

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/5/08 – 10/18/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Jason Wicklund and PCO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of an injured eagle. The eagle, which appeared to have been hit by a vehicle, was unable to fly and was turned over to a wildlife biologist.

CO Jason Wicklund investigated a hunting accident in northern Iron County. A father and son were road hunting when a grouse ran across the road. The father exited the vehicle and flushed the grouse, and the ensuing shot sprayed the windshield of the vehicle, injuring his son inside.

COs Ryan Aho and Brian Bacon stopped an ORV operator in northern Dickinson County. The operator was found to have a loaded shotgun and hadn't licensed his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted an angler along the Sturgeon River. As CO Bacon approached, the angler was observed placing a plastic bag in the back of his SUV. The angler stated that he did not catch any fish, but changed his story after CO Bacon asked what was in the plastic bag. The angler provided CO Bacon with the undersize bass he had just caught.

CO Dave Painter ticketed a small game hunter for shooting from a motor vehicle after the subject shot the grouse decoy.

CO Dave Painter contacted an individual in a "mudder" truck who was stuck in a wetland area. The subject had proceeded to try to free the vehicle with the help of a logging skidder. When the first logging skidder became stuck, the individual returned with a second skidder. A tow service was called to remove all the stuck vehicles and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted a group of bow hunters on state land with numerous violations. Illegal ORV trails were made to access their hunting locations and used to haul in the large quantity of bait that was used. The hunters also did not have their names on their stands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon is investigating an incident in which a hunter's blind was burned and nails were thrown on the trail used to access the blind.

CO Dave Miller arrested a nonresident who was small game hunting without a license. The subject was hunting from a motor vehicle with a loaded gun and had no hunter orange.

Officers report that a waterfowl hunter drowned over the weekend just north of Ishpeming. Two subjects were returning to shore in a small boat when it began taking on water and capsized. Neither subject was wearing a life jacket and only one made it to shore.

CO Marv Gerlach contacted two hunters who had sneaked onto private property to hunt. Both were ticketed for recreational trespass.

CO Dave Miller responded to a call late Sunday evening to assist in the search and rescue of a group of youths who became lost while hiking in Baraga County. CO Miller located the group after two hours of hiking and escorted them to safety.

CO Mark Leadman reported that while watching a group of duck hunters from the access site at Lake LeVasseur, he observed a vehicle pull into the access site and toss an empty beer bottle out the window. The operator then drove away with another open beer. The subsequent stop revealed the driver to be driving without a valid driver's license as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman observed three subjects target practicing in a wooded area near Marquette. They ran out of objects they had brought along to shoot up so they started ripping down snowmobile trail signs and shooting those. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Reid Roeske and PCO Robert Crisp investigated a report of untagged deer. When they contacted the group in question, they found three illegal deer. The deer were seized and tickets were issued. The COs found that a fourth subject had run into the woods prior to their arrival and became lost in the woods for almost eight hours. The Delta County Search & Rescue was called to the scene. The subject finally came out of the woods at 11:00 p.m.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon responded to a complaint of a shot coming from a residence after dark. During the investigation of the subjects, an untagged deer was located. Tickets were issued.

CO John Wenzel responded to a complaint of ORVs operating on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Delta County. Numerous ORVs were located and several were ticketed for illegal operation, no ORV license and other violations. While returning from this complaint, CO Wenzel observed a subject throw something from a vehicle. The item turned out to be a beer can. The occupants had an uncased gun in the truck along with several open beers. Tickets were issued.

CO Gerald Thayer had a closed area under surveillance for illegal ORV use when two operators entered the area, spotted the law unit and tried to flee. They were just a little too slow on the turn-around maneuver. Tickets were issued.

CO Derek Miller contacted two anglers over the weekend on a remote trout lake. The anglers were each in possession of a limit of splake; however, all the fish were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kellie Nightlinger received an anonymous tip that a marijuana growing operation was in her work area. CO Nightlinger responded along with the Michigan State Police (MSP). CO Nightlinger seized two bundles of marijuana over 100 pounds each, and turned the investigation over to local narcotic authorities.

CO Kellie Nightlinger contacted a bear hunter who was in possession of a cub bear weighing less than 39.5 pounds. The investigation continues.

CO Mike Hammill and PCO Robert Crisp contacted an individual waterfowl hunting in possession of toxic shot. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Richard Stowe worked the salmon runs on the Ocqueoc River, issuing several tickets for snagging and fishing within 100 ft. of the weir.

CO Michael Feagan worked on the Cheboygan and Ocqueoc Rivers, ticketing multiple subjects for snagging. The majority of them were locals who have been ticketed in the past for fishing violations.

CO Eric Bottorff found a camp on state land in an area where several complaints have been received over the years. The camp had been there for several weeks, trees had been cut, litter was strewn all over, it was not registered, and alcohol violations were present. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carl Vanderwall participated in a group shining patrol in Emmet County. The Department pilot assisted the COs utilizing the airplane. A suspicious vehicle was spotted in a remote wooded area of state land, and CO Vanderwall was directed to the vehicle where contact was made. Further investigation revealed the driver was highly intoxicated and was subsequently arrested with a blood alcohol level of .21.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a land use complaint along Warner Creek in Antrim County. The complaint consisted of a private landowner building a bridge over the creek to use for operating ORVs illegally on state land. The subject was ticketed for the land use violation.

CO Andrea Albert worked on the Boyne River and checked several anglers who were law abiding. Five anglers did not obey the laws and were ticketed for snagging, keeping foul hooked fish, and overlimit of salmon.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall have received several complaints of shining and shooting deer in rural Emmet County. The COs hid their patrol vehicle in a farmer's

barn. At 11:15 p.m. a slow moving vehicle appeared one-half mile down the road. The COs heard the report of a small caliber rifle and stopped the suspect vehicle minutes later. Officers Budreau and Vanderwall recovered a spotlight, .a 22 mag rifle, and a dead doe lying in the field. One individual was arrested for using light to take game, shining with a weapon in possession, a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and open intoxicants.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed 13 anglers on the Boyne River for illegal hooks, keeping foul hooked fish, and overlimit of salmon. Officer Erratt checked a five point buck that was bow killed near Charlevoix. Further investigation revealed that the deer was not tagged properly and another hunter loaned/borrowed a license.

CO Andrea Albert checked an archery hunter who failed to purchase a hunting license and was hunting over bait. A ticket was issued.

COs Joe Molnar and Bill Webster were working the Thunder Bay River protecting spawning salmon and trout. With use of their specialized equipment, they observed two groups of anglers snagging fish and keeping them. When it was feasible, they contacted the two groups. Two subjects in the group went to jail because of past warrants for snagging violations. Four subjects were ticketed for violations, including retaining foul hooked fish and use of illegal tackle. Restitution for the salmon is being sought.

CO Bill Webster, on two separate occasions, ticketed subjects for retaining foul hooked fish. In one of the incidents, COs Brian Engelhard and Webster were working undercover and observed an angler foul hook a salmon in the tail. The subject subsequently put the foul hooked fish in his vehicle. The vehicle was stopped with the assistance from the Alpena City Police Department and a ticket was issued at the scene.

DISTRICT 4

CO Troy Mueller and CO Brian Lebel responded to a Mecosta County RAP complaint where a subject had supposedly taken two bucks, a five and a six point. After a lengthy investigation, the COs recovered two heads from the subject. The man was ticketed for using his restricted tag on a deer with less than four antler points on one side.

CO Mike Bomay was checking a group of Mecosta County waterfowl hunters, when he asked the men if they had all the proper stamps and licenses one man replied that he "had whatever the license agent said he needed". CO Bomay explained that often license agents make errors when not asked for specific license purchase requests. At this point one of the subjects became irate and said he worked in a sporting goods store and "never" failed to sell the correct licenses to his customers. A check of his license revealed he had not sold himself a state waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was on foot in state land in Oceana County when he observed an ORV operating illegally. He was able to stop the quad. The man driving was intoxicated, had a suspended driver's license and was on probation for other criminal violations. The subject was lodged in jail.

CO Troy VanGelderren responded to an Oceana County trespass complaint where the suspect was also hunting over bait. When the trespasser was found later in the day, he denied ever being on the complainant's land. Further, he stated that he only films deer when he goes into the woods. CO VanGelderren asked to see the man's video camera. The man reluctantly agreed. The video showed the subject hunting with a bow over bait on the complainant's property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was on foot patrol near Tippy Dam in Manistee County when he encountered a subject wielding a snagging rod and rigged with in-line treble hooks and a large lead weight. The subject was in among other anglers and blatantly casting toward fish and then reefing back on the rod in an attempt to snag them. CO Converse walked over to the offender and spoke with him about his illegal gear and actions. The subject stated that he was just trying to get in on some of the action.

CO Jim Espinoza conducted a Senior Citizen's Police Academy in conjunction with the Mason County Sheriff's Department. The officers spoke with the participants about both traditional and natural resource law enforcement issues.

CO Brian Brosky was on foot patrol in Mason County along the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River when he observed a subject in the water attempting to snag fish as they attempted to spawn. The subject was contacted and identified as the same subject he had arrested at the same location after a foot chase for snagging last year.

COs Carl Soper and Steve Converse conducted a boat patrol on the Manistee River focusing on persons taking salmon by illegal methods. The COs ticketed several subjects for snagging fish, attempting to snag fish and fishing with illegal gear.

CO Carolyn Dice responded to a complaint of three persons snagging fish near the Rainbow Rapids access site on the Pere Marquette River in Lake County. CO Dice apprehended all three subjects in the act of foul-hooking fish. When the subjects were contacted each of them feigned a lack of the ability to speak English. CO Dice managed to bridge the language gap and ticketed the subjects into court.

CO Sean Kehoe contacted five subjects fishing the Boardman River in Traverse City. Three of the subjects were ticketed for fishing in the closed section; they also were fishing with illegal gear. Two other subjects were ticketed for fishing within 300 ft. of the weir. CO Kehoe also ticketed two brothers for snagging on the Boardman; one of the brothers had been ticketed two years ago for the same violation.

CO Sam Koscinski received a complaint of bait on federal land in Wexford County. The CO located a tree stand that was baited with three bags of carrots and approximately one gallon of shelled corn. The hunter was ticketed for baiting deer when prohibited.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch gave a presentation regarding the baiting & feeding ban and general DNR law information at a trapper's gathering in Mesick.

CO Justin Vanderlinde contacted a large group of anglers from West Virginia who were snagging along the Betsie River in Benzie County. Six individuals were ticketed for snagging.

CO Ryan Rademacher was on salmon patrol in Newaygo County when he came upon subjects snagging on the Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette. He watched as the men purposely snagged three female fish, milk the eggs into a container and throw the fish into the brush. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells observed a very large fire behind a Newaygo County home at around 3:00 a.m. When he investigated he found a subject burning copper wire. The subject explained that burning so late at night was the best way to keep anybody from seeing the black smoke. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling in a remote Manistee County area when he observed a person walk out of the woods with a five gallon bucket. The person saw the CO and immediately put the bucket down and walked away from it. The person was contacted by CO Converse and it was determined that five gallons of corn had just been put down near the person's tree stand to be used as bait. A ticket was issued.

CO Brian Brosky received several complaints from a Forest Service law officer. The complaints turned into three baiting tickets being issued to persons in Mason County. One tip lead to the prosecution of a person for using his mother-in-law's kill tag on a deer he had taken with a bow.

CO Brian Brosky was working a foot patrol near Maple Leaf Landing in Mason County when he observed two subjects fishing with unlawful equipment. One was using an unbaited, oversized hook and the other was using a weight tied below the hook. The subjects were actively trying to snag fish. When contacted, the snaggers said that they thought it was legal to attempt to snag once per cast.

CO Soper was conducting an evening foot patrol along a small stream in Manistee County when she observed several subjects leaving with several salmon. CO Soper also noted that the anglers had left chairs and other related equipment behind. Instead of making contact she left the area and returned the next morning to find the same group fishing again. CO Soper watched as they snagged and retained foul hooked fish. The surveillance resulted in two tickets for snagging and four tickets for attempting to snag. Approximately 107 pounds of salmon were seized for restitution.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a subject for snagging on the Crystal River in Leelanau County. This was the sixth time the subject has been ticketed for snagging in several years.

Wildlife personnel at the Cadillac Operations Center were contacted by the Wexford County Health Department regarding a subject who had been bitten by a bear. The subject claimed he had climbed into a tree to check out a possible bow hunting location, when a sow bear with three cubs were observed. The sow bear climbed the tree and attacked the subject. The subject sustained severe injury to his left foot after the bear pulled off his boot. CO Jair Kollasch followed up on information provided from Wildlife Division. The result of the investigation and interview of the subject indicated that the subject was bow hunting without a license, trespassing, and baiting. The subject was also on probation and had violated his probation by being in possession of a weapon. It is thought that the bears were attracted to the area by the deer bait and that the sow was protecting that food source.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted a subject dumping trash on state land in Wexford County. The subject was also driving without a driver's license, in possession of a marijuana pipe and in violation of his probation. The subject was ticketed for littering and the CO contacted the subject's probation officer.

CO Jair Kollasch received a complaint of trespassing in Wexford County. The CO located two adults and a juvenile on the private property in question. The subjects were small game hunting, and did not return to their vehicle until long after dark. The subjects were also not wearing hunter orange. The two adults were ticketed for the hunter orange violation.

CO Diane Drogowski was finally able to contact a subject suspected in dumping materials on state land from a burned mobile home in Grand Traverse County. CO Drogowski met the subject at the site of the mobile home fire and observed several items at the site that matched the materials found dumped on state land. The subject was ticketed for litter.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chris Bowen responded to a complaint of waterfowl hunters shooting too close to a residence along the lake shore. The hunters were contacted and found to be shooting within the complainant's safety zone.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a complaint of heavy silt in a small creek. CO Hearn backtracked up the creek and located the source of the silt. Operations at a nearby county gravel pit were creating silt deposits in the creek. CO Hearn is working with DEQ on the investigation.

CO Chuck McPherson received information of a subject who had been shooting deer at night over a bait pile located behind a residence. The complainant reported that this had been going on for several years and provided detailed information on the many deer taken. The subject had just been arrested on criminal sexual conduct charges and was currently in jail. CO McPherson interviewed the subject who admitted to taking a deer illegally in 2004 and to having bait behind his residence at the present time.

CO Mike Hearn observed dark smoke and located a large unattended fire at a residence. The fire was composed of brush along with tires, chairs, a shower stall, and construction materials. The property owner was located and admitted to having started the fire and adding the solid waste materials.

CO William Cherry contacted two subjects who were shining for deer. The driver had an uncased bow in the vehicle and two bags of bait. The subject told the CO he was up north to hunt for the week but was not using the bait that had been given to him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of three subjects who were illegally taking wood from state land. Two of the three subjects had been previously ticketed for the same activity.

Conservation Officers Brian Olsen and Joel Lundberg investigated a complaint of a subject hunting without a license. The investigation revealed the subject had shot a deer without a license and then borrowed his wife's kill tag in an attempt to make it legal. Tickets were issued to the subject and his wife.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted a subject who had an untagged deer in his garage. The investigation revealed the subject had been ticketed last year for the same offense. The subject stated he might start tagging his deer now.

CO Tami Pullen stopped a vehicle that was shining and also discovered open intoxicants in the vehicle. When stopped, two occupants, who were intoxicated, got out and attempted to hide a loaded, uncased rifle under the vehicle. CO Pullen observed their actions and ticketed them for shining with a weapon.

CO Rebecca Hopkins stopped a vehicle for shining at 1:30 a.m. Before coming to a complete stop, the passenger threw a loaded SKS rifle out of the window. After getting the vehicle stopped, CO Hopkins observed blood all over the three occupants and the vehicle. Further investigation led to their house where CO Hopkins recovered three illegally killed gunshot deer. The subjects were out looking for a fourth deer to poach when CO Hopkins stopped them. Several arrests were made.

CO Brian Engelhard, while working fishing activity, observed a group of five individuals sharing a "cigarette". Upon contacting the subjects, CO Engelhard found them in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. Arrests were made.

DISTRICT 6

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a complaint at Nayanquing Point managed waterfowl area that a hunter had shot a swan. Upon investigation, several groups of hunters witnessed the incident and assisted the CO in identifying the hunter who said he thought it was a goose. A ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Holly Pennoni investigated a complaint of a cat getting caught in a foothold trap while trespassing on her property. CO Pennoni located the trapper and stopped him, and found 26 untagged traps in his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the waterfowl opener, Sgt Tony Soave and CO Joshua Wright checked a pair of hunters along the Saginaw Bay shore. When the hunters saw the COs approach, they drove off on ORVs they had in the cattails. Sgt. Soave ran after the ORVs while CO Wright checked the blind and found two empty gun cases. The COs located the subjects at a cabin and found that neither had purchased hunting licenses. Tickets were issued.

CO Joshua Wright drove up on a subject while patrolling one of the game areas and observed a subject throw a tire from his truck. Upon stopping the vehicle, the subject was found to have a load of trash, including more tires to dump. He was ticketed for littering.

On the opening day of waterfowl season, COs Robert Hobkirk and Scott Brown made 85 contacts and wrote six tickets for lead shot and late shooting.

COs Robert Hobkirk and Scott Brown checked a subject who shot a grieve and also had lead shot. The group of hunters also had an unregistered boat, no name on their blind, and no life jackets for their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Hobkirk and Scott Brown were on their way in from working the waterfowl opener when they observed a boat motoring rather slowly through a shallow area. CO Brown was able to get out of his boat and walk up to the boat faster than it was motoring. CO Brown found two loaded shotguns in the boat and a license violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a complaint of a safety zone violation. The Lake Huron beach front homeowner observed three hunters run down to the beach and shoot two geese standing on the beach. This all occurred within 200 feet of the homeowner's residence. The hunters claimed that another neighbor called them to come and shoot the nuisance geese.

CO Jason Smith and PCO Seth Rhodea worked the Sandusky State Game Area on the waterfowl opener and made 41 contacts, issued tickets for lead shot, and other waterfowl violations.

CO Jason Smith issued a bait ticket to a hunter on state land who also had no address on his tree stand. He also issued a ticket to a subject riding an ORV on the roadway in the Fish Point State Game Area.

CO Jason Smith investigated a complaint of two subjects taking a deer with a firearm. Upon investigating, CO Smith seized the deer and firearms and issued tickets to both violators.

COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson responded to a complaint of a group of goose hunters shooting geese south of M-20 prior to the opening of season. After contacting one of the subjects, it was determined that three geese were taken prior to the season. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the Maple River State Game Area at the close of hunting hours, CO Jeremy Payne heard two rapid shotgun blasts within 300 yards. Further investigation led to a hunter who fell into the river while attempting to climb a muddy bank with his firearm loaded. When he fell into the river the hunter's double barreled shotgun fired. The CO assisted the shaken hunter back to his camp and reiterated the importance of firearm safety.

CO Jay Person was patrolling State Game Area lands when he observed a motorcycle performing a wheelie down the middle of a county road. The CO turned around and attempted a traffic stop of the vehicle. The driver exceeded speeds of 100 mph before pulling to the shoulder. After stopping, the subject jumped to the ground in a prone position and started yelling that he was sorry and stupid. Subject was arrested for reckless driving.

While investigating a complaint of illegal baiting by a bow hunter, CO Larn Strawn located an illegal bait pile. A tree stand was placed over the bait and the CO observed a bow with an arrow still hanging in the tree. The CO returned to the bait pile later in the day and waited for the hunter to arrive. Later in the evening the hunter returned to the tree, climbed up to the stand and began the evening's hunt. The hunter was contacted and admitted to placing the bait earlier in the day. The hunter also said he knew baiting was illegal but thought he would not get caught because he has never before in his life been checked by a CO.

While patrolling the Crow Island State Game Area, CO Daniel Lee received a RAP complaint where the complainant witnessed a subject shoot a swan. The CO responded to the scene, located the subjects, located the swan in the cattails next to them, and obtained a confession. The swan was not the more common mute swan, a non-native species, but the native Trumpeter Swan, which is on Michigan's Threatened Species list. A ticket was issued.

CO Nick Atkin was patrolling back roads for poaching activity when he located a large fire burning. The CO looked at the fire with his binoculars and observed spray paint cans, paint cans, and plastic material in the fire. The CO contacted the subject, who was ticketed last year for illegal disposal of solid waste. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when a call came out through the local dispatch that a vessel had just capsized in the Saginaw Bay. The CO responded with other local law enforcement. All individuals in the capsized vessel were brought safely to shore and transported to the local hospital and treated for hypothermia.

CO Nick Atkin received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline stating that a subject was baiting on state land. The CO responded to the complaint and located a subject hunting over bait on state land. The hunter did not have any identification on his tree stand and had left the plastic bag from baiting last year in the woods. The subject stated that he drove a long way to hunt and wanted to see deer, so he baited even though he knew it was illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline stating that two subjects were cutting standing timber on state land. The CO followed up on the information given in the complaint and located the subjects. CO Atkin also found out that one of the individuals had numerous warrants for his arrest. CO Atkin, along with local sheriff's department deputies and MSP troopers, went to the residence where the individual lived. As the officers approached the residence, the subject fled on foot out the back door. The CO and the other officers apprehended the subject after a short foot chase and struggle, and he was lodged in the county jail.

COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson worked a complaint of geese that were taken out of season in the south zone. The COs received a complaint that a group of waterfowl hunters had taken geese in Shepherd then returned to north of Coleman where they were in season. When the subject was contacted, he stated that it seemed kind of odd he was the only one hunting in such a prime location. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late night shining patrol, COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson received a complaint at 1:00 a.m. regarding a suspicious light in someone's back yard. The COs spotted the light and followed it into the woods where they contacted a male subject dragging an untagged six point buck. The COs also followed a blood trail back to a tree stand where they discovered apples and sugar beets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson stopped a 14 year old operating an ORV on the road with no helmet or eye protection. The CO followed the subject back to his residence and issued the father a ticket for allowing minor to operate unsupervised.

While working a group patrol in the Maple River Flooding, CO Phil Hudson received a complaint that a swan had been spotted falling into the water after a gunshot. The CO contacted COs Jeremy Payne and Ken Lowell who responded to the area. CO Payne patrolled the dikes on his motorcycle and interviewed witnesses. CO Lowell brought a canoe and secured the parking area and also gathered information. CO Vicki Goss and CO Hudson used the canoe to gather evidence and interview witnesses. A pop can, cigarette butt, shell casings, and feathers were collected. Upon interviewing one witness, the COs obtained the name of a person who hunted the area and also smoked the same brand of cigarettes and drank the same kind of pop that the COs collected. COs Goss and Hudson followed the leads to Owosso where they obtained a confession. The subject drove back to Gratiot County and led the COs to the swan. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly investigated a complaint of a hunter shooting a canvasback duck in the Shiawassee River State Game Area. The subject shot at a flock of four canvasbacks and dropped two of them. One of the protected ducks landed in the blind of a different group of hunters. These hunters called in the complaint. During the interview the subject told the Sgt. that he thought they were pintail ducks. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 7

CO Patrick McManus worked closed streams in Allegan County for salmon activity, and ticketed five subjects for snagging, illegal gear, or closed stream violations in Swan Creek.

CO Gary Raak observed a subject along Swan Creek, a closed stream. He observed the subject, who had driven to the stream on a suspended license, take a salmon from the stream and he was found in possession of a cast net. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes received a case disposition this week from a case involving the killing of an eight point buck during the early antlerless season. The subject was fined \$1450 and had hunting privileges suspended for two years.

CO Zach Doss observed two subjects along a local Van Buren County stream using flashlights at night to locate salmon in the stream. One of the subjects was carrying an eight foot stick that had one end sharpened to a point. CO Doss observed the subject with the stick attempt to spear a fish and miss. Before the subject could try again, CO Doss grabbed the stick and contacted the subjects. All three had DNR priors for fish related violations. Tickets were issued.

CO Steve Mooney received a complaint from a group of archery hunters about possible illegal taking of fish. The hunters, while in their bow stand, observed a subject walking down the road carrying a spear near a local stream. With additional information from the hunters, CO Mooney tracked the subject to his residence where a speared fish was located and the subject confessed to taking it illegally.

CO Dave Rodgers worked heavy activity on salmon in tributaries to the Grand River resulting in 12 tickets for salmon snagging, including one subject who was lodged on seven outstanding arrest warrants.

CO Dave Rodgers worked the opening day of the Muskegon Waste Water managed waterfowl hunt and set up surveillance on one permitted field location that was especially productive on ducks and geese. CO Rodgers observed three hunters from an adjoining field swap out with the permitted hunters and also fill their limits in violation of their permit. When contacted, the hunters who hunted the field for which they had no permit informed CO Rodgers that their birds came from their permitted hunting location. When informed of the COs observations, the hunters admitted their wrongdoing. CO

Rodgers explained that other nearby hunters would be denied opportunities at working waterfowl due to their actions. The three hunters were ticketed for the managed area rule violations.

CO Greg Patten contacted a subject who was illegally baiting deer with shell corn. The subject stated that he always placed 100 pounds of shell corn at his hunting location on September 1 but due to the baiting ban only placed 50 pounds this year. The subject was ticketed for the baiting violation.

CO Steve Orange received a complaint from a subject who had confronted several subjects who had killed a buck at night while shining. The landowner recognized one of the subjects and provided this information to CO Orange. CO Orange was assisted by CO Ivan Perez who translated the interview and obtained a confession from one of the responsible subjects. It was determined that two of the deer poachers had left the country the day after the poaching incident. The remaining subject was ticketed for the illegal taking of a deer.

CO Ivan Perez responded to a trespass complaint at a local hunting club when one of the club members found the trespasser in his covered tree stand. CO Perez was able to locate a second trespasser on the property. The trespassers stated that they had been illegally entering the club property from some private property and only got caught when one of them used the stand in the rain. It was determined that one of the trespassers had killed an eight point buck earlier in the week on the club property. Both subjects were ticketed for the trespass violation and the deer was seized.

CO Ivan Perez checked a subject in possession of an undersized largemouth bass. The subject stated he had just caught the fish and was going to remove it from the bucket to measure it. CO Perez asked the subject how long the bass had to be to be legal. The subject stated he didn't know and was ticketed for the violation.

CO Chris Simpson and PCO John Sklba were checking bow hunters leaving the woods when PCO Sklba observed what appeared to be an untagged buck in the back of a pickup. When stopped, the subject exited the vehicle with a punched out restricted combination tag. The COs explained that the three point buck could not be tagged with the restricted tag and that the tag needed to be attached to the deer. The subject stated that he never used a combo tag before and that it was an honest mistake. A computer license check revealed that the subject had not only purchased combo tags before, it also showed that he had been illegally purchasing multiple firearm and archery tags. The subject was ticketed for the tagging violation.

DISTRICT 8

While working an ongoing complaint, CO Jason J. Smith contacted subjects taking over-limits of panfish on a local chain of lakes. One subject was 26 fish over the limit while another was 10 over. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a waterfowl hunting trespass complaint, CO Brad Brewer contacted two subjects as they were preparing to rally waterfowl. One subject was hunting without a plug in his gun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss contacted four different individuals who were found deer hunting illegally over bait. One of the subjects was hunting with a firearm, did not possess a hunting license and was trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince assisted MSP troopers with the recovery of an injured hawk. CO Prince obtained treatment for the hawk and it is expected to make a full recovery and be released back to the wild.

While checking anglers, CO Pete Purdy contacted a subject who was 18 bluegills over the limit and CO Rich Nickols contacted a subject who was 64 rock bass over the limit. Enforcement was taken in both instances.

CO Dan Bigger contacted a subject deer hunting who stated he left his hunting license in his vehicle. When arriving at the vehicle, the subject stated he couldn't find his keys and must have locked them in the vehicle. The subject admitted to hunting without a license when CO Bigger pointed out that one of the windows on his vehicle was rolled down. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger contacted a subject hunting in a tree stand over bait. After telling a few lies, the subject admitted to illegally using bait and failing to purchase a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith responded to a complaint of disorderly campers in a state forest campground. Upon contact, the subjects were found to be hunting waterfowl with no federal stamps, their guns were unplugged, they were in possession of lead shot, and they had been drinking alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

While on waterfowl patrol, CO Mark Ennett encountered a hunter with his decoys set up in the channel leading in to a local access site. The hunter was up on a dike belonging to the Corps of Engineers. The dike is amply posted against hunting and trespassing. When asked, the hunter verified that he was hunting in the channel and he was up on the dike trying to find a goose that he had just shot. CO Ennett questioned the wisdom of hunting in the channel with boating traffic present and the hunter stated that he didn't see the problem and that he had done it before. CO Ennett explained the potential dangers of hunting so close to other boating traffic and took enforcement action on the recreational trespass.

CO Mark Ennett and a Sterling State Park Officer checked areas of the state park for waterfowl hunters. During the patrol, the officers encountered a group of three anglers. One of the anglers had a bucket with several bluegills and three undersize smallmouth

bass. CO Ennett observed that some of the bluegills were larger than the two smaller bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft received a call from Station 20 with information that a state trooper had a van stopped on the road for running a stop sign. The vehicle was occupied by two individuals and, upon contact, the trooper noticed blood on the passenger's shoes and packaged meat in the back of the vehicle. CO Kieft made contact with the trooper and the subjects at the Groveland Post. There, CO Kieft interviewed the subjects, obtained verbal and written confessions to the possession of deer without valid hunting licenses. CO Kieft followed up the investigation at the subject's residence, where he seized two deer carcasses. Enforcement action was taken. Restitution and license revocation will be sought.

On the evening of the waterfowl opener, CO Kris Kiel worked in the Wetzel Recreation Area for late shooters. Approximately six minutes after the close of shooting hours, shots were fired from one of the ponds in the recreation area. CO Kiel made his way toward the pond and, after arriving, watched four subjects shoot over 100 times at a steady flow of incoming wood ducks. The subjects had to quit shooting only because they ran out of shells. Incredibly, only four ducks were shot, the last one at 23 minutes after the close of shooting hours. In addition to hunting waterfowl after hours, three of the four had unsigned federal migratory bird hunting stamps, one individual had no federal stamp, and one had an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken for hunting after hours and restitution will be sought for the four ducks. The subjects returned the following evening with an alarm set to their watches for the close of shooting hours.

While on opening day waterfowl patrol, COs Todd Szyska, Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau checked three duck hunters anchored in the reeds in Fisher Bay hunting over their decoys. One hunter had an unplugged shotgun, one hunter had an unsigned federal migratory bird stamp, and the third hunter had no licenses at all (no small game, no state waterfowl, no federal stamp). During the contact, the third hunter was also found to have two civil warrants. Enforcement action was taken on the game violations and the third hunter's friends were able to lend him \$300 to post bond on one of the warrants.

During an early morning patrol, CO Todd Szyska and PCO Mark Papineau encountered a subject in Wetzel State Park that was acting suspicious. At first, the subject had his vehicle parked in the middle of the road with his headlights on. Then the vehicle proceeded down the road, repeatedly slowing down and speeding up. Contact was made with the subject who advised the officers that he was a raccoon hunter and was looking for a beagle that he had lost in the game area. CO Szyska and PCO Papineau observed that the subject had an uncased .22 rifle in the truck. He also had pocket full of .22 shells as well as a spotlight on the floor boards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ron Pinson patrolled St. Johns Marsh during the opening weekend of the waterfowl opener, and contacted three hunters for hunting early. He recognized one of the

subjects as someone he issued a ticket to in 2006 for hunting after hours. Enforcement action was taken. CO Pinson reports he checked approximately 35 hunters with 45 birds on opening morning. Sunday evening in the marsh, CO Pinson stated he heard several alarms going off at exactly the end of legal hunting hours. As he checked the hunters coming out of the marsh, the subject he issued a ticket too opening morning for hunting too early was one of the subjects who set an alarm so he knew when to stop hunting.

CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Tom Wanless were working the St. Clair Flats for early shooters when they heard a shot approximately 15 minutes early within 150 yards of them. The COs were able to locate the subject standing on his dock. The subject stated he was shooting at a snake in the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was checking hunters the morning of the waterfowl opener at Harsens Island. One subject he contacted had two boxes of ammunition in his boat. One of the boxes had several lead shot in it underneath a row of steel shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich observed a large group of subjects setting up decoys in the early morning hours of the waterfowl opener. After watching the subjects hunt for awhile and hide some of the downed game, CO Borkovich contacted them. The six subjects had numerous violations including overlimit of geese, hunt with an unplugged firearm, and lead shot. One of the subjects who was ticketed for an overlimit of geese was ticketed by CO Borkovich four years prior for the same violation.

CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless worked the Lapeer State Game Area for late shooters on the opener of the waterfowl hunting season. CO Schwiderson contacted a subject after legal hunting hours who was in possession of a loaded firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ennett was investigating an ongoing RAP complaint that led to locating two waterfowl hunters at Sandy Creek, one adult and one juvenile. Their firearms were still loaded and actively calling ducks after legal hunting hours had passed, and the adult was also using an unplugged shotgun. A check of the license system revealed that the adult did not have any hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

Working a complaint of a person hunting deer over bait, CO Dan Walzak arrived on the scene to find a person in a tree stand. The stand was set up in a tree that was on Metropark property and the subject occupying the stand was dressed in camouflage clothing but had no hunting equipment. About 20 feet away from the tree was a small pile of corn. When CO Walzak asked the subject what he was doing, he answered that he was just standing there. The individual also stated that he was not hunting but he was looking around for a place to hunt. After the individual came down from the tree stand, CO Walzak took a look down the bank behind the tree and found the archery equipment that was dropped from the stand. At first the man denied ownership of the equipment but quickly change his story. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft encountered three young males exiting the woods on state land at the end of hunting hours. Two of the males, a fourteen-year-old and a sixteen-year-old, were in possession of .22 caliber firearms and stated they were small game hunting. The fourteen-year-old had no hunting license, the sixteen-year-old had no hunter orange clothing, and another young male, a seventeen-year-old, was just watching the other two hunt. CO Kieft waited with the youths near the edge of the road for about 10 minutes until their twenty-year-old cousin exited the woods from the opposite direction. He was archery hunting in a different location and "assumed the youths would be fine." A further check on the adult hunter revealed that he had never taken a hunter education course. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler responded to a baiting complaint where the subject tried to explain that the bag of corn on his ORV was for the squirrels. CO Scheidler escorted the subject to his blind where a large pile of carrots was located. Enforcement action was taken.