long as they report their actions to the agency within 24 hours.

1981 - Three turkey management areas established in state.

1981 - The Northwest Zone established for waterfowl hunting; used in conjunction with three previously-established zones.

1981 - Plants are placed under the jurisdiction of Department of Environmental Resources. No agency managed them prior to this.

1981 - Osprey hacking selected as first "Working Together for Wildlife" project.

1981 - Deer check stations discontinued; replaced by deer camp and venison processor survey teams. Hunters also asked to mail deer jaw bones to agency.

1982 - Pennsylvania Eagle Protection and Reward Fund created.

1982 - Muskrat and mink season began the day after Christmas, instead of on Thanksgiving Day, its traditional opening day.

1982 - A Game Law amendment required all first-time hunters, regardless of age, to take the hunter education course.

1982 - A Game Law amendment prevented nonresident trappers and hunters from harvesting raccoons until 30 days after the opening of season.

1982 - Regulations governing the housing and sanitation of captive wildlife, and safety measures that protect the public from these exotic animals (bears, wolves, tigers, etc.), go into effect.

1982 - A "wildlife check-off" was placed on income tax forms for donations to the newly-created Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

1982 - Four otters released on Kettle Creek in state's first otter reintroduction project (35 more released on Pine and Loyalsock creeks over next five years).

1982 - Game Code amendment permitted archers to use certain mechanical bow releases.

1982 - Guaranteed antlerless licenses offered for the first time to landowners who own at least 80 contiguous acres and agree to keep their land open to public hunting and trapping.

1982 - Tyvek deer ear tag used for the first time in the state.

1982 - June 17 -- Penngift Crownvetch named official state beautification and conservation plant.

1982 - December 31 -- Executive Director Glenn Bowers retired.

1983 - January -- Peter S. Duncan III, Millerstown, began term as Executive Director.

1983 - Muskrat season returned to its traditional starting date on Thanksgiving Day.

1983 - Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp Program established. The first stamp, "Sycamore Creek Woodies," was painted by Ned Smith and sold for \$5.50.

1983 - Ned Smith's "River Otters," the first Working Together for Wildlife fine art print is offered for sale at \$125.

1983 - License issuing agent fees increased: general and muzzleloader licenses,

from 25 to 50 cents; antlerless, from 35 to 50 cents; and archery, from 20 to 50 cents.

1983 - The first Bald Eagle Recovery Project transplant of 12 eaglets took place. The birds were taken from nests in Saskatchewan and placed in Pennsylvania hacking towers. From 1983 to 1989, 92 young eagles were brought to the state from Saskatchewan for hacking projects.

1983 - The agency implemented the "Hardy Bird" ring-necked pheasant program.

1984 - 1,000,000th certified student of the hunter education course cited at the Annual Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show.

1984 - Annual fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, on State Game Lands increased from 39 to 60 cents per acre.

1984 - Hunters must choose either a muzzleloader stamp or antlerless deer license. They may not purchase both.

1984 - Southeast Special Regulations Area is enlarged in Delaware and Bucks counties.

1984 - Game Law amendment made it illegal to hunt or trap in unharvested corn, sorghum or soybean fields without landowner's permission (\$50 fine).

1984 - Agency used the "universal" license, made of silver-colored mylar material, for the first time. The Tyvek deer ear tag was discontinued.

1985 - A 28-month undercover investigation results in the arrests of 135 persons for illegal commercialization of fish and wildlife.

1985 - The agency established nine turkey management areas statewide. The plan replaces a system that incorporated three.

1985 - 19th student class of 24 men and one woman enrolled in School of Conservation - June 2 to February 28, 1986 - with 25 completing the course.

1985 - Hunting license fees increased: resident adult license, from \$8.50 to \$12.50; resident senior, from \$5.50 to \$10.50; nonresident hunting, \$60.50 to \$80.50; antlerless, \$3.50 to \$5.50; resident bear, \$5 to \$10; nonresident bear, \$15 to \$25; muzzleloader, \$3.50 to \$5.50; and archery, \$2.50 to \$5.50.

1985 - Eight new licenses created: senior resident lifetime hunting license for a cost of \$50.50; junior furtaker, \$5.50; adult furtaker, \$12.50; senior furtaker, \$10.50; junior nonresident furtaker, \$40.50; adult nonresident furtaker, \$80.50; junior non-resident hunting, \$40.50; and five-day nonresident small game hunting, \$15.50.

1985 - Agency purchased its aquatic vegetation cutter for \$141,000. Ducks Unlimited contributed \$51,000 in "Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat" funds to aid the agency in buying the machine.

1986 - A statewide, three-day bear season adopted for the first time since 1959.

1986 - Hunter Education expanded from a 6- to 10-hour course including both hunter and trapper training.

1986 - The Southeastern Special Regulation Area's northern and western boundaries are extended to include all of Philadelphia and Delaware counties and most of Bucks, Chester and Montgomery counties.

1986 - Ground broken for the agency's headquarters building on Elmerton Avenue in Harrisburg.

1986 - August -- Last class graduated from Ross Leffler School of Conservation near Brockway; school moved to Harrisburg. 427 officers graduated from school over its 50-year existence.

1986 - Calculated statewide and county deer harvest statistics are released to the public for the first time. The statewide calculated harvest is 300,014 deer (150,359 bucks and 149,655 antlerless deer).

1987 - July 1 -- The Game and Wildlife Code superseded the Game Law of 1937. Fines for practically all offenses are increased substantially.

1987 - Illegal to spotlight from 11 p.m. to sunrise.

1987 - New commissioners limited to one 8-year term.

1987 - Hunters required to wear either an orange hat or a vest while hunting bear or deer.

1987 - Battery-operated scopes legalized.

1987 - The amount of money the agency may spend to acquire state game lands is increased from \$300 to \$400 per acre.

1987 - Agency obtained 40 purebred Sichuan cock pheasants from Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

1987 - Bonus deer program adopted for Southeastern Special Regulations Area counties giving hunters with appropriate licenses the chance to take two deer in one license year. At least one of the two deer must be antlerless.

1987 - Colony traps, or multiple-catch cage traps, are outlawed.

1987 - The agency moved its headquarters from Derry Street to Elmerton Avenue.

1987 - District Game Protector title changed to Wildlife Conservation Officer.

1987 - An investigation turns up an illegally taken bear that possesses the second largest skull ever recorded in North America. The bear was shot December 29 in Lycoming County.

1988 - January 2 -- Conservation officers converged on Pittsburgh to aid wildlife incapacitated by a large fuel oil spill on the Monongahela River.

1988 - Lead shot banned for waterfowl hunting in Pennsylvania.

1988 - Bonus deer program implemented statewide giving hunters with appropriate licenses the chance to take two deer in one license year. One of the two deer must be antlerless.

1988 - Agency began using a toll-free "800" number telephone service.

1988 - 20th class of 28 men and two women enrolled in School of Conservation - June 5 to February 25, 1989 - with 23 men and one woman graduating. It is the first class to receive its training at the new Harrisburg headquarters-school complex.

1988 - Big game hunters are required to wear a minimum of 250 square inches on their head, chest and back combined.

1989 - Agency eliminates its annual bear license allocation.

1989 - Within Stream Bank Fencing Program launched in a cooperative effort by the Game Commission and Department of Environmental Resources in an effort to protect Chesapeake Bay.

1989 - Two state game lands roads are opened to disabled persons to hunt from vehicles on.

1989 - Hunters set a new bear harvest record by taking 2,213 bruins statewide in a three-day season. It is the first time the harvest has exceeded 2,000 bears.

1990 - Hunters may buy two bonus licenses, which will permit them to harvest of up to three deer. Two of the three deer must be antlerless.

1990 - Antlerless deer season extended for hunts on deer-damaged farms enrolled in a special program offered by the agency.

1990 - River otters stocked for the first time in northwestern Pennsylvania; placed in the Allegheny National Forest's Tionesta Creek.

1990 - Antlerless deer licenses allocated for Philadelphia County for first time.

1990 - Six furbearer management zones were established in state.

1990 - The agency received 100 Sichuan pheasants (75 hens) from Michigan's Department of Natural Resources.

1990 - The agency discontinued releasing reported deer harvest statistics to the public, opting to use only calculated statistics. In addition, first-day deer kill estimates are used.

1991 - Southeast Special Regulations Area enlarged to include all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

1991 - First split antlerless deer season held in Special Regulations Areas; the seasons were held from Dec. 2 to Dec. 21 and Dec. 26 to Jan. 25.

1991 - Special Regulations county treasurers permitted to sell up to four bonus tags to interested hunters. With the appropriate licenses, hunters could take up to five deer, four being antlerless.

1991 - 21st class of 26 men enrolled in the School of Conservation - June 2 to February 29, 1992 - with 23 graduating.

1991 - Six public meetings held throughout the state to collect public input on deer management.

1991 - First Youth Field Day held at the Franklin Izaak Walton League club in Venango County. The event drew 255 youngsters .

1991 - Hunters Sharing the Harvest program is started. It provides a means for hunters to donate venison to food banks, soup kitchens, etc.

1991 - The agency signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to serve as a pilot state for the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.

1991 - The five-day small game nonresident hunting license is expanded to a 7-day license.

1991 - Lead shot banned in the United States for waterfowl hunting.

1991 - The agency offered for the first time a Resident Landowner hunting license at a cost of \$3.75. Landowners must own at least 80 acres and be enrolled in a PGC public

access program to be eligible.

1992 - April -- River otters (five) released in southwestern Pennsylvania's Youghiogheny River for first time. More stockings followed.

1992 - Elk census done completely from the air for the first time in its 20-year history.

1992 - Peregrine falcons hacked from Harrisburg's Fulton Bank Building in downtown Harrisburg; hacked birds raised from eggs taken from nests in the Philadelphia area with a history of reproductive problems.

1992 - Archery season expanded an additional week for antlered deer hunting only; four weeks either sex hunting; one antlered deer only.

1992 - Fall turkey and small game hunters required to wear 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange on head, chest and back combined.

1992 - Unlawful to hunt turkeys, small game or furbearers with shot larger than No. 4 lead or No. 2 steel.

1992 - A 10-day experimental nuisance goose hunt held in Bucks, Butler, Erie, Lehigh, Mercer, Montgomery and part of Clearfield counties in early September.

1992 - Hunters with appropriate licenses permitted to take antlerless deer on enrolled deer-damaged farms during buck season in Bedford, Crawford, Indiana and Schuylkill counties.

1993 - Spring gobbler hunters required to wear 100 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange when moving to and from calling locations.

1993 - 22nd class of 23 men enrolled in the School of Conservation - May 16 to February 12, 1994 - with 20 graduating.

1993 - Archery deer season expanded an additional two weeks; six weeks either-sex hunting.

1993 - All hunters, with the exception of those hunting with a muzzleloader stamp must purchase an antlerless license to harvest an antlerless deer. Each antlerless license comes with an ear tag and report card.

1993 - Application for antlerless licenses began in early August for the first time; traditionally it started in early October.

1993 - A 17-day experimental nuisance Canada goose season was held along portions of the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers in late January and early February.

1993 - Pheasant recovery project, involving ring-necked and Sichuan pheasants, launched on six study areas averaging 34,000 acres throughout the state.

1993 - Elk herd estimated to number more than 200 for the first time in 20th century.

1993 - Early September nuisance Canada goose season expanded from 7 to 10 counties.

1993 - 1.5 millionth student successfully completed Game Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education Course.

1993 - Peregrine falcons hacked in Harrisburg, Reading, Williamsport and Trenton in a cooperative project involving the Game Commission and New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

1993 - Hunters with appropriate licenses permitted to take antlerless deer on enrolled deer-damaged farms during buck season in 16 counties.

1993 - 100 miles of stream bank fencing installed under the Within Stream Bank Fencing Program.

1993 - Pennsylvania's safest hunting year on record since 1915, when records were first compiled. The accident rate was 7.37 per 100,000 hunters.

1994 - Regulations approved creating a special deer control permit to aid urban municipalities in controlling troublesome deer populations.

1994 - Early Canada goose season expanded from 10 to 26 counties in southeastern and southwestern Pennsylvania.

1994 - Hunters with appropriate licenses permitted to take antlerless deer on enrolled deer-damaged farms during buck season statewide.

1994 - Fisher reintroduction program started on large tracts of forested land in northcentral Pennsylvania.

1994 - Donald C. Madl succeeds Peter S. Duncan as Game Commission Executive Director.

1995 - Game Commission celebrated its 100th anniversary.

1995 - Illegal to feed elk.

1995 – Governor Tom Ridge splits the Department of Environmental Resources into the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of

Environmental Protection.

1995 - Annual fixed charges, in lieu of taxes, on State Game Lands increased from 60 cents to \$1.20 per acre.

1995 - Bismuth-tin shot legal for waterfowl hunting.

1995 - Deer depredation permit program (Red Tag) implemented by Game Commission.

1995 - Statewide early Canada goose season held.

1995 - Eastern Game Farm closed.

1996 - First special youth squirrel hunt held, October 12 and 14.

1996 - Migratory Game Bird License created.

1996 - State's first "Becoming An Outdoors Woman" program held at Camp Soles, Somerset County.

1996 - Archery safety zone restriction relaxed from 150 to 50 yards in Special Regulations counties.

1996 – Pennsylvania holds its first special youth squirrel hunt on October 12 and 14. In addition, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service holds the state's first ever youth waterfowl hunt on Oct. 5.

1996 – 23rd Class of PGC's Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduates. The class had 18 members and schooled from June 4, 1995 to March 2, 1996.

1996 – Migratory Bird License created for all hunters who pursue migratory game birds in Pennsylvania. Hunters received the license for free for the first year, but were required to pay a 75-cent issuing agent fee.

1996 – The size of the Digest of Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Regulations changes from a 4.25 by 3.25-inch format to 8.25 by 5.25 inches.

1996 – A survey conducted by Responsive Management, a Harrisonburg, Va.-based polling firm, shows 83 percent of Pennsylvanians approve of public hunting.

1997 – The name for "bonus" antlerless deer licenses was changed to "surplus" antlerless deer licenses.

1997 - Issuing agents sell bear licenses for first time; license must be in hunter's possession but not displayed.

1997 – Game Commission launches its own website on the Internet.

1997 – Game Commission forms a Deer Management Outreach Committee to address misunderstandings about deer management.

1997 – Passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act provides the first "organic" legislation for the management of the federal Refuge System.

1997 – Game Commission launches its "Turn in a Poacher" Hotline.

1997 - Game Commission starts up toll-free poacher hotline.

1998 - Game Commission traps and transfers 34 elk from Elk to Clinton County.

1998 – Junior hunters allowed to hunt antlerless deer during the two Saturdays of the two-week buck season.

1998 – Fifth Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage held in Hershey from Aug. 12-15; hosted by Gov. Tom Ridge, Game Commission and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

1998 – The Wildlife Management Institute develops a Deer Management Working Group for the Game Commission to increase dialogue and communication leading to the development of informed consent on deer management.

1998 – Beaver trappers permitted to use snares in underwater sets.

1998 – Game Commission placed the American bittern, great egret, and yellow-crowned night heron on the state endangered species list.

1998 – Game Commission down-listed the osprey from an endangered to threatened species.

1999 – Game Commission holds six open houses across the state to collect public input on the deer management program.

1999 – First three-day fall flintlock season for antlerless deer held.

1999 – Hunting license fees increased: resident adult license, from \$12.50 to \$20; resident senior, from \$10.50 to \$13; nonresident hunting, \$80.50 to \$101; resident antlerless, \$5.50 to \$6; non-resident antlerless, \$6 to \$26; resident bear, \$10 to \$16; nonresident bear, \$25 to \$36; resident muzzleloader, \$5.50 to \$11; non-resident muzzleloader, \$5.50 to \$21; resident archery, \$5.50 to \$16; and non-resident archery, \$5.50 to \$26.

1999 – Combination licenses for junior and senior lifetime license holders go on sell for the first time. They combine furtaking, general hunting, archery and muzzleloader privileges under one license at a greatly reduced price than if purchased separately. Resident junior combination licenses sell for \$9; non-resident junior combination, \$51 and resident lifetime combination, \$101.

1999 – Muzzleloader hunters no longer must surrender their antlerless deer license application when applying for a muzzleloader license.

1999 – 24th Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduates. The class had 13 members and schooled from June 7, 1998 to March 13, 1999.

1999 – Vernon R. Ross, Camp Hill, succeeds Donald C. Madl as the Game Commission's executive director.

1999 – Game Commission releases a feature elk video titled "Pennsylvania Elk: Reclaiming the Alleghenies."

1999 – Game Commission creates Deer Management Section; the agency's renowned bear biologist, Dr. Gary Alt, is chosen to head it.

1999 – Game Commission launches a voluntary Bowhunter Education Program.

1999 – Game Commission establishes the LINK Program to link hunters and trappers with landowners who are having wildlife problems on their properties.

1999 – Game Commission creates Elk Hunt Advisory Committee.

2000 – Game Commission – with assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection – releases otters in the Youghiogheny River basin in southwestern Somerset County.

2000 – 25th Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduates. The class had 25 members and schooled from June 1, 1999 to March 4, 2000.

2000 – A three-day antlerless deer season begins on the final day of buck season, a Saturday, in an effort to increase the antlerless deer harvest.

2000 – A concurrent two-week season for antlered and antlerless deer is established for junior and senior hunters with appropriate licenses.

2000 – First bobcat season is held since 1960s; 290 participants are selected by drawing and 58 bobcats are harvested.

2000 – Mini- and maxi-balls permitted for use in flintlock muzzleloader seasons.

2000 – Game Commission's completes elk trap-and-transfer project; 70 elk are moved from Elk County to the Sproul State Forest in western Clinton County.

2000 – Game Commission begins a three-year pilot conservation law enforcement canine program; receives first dogs for training in 2001.

2000 – Game Commission/Penn State University launch two-year fawn survival study that eventually concludes black bears and eastern coyotes are the most significant fawn predators.

2000 – Game Commission adopts a new logo that features a hemlock tree, mountain laurel, bald eagle, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, Canada geese and a beaver lodge set in the agency's traditional patch design.

2000 – The size of the Digest of Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Regulations changes from a 8.25 by 5.25-inch format to 10.75 by 8.25 inches. The Digest also includes paid advertising for the first time.

2000 – The Game Commission and Pennsylvania Conservation Corps officially dedicate a new educational pavilion at the Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area.

2000 – Game Commission begins selling hunting and furtaker licenses through an internet website called "The Outdoor Shop." It's the agency's first electronic commerce.

2000 – Game Commission conducts scores of public meetings statewide through 2002 to inform and educate the public about managing deer and management challenges.

2000 – General Assembly enacts law that authorizes the Game Commission to sell elk hunting licenses and to conduct limited elk hunts.

2001 – Roxane S. Palone of Waynesburg becomes the first woman to be appointed to a full eight-year term as a Pennsylvania Game Commissioner.

2001 – Game Commission uses satellite telemetry for the first time ever to track tundra swan migrations.

2001 – First elk hunt held since 1931. Thirty hunters are selected in a drawing; 27 elk (14 bulls) were taken.

2001 – "Surplus" antlerless deer licenses are renamed "unsold" licenses.

2001 – First concurrent two-week antlered/antlerless deer season held.

2001 – First three-day special firearms antlerless deer season is held in October for juniors and seniors, disabled persons with a permit to use a vehicle and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services.

2001 – Deer hunters may use crossbows in Special Regulations Areas during the regular firearms deer season.

2001 – Legislature and governor enact law allowing turkey hunters may use artificial or manufactured turkey blinds consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer located outside of the blind.

2001 – Game Commission began providing remedial hunter education courses to offenders who were involved in hunting-related shooting incidents or other mandatory revocations and had their hunting and furtaking privileges revoked and desired to have them restored. These courses were mandated by a new state law.

2001 – State Game Lands topographical maps are placed on the agency website.

2001 – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service begins the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, a new grants program, established by Congress through Title IX of the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Act, to fund state projects and initiatives that benefit wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education and wildlife-associated recreation projects.

2002 – Antler restrictions are implemented for hunting seasons to allow more bucks to reach older age classes and subsequently improve the breeding ecology of deer populations statewide. Much of the state follows a three points to one antler rule; 10 western counties have a four points to one antler rule. Antlered deer taken in Special Regulations Area counties must have a spike at least three inches long, or an antler with at least two points.

2002 – First regional bear season is held, in addition to three-day statewide. The late season ran concurrently with the first week of the rifle deer seasons in Pike, Monroe and Carbon counties.

2002 – A new youth pheasant season is created. It ran concurrently with the annual junior squirrel hunt in mid October. The Game Commission released 3,500 pheasants on 75,000 acres of land open to public hunting prior to the start of the two-day season; 14 clubs held mentored youth pheasant hunts drawing about 400 junior hunters. About 13 percent of junior hunters participated in two-day hunt.

2002 – New York river otters are released into the Juniata River drainage in southcentral Pennsylvania in February in a project involving the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Frostburg State University, the state Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources' Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) and other local partners.

2002 – Game Commission's Southwest Region Office moves from downtown Ligonier into its new headquarters in the former Fairfield Elementary School along Route 711.

2002 – 26th Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduates. The class had 22 members and schooled from March 18, 2001 to March 9, 2002.

2002 – Hunting-related shooting incidents limited to 62, the lowest total since record-keeping began in 1915. The previous low was 69 in 2001.

2002 – Regulatory change paves the way for any “long gun muzzleloading firearm” to be used in the October muzzleloader antlerless deer season.

2002 – Minimum peak draw weight requirement for hunting bows set at 35 pounds; broadheads must have an outside diameter of at least 7/8-inch with no less than two cutting edges.

2002 – Game Commission begins tracking peregrines from nests in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh with satellite telemetry.

2002 – Hunters may use crossbows during the elk and bear seasons and the statewide firearms deer season.

2003 – Several changes in State Game Lands-use regulations take effect Feb. 1 to better protect these wild places from misuse and degradation.

2003 – Hunters apply for antlerless licenses by sending applications to the Game Commission, which then forwarded them to county treasurers for processing and issuance.

2003 – Hunters and trappers may use the .17 caliber rim-fire cartridge to take small game, furbearers, crows and other wildlife, and to dispatch furbearers taken in traps.

2003 – Extended the deadline for buying a muzzleloader license from Aug. 31 to Nov. 15.

2002 – Regulatory change paves the way for any “long gun muzzleloading firearm” to be used in the October muzzleloader antlerless deer season.

2003 – Game Commission begins managing game and furbearers with 22 Wildlife Management Units instead of county-based or region-based units.

2003 – Game Commission develops “Population management plan for white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania (2003-2007)”

2003 – Pennsylvania Game Commission tests 2,003 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease; all samples are negative.

2003 – Pennsylvania develops a Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan.

2003 – A new regulation making it illegal to feed bears is implemented March 22.

2003 – The Game Commission’s Deer Management Assistance Program is started to enable public and private landowners enrolled in the agency’s public access programs to address deer management goals on a more localized basis.

2003 – A pair of peregrine falcons is documented nesting on a cliff in natural habitat for the first time in Pennsylvania in more than 30 years. The site was in Lycoming County.

2004 – Crossbows may be used statewide for bear and elk and during any of the firearms deer seasons. Additionally, hunters in Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C and 5D may use crossbows during any established deer season.

2004 – Extended bear season expanded in portions of northeastern and Northcentral Pennsylvania. The season ran concurrently with the first week of firearms deer season.

2004 – Hunters prohibited from discharging a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle releasing pheasants.

2004 – Annual elk survey converted from an aerial survey to a ground operation to improve its precision and save thousands of dollars annually.

2004 – Pennsylvania’s first one-day youth spring gobbler season is held April 24, one week before the statewide general spring gobbler season opener.

2004 – Trappers no longer must have all harvested beavers tagged by a Game Commission official.

2004 –The Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation is created to secure and augment funding used to manage the Commonwealth's wildlife resources.

2004 – Pennsylvania Game News magazine celebrates 75th anniversary.

2005 – PGC approves a regulatory change providing for the use of specific cable restraint devices by certified licensed furtakers for coyotes and foxes from Jan. 1 until the end of the annually established trapping season.

2005 – Eliminated the need for the PGC to issue paper permits to individuals who claim a road-killed deer for its venison. Individual residents claiming deer are verbally issued a permit number.

2005 – Pennsylvania Game News goes to full-color publication.

2005 – Approved a regulatory change providing for the use of specific cable restraint devices by certified licensed furtakers for coyotes and foxes from Jan. 1 until the end of the annually established trapping season.

2005 – Bald eagles reclassified from a state “endangered” to a “threatened” species; dickcissel, sedge wren, yellow-bellied cuckoo, black-crowned night-heron and blackpoll warbler are placed on state endangered species list.

2005 – Eliminated the “purchasing deadline” for individuals to buy a muzzleloader license.

2005 – Hunter harvest an all-time record 4,164 black bears.

2005 – Agency creates a “second spring gobbler license;” hunters use them for the first time in the spring 2006 season.

2005 – Vernon R. Ross retires as agency executive director (Dec. 31).

2006 – Carl G. Roe succeeds Vernon R. Ross and agency executive director. (Jan.1).

2006 – Pennsylvania holds its first archery black bear season; it’s a two-day season in nine wildlife management units.

2006 – A new law transfers oversight for taxidermists and cervidae propagation from the Game Commission to the state Department of Agriculture.

2006 – Pennsylvania develops/completes its first Wildlife Action Plan. The plan, federally-mandated to continue receiving State Wildlife Grant funding, expands and strengthens the state's management of fish and wildlife resources, particularly species of greatest conservation need.

2006 – Legalized the use of bait to take white-tailed deer in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, to increase hunter harvest in these largely-developed, high-conflict areas.

2006 – More than 100 bald eagles nest in Pennsylvania for the first time in more than 150 years.

2006 – Hunters may use crossbows during turkey seasons.

2006 – Game Commission establishes “Mentored Youth Hunting Program.”

2006 – Agency begins using a new deer population monitoring procedure to manage whitetails.

2006 – Game Commission begins using direct measures of deer health (reproduction), forest habitat health (regeneration), and deer-human conflicts (Citizen Advisory Committees) to guide deer management recommendations.

2006 – Game Commission develops Urban/Suburban Deer Management Plan.

2006 – Game Commission stops releasing county deer harvest numbers; provides only wildlife management unit deer kill totals.

2006 -- Hunters in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, beginning Dec. 26, were permitted to hunt for deer over bait on private property as a result of regulatory changes approved by the Game Commission.

2007 – August – Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) surfaces in Pennsylvania, primarily in Greene and Washington counties. Other counties affected include Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Indiana, Lawrence and Westmoreland.

2007 – July 3, Gov. Edward G. Rendell signed into law House Bill 881, which included a provision authorizing the Game Commission to permit other individuals to assist eligible landowners in the destruction of wildlife causing agricultural damage on their property. This provision took effect Sept. 1, 2007.

2007 – Game Commission forms a Deer Communications Working Group to address misunderstandings about deer management.

2007 – Law enacted allowing fall wild turkey hunters to use dogs.

2007 – Legal hunting hours extended to one-half-hour after sunset, for all game and the September Canada goose season. Migratory game bird and mourning dove hunting are excluded.

2007 – Bowhunters may hunt with both a bow-and-arrow and a muzzleloading firearm during the early muzzleloader and late flintlock seasons, providing they have both an archery and muzzleloader license and meet the fluorescent orange clothing requirements of the muzzleloader season.

2007 – Allowed the use of aperture or peep sights during the flintlock muzzleloader season.

2007 – Northern flying squirrel is added to the state's endangered species list.

2007 – Gun-mounted lights legalized for furbearer hunting.

2007 – Law legalizes use of dogs in fall wild turkey hunting.

2008 – Regulatory change removes the fluorescent orange requirements for hunters participating in spring gobbler seasons.

2008 – Game Commissioner Roxane S. Palone, of Waynesburg, becomes the first woman to be elected president of the Board of Game Commissioners.

2008 – Hunters participating in spring gobbler season no longer are required to wear fluorescent orange.

2008 – For the first time since 1989, ruffed grouse hunting was opened in all areas of State Game Lands 176 in Centre County,

2008 – Agency Executive Director may use his regulatory authority to issue an order to remove protection on wild boars, also known as feral swine. Protection was subsequently removed.

2008 – White-Nose Syndrome appears on hibernating bats in Shindle Mine in Mifflin County in December. It is the first time the disorder appears in Pennsylvania hibernacula.

2009 – Pennsylvania Game Commission begins selling licenses through the Pennsylvania Automated License System.

2009 – Crossbows may be used in archery deer or bear seasons.

2009 – Pennsylvania holds its first Snow Goose Conservation Season from March 11 through April 1 to help stem the growth of continental snow goose populations.

2009 – White-Nose Syndrome identified among hibernating bats at Shindle Mine, an abandoned iron mine in Mifflin County.

2009 – Live video-feed launched of bluebird nest box on PGC website.

2009 – Point-Of-Sale License System implemented in Pennsylvania to sell hunting and trapping licenses to the general public. All license sales now are generated from one massive computerized network.

2009 – Lawful use of crossbows expanded to include both the archery deer and bear seasons.

2009 – Deer and wild turkey harvests may be reported online for the first time.

2010 – A three-day, after-Thanksgiving wild turkey season extension added to state's slate of hunting seasons.

2010 – Special cottontail rabbit junior hunter season created.

2010 – Statewide three-day black bear season changed from a Monday-Wednesday season to a Saturday-Tuesday season.

2010 – A six-day Fisher Season is created (Dec. 18-23).

2010 – All licensed furtakers may purchase one permit to harvest a bobcat in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E. The move followed 10 bobcat seasons with a specified number of permits, and formally eliminated the need to hold bobcat permit drawings.

2010 – Twenty-eighth student class of 26 men and 2 women enrolled in Ross Leffler School of Conservation – March 21, 2010 to March 5, 2011 – with 20 men and one woman completing the course.

2010 – Hunters using manufactured blinds to take deer, elk and bear must post a minimum of 100 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange within 15 feet of the blind, in addition to wearing orange while in the blind.

2010 – House Bill 1859, developed to increase penalties and fines for poaching committed against Pennsylvania wildlife, was signed into law July 9 by Gov. Edward Rendell.

2010 – Senate Bill 1200, a bill protects wildlife by preventing those convicted of poaching in other states from being able to lawfully hunt in Pennsylvania by enrolled the

Commonwealth in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, is signed into law by Gov. Edward Rendell.

2010 – Adams County Game Commission WCO David L. Grove, 31, Fairfield, was shot and killed in the line of duty Nov. 11 while on patrol around 10:30 p.m. along Shrivvers Road in Freedom Township, while investigating reports of night-time shooting and poaching in the area.

2011 – Bear season expanded from a three-day statewide season to a four-day season beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

2011 – Beginning April 1, individuals who use State Game Lands public shooting ranges will be in possession of either a new \$30 range-use permit or a current general hunting or furtaker license.

2011 – A new antler restriction is deployed for hunters in the WMU 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2D that requires three points on the main antler beam, excluding the brow tine, for a buck to be legal. The previous restriction was four points on at least one antler.

2011 – Beginning April 25, hunters can use an interactive voice response harvest reporting system via a toll-free telephone number to submit harvest reports.

2011 – Gov. Tom Corbett signs Senate Bill 274 into law allowing adult mentors to transfer one antlerless deer license per license year to a youth participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.

2011 – Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners on June 28 approved a resolution to support repeal of the statutory prohibition on Sunday hunting.

2011 – About 30,000 pheasants escape or die during September flooding at two Lycoming County game farms, which both received major damage to holding fields and buildings.

2011 – Game Commission enters social media by launching a Facebook page.

2011 – Gov. Tom Corbett signs House Bill 735 which removes the requirement for hunters and trappers to display their licenses on an outer garment. The law took effect on Feb. 13, 2012.