

## New Critters Spotted At Refuge

Did you hear that a roadrunner and a cougar were spotted at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in September? During the morning of September 21, 2008, a roadrunner was spotted near the visitor center and a cougar was seen along the entrance road. Though likely more common in the area in the late 1960s and early '70s, both these species are rare to see now and most would be considered a classic.

If you did not see them, you missed the first annual Cars for Critters Benefit Car Show at Ottawa NWR. This show was organized by our very own Ottawa NWR Association, or Friends Group. During the Sunday morning in September, 75 cars and over 300 people migrated to the Refuge Visitor Center for a car show to benefit *Back to the Wild*, the wildlife rehabilitation center in Castalia. Mona Rutger and several volunteers were on hand with a flock of birds and critters to show the public. Mona always has an incredible display wherever she goes, and with a bald eagle, a peregrine falcon, many owls, a flying squirrel, and numerous others, people learned about all their great work at *Back to the Wild*.

Amongst the cars, you could find a 1923 Ford Model T, a 1956 Desoto Fireflite, a 1962 Chevy Impala and a 1986 Pontiac Grand Prix 2+2. Cars came from all over northern Ohio, including as far away as Lake and Portage counties. Keeping with the critters theme, classes for the cars were a bit unusual. There were classes for best bird, mammal, insect....you get the idea. Of course, if you were not driving a 'critter car', there were classes for the decades of production. Plaques were handed out in 14 classes based on peoples' voting. A couple of the highlights included: Best of Show went to a customized 1951 Mercury 'Lead sled' owned by Steve and Shirley Yeager of Point Place; and Best Plumage (paint) went to a beautiful orange 1968 Chevy El Camino with ghost flames owned by Ron Baker of Oregon. The rest of the plaques went to the following:

Best Bird	Mike Foster's 1972 Plymouth Roadrunner
Best Mammal	Mike Crosser's 1970 Mercury Cougar XR7
Best Fish	Harry Klatt's 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass 442
Best Insect	Donna Moore's 1978 VW Beetle
Best Reptile	Tom Gulch's 2007 Ford Mustang Shelby Cobra
Best Street Rod	Jim Neidert's 1931 Chevy Coupe
Best Antique	John Biggert Sr.'s 1927 Chevrolet Truck
Best of the '40s	Rick and Darlene Nickel's 1940 Ford Sedan
Best of the '50s	Steve and Shirley Yeager's 1951 Mercury
Best of the '60s	Ron Baker's 1968 Chevy El Camino
Best of the '70s	Tommy Pollard's 1970 Chevy Chevelle SS
Best of the '80s	George St. Bonore's 1982 Chevy Corvette
Mona's Choice	Charlie Schneider's 1956 DeSoto Fireflite
Longest Migration	Wally Pausch's 1964 Chevy Malibu SS (130 mi.)

The event raised over \$1,400 for wildlife. A long list of sponsors donated the funds for the plaques, t-shirts, and door prizes to help make this event a success. Thanks to Chris Crofts for being the force behind finding all the sponsors. It was a great turnout for a first

annual event. The upcoming date for the second annual Cars for Critters is September 27, 2009. We hope to see you there.



Best of Show: 1951 Mercury owned by Steve and Shirley Yeager



Puddles checking out the migration power of this 1969 Chevy Chevelle SS396.