

# SOMETHING IS GONE...

## A FOWL!



## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Knox County Recycling and Litter Prevention  
740-393-6704





**You** have been selected to be an investigator of a crime that was called into 911. As a Crime Scene Investigator, you will be collecting evidence, reviewing statements, determining what object was used in the crime and deciding who the victim might be. Crime scene investigations involve clues and facts. Sometimes we don't have all of the evidence so we need to rely on our instincts or that gut feeling to finally solve a case. Remember, there are times witnesses don't always provide useful information and sometimes it may be misleading. You will be given numerous clues. Time is of the essence to solve this crime. There is a victim out there that is depending on you to find them! You will be given a field guide on feces and animal recognition, and an aerial photograph of the scene that will assist you with your work. Good luck with your assignment and be safe!

**CLUE #1: *An audio conversation with 911***

## 911 EMERGENCY CALL

TIME: 1:15 PM

DATE: 5/5/2020

LOCATION: 43050

**911 Operator:** *911... state your emergency.*

**Unidentified Caller:** *Oh my goodness! Please help me!*

**911 Operator:** *Sir, you need to calm down. What is your name?*

**Unidentified Caller:** *My name is Chip. I am an elderly chipmunk who lives out here in the wild and all I want is to be left alone by you humans. I found my friend and he is injured and he needs help.*

**911 Operator:** *Can you tell me your location?*

**Unidentified Caller:** *Are you kidding? I live in the wild... I have no idea where I am. I told you where I live!*

**911 Operator:** *Can you describe your friend's injuries?*

**Unidentified Caller:** *All I know is that when I found him, he was lying on the ground with something stuck on his head and I must have startled him and he got up and ran. It was weird; whatever was on his head he was thrashing around in a panic!*

**911 Operator:** *Can you tell me what the object was?*

**Unidentified Caller:** *Listen lady... I am a just an old chipmunk. It is something that one of you humans made and left out here. We are out here in the wild and really don't want any human interaction. I know I can be a pest at times. We just want to live our lives and be free from humans. This is an injustice!*

**(The phone goes dead)**

## CLUE #2: Interview with Jack Rabbit

A middle aged rabbit was interviewed on 5/5 and did not want to be involved with any human investigators. The only information that Jack would provide was that the victim had left animal droppings at the scene. He described them as light green in color that appeared runny. He was very clear on what he had seen. When the detectives asked if the droppings could be from a snake, the rabbit stated, "I am not an expert on animal feces!"

1. *Locate Jack in the wild and provide his GPS coordinates:* \_\_\_\_\_

## CLUE #3: Interview with Big Buck

An older deer was seen in the distance and detectives walked through the field to speak to Mr. Buck who was watching from a far. When asked if he had witnessed anything unusual on 5/5 he appeared to be skittish as deer tend to be. He said he was not far from Wilderness Camp where he thought there was some kind of party going on. He stated, "You know how weird humans can be." Little people were playing outside and bigger humans came out with something round and edible. I could smell it so I knew it had to be food. There were little sticks sticking out of it with fire burning from the sticks." He stated, "I feared for my life! I know what fire is and what it can do to a forest so I high tailed it out of there and ran for my life." When the detective asked if he could remember anything else, he stated that the little people had these round objects that are made out of rubber that magically floated in the air. He said he knows rubber because one time he accidentally ate a piece that was laying on the ground because it looked good and was colorful. What a mistake he said. I almost choked on it. A few of those objects got away and blew straight up into the air. The kids were also drinking something out of cans in a 6 pack with some sort of object that held them together and a few of those objects were blowing all over the place through the fields. The detectives wondered why Mr. Buck thought that this was important that he would mention balloons, pop cans and plastic pop can rings blowing everywhere. "Strange" said the detective.

## Clue #4: Weather report from the National Weather Services (High Wind Warning)

### Latest Conditions - Metric Units



73°F 23°C  
Feels Like 73°F 22.8°C

Humidity 47%      Wind NE 25 MPH  
Dew Point 52°F      Visibility 10 mi.  
Barometer 30.16 in. 766.1 mm - Steady

Report from 6.4 miles SW of central Knox County at 2:15 PM Thu, Jun 5, 2020



### **Clue #5: Interview with Rocky Raccoon**

A raccoon named Rocky was found sleeping in an old building and was startled by detectives when they entered around 1:15 pm. Apparently, raccoons sleep during the day and are on the prowl during the night time. Rocky stated, "What the heck are you doing waking me up in the middle of my sleep?" Rocky, who has known to be an instigator in some of the human's neighborhoods and loves to dump trash cans, stated that he believes the victim of the crime they were investigating was done by Slimmy the snake who lives in the field next to the highway. He claims that he just happened to be over at the crime scene and saw animal feces that was orange in color and really runny and he was sure it was Slimmy's poop. Rocky said he thinks Slimmy the snake got what he deserves! Detectives realized that two weeks earlier, Slimmy had called in and filed a complaint on Rocky after she caught Rocky trying to steal eggs from her nest. Detectives knew that there was bad blood between the two and was not sure Rocky was a reliable witness.

**1. What time was the report made to authorities?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What was the name of the individual who reported the incident?** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What direction was the wind blowing on May 5th?** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Clue #6: Interview with Mrs. Yellow Wren**

From a distance, perched high in a red oak tree, detectives met with Mrs. Wren and she had noticed something that rang a bell from another interview. She had made an informal complaint about humans at Wilderness Camp whose trash was blowing over on the banks of the Kokosing River and wouldn't be surprised if it ended up in the river. Mrs. Wren was a real chirper according to the detectives. She kept jumping from one branch to another and seemed restless before she fluttered away in a hurry.

### **Clue #7: Interview with Mr. Blue Gill**

A local resident of the Kokosing River, a fish whose name is Blue Gill, had spoken to Chip who was the original 911 caller. Mr. Gill had claimed he had seen a lot of trash in the stream that was common such as plastic water bottles, pop cans, tires, and car parts but something stood out to him that he thought was odd. It was some type of plastic with 6 rings. It was almost clear but he said that he has 20/20 vision and he saw it right way but to other creatures, it might be hard to see except for his buddy Hooty the owl. He stated,



"As a fish, we have to have good eyes! When it rains out here and the Kokosing River rises, it is like swimming in a mud storm! We have to hurry out of the way of the rushing waters and protect ourselves so we don't get washed down stream. Thank goodness for our fins! I don't want to have to end up in Coshocton County and have to swim all the way back home. I know what I saw! It had 6 holes."

#### **Clue #8: Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gray**

Mr. Gregory, a human being, who lives north on one of the local state routes in a two story house, has complained for years of heavy trash trucks that have regular trash routes on his highway. He has actually witnessed how some trash accidentally is dumped in the truck and some of the material is caught by the wind and blows into the ditches by accident. Mr. Gregory also stated that he sees fast food containers along the road and is sure that those items are deliberately thrown on the ground, but he has never thought about the impact of what it has on the local animal population. Mr. Gregory stated that his trash is picked up by the local trash company on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month and people set out numerous bags of trash. It surprises him as to how much trash is thrown out by his neighbors. He recycles the majority of his trash! His wife stated she attended one of the local recycling county educational programs and they stated that trash littered on our roadways accumulates in the county ditches. When there is a heavy rain, the ditches fill with water, they overflow and run into the small streams, which dump into the other waterways and eventually ends up in our ponds or rivers. She said, "No wonder our oceans are full of plastic!"

1. *What county does Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gray live in?* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *What is the GPS coordinates of Gray's home?* \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Clue #9 Interview with a woodchuck**

An interview was conducted with a woodchuck who had an unusual name of Mr. Gee Hog. He remembered seeing a cluster of feathers not far from the crime scene where the feces was located and it appeared as though a struggle had taken place. It was not just the feathers that bothered him but that there were broken twigs and the dry weeds that had been disturbed as though someone was in trouble. He stated that he normally prefers being high upon the banks where his den is but was curious as to what had happened down by the river that day. He did not think this was any of his business and had shared it with another one of his buddies who was building a new den in the neighboring cornfield. What struck

One of his buddies who was building a new den in the neighboring cornfield. What struck the investigators funny was the comment he made: Something has gone afoul! Did he mean FOWL?

#### **CLUE #10: An awkward interview with Mrs. Utter**

After an awkward interview with Mrs. Utter, a local milk cow in the field next to Wilderness Camp, investigators realized that Mrs. Utter was utterly annoyed with investigators. Her legs were covered in mud or cow dung according to detectives. Apparently, she was more concerned about swatting the flies off her hind side than talking about her neighbor's problems. Mrs. Utter flipped her tail and turned abruptly and headed to the barn. Apparently, she was being called to the barn for her daily milking, leaving detectives high and dry.

#### **Clue #11: An interview that stunk!**

Investigators were reluctant to meet with a particular animal resident whose name was Stinky. With the spring season upon them, the detectives knew that the skunk population was on the move because of mating season and skunks really do stink! When they finally caught up to Stinky, Stinky thought he saw one of the local birds in distress. He was wrestling with something he had stuck on his neck but did not look like he was injured. He said, "You know how those birds are, they are just so nasty crapping everywhere and we have to watch where we step to avoid their poop!"

#### **Clue #12: Interview with Sly the Fox**

Investigators tracked down a notorious criminal who was well known to authorities. Mr. Fox had been implicated in some unsolved crimes in the past such as missing eggs from farmer Brown's chicken coop, reports from Gabby Goose whose nest had been destroyed and Jack Rabbit's friend who had been missing for some time. Sly's name came up in each interview but there was no proof. Mr. Gee Hog had mentioned feathers at the crime scene but Sly smiled showing his fine sharp teeth and denied knowing anything about this crime.

#### **Clue #13: The title of this Investigation**

The title of the investigation found on page one has two clues as to who the victim might be. Read the title again and see if you know who the victim is.



1. Was there enough evidence to think Sly was involved in the reported crime?: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is the crime victim? \_\_\_\_\_

**Clue #14: 911 Operator call from Small's Sand and Gravel**

TIME: 8:00 PM

DATE: 5/12

LOCATION: KNOX COUNTY

911 Operator: *911... state your emergency.*

## 911 EMERGENCY CALL

Small' Sand and Gravel: *Hi! I just wanted to let you know that one of my drivers has spotted an animal that I think you are looking for. He is in bad shape but he is alive.*

911 Operator: *Do you know the victim's name?*

Small' Sand and Gravel: *Mel*

911 Operator: *What is your location?*

Small' Sand and Gravel: *The GPS coordinates are C-10. I am driving a yellow gravel truck*

911 Operator: *Is this where we can find the victim?*

Small' Sand and Gravel: *No. The victim is at D-10*

911 Operator: *What type of injuries does the victim have?*

Small' Sand and Gravel: *I am not sure but he is fluttering around. It appears he has something stuck around his neck. I am standing on the bridge watching him. You will need to come fast!*

1. What is the GPS location of the victim? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What side of the river is the victim on: North / East / West / South

3. Based upon your Field Guide, what type of fowl is Mel? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Based upon your Field Guide, why was Mel at this location? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Based up on the clues, what was the object that caused Mel to be a crime victim? \_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers on the last page of this investigation.







# SCAT FIELD GUIDE

## White Tailed Deer (Mr. Big Buck)

Can have tubular or pelleted scat about 1/4<sup>th</sup> inch in length  
The pellets can usually be seen even in tubular deer scat.  
Droppings can be found in the same area morning after morning



## Skunk (Stinky)

Tubular in appearance  
Blunt ends  
Measures about a quarter to half an inch in diameter and one to two inches long.  
Contains bits of undigested insects, berry seeds, fur, or feathers.



## Raccoon (Rocky Raccoon)

Two to three inches long, dark and tubular in shape  
Contains undigested food  
Uses the bathroom in the **SAME spot**



## Duck (Mel Mallard)

Bright green in color  
Can contain greens  
Sometimes pure liquid in form  
Can be dark and metallic



## Cow (Mrs. Utter)

Undigested residue of plant matter  
Color ranges from greenish to blackish  
Darkening soon after exposure to air



## Snake (Slimmy Snake)

Mushy smooth edges  
They poop and pee at the same time out of one hole, the cloacae,  
so that also makes things a bit runny.





## Turtle

Formed mass consisting of the end products of digestion  
Consistency and volume of the feces will vary  
Will be brown or greenish-brown



## Horse

Shows their vegetarian diet  
Composed of vegetable material  
Cellulose doesn't digest and is passed through the digestive system relatively intact



## Squirrel

Cylindrical in shape and feature rounded edges  
Typically around 3/8 of an inch in length and have  
A diameter of around 8 mm



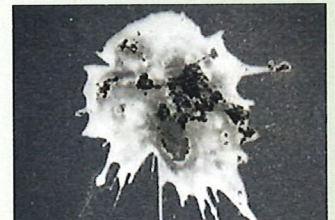
## Chipmunk

Dropping similar other rodents like rats or squirrels  
Hard, elongated and dark resembling beans or rice  
They range in size from 1/2 - 3/4 inches  
Slightly larger than mouse feces



## Yellow Wren

Birds feces is usually one dropping  
A combination of black and white excretion  
Sometimes runny



## Wood Chuck

Largest member of the squirrel family have medium-sized, oval-shaped droppings  
Usually dark brown or black in color





# FIELD GUIDE

## Deer (Big Buck)



The white-tailed deer is the smallest member of the North American deer family. In the heat of the summer, they typically inhabit fields and meadows using clumps of broad-leaved and coniferous forests for shade. In the winter, they prefer the coniferous forests for shelter from the harsh elements. Whitetail have patches of white fur around their eyes, muzzle and throat, as well as on their underbelly and tail.

## Skunk (Stinky)



Skunks are related to the polecats and other members of the weasel family but they are a closer relative to the stink badgers. The animals are known for their ability to spray a liquid with a strong, unpleasant smell. The skunk's fur is black and white and have a single thick stripe across the back and tail. Skunks communicate by a hiss, screech, churr, growl, twitter and make a cooing sound in social encounters or when alarmed. Skunks do not spray each other in aggressive interactions.

## Raccoon (Rocky)



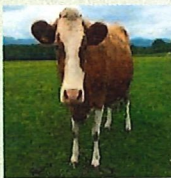
Raccoons are distinguished by a black mask across the eyes and bushy tail with anywhere from four to ten black rings. The forepaws resemble slender human hands and make the raccoon very skillful and competent with their hands. They vocalize by hissing, whistling, screaming, growling and snarling. Raccoons are nocturnal or night animals. If you see one out during the day, it may be that his its home may have been disturbed or he could just be hungry. It is perfectly normal for raccoons to be active during the day.

## Mallard (Mel)



Ducks are birds that are also called "waterfowls" because they are normally found in places with water like marshes, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Ducks have shorter necks and wings than other waterfowl. A male duck is called a drake and a female is called a duck. Ducks bob their head up and down, often excitedly quacking when they are happy. When they see a duck friend they haven't seen in a while (like a whole 15 minutes) they display these characteristics.

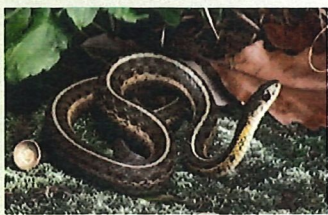
## Cow (Mrs. Utter)



A cow is a mature female and a bull is an adult male. Cows need to be pregnant and give birth to produce milk. Dairy cows must give birth each year to continue to produce milk. It can be painful if a cow is not milked within a certain amount of time. They will let you know by bawling, stomping their feet and carrying on to express their discomfort. Like humans, cows seek pleasure and love to play. When let outside after being cooped up for too long, cows run, prance and jump with joy!



## Garter Snake (Slimmy)



Garter snake is a common name for the generally harmless, small to medium-sized snakes common to Ohio. Garter snakes are relatively small, usually between 23 and 30 inches though sometimes growing as long as 5 feet. Many species of garter snakes have two-colored tongues. Garter snakes as "generalists, inhabiting a wide variety of habitats." They live in woodlands, meadows and grassy knolls and like to be near water.

## Turtle (Carol)



The snapping turtle is **Ohio's** largest **turtle**. The upper shell typically ranges in size between 10 and 19 inches, and these **turtles** usually weigh between 10 and 35 pounds. They are very aggressive if approached when they are outside of the water, and they have very powerful jaws. There are many "snappers" in **Ohio** but they are seldom seen. Unlike other **turtles**, they rarely sun themselves except in early spring. They prefer to stay in habitats of shallow freshwater, buried in mud except for their nose and eyes.

## Chipmunk (Chip)



**Chipmunks** are active in the daytime during spring, summer and fall. Chipmunks remain in their deep burrow systems during the winter, where they enter patterns of torpor (deep sleep and lower body temperature) interrupted by periods of feeding. Some dig burrows to live in, complete with tunnels and chambers, while others make their homes in nests, bushes, or logs. Depending on species, **chipmunks** can be gray to reddish-brown in color with contrasting dark and light stripes on the sides of their face and

## Yellow Warbler (Mrs. Wren)



Yellow warblers are uniformly yellow birds. Males are bright, egg-yoke yellow with reddish streaks on the underparts. They can be seen near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees. They look for food restlessly, with quick hops along small branches and twigs to find caterpillars and other insects. Strangely enough, a female wren is called a "cow". The difference between a sparrow and a wren is that a wren holds its tail sharply upward and a sparrow does not.

## Woodchuck (Mr. Gee Hog)



These round creatures look like little bears when they stand up on their hind legs. Groundhogs also have sharp claws that they use to dig impressive burrows in the ground. During the warm months, a groundhog's incisors grow about a sixteenth of an inch (1.6 millimeters) each week to keep up with their frenzied eating schedule, according to the National Wildlife Federation. Groundhogs are solitary creatures, and they spend their summers and falls stuffing themselves and taking naps in the sun.

They can eat about a pound of food per sitting.



Mel became a victim of litter. As he struggled to free himself of the pop can plastic holder he realized that he was in serious trouble. Fortunately, Mel survived this terrible ordeal thanks to the truck driver from Small's Sand and Gravel. When interviewed from the back of the ambulance, Mel stated that he appreciated that a human had come to his aid and that people need to realize the impact they have on his community when they litter!



Mel realizes he has a problem



Mel realizes that his situation has become even worse and has begun to panic.



Medics arrive and saves Mel



Mel is back safely at home with his family.

#### ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS:

- Clue #2: - Locate Jack in the wild and provide his GPS coordinates: **D 9**
- Clue #5: - What time was the report made to authorities?: **1:15 pm**
- What was the name of the individual who reported the incident?: **Chip**
  - What direction was the wind blowing on May 5th?: **north east**
- Clue #8: - What county does Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gray live in?: **Knox County**
- What is the GPS coordinates of the Gray's home?: **B-3**
- Clue #13 - Was there enough evidence to think Sly was involved in the reported crime?: **(no)**
- Who was the crime victim?: **Mel the Mallard Duck**

#### Final Questions:

1. What was the GPS location of the victim?: **D-10**
2. What side of the river was the victim on?: **Westside**
3. Based upon your field guide, what type of fowl is Mel?: **Water fowl**
4. Based upon your clues, what was the object that caused Mel to become a victim?: **plastic pop can ring**