This report represents some events the OLE handled over the last couple of weeks; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Office of Law Enforcement.

Flag with Seal: The three stars represents the first three "Game Wardens" (now known as Conservation Police Officers) hired in Illinois who were appointed by the Governor in 1885. They were assigned one for Chicago, Peoria, and Quincy’s area. They served a two-year term and were paid by receiving a portion of the fine monies collected from arrests they made for game law violations. They traveled the state by train and would often be away from home for many days at a time.
Creed

“To serve, protect, and educate the citizens and visitors to the state of Illinois in their outdoor recreational endeavors.”

“To be a vigilant guardian of the natural resources, public safety, and homeland security of Illinois.”

“To assist the public in their times of need; routine and emergency.”

“To educate the inadvertent violator of conservation law, by taking an appropriate level of enforcement action to achieve this goal.”

“To relentlessly pursue, with full statewide police authority, deliberate offenders and bring them before the courts for the administration of justice”

“To maintain the highest level of professional standards, integrity, and conduct.”

“This we pledge to the citizens of Illinois.”

The Office of Law Enforcement supports the Department’s programs designed to protect Illinois’ natural and recreational resources through enforcement of those portions of the Illinois Compiled Statutes enacted for that purpose. Conservation Police Officers are vested with full state-wide police authority and are trained to the highest standards for law enforcement professionals in Illinois.

In addition to these enforcement responsibilities, Conservation Police Officers serve as an important link between the Department and its various constituencies (civic groups, sportsmen’s groups, sport shows, etc.). These officers are called upon to assist outside agencies in emergency situations or rescue operations. They participate in the instruction of conservation related statutes to outside agencies, law enforcement organizations, or educational institutions upon request.

Information on a Career as a Conservation Police Officer
Please follow the link: Conservation Police Officer Career Opportunities - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)

Let us know if you are interested in a career as a Conservation Police Officer
Individuals are able to leave their contact information. A CPO will then reach out to them and answer any questions.
Please follow the link: Conservation Police Career Opportunities Form - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)

OLE Bi-Monthly Activity Reports
For current or back issues. Please follow the link: Activity Reports - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)
Northwest Zone Bi-Monthly Report

Northwest Zone / District 1

Rock Island County

CPO Priest was off and received a call from a Hampton PD Officer. The officer explained they had a complaint of an intoxicated individual on a boat at empire park. CPO Priest responded and located a subject matching the description. The subject was arrested for OUI and provided a breath sample of .151. The subject received 4 citations.

CPO Priest was off and received a call about an individual in Carroll County threatening to shoot people in one of the state parks. CPO Priest responded with other officers. We were unable to locate the subject but made contact with him by phone.

CPO Priest received a complaint of someone using a cast net and keeping sport fish. The complainant also provided a vehicle description. CPO Priest was traveling to the location of the complaint when he located the subject’s vehicle in Milan traveling down the road. CPO Priest initiated a traffic stop on the car. CPO Priest made a passenger-side approach and talked with a male in the passenger seat. The male was holding a bucket with a catfish in it. The subject explained that he caught it with a cast net and he was taking it home. CPO Priest told the subject he couldn't keep it and could only keep bait fish. The subject agreed and said he knew. CPO Priest asked the subject where the other fish where he caught with the net was. The subject said he threw the bass and crappie back after he was confronted for keeping them at the lock and dam. The subject received a citation and 2 warnings. The driver of the vehicle received 2 warnings. The fish was photographed and released.

Northwest Zone / District 6

Bureau County

CPO Scott Wagner while checking turkey hunters observed an individual traveling with an uncased firearm on an ATV. CPO Wagner addressed the issue and proper enforcement action was taken.

CPO Scott Wagner and CPO Dakota Engledow while patrolling rural Bureau County looking for turkey hunters observed a suspicious white van slowly driving on rural roads. After the van stopped and turned around to go back in the opposite direction CPOs conducted a stop due to their behavior. Both were turkey hunters who claimed to be out looking for turkeys after the morning hunt. Compliance inspections were conducted on the hunters and one was found to have an unplugged shotgun and neither had signed permits. Both were questioned about their suspicious behavior but claimed they were just looking and not road hunting. Since guns were cased and unloaded there was no evidence for any further enforcement. Appropriate enforcement was taken for the unplugged shotgun and unsigned permits.

CPO Scott Wagner received a call from BueComm about a stranded boater and his family on the Illinois river west of Spring Valley. CPO was just north of town and proceeded to Barto Boat ramp and met up with a Bureau County Sheriff’s Deputy. The location of the boaters was not exact and a storm was getting ready to roll in. CPO spoke with a fisherman coming off the water and asked if he had seen anything of which he hadn't. I informed him of the stranded family and he offered to take me out on his boat. We launched and found the family approximately 1-2 miles downstream of the boat ramp. All family members were transported back to the boat ramp safely.

CPO Scott Wagner while checking sport fishermen along the Illinois River, he observed two individuals fishing near Barto Landing Boat Ramp. Upon approaching one of the fishermen had changed shirts and pulled his poles from the water. When confronted by CPO Wagner about fishing and changing shirts he admitted he was fishing and thought he could get away with it. The fisherman was cited for no fishing license.

CPO Scott Wagner observed several individuals at Lock 3, Hennepin Canal fishing. While checking licenses individual
admitted to not having a license even though he knew he was supposed to have it. The individual was cited for fishing w/out a license.

CPO Scott Wagner while conducting boat patrol with CPO Kaufman found several individuals fishing along a shoreline between Depue and Spring Valley. Upon checking the men none had a valid or current fishing license. Several citations were issued for fishing w/out a fishing license.

**Lasalle County**

CPO Kaufman was driving by the Matthiessen Dells entrance road which is closed due to construction. He observed a van driving down the road. CPO Kaufman stopped the van, and the driver admitted to moving the road-closed construction barricade. The driver said his family got tired and could not walk back to where they had parked. CPO Kaufman informed the man that individuals need to know their limits prior to hiking. A citation was issued.

CPO Kaufman gave verbal warnings to 2 dog owners at the Starved Rock Campground for not having their dogs on a leash.

CPO Kaufman attended a boat safety class and taught the law enforcement portion of the class.

Oglesby FD and CPO Kaufman responded to a report of individual suffering from heat stroke at Matthiessen State Park. The initial location of the person was 2 miles from where he was finally found. When Oglesby FD made contact with the person he was sitting in his car with the air-conditioning on. The person signed a refusal for medical treatment.

CPO Scott Wagner arrested an individual while checking fisherman along the Illinois River. CPO asked the fisherman what he caught and was told drum and stripers. Upon investigation of the man’s fish basket, CPO discovered the man had kept a short walleye well under the legal limit. The individual was cited for the violation and the walleye was released.

CPO Scott Wagner while conducting sport fish enforcement at Starved Rock found an out-of-state fisherman fishing w/out a non-resident fishing license. The individual was cited for the violation.

CPO Kaufman and Martin managed the entrances to Starved Rock during the Starved Rock Marathon was over 500 runners ran into and out of the park.

CPO Kaufman and Martin responded to a trip and fall in Pontiac Canyon at Starved Rock. The victim was transported to the hospital.

**Putnam County**

CPO Scott Wagner while conducting sport fish enforcement on the Illinois river near Hennepin observed several individuals fishing. Upon approaching one of the fishermen he looked at the CPO and then threw his pole into the river. After being questioned individual admitted to fishing w/out a license. The individual was cited for the violation.

**Northwest Zone / District 7**

**Fulton County**

CPO Thompson responded to a complaint of trespassing in rural Fulton County near Banner Marsh. Upon receipt of the complaint, CPO Thompson instructed the landowner on how to properly mark the property with proper no trespassing signage to put the public on notice for future prosecution. No Enforcement Action Taken.

CPO Thompson spoke with students on the IHSA Cuba High School Bass Fishing team. Topics discussed included educational and experience requirements to pursue a career as a Conservation Police Officer, various duties of a CPO and fishery conservation. Students shared fishing stories about their best catch, career aspirations, and their favorite lures in their tackle box.
CPO Thompson and CPO Elliott assisted Fulton County SO with a motorcycle accident near London Mills IL on Highway 116. The operator involved sustained several extensive abrasions to the body and head as a result of the accident and was life-flighted to OSF for treatment beyond first aid. The accident was investigated by Fulton County SO.

**McDonough County**

CPO Thompson and CPO Elliott responded to assist ISP D14 troopers with a subject who fled from a traffic stop in McDonough County. Numerous agencies arrived on the scene to assist with the apprehension of the suspect. Upon searching the area, the male subject was apprehended and transported to the McDonough County Jail.

CPO Elliott participated in the Blandinsville Farmer’s Picnic Parade where he handed out candy and IDNR Conservation Police Wrist Bands answered questions and displayed his IDNR Conservation Police Squad.

**Tazewell County**

CPO Finn Region 1 District 7 was performing fishing compliance checks at Spring Lake SFWA when he encountered a fisherman fishing without a license. A records check showed the man did not have a current fishing license and was wanted on a warrant out of Peoria County. The fisherman received a warning for fishing without a license and was jailed at the Tazewell County Jail.
Northeast Zone Bi-Monthly Report

Northeast Zone / District 3

Kankakee County
CPO Farber conducted sport fish enforcement along the Kankakee River in Kankakee, IL. CPO Farber checked three men fishing near Alpiner Park and discovered that they did not possess valid 2022 sport fishing licenses. One of the men was found to be wanted on a Kankakee County warrant for driving while his license suspended and an Iroquois County warrant for burglary. The violator was issued a fish code citation and transported to the Kankakee County Jail.

Northeast Zone / District 4

Cook County
CPO Vik was patrolling near the Worth Water Reclamation District when he observed two bicycles parked near a hole in the fence surrounding the property next to a no trespassing sign. CPO Vik entered the property and discovered two minors fishing in the reclamation pond. CPO Vik escorted the minors off the property and released them after discussing the consequences of trespassing.

CPO Hopper made a warrant arrest found while addressing boat violations.
Central Zone Bi-Monthly Report

Central Zone / District 9

Adams County
During turkey season, CPO Wheatley was informed of mushroom hunters in Siloam Springs hitting the woods prior to the allowed time of 1:00 PM. CPO Wheatley found multiple parties during his time on patrol in the park and handled the infractions as he saw fit. CPO Wheatley explained the reason for the time restriction and the parties in the wrong seemed to understand.

Pike County
CPO Jansen cited 2 Georgia residents for hunting without permission, hunting without turkey permits, and hunting without a hunting license. Additional written warnings were issued as well.

CPO Jansen arrested a subject at Lake Pittsfield on a failure to appear warrant for unlawful possession of cannabis in a motor vehicle out of Pike County. The subject was lodged at the Pike County Jail.

CPO Jansen discovered 2 subjects in a vehicle at Lake Pittsfield having sexual intercourse. A report was written and charges for public indecency were deferred to the State's Attorney's Office.

Central Zone / District 10

Cass County
CPO Wahlbrink investigated a complaint of individual trespassing after he was caught by a wireless trail camera. The identity of the individual was discovered by CPO Wahlbrink. During an interview, the individual admitted to mushroom hunting on the property. At the landowner's request, the individual received a written warning for trespassing.

Christian County
CPO Wright arrested a Taylorville man at Sangchris Lake for a warrant out of Indiana. The man was taken to Christian County Jail.

Sangamon County
CPO Wahlbrink performed multiple fishing compliance checks at Lake Springfield. Multiple violations were discovered including: taking sport fish with a cast net, failure to immediately release a short largemouth bass, and fishing without a license. A citation and multiple written warnings were issued to the individuals.

Central Zone / District 11

Edgar County
CPO Miller arrested an Indiana fisherman at the White Oaks Boat Ramp for having multiple warrants. The subject was taken to the Edgar County Jail.

CPO Miller assisted the Paris Police Department on a traffic stop that involved illegal possession of cannabis by a minor and suspended registration plates.

CPO Hyatt investigated a report of a Brocton resident who had taken possession of an abandoned baby owl. Owl was kept overnight and relocated the next day when the resident had time.

Moultrie County
Moody cited a Chicago man on the Kaskaskia River in the Wildlife Management Area for an over-limit of Crappie. CPO Moody also cited two other men present for fishing with no valid fishing license.
CPO Moody cited a Sullivan man for hunting turkeys from the roadway in rural Moultrie County.

CPO Moody investigated a fatal boat accident on Lake Shelbyville in which an Arthur man fell overboard and drowned.

**Shelby County**

CPO Moody responded to Wolf Creek State Park campgrounds for a disturbance. Upon arrival, Moody located a heavily intoxicated man with a wound on his head laying in the parking area. Another intoxicated man was located as well. The man lying in the parking lot was transported to the hospital by paramedics for treatment. The second man was issued a citation for driving off the roadway and making ruts previously in the day.

**Central Zone / District 19**

**Champaign County**

CPO Vaughan located a subject with an active warrant while checking sport fishermen at Kaufman Lake in Champaign. The subject was transported to the Champaign County Jail.

**Dewitt County**

CPO Vaughan observed a boat approaching the Weldon Boat Ramp at Clinton Lake approximately 1 hour after sunset. The operator was navigating by the flashlight on their cellular phone with no other lights activated. A subsequent boat inspections found an inoperable fire extinguisher. A citation was issued for improper lighting after sunset and a warning was issued for the fire extinguisher.

**Macon County**

CPO Willand seized an unlawfully taken bobcat skull from a taxidermist in Macon County. The skull was from a previous investigation in a separate county and no unlawful actions were done by the taxidermist.

CPO Vaughan taught the game laws section at a hunter safety course in Macon County.

**Mclean County**

CPO Noah Workman #580 responded to a call of a subject making homicidal threats to campers at Moraine View State Park. CPO Workman, along with other police agencies, spoke with the subject. He did not have any weapons on him or in his vehicle. CPO Workman spoke with him and observed clear signs of mental illness. CPO Workman was able to safely get the subject in handcuffs and had him transported to a local hospital to be evaluated for his mental health condition. CPO Workman completed an involuntary admission form and the subject was released from the hospital the following day.

**Vermilion County**

CPO Sanford attended the Georgetown-Ridge Farm High School Career Day.
Southern Zone Bi-Monthly Report

**Southern Zone / District 13**

**Clinton County**
CPO Binsbacher patrolled Carlyle Lake and issued 2 citations for possession of undersized crappie, 13 undersized crappie was seized.

**Madison County**
CPO Williams assisted District 13 Officers with a search warrant in a Madison County investigation.

**Randolph County**
CPO Sievers completed an investigation into a complaint about reckless driving at the Randolph County Recreational Area. The suspect who had posted his video on Snapchat was issued a citation for reckless driving.

**St Clair County**
CPO Wichern cited a MO turkey hunter for transporting a loaded & uncased shotgun on his boat and hunting with the aid of a conveyance on the Kaskaskia River after his unsuccessful hunt in Randolph County on the Kaskaskia Fish & Wildlife area.

**Southern Zone / District 14**

**Franklin County**
CPO K. Williams and CPO Tapley worked the IHSA Bass Fishing Sectionals at Rend Lake.

CPO Tapley observed two vehicles speeding in Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park. Tapley stopped both vehicles at the same time and found that both drivers had revoked driver's licenses. Both drivers were issued one citation and one written warning.

CPO K. Williams became aware of multiple vehicles having their windows broken at Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park. The vehicles were parked at the Resort boat ramp and unoccupied. The investigation is ongoing and additional patrols are being conducted in hopes to reduce criminal activity.

**Jefferson County**
CPO Jourdan cited a Mount Vernon man for operating an ATV on private property without the consent of the landowner.

While checking fishermen at the ten-mile creek eads unit, CPO Tapley found two subjects fishing without a valid fishing license. Citations were issued.

**Perry County**
CPO K. Williams observed two OHVs crossing IL-154 and continuing on the roadway. CPO K. Williams stopped the OHV's. A 17-year-old and an 18-Year-old were the operators. One was determined to not have insurance. Citations and warnings were issued and CPO K. Williams insured both returned safely to their destination.

**White County**
CPO Schoenhoff observed a subject fishing without a valid sport fishing license and was issued a citation for the violation.

**Southern Zone / District 15**
Clay County
CPO Roper met with a subject associated with a bobcat investigation that had been initiated in April, it was discovered the individual had fraudulently recorded the harvest of a bobcat on his bobcat permit for another individual who had harvested the bobcat unlawfully with no permit.

Jasper County
CPO Hyatt checked a fisherman at Sam Parr State Park. The fisherman was in possession of undersized largemouth bass. The fisherman was issued a single citation for failure to release the short fish.

CPO Hyatt met with and inspected the boats of the high school bass fishing teams competing in the sectional bass fishing tournament on Newton Lake.

While patrolling Newton Lake for fishermen CPO Hyatt located a fisherman with no life jackets. The fishermen were issued a citation for the violation.

Lawrence County
CPO Taylor assisted Sumner Police Dept with a 911 call of a woman being held against her will at a residence in Sumner. It turned out she was wanting to leave the residence but was not being held against her will

Richland County
CPO Willand along with CPO Roundcount were conducting a boat patrol on East Fork Lake. CPO Willand and CPO Roundcount performed multiple fishing compliance checks as well as boat safety inspections. During one compliance check, CPO Willand discovered the fisherman to have unlawfully kept a short largemouth bass. CPO Willand was able to release the bass back to the lake and the fishermen were cited.

Southern Zone / District 16
Jackson County
CPO G. Anderson assisted with the IHSA Bass Fishing Sectional at Kinkaid Lake. CPO Anderson conducted a vessel inspection for every participant in the event.

CPO G. Anderson issued a subject a citation for operating a vehicle off the roadway in Lake Murphysboro State Park. The subject was already confined in jail for a related arrest outside of the park property.

CPO Vasicek was the site safety officer for a trail based 1/2 marathon event held within Giant City State Park. There were approximately 60 runners plus support staff.

Johnson County
While on patrol in Ferne Clyffe State Park in Johnson County, CPO Teas stopped a vehicle after a registration check showed the registered owner to be suspended. During the stop, it was discovered the passenger had two active warrants for his arrest. The driver was cited for Driving While License Suspended and the passenger was arrested and transported to the Saline County Jail.

Massac County
While on patrol in Ft. Massac State Park, CPO Wolf arrested a California resident who was driving with suspended registration and no valid insurance. The individual was also issued written warnings for failure to use a turn signal and an expired driver’s license.

Pope County
CPO Wolf cited an individual for operating a vehicle with no valid insurance.
Williamson County

CPO G. Anderson issued a citation to a fisherman for having a shortage of PFDs on his vessel with 5 occupants at Crab Orchard Lake.