

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Look for it now in Southwest Ohio!

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**Kits will be born in March or April**

Photo by Amy Stevens, Wildlife Rehabilitator,  
Nature Nurses Wildlife Rescue



**Red Fox in Snow** Photo by Joanne Redwood, iNaturalist cc BY-NC some rights reserved

## Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* spp. *Fulvus*)

By Shannon Pennington

Last spring, my neighborhood was treated to two red fox families living nearby. While it was entertaining to see pictures and videos of the adorable pups, the neighbors whose yards they had taken over were soon weary of their dogs barking at them and the nightly "vixen screams," the shrill (and very loud) call that an adult female fox makes to attract a mate or scare a potential predator away from her kits.

We are in prime mating season for red foxes, so take a few minutes to walk around your yard and seal up any potential denning spots before they have their litters in early spring.

To learn more about this species, visit

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/animals/mammals/red-fox>

## FUN FACTS

- There can be 2-12 pups in a litter, with 4-6 being the typical size.
- They are solitary hunters who feed primarily on small game like rodents, rabbits, and birds, but they will also eat fruit, vegetables, reptiles, amphibians, and even invertebrates.
- Their thick tails aid in balance, provide warm cover, and help them communicate.
- They will cache food, burying any extra for future use.
- Fox urine smells like skunk spray and is used to mark their territory.