

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
10/5/09 – 10/18/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Marv Gerlach and Sgt. Pete Wright worked the pheasant opener in Menominee County. They contacted a subject parked on the edge of a field in his vehicle. It was soon discovered that he was in possession of a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. He received a ticket for the loaded firearm.

CO Jason Niemi and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted a group of archery hunters camped on CFA lands in southern Marquette County. Interviews were conducted when it was determined that a six point buck had been shot under suspicious circumstances. A short time later a confession was obtained in which a nonresident hunter had killed the deer and then tagged it with a borrowed resident license. Both of the involved parties were ticketed for the violation.

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling near the Gwinn area when he heard a chainsaw running on nearby property. He investigated and caught a subject cutting live oak trees for firewood. The subject was turned over to Marquette County Sheriff's deputies for prosecution.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted Dickinson County Sheriff's Department deputies with a trespass complaint. Two hunters were caught by a landowner trying to sneak out a spike buck they had just shot. The shooter had a combination license and was hunting in the upper peninsula making the spike buck illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho was patrolling on a forest trail when he came across a truck parked sideways in the road. A check with binoculars revealed a gun barrel sticking out of the driver's side window. Contact with the individual resulted in a ticket for the loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. The driver stated that it was a stupid thing to do to try and get a grouse.

CO Trey Luce and Sgt. Pete Wright worked the grouse decoy in an area known for road hunting. The first vehicle to come along had the passenger attempt to shoot the decoy out the window. Both subjects were ticketed for possessing and/or transporting a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt Marc Pomroy worked several areas of road hunting complaints. With the use of the grouse decoy, the COs arrested several individuals for violations, including loaded/uncased firearms in a motor vehicle, open intoxicants and no hunter orange.

CO Grant Emery ticketed the operator of an unregistered snowmobile who was taking advantage of the recent snowfall in early October.

CO Brett Gustafson and Sgt. Steven Burton were working Ontonagon County when the vehicle ahead of them started to swerve across the road. A stop of the vehicle found an uncased shotgun on the front seat. The driver admitted to seeing the CO vehicle and trying to case the gun while driving down the road. A ticket was issued for uncased firearm.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Gerald Thayer contacted a subject trapping game fish with oversized minnow traps. The subject was using the illegally taken perch and suckers as bait for trapping fur bearing animals. CO Thayer conducted a consent search of the subject's freezer and found multiple bags of frozen fish in excess of the possession limits. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill were checking waterfowl hunters on a local river in the Newberry area. While loading their patrol boat, the COs observed a motorboat with two people holding uncased guns in the front of the vessel. COs Miller and Hammill stopped their patrol vehicle just in time to watch the operator of the vessel steer into a group of ducks while the two young boys shot at ducks as they flew away. CO Miller issued a ticket for transporting a loaded firearm in a motorized vessel to the motorboat operator, while CO Hammill explained to the juveniles how dangerous their actions were.

CO Kevin Postma has been busy with snaggers in the eastern Upper Peninsula. CO Postma observed five men fishing in a closed section of trout stream snagging and retaining foul hooked fish. Contact was made and multiple tickets were issued for snagging and fishing in a closed section of stream. While attempting to clear the area, CO Postma watched a vehicle pull up along side the stream and quickly snag a fish. The subject put the fish in the trunk of his car and attempted to leave. CO Postma was able to catch the snagger before he left the area and issued him a ticket.

## **DISTRICT 3**

District 3 conservation officers continue to address illegal salmon fishing activity in the Cheboygan River. COs Mike Feagan and Matt Theunick issued several tickets for retaining foul-hooked fish and snagging. Anglers have been coming from as far away as Kentucky and West Virginia.

CO Mike Feagan responded to a complaint of trespassing on a large private parcel. CO Feagan located five subjects on the property. They admitted to crossing the fence behind the campground where they had been staying so they could look for elk. Tickets were issued.

Area COs continue to address illegal use of "No Wheeled Motorized Vehicle" trails. CO Eric Bottorff contacted two subjects and issued tickets. One subject admitted that other members of his family had received the same ticket in recent weeks.

CO Matt Theunick reports the adjudication of a case from last December, in which a hunter was found to have taken two bull elk. CO Theunick used interviews, photographs of the scene, and a bullet recovered from the carcass to obtain a confession from the hunter that he had shot multiple times and was unsure if all shots were at the same animal. The subject paid \$1500 in restitution and his licenses were revoked for the rest of this year and the next three years.

CO Rich Stowe received a marine emergency call from his local dispatchers, who were aware that his Great Lakes patrol boat was still in the water. A person on shore had observed a vessel that appeared to be in distress and taking on water near the Presque Isle Lighthouse. CO Stowe responded and located a very surprised angler who was not in distress but was trolling in very rough seas. CO Stowe received thanks from local authorities, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard, who would have taken several hours to respond.

While en route to an early morning elk patrol, CO Matt Theunick heard local radio traffic regarding a vehicle pursuit across the Mackinac Bridge and on southbound I-75. The vehicle had eluded units from other departments, reaching speeds in excess of 140 miles per hour. Shortly after other units had lost sight of the vehicle, CO Theunick observed a vehicle without rear lights on a county road. When he attempted to stop the vehicle to advise the driver, he recognized it as the suspect vehicle. A five-mile vehicle pursuit ensued, ending when the vehicle collided with a local police unit. The driver was arrested without further incident and was also found to be in possession of a stolen handgun.

CO Rich Stowe completed a lengthy investigation into a violation of disease control permits (DCPs). CO Stowe received a complaint that a farmer had harvested two large bucks under DCPs, and was not going to turn in the heads as required. CO Stowe was able to recover the heads of two deer, including an impressive nine point buck.

CO Joe Molnar observed two waterfowl hunters on Lake Winyah attempt to shoot at a flock of ducks that were flying in after legal shooting hours. He observed the subjects motoring around in their boat after shooting hours had ended and they shot at a couple of crippled birds. When CO Molnar contacted the hunters, one hunter did not have any of his licenses, all their guns were still loaded, and they did not have any navigation lights on their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt watched an angler fishing on the Boyne River using an illegal setup. He and his sister were throwing rocks at the salmon attempting to chase them into the hole where he was trying to snag the fish. CO Erratt approached and identified herself as a conservation officer and took the fishing rod. The angler reached for the rod and grabbed his line. CO Erratt told him three times not to break the line and the man still broke his line. He was ticketed for littering and warned for attempting to snag fish with an illegal setup.

CO Andrea Erratt observed several anglers snagging salmon on the Boyne River. As the group left they walked onto extremely well posted private property leaving their trash on shore. CO Erratt contacted the group as they left the posted property while walking by several "No Trespassing" signs. CO Erratt issued tickets for retaining foul hooked fish, fishing with illegal hooks, and recreational trespass. This same group had been ticketed last year on the same property for retaining foul hooked fish and recreational trespass.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint about an archery deer hunter trespassing on posted property in Horton Bay. She went to the property, met with the caretaker and checked a Jeep with one bow case inside. CO Erratt contacted one hunter who said his friend, who was hunting on the other side of the field, had received permission to hunt the property. The hunter who owned the Jeep admitted his friend had transported his uncased bow in the Jeep from his house to the field. CO Erratt walked across the field and checked the second hunter who had received permission to hunt the property, but the owner had failed to inform the caretaker. The second hunter was hunting with a crossbow, over bait, and he did not have his deer license with him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Depew was patrolling Otsego County when he located a parked vehicle. When he walked by the truck he could see bait bags in the back. He later contacted four archery deer hunters and all were baiting and one hunter was caring a pistol without a CPL license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Depew also had a complaint of someone taking wood off state land. He located the person cutting the wood on state land and the woodsman told him that he was given verbal permission by someone to cut the wood in that area. CO Depew advised him he needed a permit to remove the wood from state land. Investigation continues.

CO William Webster received a RAP complaint about four people snagging at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street dam in Alpena. CO Webster contacted CO Brian Engelhard to assist with the complaint. After an hour of observation, the anglers were contacted. All the anglers were using illegal gear and they had retained five fish not hooked in the mouth. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint regarding a whitetailed deer taken with a firearm during the archery only season. CO DePew interviewed one of the subjects and determined who the shooter was. CO DePew then interviewed the shooter who took CO DePew to the illegal deer which had been buried at an oil well site. The subject stated that the deer had been shot over bait with a .22 caliber rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar, while working state land, located a large baited area for deer. CO Molnar revisited the site during archery deer season and found a hunter hunting over

the baited area. The hunter explained he had not put out the bait and on the way to his tree stand came across it and decided to hunt it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt observed an angler snag a salmon in the tail and put it on a stringer. She contacted him as he left and ticketed him for retaining a foul hooked fish. He then asked CO Erratt if it was illegal to fillet your fish on the river. When CO Erratt responded yes, he told her about two anglers who had filleted their salmon and thrown the carcass over the fence onto posted property. CO Erratt contacted the other anglers as they left with a bag of salmon fillets. They returned to the dam and picked up the salmon carcass they had thrown onto private property. CO Erratt ticketed the anglers for possessing mutilated fish on the water and warned them for littering.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint about a deer hunter baiting deer with a molasses and corn block. CO Erratt checked the tree stand and located a son hunting with his father. The father admitted to putting out more bait, and neither father nor son had purchased a deer license. CO Erratt ticketed the father for baiting deer and warned the 11 year old son for hunting deer without a license. Last year the father had told CO Erratt about a hunter baiting deer near the location where he hunted with a firearm.

CO Duane Budreau watched an angler snagging salmon on a small stream in Emmet County. The snagger would snag a salmon and hand the pole over to his wife. After awhile, CO Budreau contacted the subjects and ticketed the male angler. The subject has been ticketed several times in the past for the same offense.

CO Steve Speigl ticketed two subjects on the Jordan River who were fishing on a closed stream and catching salmon by hand.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Mike Borkovich apprehended ten subjects who were snagging and retaining foul hooked salmon while fishing on the Crystal River. Fifty-three salmon were seized and given to needy families in the community.

CO Mike Borkovich caught two men with an illegal buck deer, seized the animal and issued appearance tickets. Both men had been ticketed by CO Borkovich on January 1, 2009 for killing an illegal spike horn buck with a muzzleloader and claiming that it was a last-minute/last day of the season bow kill.

CO Mike Borkovich patrolled the Federal Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore property for deer shiners and stopped a vehicle while shining with a bow and arrows in possession.

CO Sam Koscinski apprehended a subject who was illegally baiting for deer in Wexford County. Along with the baiting violation, the subject had five other DNR violations including hunting without a license and no name or address affixed to his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken along with several verbal warnings for the other five violations.

Volunteers traveled from several locations in lower Michigan to Tippy Dam in Manistee County to assist COs from the Cadillac District with the annual River Watch patrol. The patrol is designed to allow concerned citizens to participate in protecting the spawning salmon in the Big Manistee River from persons attempting to take them by snagging or other unlawful methods. The volunteer teams assisted in the apprehension of several persons taking fish with snagging gear and retaining foul hooked fish. This is the ninth consecutive year that the patrol has taken place.

CO Jim Espinoza was at a Mason County residence when he observed a pile of bait placed near the edge of the yard. No one was home at the time, so CO Espinoza took pictures of the bait and left. While he was taking pictures the neighbor came up to speak with him. Later that week, he returned to the residence to find that the bait had been cleaned up. The homeowner admitted to having placed the bait after being shown the photographic evidence.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint from a Mason County resident that a person was bow hunting over a pile of pears and corn. After a couple attempts, CO Espinoza was able to contact the hunter in his tree stand. When asked, the hunter stated he didn't think a little baiting would hurt, and further he does it every year regardless of what the law says.

CO Angela Greenway received information from a Lake County resident regarding a person who was at the local bar bragging about bow hunting without a license and killing a fox while bow hunting. CO Greenway visited the subject's house and obtained a confession. The fox was seized and a ticket was issued.

CO Jeff Ginn, Newaygo County, went in to check a remote lake at dark. When CO Ginn arrived, he witnessed four vessels operating with no navigation lights. He stopped all four vessels for the navigation light violations, found one vessel with two subjects fishing without licenses and one vessel operator who had failed to provide PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn of Newaygo County was working an evening patrol when he observed a large glow in the sky above an abandoned sawmill. CO Ginn went to investigate and found that a subject was in the process of burning 300 tires at this facility and had an additional 300 to burn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to an area on federal land in Newaygo County where illegal woodcutting was possibly occurring. When CO Ginn arrived, he found a subject operating an ORV with no helmet and carrying a chainsaw. When the subject observed him, he fled on the ORV. CO Ginn was able to set up a perimeter with the help of other local law enforcement and after searching the area, they found the subject had hidden the ORV and gone to a residence. They located the subject and investigation revealed the chainsaw was stolen. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a bait complaint in Newaygo County, CO Jeff Ginn was able to walk up to a spin-cast feeder while it was actively spreading corn. Upon checking the stand

associated with it, he located a hunter who did not have a deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller, Osceola County, responded to a complaint of a bait pile which happened to be in the same location where he had contacted a subject the year prior for baiting. The subject who had been given a verbal warning last year didn't take CO Mueller seriously, and again proceeded to bait there. CO Mueller contacted the individual at his residence and also found an untagged six point buck hanging in the garage. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Troy VanGelderren and Jim Espinoza worked a snagging patrol in Oceana County and found five subjects snagging and in possession of 17 snagged salmon. One subject had been ticketed the week prior by CO Espinoza for the violation. A second subject wasn't able to produce any licenses and the COs were unable to confirm his identity. Enforcement action was taken, and two subjects were lodged and are subsequently being deported for being illegal aliens in this country.

CO Troy VanGelderren, Oceana County, stopped to speak with two subjects at a public access on the White River. After the subjects parted ways with the CO, they went downstream to fish. CO VanGelderren decided to walk the river in the heavy rain to check the fishing activity, only to find the two subjects he had just contacted snagging. CO VanGelderren approached them and asked why they would be snagging right after he had contacted them, and they responded that they didn't think he would be out in the pouring rain. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren, Oceana County, responded to a bait complaint and found an active bait pile, a blind with no name, and a fresh blood trail. CO VanGelderren walked closer to the blind and a doe jumped up with an arrow stuck in the hindquarters. CO VanGelderren then went back to the roadway and waited until two subjects showed up. CO VanGelderren approached the subjects and one admitted to shooting the deer from the baited blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Bomay, Mecosta County, responded to a complaint of a deer carcass dumped in a local lake. CO Bomay located the subject who had disposed of the deer and found that he had both of his licenses in his possession and had not tagged the deer that he had shot three days prior. A LEIN check also revealed that the subject had a warrant for his arrest for a prior assault. CO Bomay took the subject into custody and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, responded to a bait complaint where a husband and wife were both hunting over bait piles. When CO Wells asked for licenses, only the husband had purchased a current license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, stopped a motor vehicle for traveling without lights. When CO Wells approached he observed a deer in the vehicle. CO Wells checked the

tag on the deer and found that the subject had failed to immediately validate the tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, was traveling a two-track road when he saw a vehicle pulled off to the side. He walked up to the vehicle and observed a large spotlight inside. CO Wells ran the vehicle license plate and found that the registered owner had purchased too many deer licenses. CO Wells decided to wait for the subject and watched as two individuals came out of the woods with bows and put them into the vehicle without casing them. CO Wells stopped the vehicle and the driver informed him he had purchased an additional license because he had lost his first one. CO Wells also addressed the uncased bows and enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Chuck McPherson walked up on a subject who was using a chainsaw on state land to cut a shooting lane for firearm deer season.

CO Chris Bowen contacted a hunter participating in the special disabled firearm hunt. The subject was driving around on state land with a loaded rifle in his vehicle. The hunter said he was scouting state land for a place to hunt during the special season. That particular hunt was for private land only.

CO William Cherry was patrolling on a two-track and pulled to the side to let a vehicle go by that was following a hunting dog running on the two-track. The vehicle stopped before reaching CO Cherry's vehicle and two subjects jumped out with uncased shotguns and began to unload the firearms by racking out the shells. CO Cherry stopped them before they had a chance to finish. The subjects told the CO they were hunting squirrel. CO Cherry asked the hunters why they were not wearing hunter orange and the driver stated he has not worn hunter orange to hunt small game in 40 years.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz patrolled an area in Kalkaska County where there were complaints of road hunters shooting deer at dusk. CO Liestenfeltz contacted occupants of a vehicle who were shining and located two uncased bows in the vehicle. The hunters told the CO it was difficult to put the bows in a case after they had hunted that day. One hunter only had an antlerless deer license for a DMU in southern Michigan.

CO Bobbi Lively was contacted by a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper who had arrested a subject on a warrant and observed an untagged deer in the subject's possession. CO Lively interviewed the subject who told the CO who the deer belonged to. The subject was located and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn contacted three dirt bike operators running through a wetland on state land. The subjects were operating in an area closed to ORV operation and two of them were operating while their licenses were suspended.

Sgt. Jean Davis and CO Matt Liestenfeltz contacted two subjects shining a field in a remote area of state land. The subjects had two rifles in the front seat, open beer and marijuana in the vehicle, and fresh blood in the bed of the truck. CO Liestenfeltz talked to the subjects who told the CO they had an untagged deer at their residence. Once at the residence, CO Liestenfeltz located a second untagged deer and bait scattered behind the residence.

CO Bobbi Lively contacted two subjects out shining on state land. The subjects told CO Lively they were predator hunting. The subjects were drinking beer in the truck, had marijuana in the vehicle, and the driver had warrants for his arrest.

CO Brian Olsen watched subjects snagging for about an hour. The subjects were unable to land any fish but did receive tickets.

CO Brian Olsen also issued a ticket to a nonresident angler who had purchased resident licenses.

CO Warren MacNeill encountered a subject hunting with a crossbow contrary to the requirements and also hunting over bait.

CO Warren MacNeill heard shots coming from a nearby piece of property. He located the source of the shots and found three vehicles with four uncased guns. The subjects were hunting pheasants they had released, but did not have a shooting preserve license. Education was provided to the subjects and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hopkins issued a ticket to a waterfowl hunter who was hunting over bait with an unplugged shotgun and was using lead shot.

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted in locating a missing older male suffering with dementia. The MSP dog handler and an Alcona County Sheriff's deputy located the subject in a thick swamp – deep in water and mud. The officers had trouble assisting the man out of the swamp and navigating the thick brush and mud. They asked for assistance and provided GPS coordinates. CO Hopkins utilized her GPS to locate the officers and assisted with the elderly man who had been missing for six hours and turned him over to the awaiting ambulance.

COs Becky Hopkins and Tami Pullen watched three subjects who were snagging salmon. CO Hopkins watched one of them hide the fish in the woods within 10 feet of her location. The COs contacted the subjects who then broke their lines and denied snagging. All three subjects were ticketed and the fish were seized.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Ken Lowell was working opening day of waterfowl season on a private pond next to state land. His check of the first group of duck hunters produced three unplugged guns and two hunters without federal waterfowl stamps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell located a hunter on state land hunting over bait. The hunter also made use of screw in tree steps on state land and had no name on his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee responded to a reported bait pile and located an elevated box blind in a stand of mature pine trees. In a clearing in front of the blind and between the towering pine trees, was a newly planted sapling apple tree, no more than six feet tall. Under the apple tree was bushel sized pile of nice sized apples. The hunter in the blind indicated the apples must have come from the apple tree. The CO then pointed out the grocery store sticker on one of the apples. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the area marshes for duck hunters, CO Dan Lee contacted two hunters who indicated they had done well, bagging three blue bills and one hen mallard. The CO checked and found both hunters using unplugged guns. The CO then inspected the birds, which were in an unregistered motorboat, and found that the hunters had bagged three coots and one blue wing teal. A short course on duck ID was given.

CO Phil Hudson was on foot patrol when he found a subject hunting in a safety zone and over bait. A little further down the property line another hunter was also hunting over bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss spent many hours following up on recreational trespass complaints. Four complaint and warrants were submitted to the prosecutor on deer hunters trespassing and two waterfowl hunters were issued appearance tickets for trespassing.

CO Nick Atkin responded to multiple complaints of bait on state and private land. The bait piles were all located with subjects hunting over the bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Nick Atkin and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly located a subject baiting on state land. During the investigation, the subject was found to not have his name or address attached to his tree stand, he was hunting without a license, trespassing on railroad property, and in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was working the opener of waterfowl season when he received a complaint that a hunter shot two swans. The CO searched the area and located a hunter matching the description given by the complainant. The subject was interviewed and a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly were on their way to the Shiawassee State Game Area during the early morning hours when they encountered a pickup truck upside down in the ditch on the side of the road. The COs made sure there were no occupants in the vehicle and contacted the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department. Later that afternoon, CO Foerster was contacted by the deputies who stated that they had found a male deer with the antlers cut off in the bed of the pickup truck when it was uprighted. CO Foerster followed up and received a full confession from the vehicle

owner. The owner had shot the deer several days prior during the bow season without buying a 2009 deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was contacted by a township police officer regarding a complaint of a deer that had been shot, untagged and tied to a tree with electrical wire. The CO arrived on scene and determined that it appeared as if the deer was put out as coyote bait for the residence on the opposite side of the river. The CO asked the officer if he could make his way to the residence while he continued the investigation of the deer. When the township officer got to the residence, he encountered a subject frantically loading rifles and a bow into his pickup truck and secured the subject until CO Foerster arrived. There was blood on the drive, in the garage, and in the bed of the pickup truck. A full confession was received for the illegal deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was driving down the road when he observed a subject in a driveway of a residence breasting a large number of ducks and geese. The CO contacted the subject, who was in possession of 11 ducks and two geese. The CO asked the subject to separate the mallards into two piles, drakes and hens. The subject complied and made two piles consisting of six drakes and two hens, which would have been a legal two day bag limit. The CO then asked the subject why he quickly buried a third hen into the drake pile counting it as a drake. The subject admitted to shooting an overlimit of hen mallards and apologized for trying to cover it up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright worked the south zone waterfowl opener and enforced camping regulations at the Fish Point Waterfowl area that have been largely violated for several years by a specific group of hunters. The camping area has been monopolized by the same group year after year. Several tickets were issued by CO Wright and several positive comments were received from other regular hunters to the game area.

CO Jason Smith worked a large beaver pond on the south zone waterfowl opener with Sgt. Tony Soave. CO Smith received complaints of wood duck overlimits being taken the year prior. Several contacts were made and tickets were issued for possession of non-toxic shot and licensing violations.

While working waterfowl hunters at Fish Point managed game area, CO Jason Smith heard shots that came from the south and were well after legal shooting hours ended. Upon investigating, CO Smith located three ORVs coming out of the parcel of property believed to be where the shots came from. The hunters were not wearing helmets and two of the three ORV operators had uncased shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni received a RAP complaint regarding waterfowl hunters who had placed decoys out on the Great Lakes during restricted hours. CO Pennoni set up on the group and watched them shoot early on the opening day of waterfowl season. The group of hunters stated they had the decoys out early and pulled them in when other hunters passing by yelled at them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni was assisted by the MSP with the investigation of an accidental shooting involving an individual on a farm in a rural area. CO Pennoni located and obtained a confession from a subject who had shot his rifle in the direction of the victim that was hit by the stray bullet. Physical evidence has also been obtained by CO Pennoni and has been submitted to the MSP crime lab for tests. The investigation has been submitted to the local prosecutor for review of possible charges pending lab test results. The incident does not appear to be hunting related.

CO Holly Pennoni contacted a group of goose hunters during the waterfowl opening weekend who were in possession of unplugged guns, lead shot, hunting while intoxicated, and no hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni contacted two hunters coming out of the woods carrying bows. The hunters stated to CO Pennoni that someone had stolen their ground blind and placed bait around the area they were hunting on state land. CO Pennoni located the bait and issued a ticket to one hunter for not having a valid deer hunting license.

While patrolling the Minden SGA, CO Seth Rhodea checked an area that had been baited the prior fall. CO Rhodea contacted a hunter who had just dumped out a backpack full of carrots, apples, and corn. Other violations that CO Rhodea addressed with the hunters were litter from the bait bags scattered throughout their hunting area and tree stands without the hunters' names or addresses. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Patrick McManus ticketed two hunters for hunting before hours and lead shot. He found a minor with an unplugged firearm but he had the plug in possession. CO McManus warned the minor and showed him how to put the plug in.

CO Jeff Rabbers worked an ongoing late shooting complaint that he worked on last year. He found three subjects shooting 25 minutes after hours. When they were contacted, CO Rabbers found that all of the subjects had been drinking and one subject had two guns. The illegal waterfowl were seized and all ticketed for late shooting.

CO Jeff Rabbers responded to a report of a subject who fell from a tree while hunting on the Barry/Calhoun County line. The subject was hunting without a license.

CO Chuck Towns was busy with waterfowl and snagging complaints. CO Towns found two late night snaggers at the Allegan Dam. One subject had eight prior arrests for snagging, and one had a warrant for his arrest.

CO Ken Cerny contacted two separate hunting parties in St. Joseph County. Both groups had taken a Grebe while hunting waterfowl. Since there is no season for Grebes, enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike McGee contacted a hunter with a wild turkey in the Warren Dunes State Park. The hunter failed to tag the turkey and validate his kill tag. Action was taken.

Just prior to the waterfowl opener in Van Buren County, COs Zach Doss and Steve Mooney received a complaint of an individual baiting for waterfowl. The COs checked the site and documented a large quantity of bait and birds. COs Doss, Mooney and Chuck Towns worked the complaint on the waterfowl opener. The COs observed and videotaped five waterfowl hunters taking ducks and geese with the aid of the bait. When the hunters had finished they had taken 11 geese and 10 ducks. All birds were illegally taken over bait. One of the hunters has a past offense for baiting waterfowl.

CO Zach Doss reports that a subject convicted of bow hunting deer over bait was sentenced to five days in jail, paid \$175 in fines and costs, and had his hunting privileges revoked for 10 years. This subject has numerous prior DNR violations; several of them for baiting. He also has had his hunting privileges revoked and has been caught hunting while revoked.

CO Steve Orange assisted the Kent County Sheriff's Department with an illegal deer investigation. A subject shot a buck in a field at night with the aid of a spotlight. A neighbor of the landowner witnessed the poaching incident and attempted to obtain the violator's license plate number as he drove off. As the subject fled the scene, he was unable to negotiate a curve in the road and crashed his vehicle into a tree. CO Orange seized a 7mm rifle and spotlight and a seven point buck was recovered from the farmer's field. The subject was lodged in the county jail by the sheriff's deputies for operating under the influence and charges are pending for the illegal killing of the deer.

COs Ivan Perez and Chris Simpson investigated a deer baiting complaint and located a tree stand overlooking a large bait pile. While trying to determine the responsible party, one of the COs located a name and address from the stand. The COs then located a wheelbarrow track near the bait and leading away from the bait pile. The COs followed the wheel track to a residence that also matched the address from the stand. With this information it was a short interview that concluded with a confession for illegally placing bait for deer.

CO Chris Simpson was returning home after a late night patrol when he observed a vehicle with no lights on backed up to the Muskegon River. CO Simpson turned around and contacted a subject loading a small boat and fishing equipment. When asked about his fishing success, the subject stated he had caught a couple of catfish. As CO Simpson was checking the boat, he observed the subject attempting to conceal a plastic bucket. CO Simpson recovered three short smallmouth bass from the bucket that the subject failed to mention.

CO Greg Patten received a complaint that a subject had shot a deer with a firearm that morning. CO Patten responded to the subject's address and observed a pickup backed up to a pole barn next to the residence. After failing to locate anyone at the residence, CO Patten checked the vehicle and pole barn. The pickup truck was still dripping water

from a recent washing. The subject was located inside the pole barn skinning out the illegal deer. CO Patten determined that the deer was shot from inside the residence and located a gun rest at a window overlooking two bait piles in the back yard.

CO Greg Patten responded to a RAP complaint of a subject who had killed a bear while bow hunting for deer. CO Patten went to the subject's residence and was informed that the subject was not home; and the homeowner denied knowing anything about a bear. A young girl at the house stated that there was indeed a bear and pointed in the direction of the garage. CO Patten recovered the salted hide of the bear and met with and interviewed the hunter. The subject stated he only shot the bear because it charged him. CO Patten observed that the entry wound of the arrow was from above and just back from the head. The illegal bear hide was seized and turned over to CO Jim Espinoza for follow up in Lake County.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols checked an area where illegal bait was placed on state land in 2008 and located a subject hunting over illegal bait again this year. The subject stated that he only had a 2008 hunting guide so he thought it was legal to hunt over the large quantity of bait he placed. The subject was hunting in a tree stand with screw in tree steps and no name attached. Enforcement action was taken.

While purchasing pumpkins at a local farm market, CO Dan Prince observed a subject purchase several hundred pounds of corn and carrots. CO Prince's investigation led him to numerous baited tree stands and an active spin cast feeder on adjoining property. Enforcement action was taken.

While working waterfowl activity, COs Shane Webster and Kyle Bader located subjects hunting with unplugged guns, without personal flotation devices in the boats, and without the proper hunting licenses or waterfowl stamps. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau, COs Shane Webster and Dan Bigger responded to numerous complaints about subjects hunting over bait. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

COs Kyle Bader and Jeff Goss contacted individuals who shot deer prior to purchasing hunting licenses. The COs investigations led them to subjects who confessed to committing the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a complaint from the local park officer that there were four subjects in the park who "were shooting everything in sight". CO Nickols responded to the scene and contacted the subjects walking through the park, carrying shotguns. When CO Nickols asked the subjects what they were "hunting" they replied "just some birds". The "birds" that they pulled out of their pockets were protected song birds and included 12 robins, six warblers, three song sparrows, two red-winged

blackbirds, two cardinals and one downy woodpecker. The subjects were also hunting in a closed area of the park and had not taken the required hunter safety class. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a complaint, CO Dan Bigger contacted a subject trespassing who was trying to hide from him. The trespasser's camouflage disguise might have worked except for the white boots he was wearing. Enforcement action was taken.

While CO Pete Purdy was working at the local park he heard two ORVs operating in the closed area. CO Purdy contacted the operators of the unlicensed dirt bikes, one of whom was operating on a suspended license. When asked how they got into the state park undetected the subjects admitted that they operated on the roadway, trespassed on private property, and operated illegally on railroad property to gain access to the park. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Mark Ennett worked the Pointe Aux Peaux SGA and contacted numerous waterfowl hunters. One group of hunters, a father and son, had three violations. The father did not have a federal waterfowl stamp or Michigan Waterfowl hunting license, and the son didn't have a plug in his shotgun. CO Ennett issued a ticket to the father and gave warnings to the son. Another group of hunters included a father, son, and the son's friend. The father didn't have a small game license, the son didn't have a federal waterfowl stamp or a Michigan waterfowl hunting license, and the friend had no federal waterfowl stamp. The youths were 16 years old; CO Ennett gave warnings to the youths and issued a ticket to the father for no small game license. CO Ennett told the group that if he had added all of their licenses together it would only equal one legal hunter.

CO Jonathan Sklba doubled up with CO Dan Walzak for a waterfowl patrol concentrating on checking duck hunters at Pointe Mouillee. The COs contacted a hunter who was in possession of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken. The subject had been written a ticket by CO Dan Walzak for the same violation back in 2001.

During the duck season opener, CO Jonathan Sklba responded to a complaint of safety zone violation and trespass on private land. CO Sklba arrived at the end of shooting hours and walked in on the subjects hunting. CO Sklba observed one hunter calling at the birds with his gun cased and slung over his shoulder, and two additional hunters shooting at the ducks. CO Sklba contacted the hunters and issued a ticket to the caller for aiding and abetting shooting after hours, and the other two hunters for hunting after hours.

CO Dan Walzak patrolled the Pointe Mouillee SGA the night before waterfowl opener. CO Walzak made numerous contacts with waterfowl hunters breaking the SGA use rules by trying to get the jump on other hunters. Nine different subjects were ticketed

for occupying the area between 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. All hunters were asked to pick up and leave the area.

While checking hunters in the Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Danny Walzak encountered two small game hunters in possession of lead shot shells. One of the hunters also had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Danny Walzak responded to a complaint of two subjects unlawfully hunting in the managed area at Pointe Mouillee. The area is amply posted with signs stating that entry is not allowed without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

Working on information of subjects hunting waterfowl after hours, CO Danny Walzak contacted two individuals with loaded firearms 15 minutes after legal hunting hours. While checking the firearms and ammunition, CO Walzak found that one of the hunters had an extra firearm that was loaded in the blind. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters, CO Danny Walzak observed a vessel coming in off the water well after sunset without navigation lights and three persons in the boat. As he was checking the hunting equipment, CO Walzak observed two cased firearms and asked if there were any more. The owner of the vessel replied that there were only two shotguns. Checking for plugs, the vessel owner's 12 gauge shotgun was found to be plugged. One of the passengers told CO Walzak he didn't have to check his shotgun, which was also a 12 gauge, because there was not a plug in it. CO Walzak confirmed that there was no plug. Checking ammunition, the CO found a box of 20 gauge ammunition. When asked about the 20 gauge shot shells, the second hunter stated that his friend, the third subject was using them. CO Walzak asked for the third shotgun and it was brought out from under a bag of decoys wrapped in a bed sheet. A check of the firearm found it to be unplugged, also. Contacting the third subject, who had been sitting his car, CO Walzak found that he did not have a small game license, a waterfowl hunting license, or a federal migratory bird hunting stamp. According to the subject, his friends told him that he couldn't hunt without licenses but he decided to do it anyway. Enforcement action was taken on all violations.

CO Brandon Kieft contacted an archery hunter on private land in Oakland Township. The hunter did not have his license on him when contacted by CO Kieft. A computer license check revealed the subject did not have a deer hunting license for 2009. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a safety zone violation on Lake Waumegah. When he checked the hunters he found they were being guided by a "waterfowl guide" for their hunt. The safety zone was not determinable; however, the guide was in possession of lead shot, a second hunter had no hunting licenses and an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Kieft, Ben Shively, and Kris Kiel conducted an investigation on an Oxford Township resident who was hunting while his hunting privileges were revoked. While watching from a secluded area, CO Shively observed the subject's vehicle pull into a nearby driveway. The subject, who was dressed in full camouflage, parked the vehicle, quickly exited, and ran into a wooded area, posted "No Trespassing." COs Shively and Kieft tracked the subject on foot, and when the subject attempted to "double-back" CO Kiel caught him along the roadway. Although the subject admitted he had no permission to be on the property, he denied hunting. The subject showed CO Kiel a digital camera and claimed to be photographing wildlife. However, while searching the woods, the COs located archery equipment and bait. Warrants are being sought for the violations.

CO Ben Shively was working a complaint when he walked into a baited stand on private property near Proud Lake. The subject had a camouflage PVC pipe filled with shelled corn and was hunting over the device. CO Shively contacted the subject hunting over bait and issued a ticket.

While conducting surveillance for shining activity, CO Ben Shively observed a vehicle whose occupants were lighting cigarette lighters. CO Shively noted continued lighter activity in the vehicle and contacted a MSP trooper. When the trooper arrived they contacted the occupants of the vehicle, who were lighting their marijuana pipes. Both subjects were in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Brandon Kieft have been busy working on a complaint of a subject hunting while revoked. The subject was arrested by COs Shively and Kieft in 2007 for taking a deer during the closed season. The COs responded to the property in hopes of catching the subject. After walking the property, COs Shively and Kieft contacted the subject hunting in a tree stand with a crossbow. Further investigation revealed several bait piles of corn and apples that the subject was hunting over. Enforcement action was taken.

Responding to a complaint of a dead deer on a neighbor's property, CO Ben Shively located a dead eight point whitetail deer. It was obvious to the CO that the deer had been killed by a bow. CO Shively followed the blood trail, which led him to a lighted bait pile behind a neighboring house. CO Shively contacted the subject and obtained a confession. The subject admitted to shooting the deer at 10:30 p.m. and had no licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel, while working on baiting issues, walked in on a hunter on private land who was hunting over approximately 200 pounds of corn, carrots, and apples. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska worked the waterfowl opener and contacted numerous hunters on Lake St. Clair. Three different groups hunting on different parts of Lake St. Clair were found to be in possession of toxic shot (lead). Enforcement action was

taken. Numerous warnings were also given throughout the patrol ranging from unsigned federal stamps to possession of more than one shotgun while waterfowl hunting.

CO Kris Kiel was able to close out one of his ongoing baiting complaints near Hall Road. CO Kiel walked in and found a subject hunting over a freshly maintained bait pile. The subject was upset about being caught but was excited to show CO Kiel a photograph of the nine point buck he harvested in the same spot last year. Enforcement action was taken.

While doing a routine deer processor inspection CO Kris Kiel discovered a whitetailed deer with an unvalidated kill tag on it. CO Kiel was able to track down the subject who had harvested the deer and issued a ticket.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint from the MSP of a deer trapped in a swimming pool in Novi. CO Szyska arrived on scene and the homeowner was able to successfully remove the deer from the deep end by prodding it with the pool skimmer. Sgt. Arthur Green also arrived on scene to assist. The deer removed itself without incident.

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless worked a waterfowl baiting complaint on the waterfowl opener in Genesee County. The subjects placed a couple feeding platforms in the middle of the Shiawassee River and spread cracked corn on them. After witnessing the four subjects shoot several times at wood ducks, the COs contacted the subjects and took enforcement action.

While checking an illegal deer baiting complaint, CO Mark Papineau observed a vehicle pulling out of the woods across the road from his location. When the operator of the vehicle saw the CO, he had a worried look on his face as he was leaving. CO Papineau checked the property and found a large corn spreader full of corn and corn all over the ground in front of a blind. CO Papineau's investigation led him to a residence where the owner and the vehicle in the driveway appeared to be the same as those the CO saw on the wooded parcel the previous day. The owner admitted it was him and that he was baiting for deer. He also stated that the corn feeder had been removed because he saw a picture on his trail camera of CO Papineau taking photos of the illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau responded to RAP baiting complaint for deer. The bait consisted of a bag of corn, a bag of apples, a bag of carrots, and a salt block. CO Papineau contacted the subject who stated he had plans to hunt over the bait in November. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless conducted an early morning marine patrol for waterfowl hunters on Lake Ponemah in Genesee County. Several groups were contacted; however, success rates were down. In one group that was contacted, one of

the subjects did not have a state waterfowl license and an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken. Several marine safety violations were also addressed.

CO Linda Scheidler was following up on a RAP complaint regarding illegal deer baiting when a subject informed her of another illegal bait pile. When she followed up on that complaint, she found a subject hunting in a raised platform above the bait with a crossbow. He stated that he did not think apples were considered bait and that he put them out to feed the birds. Then he admitted that the deer were feeding on them too. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed a fresh looking partially processed deer in the back of a pickup truck, parked in a driveway. The COs pulled in and were met by the property owner who got the hunter out of bed. After talking with the hunter, it was determined there was no kill tag on the deer. The hunter admitted he did not tag the deer and was planning on re-using the kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach set up on a group of waterfowl hunters. While he was watching them, he observed them shoot at and missed a Sandhill crane. The subjects also were shooting at waterfowl well after the end of legal hunting hours. When CO Kovach contacted the subjects, they were also in possession of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a complaint of a group of subjects who had taken a sturgeon illegally in the Algonac area. As the subjects were leaving, the vehicle was stopped. The subjects allowed CO Kovach to search the vehicle and he found the 55 inch sturgeon hidden in a bag underneath other gear. CO Kovach interviewed the subjects and obtained a confession. With the assistance of CO Kris Kiel, the COs spent 90 minutes reviving the fish which swam away.