



FIELD NOTES

Keeping Memory and Project Alive

The late WCO Stan Norris had erected about 150 bluebird boxes throughout Fayette County just before he transferred to Somerset County in the spring of 2002. This spring, in an effort to keep WCO Norris' project going, the Fayette County Food and Cover Corps crew fixed, repaired and replaced all of those nesting boxes, and at last count there are about 165 bluebird boxes on the highways around southern Fayette County.

—LMO STEPHEN A. LEIENDECKER,
UNIONTOWN

Just as Planned

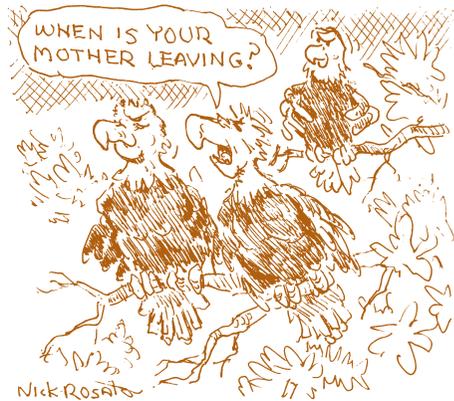
ALLEGHENY—I received a call from Officer Brad Mermon of the Robinson Twp. Police about a deer with a can stuck on its head. The can turned out to be an orange plastic pumpkin covering the head and eyes of a fawn. The plan was to sneak up, grab the deer and cut away the pumpkin, but somehow the deer was on to my plan and ran. After crashing into a tree, hitting the side of a shed, sliding down a pile of sheet metal, tumbling over a stack of lumber and falling down a hill, the pumpkin flew off its head and the deer ran away in the opposite direction no worse for wear. I love it when a plan comes together.

—WCO GARY FUJAK, CORAOPOLIS

Like Kids

PIKE—It seems the bears here are still in the Christmas spirit. WCO Kirk Miller and I both trapped one using leftover candy canes and gingerbread cookies.

—WCO MARK KROPA, GREENTOWN



Three's Company

YORK—Our bald eagle monitoring survey on a 7-mile stretch of the Susquehanna River revealed 13 eagles and 2 new nests. More interesting was that one of the mature pairs was allowing a sub-adult to hang around with them. The three were not only seen perched on limbs together, but were close together in the nesting tree, as well as flying in a group.

—WCO SHAWN MUSSER, WRIGHTSVILLE

Chain Reaction

CHESTER—Retired WCO Keith Sanford visited my school many years ago and planted the seed in my mind that his was the job for me when I was old enough. I hosted a young man on a “ride-a-long” about three years ago and was contacted by him recently to thank me for the time I took with him. He called to say he was now a conservation officer in North Carolina. I do believe Mr. Sanford may have started something.

—WCO SCOTT FREDERICK,
SADSBURYVILLE