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# Geese Banded at the Dexter City Pond

JULY 06TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Geese Banded at the Dexter City Pond

Dexter, Missouri - More than 60 geese were captured at the Dexter Pond on One Mile Road last week. About half were new geese that were banded the others were banded from years past. This is a great opportunity to study the birds and to monitor their survival and harvest rates in our area. The geese were not harmed and were released back to the pond within less than one hour.

Canada geese in Cape Girardeau, Stoddard, Dunklin, Mississippi, and St. Francois counties were rounded up and banded this week as part of the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) efforts to track them. MDC biologists check the numbers on geese that already have leg bands and put new leg bands on birds that are without. The purpose is to monitor survival and harvest rates of Canada geese and collect information that influences hunting season lengths and limits.

"We can also learn interesting things about where geese go after they get banded or how long they may live in the wild," said MDC Wildlife Management Biologist Kevin Brunke. "We get data back from birds when hunters harvest a banded goose and report its band number."

When a banded bird is harvested, hunters report band numbers to **[www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)** or by calling 1-800-327-BAND. This cooperation between conservation organizations and hunters helps biologists learn about and manage the species.

"The Canada goose population seems to be stable in Southeast Missouri," Brunke said. "The numbers of birds we catch at individual locations varies from year to year, but overall, the population levels do not seem to be increasing or decreasing."

Brunke and other MDC biologists submit their locally collected data to MDC resource scientists who enter the data into the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory's database. Every bird that is banded goes through the Bird Banding Laboratory's system. From that system, researchers and biologists can use data from across the nation or local data to answer specific questions they may have in managing the bird populations. Managing the species benefits the birds and the people who enjoy watching and hunting them.

"Canada geese offer many Missourians the chance to view wildlife in their own back yard this time of year," Brunke said. "Many parks or residential areas with manicured grass and small lakes attract geese to raise their broods and molt their wing feathers. In the fall, many hunters enjoy hunting geese."

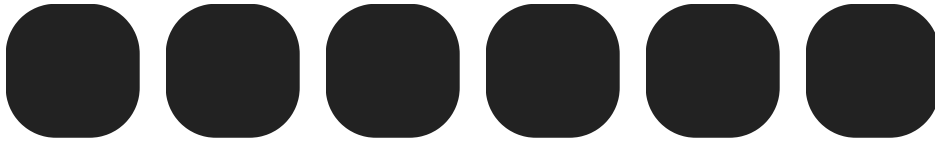
Brunke said sometimes conflicts arise when one neighbor may enjoy watching the geese through the summer, but another neighbor doesn't appreciate the mess they leave behind on their lawn, docks, or driveways.

Canada geese live most often on farm ponds, lakes, and marshes. Once close to extinction, this species has made an amazing recovery. They can be so numerous they cause problems from overgrazing, abundant droppings, collisions with aircraft, destruction of newly sprouted crops, and more. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects these geese, their nests, and eggs, but the Missouri Department of Conservation can issue permits to help control nuisance geese.

Canada geese play an important role in nature, as many predators feed on the eggs and young. In addition to their grazing in wetlands throughout the state, Canada geese and other waterfowl have an important impact when they gather in wetland staging areas along migration routes.

More information about Canada geese can be found at <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/canada-goose>.

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## Frogging Begins June 30th at Sunset

JUNE 27TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Frogging Begins June 30th at Sunset

Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages Missourians to discover nature this summer. One fun and exciting way is through frogging. Frogging season begins June 30 at sunset and ends Oct. 31. Missouri has two frog species that are legal game ? bullfrog and green frog. Bullfrogs are larger and therefore more sought-after.

The daily limit is eight frogs of both species combined and the possession limit is 16 frogs of both species combined. Only the daily limit may be possessed on waters and banks of waters where hunting.

Daily limits end at midnight so froggers who catch their daily limits before midnight and then want to return for more frogging after midnight must remove the daily limit of previously caught frogs from the waters or banks before returning for more.

Frogging can be done with either a fishing permit or a small-game hunting permit. Children under the age of 16 and Missouri residents 65 years of age or older are not required to have a permit.

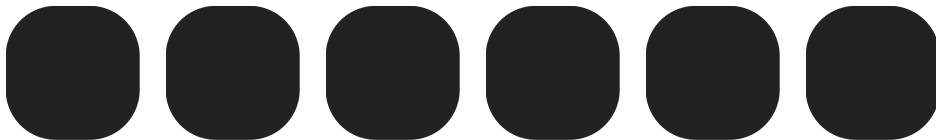
Those with a fishing permit may take frogs by hand, hand net, atlatl, gig, bow, trotline, throw line, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line.

With a small game hunting permit, frogs may be harvested using a .22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, atlatl, bow, crossbow, or by hand or hand net. The use of artificial light is permitted when frogging.

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## Apply Online July 1st for 100 MDC Managed Deer Hunts

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## Apply Online July 1st for 100 MDC Managed Deer Hunts

**Apply online starting July 1 for a shot at more than 100 MDC managed deer hunts**  
**Apply starting July 1 at [mdc.mo.gov/managedhunt](http://mdc.mo.gov/managedhunt) for a shot at more than 100 hunts.**

Missouri - Beginning July 1, deer hunters can apply online through the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) website for a shot at more than 100 managed deer hunts throughout the state for archery, muzzleloading, and modern firearms from mid-September through mid-January at conservation areas, state and other parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public areas. Some managed hunts are held specifically for youth or for people with disabilities.

The managed deer hunt application period is July 1 - 31. Hunters are selected by a weighted random drawing. Draw results will be available Sept. 1 through Jan. 15. Applicants who are drawn will receive area maps and other hunt information by mail.

Get more information on managed deer hunts, preview hunt details, and apply starting July 1 at [mdc.mo.gov/managedhunt](http://mdc.mo.gov/managedhunt).

Details about managed hunts can also be found in MDC's "2017 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information" booklet available starting in early July at MDC offices and nature centers, from permit vendors around the state, and online at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov).

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## MDC Says Summertime is for the Birds

JUNE 07TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### MDC Says Summertime is for the Birds

Naturalists encourage bird baths, feeding and keeping an eye out for summertime nesters.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) says summertime is for the birds. According to MDC naturalist Angela Pierce, though spring is when birds may come to mind the most, there are many reasons to consider them in the hotter months.

“Many birds can use some help to beat the summertime heat,” said Pierce. “Bird baths, especially at different height levels, can provide backyard birds with a refreshing chance to get a drink or cool off with a bath.”

Pierce recommends changing the bird bath water periodically to cut down on mosquitos and clean it occasionally with a scrub brush to prevent the spread of diseases.

Though many people feed birds in winter, bird feeding is also beneficial in the summer months. Pierce recommends adding different foods to the normal backyard menu such as artificial nectar for hummingbirds, oranges and grape jelly for Orioles and mealworms for bluebirds. For the artificial nectar, mix ¼ cup sugar to 1 cup water and pour into a hummingbird feeder.

Pierce said to be on the lookout for summertime nesters such as American goldfinches,

American robins and mourning doves. American goldfinches start nesting in June or July. They feed their young seeds, so they must wait until these seeds develop on plants. American robins continue to nest in summer, having up to three broods. The mourning dove beats the robin by having up to six broods a year, nesting well into the early fall.

“Summer-time nesters sometimes cause people to worry,” Pierce said. “It can surprise people to see baby birds that haven’t quite figured out how to fly and end up falling out of the nest, but people should not interfere with fledgling birds.”

Instead, Pierce suggests not drawing attention to the young bird, staying a distance away and leaving it alone. Keep pet cats or dogs away from the fledgling and realize the bird’s parents are keeping a close watch from a distance.

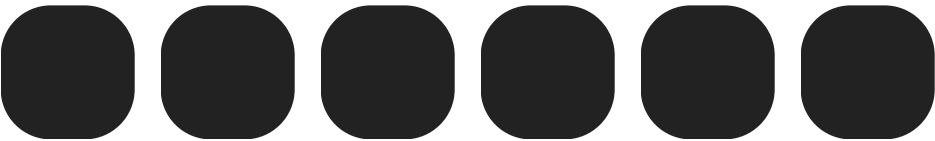
“Bird parents will only return when people aren’t around,” Pierce said.

More information about summertime birding will be included in “What’s the Buzz,” an upcoming free program at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, Saturday, June 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. No registration is required for this event. Participants will learn how birds, bees, butterflies and even bats work to pollinate flowers throughout the summer.

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# MO State-Record Sunfish Caught

JUNE 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## MO State-Record Sunfish Caught

**Taney County angler catches state-record sunfish  
Congratulations to Dominik Penner on breaking the state record by catching a 1-pound, 5-ounce redear sunfish on a trotline.**

Taney County, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports Dominik Penner of Merriam Woods Village became the most recent record-breaking angler in Missouri when he caught a redear sunfish on Table Rock Lake. The new “alternative method” record fish caught by Penner on May 14 weighed 1 pound, 5 ounces. Penner’s recent catch broke the previous state record of 1-pound, 1-ounce, caught earlier this year.

Penner caught the fish on a trotline. A trotline is a heavy fishing line with baited hooks attached at intervals by means of branch lines called snoods. A snood is a short length of line which is attached to the main line using a clip or swivel with the hook at the end.

MDC weighed the redear sunfish on a certified scale at Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery in Branson.

“This is the sixth state-record fish this year. 2017 is shaping up to be a year for state-record fish,” said MDC Fisheries Programs Specialist Andrew Branson. “The mild weather we have had this year means more anglers are fishing, and catching big fish.”

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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