



Dear Wildlife Enthusiast,

One of the best billboards I have seen in the past few months was on a bus stop bench in Oklahoma City. The advertisement for an OKC Beautiful littering campaign had the most precious child hanging upside down with a grin, and the statement "Sugar at bedtime, littering is wrong too."

If you're like me, you spend a significant amount of time outdoors in the summer months. There are outdoor holiday gatherings, bird watching, hiking, fishing and gardening to be done. With each outdoor encounter, we can help or hurt wildlife habitat.

Please be sure to make a conscious effort this summer - and every other season this year - to minimize your impact on wildlife habitat and keep your city beautiful. Put all waste in the trash and recycle what can be recycled, it's that simple. Visit [okcbeautiful.com](http://okcbeautiful.com) to see how you can help keep wildlife healthy and your city looking beautiful.



**SUGAR AT BEDTIME**

**LitteringIsWrongToo.org**



Enjoy,

Rachel

Rachel Bradley  
Wildlife Diversity Information Specialist



## **Nesting Habits of a Black Vulture** By Brandon Brown, fisheries technician

When I was a game warden, I often received unusual calls from people who spotted wildlife in unexpected places. Once, I got a call from a mother who said her kids found, what they thought were, wild monkeys living in an underground cave. I went to check out the situation, and when I arrived, the kids took me to an old cellar buried in the middle of a brush pile with two of what really did look like some kind of half demon, half monkey creatures hopping around and growling. These unique-looking creatures turned out to be young black vultures.

Black vultures tend to nest in quite unusual places without any nesting material, on the ground.

Below are some photos I took this spring of another black vulture nest and the progression of the hatchlings in a barn near Lake Texoma.



Black vulture eggs in their barn nest. Photo by Brandon Brown.



Black vulture eggs. Photo by Brandon Brown.



Black vulture at one day old (left). Photo by Brandon Brown.



*Black vulture at one week old. Photo by Brandon Brown.*



*Black vulture at two weeks old. Photo by Brandon Brown.*



*Adult black vulture tending its nest. Photo by Brandon Brown.*

## **Summer Eats**

**From the Ohio Department of Natural Resources**

### Catfish Cakes

2 catfish fillets (approximately 1 lb) diced  
1 egg  
1 Tbsp lemon juice  
1/3 cup onion, chopped very fine  
1/3 cup green pepper, chopped very fine  
3/4 cup Bisquick or other pancake mix  
Salt and pepper  
Oil for frying\*\*

In a large bowl, mix together fish, onion, green pepper, adding desired amounts of salt and pepper. Mix whisked egg and lemon juice to the fish mixture. Add Bisquick. Form into patties and fry in heated oil. Makes 12 two-inch catfish cakes.

\*\*Patties can also be broiled on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Flip once so patties can brown on both sides. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes at 400°F after broiling.

Tarter sauce:

Mayo

Sweet or dill pickle relish

Salt & pepper

Worcestershire sauce

Hot sauce

Lemon juice

Mix all Ingredients to taste.

Find more delicious game recipes on the Ohio DNR's website.

## Constituents' Corner

### *Picture Perfect*

As Farris Bueller (1986) notes during his adventurous day off from school, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it." Take time to truly enjoy the outdoors this summer. You never know when you might see a species new to you, much like Mark Suttles of Enid did when heading to work one day. Thank you for sharing, Mr. Suttles!



Eastern collared lizard. Photo by Mark Suttles outside his home in Enid.



Eastern collared lizard. Photo by Mark Suttles of Enid.

Have photos you would like to share in *The WildSide*? Send them to [info@odwc.state.ok.us](mailto:info@odwc.state.ok.us) with the story of how and where you captured the photo (200 words or less). Please write "WildSide Photos" in the subject line.

### In Other Words

-Get ahead of schedule and plan your summer activities with the help of the Wildlife Department's [Outdoor Calendar](#).

-Enjoy [free family fishing](#) each Thursday at the ODWC Arcadia Conservation Education Area Kids Casting Pond and the Jenks Casting Pond at the Oklahoma Aquarium. No fishing licenses or permits are required. See [other locations to fish](#) in your area!

-Looking for summer wildlife activities, but not wanting to drive hours to find them? Martin Park Nature Center in northwest Oklahoma City has an abundance of activities for families of all ages. Visit their [Facebook page](#) for updated events and news.

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Visit [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) for more wildlife diversity information and events. For questions or comments, please email [info@odwc.state.ok.us](mailto:info@odwc.state.ok.us).

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