

# Tracking

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- [Columbus Farmers Market Seasons](#)
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## Tracking

Every chart on this site that answers "**what is happening right now**" — sixty pages, two hundred and eighty-two rows, ten datasets, one grammar.

A tracker is not an article with a picture of a chart in it. The bars are built from a dataset and committed; the **line marking today is drawn per request**, and the list above each chart — what is moving, fruiting, open or pickable this week — is computed when you load the page. Nothing on a tracker page says "as of August" and then quietly rots.

## The one grammar, in three shapes

All ten datasets describe the same object: a name, a stretch of the year, and sometimes a peak inside it. What differs is what the bar is allowed to mean.

| Shape            | What a bar means                       | Peak tick        | Used by                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Migration</b> | a passage — arriving, present, leaving | yes, two of them | birds, bats, butterflies, moths, dragonflies |

|               |                                         |           |                            |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| <b>Bloom</b>  | one window, ramping to a best fortnight | yes       | flowers, mushrooms, u-pick |
| <b>Season</b> | flat — on, or off, with no middle       | <b>no</b> | game laws, farmers markets |

The season shape exists because some things do not ramp. A deer season is shut on 25 September and open on 26 September, and is exactly as open on 7 February as it was in November; a farmers market is exactly as open on its last Saturday as its first. A triangle would be telling a reader something false about a statute in one case and about opening hours in the other, and in both the reader could act on it.

## Birds

Nine guilds that peak nine weeks apart, so they get nine seats rather than one.

- [Ohio Bird Migration](#) — all 67 rows on one chart
- [Ohio Waterfowl Migration](#) — waterfowl, 9 rows
- [Ohio Crane Migration](#) — cranes, 1 row
- [Ohio Raptor Migration](#) — raptors and vultures, 6 rows
- [Ohio Shorebird Migration](#) — shorebirds, 8 rows
- [Ohio Swallow and Swift Migration](#) — aerial insectivores, 7 rows
- [Ohio Thrush Migration](#) — thrushes, 5 rows
- [Ohio Warbler Migration](#) — warblers, 15 rows
- [Ohio Vireo and Oriole Migration](#) — vireos, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers, 9 rows
- [Ohio Sparrow and Finch Migration](#) — sparrows, kinglets and winter finches, 7 rows

## Mammals and insects

One chart each. These are the groups whose members move together closely enough that splitting them would be resolution nobody asked for.

- [Ohio Bat Migration](#) — all 8 rows on one chart
- [Ohio Butterfly and Moth Migration](#) — all 8 rows on one chart
- [Ohio Moth Migration](#) — all 9 rows on one chart
- [Ohio Dragonfly Migration](#) — all 7 rows on one chart

## Flowers

- [Ohio Flower Bloom Times](#) — all 54 rows on one chart
- [Ohio Woodland Wildflower Bloom](#) — spring woodland, 16 rows
- [Ohio Tree and Shrub Bloom](#) — trees and shrubs, 14 rows
- [Ohio Prairie Flower Bloom](#) — prairie and meadow, 14 rows
- [Ohio Goldenrod and Aster Bloom](#) — late summer and autumn, 10 rows

## Fungi

- [Ohio Wild Mushroom Seasons](#) — all 35 rows on one chart

The only chart on this site with a group that peaks in **December**. Oyster mushrooms and velvet shank fruit in the January thaws, in the fortnight everything else here is dark.

## Game seasons

Thirty-eight pages, one per species, and the only place on the site where a tracker page is a single animal rather than a group. That is not a taxonomy argument: squirrel opens on 1 September and beaver on 26 December, and a "furbearers" bar would be averaging a law, which is not a thing that can be averaged.

**These are calendars and not licences.** Nothing on them replaces the regulations booklet, the zone maps, the bag limits or the permit rules.

### Deer and turkey (2)

[White-tailed Deer](#) · [Wild Turkey](#)

### Small game (8)

[American Crow](#) · [Chukar](#) · [Eastern Cottontail](#) · [Fox Squirrel](#) · [Gray Squirrel](#) · [Northern Bobwhite](#) · [Red Squirrel](#) · [Ring-necked Pheasant](#)

### Furbearers (10)

[American Beaver](#) · [American Mink](#) · [Gray Fox](#) · [Long-tailed Weasel](#) · [Muskrat](#) · [Raccoon](#) · [Red Fox](#) · [River Otter](#) · [Striped Skunk](#) · [Virginia Opossum](#)

### Waterfowl and migratory birds (14)

[American Black Duck](#) · [American Coot](#) · [American Woodcock](#) · [Blue-winged Teal](#) · [Canada Goose](#) · [Common Gallinule](#) · [Green-winged Teal](#) · [Mallard](#) · [Mourning Dove](#) · [Snow Goose](#) · [Sora](#) · [Virginia Rail](#) · [Wilson's Snipe](#) · [Wood Duck](#)

### Frogs and turtles — taken on a fishing licence (4)

[American Bullfrog](#) · [Green Frog](#) · [Snapping Turtle](#) · [Softshell Turtle](#)

## Food

The two newest trackers, and the first that are not about wild Ohio.

- [Columbus Farmers Market Seasons](#) — all 25 rows on one chart
- [Central Ohio U-Pick Seasons](#) — all 31 rows on one chart

Each has a companion page carrying the map and the addresses rather than the calendar: [Columbus Farmers Markets](#) and [Central Ohio U-Pick Farms](#).

## What is on the breadcrumb strip, and what is not

Fifty-six of these sixty pages sit behind a mark on the **passage strip** under the breadcrumb trail — the row of small gauges that light as their subject comes into season. Press a mark and it lands on its page.

Four pages have no mark. Two are whole-taxon overviews whose guilds already hold the seats ([Ohio Bird Migration](#) and [Ohio Flower Bloom Times](#)). The other two are the food trackers, and that is deliberate: **the strip is an instrument about wild Ohio**, and a farmers market is not wild. They are loaded by the server so their charts render, and they take no seat.

## Adding a tracker

Four steps, in this order, and none of them is optional:

1. Write `data/migration/<id>.mjs` — the dataset, its mode, its guilds, its words, and a header comment naming the source every date came from.
2. Add the id to TAXA in `scripts/build-migration.mjs` and run it. It writes the chart SVGs and the JSON bundle into `public/migration/`.
3. Add the id to the loader list in `main.js`, or the marker will render "No migration data".
4. Put `` on the page **above the H1** — headings here are collapsible and hidden until hover, so a chart under one is a chart nobody sees.

Give it a seat on the passage strip only if it belongs there. That is a separate edit in `main.js`, and `PASSAGE_TRACKER_PAGES` is a contract with the page's path — rename a page that holds a mark and the link dies silently, rendering as a live link to a 404.

## Related

- [Calendar](#) — the dated half of the same idea
- [Seasons](#) · [Lunar Calendar](#)
- [Nature](#) — where fifty-eight of these pages live
- [Leisure](#) — the front of the vault