

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2220

2005 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2220

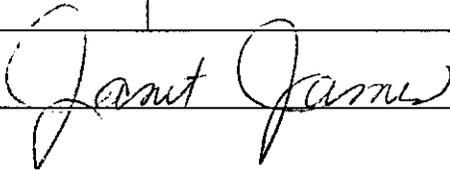
2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2220

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	2.2 -13.1
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

**Senator Stanley Lyson** Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee opened the hearing on SB 2220 relating to crane hunting by nonresidents.

All members of the committee were present.

**Senator April Fairfield** of District 29 sponsor of SB 2220 introduced the bill by behalf of a constituent who was not able to attend the hearing but asked his testimony be distributed to the committee (See attached testimony). She stated the intent of SB 2220 is to allow nonresident purchasers of a waterfowl license to make an additional purchase of a crane permit without having to purchase a small game permit. Currently a nonresident \$5.00 crane permit can be attained only if a small game permit purchased first. They cannot be purchased with a waterfowl permit. Therefore if a nonresident who has already paid the \$85.00 for a waterfowl permit must spend an additional \$90.00 to hunt crane. This bill would still allow crane permits with the

waterfowl permit. This is necessary because a crane does not have web feet and is not classified as waterfowl. She also distributed information on the sandhill cranes (See attached).

**Senator Lyson** asked for opposing testimony and not hearing any requested informational testimony from the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department.

**Roger Rostvet** deputy of the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department testified on SB 2220 stated that last session changes had been made in nonresident hunting licenses. One of these changes was to split out into separate areas a nonresident upland game licenses and a nonresident waterfowl licenses. One was not required to have the other. Crane are not considered waterfowl, however those you hunt crane hunt them in conjunction with waterfowl hunting. The intent was not to separate them out but this did seem to happen.

**Senator Fairfield** explained the proposed amendment was a clean up effort as this section had been forgotten in the original composition of SB 2220.

**Senator Lyson** closed the hearing on SB 2220.

**Senator John Traynor** made a motion for adoption of the amendment 50247.0101.

**Senator Joel Heitkamp** second the motion.

**Senator Lyson** called for a voice vote of adoption of the amendment, indicating 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

**Senator Traynor** made a motion for Do Pass as Amended of SB 2220.

**Senator Heitkamp** second the motion.

Roll call vote # 2 was taken indicating 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

**Senator Heitkamp** will carry SB 2220.

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 03/08/2005

Amendment to:           Engrossed  
                                   SB 2220

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

There is no fiscal impact for this bill.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

<b>Name:</b>	Paul Schadewald	<b>Agency:</b>	ND Game and Fish Department
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-6328	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	03/09/2005

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/25/2005

Amendment to: SB 2220

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

There is no fiscal impact for this change.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

<b>Name:</b>	Paul Schadewald	<b>Agency:</b>	ND Game and Fish Department
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-6328	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/25/2005

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/14/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2220

1A. **State fiscal effect:** Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

There is no fiscal impact for this change.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:

A. **Revenues:** Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

B. **Expenditures:** Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.

<b>Name:</b>	Paul T. Schadewald	<b>Agency:</b>	ND Game and Fish Department
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-6328	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/14/2005





**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

SB 2220: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2220 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "reenact" insert "subsection 1 of section 20.1-03-07 and"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

**"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 20.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Hunt, catch, take, or kill any small game without a nonresident small game license. The nonresident small game license entitles the nonresident to hunt small game for any period of ten consecutive days or any two periods of five consecutive days each. The hunting period for which the license is valid must be designated on the license. A nonresident small game license is not required to hunt waterfowl and cranes under section 20.1-03-07.1. A nonresident may purchase more than one nonresident small game license per year."

Renumber accordingly

2005 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2220

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **SB 2220**

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date **March 3, 2005**

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	2381-4535
2	x		1200-1550
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Karen Bonnet</i>			

Minutes:

**Vice Chr. Todd Porter:** I will call the committee back to order and open the hearing on SB 2220, and ask the clerk to read the title. Quorum present, Rep. Keiser.

**Sen. Joel Heitkamp:** I am here to represent Sen. April Fairfield who put this bill in. Sen. Fairfield is out of town and asked me to present it for her. **(Written testimony attached)**

**Vice Chr. Porter:** Are there any questions?

**Rep. Dawn Marie Charging:** I have a lot of experience with crane. They are different than waterfowl; they will actually stand out on the prairie. So this bill would basically remove hunters from having to purchase this?

**Heitkamp:** You're right, they're deemed upland game, not waterfowl. Because of the fact that most people who hunt them, though, hunt them in the spirit of waterfowl. You can find them around sloughs. It's duck and goose hunters who will hunt them. This bill tags on \$5 and says

Page 2

House Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number **SB 2220**

Hearing Date **March 3, 2005**

that you don't have to buy a non-resident upland game license just to specifically hunt crane. I don't think you will see a big influx of non residents doing this.

**Vice Chr. Porter:** Are there any further questions?

**Rep. Bob Hunsakor:** If I'm a non resident and have a small game upland hunting license, can I hunt crane?

**Heitkamp:** Yes. The problem that the bill is trying to address, is the fact that most of these hunters are buying a non resident waterfowl license. Remember that last session we separated out all of that. There's no such thing anymore as a non-resident license. You have to specifically say what you want to hunt.

**Hunsakor:** So you can hunt crane off the waterfowl and off the small game licenses?

**Heitkamp:** If you pass this (bill) and pay \$5.

**Charging:** I know that crane season is typically earlier. Does this bill affect the timing in any way?

**Heitkamp:** I don't believe so.

**Vice Chr. Porter:** I think Rep. Charging was referring to when the season actually opens.

**Heitkamp:** It doesn't affect it. This goes into effect August 1, and season doesn't start until September.

**Charging:** The last bill this morning would allow four more days of hunting?

**Hanson:** You can hunt crane all year long.

**Charging:** As a non resident?

**Hanson:** It's not waterfowl or a pheasant.

**Vice Chr. Porter:** I will ask the Department to clarify that. Is there further supporting testimony? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

**Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad:** Bill Pfeifer talked to me about this bill and about the amendment and asked me if I would have an amendment drawn up by Jeff Nelson. What it amounts to is Pg. 2, Line 8, "However, a non resident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a non resident waterfowl license or a non resident small game hunting license." It's either-or. If the bill we heard this morning doesn't pass, in my estimation if they were hunting small game, they could hunt for five days. If they are hunting with a waterfowl license, they could hunt for seven. That is my interpretation. My interpretation is that if the bill passes this morning, it would be an automatic 7 or 14 days on either license.

**Vice Chr. Porter:** Depending on which license they use to access the crane license.

**Rep. Lyle Hanson:** The cranes get reduced from the full season to 14 days or ten days.

**Nottestad:** You have to have the other license to hunt now.

**Vice Chr. Porter:** I will take Mr. Pfeifer's testimony now, then have the Department come forward and clarify the whole scenario.

**Bill Pfeifer:** After reviewing the bill, it looked to me like it would be a problem. Sen. Fairfield had requested from Legislative Council that "either/or" be a part of her original bill. It didn't turn out quite that way. They switched it from the upland requirement, which it presently is, over to all waterfowl. That helps placate the waterfowl people but it did nothing for those who were hunting upland game and also wanted to hunt crane but were not going to hunt ducks and geese. **(Written testimony attached)**

**Chr. Nelson:** Are there any questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. The prime sponsor of this bill, Sen. Fairfield, is at a funeral. If she wants to speak to the bill when she returns, we will reopen the hearing for her testimony. Is there further supporting testimony? Is there any opposition to SB 2220?

**Paul Schadewald, ND Game & Fish:** I will answer any questions that people have on the license. As clarification on dates, non resident hunters would be using up some of their days, whether it's a seven or a five day period to hunt sandhill crane.

**Rep. Charging:** That would be deterrent to them.

**Schadewald:** To some. Some are just coming over twice a year, anyway. It depends on the individual. It could be a deterrent.

**Chr. Nelson:** That would be true both in waterfowl and in upland, wouldn't it?

**Schadewald:** Correct. If the amendments are adopted so that it's either/or, it would be the same thing. It would be some days off if they use the waterfowl license or the small game license.

**Nottestad:** Isn't that exactly what it would be now?

**Schadewald:** That's correct.

**Nottestad:** It could be either or or on the licenses. They would still lose the days if they were hunting the sandhill cranes.

**Schadewald:** Right. Currently, they have to use days off their small game hunting license.

**Chr. Nelson:** Are there any questions?

**Charging:** I just want to clarify. The sandhill season opens about the second week of September.

**Schadewald:** Correct.

**Charging:** Whereas our waterfowl season opens October?

**Schadewald:** Our waterfowl season opens about two weeks later.

**Charging:** And it is a minority of hunters that are crane hunting?

**Schadewald:** Right.

**Charging:** If the preceding bill was passed, the either/or wouldn't affect the days in any way, small game only or waterfowl?

**Schadewald:** It's going to take some days off one of the licenses, whatever version we have.

All versions require some of those days to be utilized.

**Chr. Nelson:** Further questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. I will adjourn until 3 p.m. Today.

**Afternoon, March 3, 2005:**

**Chr. Nelson:** Committee, let's take up SB 2220. There is the Pfeifer/Nottestad amendment, 50247.0201. Rep. Nottestad, do you want to explain the amendment?

**Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad:** I move the amendment which permits you to hunt crane, you have to have the \$5 license, as a non resident with either an upland game or a waterfowl license.

**Rep. Todd Porter:** I second the amendment.

**Chr. Nelson:** The amendment is moved by Rep. Nottestad, seconded by Rep. Porter. Is there any further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, I'll ask for a voice vote, all those in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. What's the committee's wishes?

**Rep. David Drovdal:** I move a do pass as amended.

**Rep. Dawn Marie Charging:** Second.

Page 6  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number **SB 2220**  
Hearing Date **March 3, 2005**

**Chr. Nelson:** Rep. Drovdal moves a do pass as amended, seconded by Rep. Charging.

Committee discussion. Seeing none, I'll ask the clerk to call the roll on a

**Do Pass Motion as Amended, vote:**

**13-Yeas; 0-Nays; 1-Absent; CARRIER: Nottestad**

VRC  
3/3/05

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2220

Page 1, line 1, remove "subsection 1 of section 20.1-03-07 and"

Page 1, remove lines 4 through 12

Page 1, line 18, after the period insert "However, a nonresident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a nonresident waterfowl hunting license or a nonresident small game hunting license."

Page 1, line 19, remove "and cranes"

Page 2, line 8, after the period insert "However, a nonresident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a nonresident waterfowl hunting license or a nonresident small game hunting license."

Page 2, line 9, remove "and cranes"

Renumber accordingly

3/3/05  
Bill & Amend to  
LC @ 4:55 pm  
0

Date: 3/3/05  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2220

House NATURAL RESOURCES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number : 50247.0207 Title .0300 As engrossed

Action Taken : Do Pass as Amended (6th order)

Motion Made By : Drovdal Seconded By : Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman - Rep. Jon O. Nelson	✓		Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman - Todd Porter	✓		Rep. Bob Hunsakor	✓	
Rep. Dawn Marie Charging	✓		Rep. Scot Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Donald L. Clark	✓		Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓	
Rep. Duane DeKrey	✓				
Rep. David Drovdal	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. George J. Keiser	<u>abs</u>				
Rep. Mike Norland	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Nottestad ✓

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2220, as engrossed: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Nelson, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2220 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.**

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Page 2, line 8, after the period insert "However, a nonresident may hunt cranes after first obtaining a nonresident waterfowl hunting license or a nonresident small game hunting license."

Page 2, line 9, remove "and cranes"

Renumber accordingly

2005 TESTIMONY

SB 2220

**Fairfield, April J.**

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**From:** NOEL D. [nrpc739@mlgc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2005 2:03 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient;

Senator Fairfield,  
Please pass this on to the appropriate committee  
Thank you for your assistance and help on this matter

I would like to recommend that the ND crane permit be allowed to be purchased along with a waterfowl license for nonresidents who come to ND to hunt in the fall.

My son who resides in MN, my two nephews, and my niece's husband all make the annual trek to ND to hunt geese and ducks in the fall of the year. We are no longer able to hunt Sandhill Crane since they have to purchase an upland game permit to be able to buy the crane permit.

I have talked to the ND game and fish about this and they were sympathetic but could do nothing because the legislature has to affect the change.

I asked Senator Fairfield to introduce legislation to make this change. I know of no reason why this should not be done. I do know that biologically the crane is more closely related to upland game than waterfowl but yet it is found in areas where one would be hunting waterfowl.

I ask you to recommend a do pass out of committee.

I know my nephews and my son would appreciate this as well as many other nonresident hunters who hunt waterfowl in ND.

Thank you

Noel R. Drummond  
Glenfield, ND 58443

PS

I was a hunter safety instructor for many years and my name appears in every hunter safety student handbook that the state of ND hands out to students. I wrote a way for all to students to remember the 10 commandments of hunter safety. **A CHUM SPORT.**

This has no bearing on the mentioned request above but it does show that I am concerned about young people and hope that this will receive favorable action by your committee.

Once again thank you for your consideration of this matter.

**General Information**

- Interpretive Center
- Gift Shop
- Trail Information
- Membership Information

**Educational Opportunities**

- Summer Camps

**Crane Information**

- Bunker Tour Reservations

**Calendar of Events**

- Featured Events

**Contact Crane Meadows**

Crane Meadows  
Nature Center  
9325 S. Alda Rd.  
Wood River, NE 68883  
(308) 382-1820

Email:

[Info@cranemeadows.org](mailto:Info@cranemeadows.org)

**Crane Information**

Photo by Bob Moss

[Background Information](#) | [Ecological Notes](#) | [Crane Lore](#)  
[Daily Bunker Tour Reservations](#) | [Crane Viewing Opportunities](#) |

## Background Information About Sandhill Cranes

- Sandhill cranes stand between three and four feet tall, weigh five to eight pounds, and have a wing span of six feet.
- During their "staging" period on the Platte River, the crane increase their body weight by as much as 25%. This prepares them for the long flight ahead, reproduction, and possible food shortages upon their arrival at the nesting sites due to frozen ground.
- Both sexes of adult cranes look alike. The reddish-brown color that some exhibit is the result of preening with beaks covered with iron-rich mud that stain their feathers.
- Cranes mate for life and often pair when they are three to six years old. Cranes do not compete for the same mate and sometimes have a lengthy courtship. Cranes eyes do not meet during courtship.
- A young sandhill crane is called a colt. It grows at a rate of approximately an inch a day, reaching full size in nine weeks. They are orange-brown in color for most of their first year, lack a red crown, and make a whistling call.
- Sandhill cranes can live to the age of 25 years in the wild and longer in captivity. One crane at the Washington Zoo lived to be 55 years old!
- Cranes utilize an elongated windpipe to produce "Crane Music." Their harmonious "bugling" and "trumpeting" sounds are actually distinctive calls to communicate with each other.
- Cranes have much better hearing and sight capabilities than humans.

## Ecological Notes

- There are 15 species of crane currently found around the world, and an additional 36 extinct species recorded by fossil remains.
- North America has only two native species of crane, the sandhill

and the federally endangered whooping crane.

- Sandhill cranes have been hunted in the U.S. since 1960, and are hunted in nine central flyway states: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Nebraska does not allow hunting of sandhill cranes. An estimated 20,000 cranes are harvested each year by hunters in these states.
- The population of sandhill cranes in the early 1960's was estimated at 200,000 to 340,000. Currently the population is estimated at 600,000.
- At peak, half a million cranes are packed into a 60 mile stretch along the Platte River known as the "Big Bend" region.
- The Platte River Basin is the only ecosystem along the crane migration route that meets all of their requirements for roosting, resting, and restoring themselves.
- 80% of the total sandhill crane population uses the Platte and North Platte Rivers during both fall and spring migration.
- The future of the sandhill crane depends on the preservation of their habitat along the Platte River Valley.

### Crane Lore

- Cranes are the oldest living bird species and have the longest successful tenure on earth, about sixty million years. They are truly "emissaries from a distant age."
- Sandhill cranes probably get their name from the sandhills of Florida where they were first described by John James Audubon.
- Sandhill crane nick-names include "preacher bird" and "shypoke."
- Cranes are considered the most accomplished dancers in the animal kingdom.

### Daily Bunker Tour Reservations

Crane Observation Season: March 5 - April 10, 2005 coinciding with the dates of highest Sandhill Crane concentrations on the Platte.

Hours: From one hour before till one hour after sunrise and sunset. This is when the cranes are leaving or returning to their roosts.

Capacity: Blind tours are limited to the first 75 people who sign-up for each tour. Children must be at least 10 years old. Bridge tours are limited to the first 45 people who sign-up for each tour. Children must be at least 8 years old.

Reservations: Due to lack of security and reliability, we are no longer accepting reservations through our website. We are sorry if this causes any inconvenience. However, you can still make a reservation by calling us with a credit card number (Visa, Mastercard, or Discover) or by mailing us a check with your requested dates. You can also e-mail us at [info@cranemeadows.org](mailto:info@cranemeadows.org) with your phone number and reservation dates and we will call you back to confirm your request and get your credit card number."

Fees: A fee of \$20.00/person plus tax is charged for each blind tour. A fee of \$7.50/person plus tax is charged for the bridge watch. **Cancellations must be made at least 72 hours in advance for a full refund.**

## 2005 CRANE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

### GROUP TOURS

Crane Meadows Nature Center has a special crane viewing site for group tours. Contact Crane Meadows' Office Manager, at 308-382-1820 or email [info@cranemeadows.org](mailto:info@cranemeadows.org) for more information.

### CRANE BLIND TOURS

Crane viewing "Blind Tours" will be offered March 5th through April 9th at a fee of \$20 per person (plus tax), and are limited to the first 75 people who register for each tour. A trained naturalist will present an introductory program about cranes and will lead the group to an enclosed river bank blind for viewing cranes leaving or returning to their roost on the Platte River. Call to reserve your spot on this popular crane viewing tour.

### CRANE BRIDGE TOURS

An exclusive, guided crane viewing opportunity using the private Nature Center pedestrian bridge will be offered at sunset from March 5th through April 9th. This tour features the sights and sounds of the cranes as they return to a secondary roost along the river. The tour will be led by a trained crane guide. The number of participants is limited to provide minimal disturbance to the cranes while maintaining a premier viewing experience. A fee of \$7.50/person (plus tax) will be charged, reservations are encouraged.

### STEP-ON TOUR

The Nature Center will provide a trained naturalist to guide your bus or van group to the best crane viewing areas while providing you group with information on this area's natural history. Cost is \$5/person (plus tax) with a minimum \$75/tour. Reservations can be made up to a year in advance.

### CRANE PROGRAMS

A variety of programs about cranes will be presented for the public at the Nature Center during crane season. Check with the Center for topics and times, or click on "Calendar of Events." A special program can be arranged for your group at the Nature Center or a naturalist from Crane Meadows can come to your site. Several different programs are available. Call for more information and prices.

### CRANE DISPLAYS & NATURE TRAILS

Wildlife displays, including a variety of exhibits on cranes, can be viewed at Crane Meadows Interpretive Center. Informative videos about cranes and Platte River wildlife are shown continually during crane season. Staff are on hand to answer crane questions and direct people to local crane viewing hot spots. A handicapped accessible trail leads visitors to a 455' pedestrian bridge with an island trail, an observation tower and over 7 miles of prairie hiking trails. Admission to the displays and exhibits will be FREE from March 5th through April 9th.

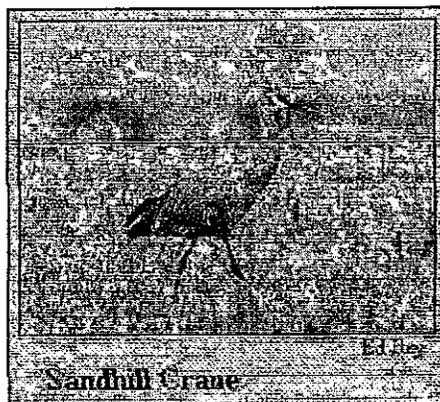
### NATURE GIFT SHOP

Our Gift shop has a wide range of new items, plus a nice assortment of crane and wildlife merchandise is also available including T-shirts, books, jewelry, video tapes and gift items. Free to the public for browsing and making purchases.



# Marshbirds and Shorebirds of North Dakota

## Sandhill Crane



SANDHILL CRANE *Grus canadensis* L41" (185cm)

There are six subspecies, or races, of sandhill cranes. They differ in size and darkness of coloration. Three of the subspecies are migratory, all of which pass through North Dakota during the spring and fall. The largest race is the greater sandhill crane (*G. c. tabida*) with an average weight between 10 and 14 pounds. The two smaller races, the lesser sandhill crane (*G. c. canadensis*) and the Canadian sandhill crane (*G. c. rowani*), weigh between 6 and 9 pounds. Depending on where they nest, the plumage of sandhill cranes will often be stained yellow to reddish brown. This rusty color is caused by ferric oxide (iron) in the soil which is transferred to the cranes' feathers during preening. During the breeding season, the majority of sandhill cranes inhabit marshes, bogs, and flat marshy tundra in Alaska and across Canada. Smaller populations breed in the northwestern United States and around the Great Lakes region. The female lays two olive-brown eggs and incubation is shared by both sexes. The voice of the sandhill crane is very distinctive - a vibrant, far-carrying *gar-oo-ooo* which is often audible for several miles.

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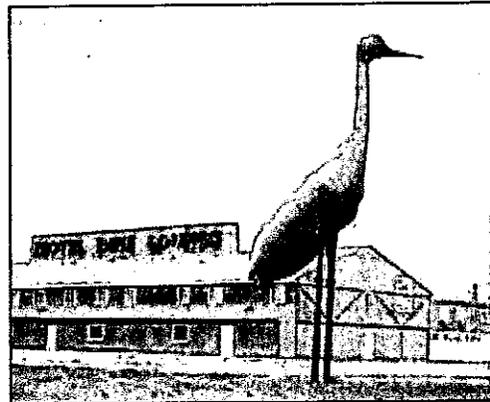
# Steele, North Dakota - World's Largest Sandhill Crane

*Vacation and road trip planning caution: Visitor tips may not be verified. Send us updates.*

## Steele, North Dakota - World's Largest Sandhill Crane

At the Lone Steer hotel-restaurant. [S. White, 06/11/2000]

**Directions:** East on I-94.



## Steele, North Dakota - Giant Whooping Crane

A giant metal whooping crane was recently erected just off I 90. It is located between the World's Largest Holstein in New Salem, ND, and the World's Largest Buffalo in Jamestown, ND. The whooping crane is actually quite artful and neat to look at from the road. [Fritzag, 06/10/2000]

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# Sandhill Crane

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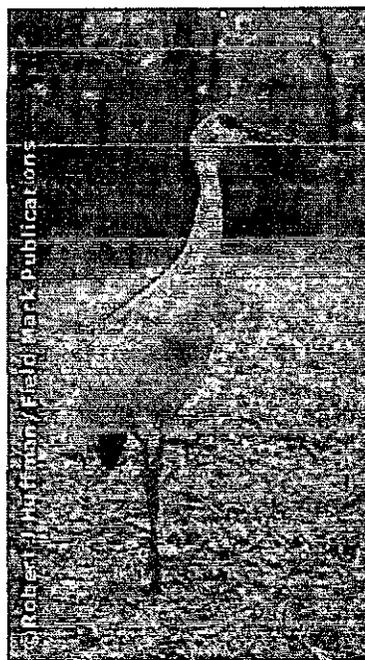
by Ronald H. Hoffman and Glenn Y. Belyea

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) is one of only 15 species of cranes in the world : of just two crane species native to North America. While the Whooping Crane, our other crane, is highly endangered and restricted to only a few areas of the West, the Sandhill widespread and in most areas is more abundant. Once nearly eliminated from Michigan Cranes have made a comeback and now are becoming one of the state's most popular wildlife species.

Cranes are tall, stately birds with a heavy body, long neck and long legs. Standing four feet high and possessing a wing span of six to seven feet, Sandhill Cranes are Michigan bird. Long, skinny legs and neck give a false impression of size; the males weigh an av about 12 pounds and the females around 9-1/2 pounds. Except for this size difference, sexes look alike.

After molting their feathers in late summer, Sandhills are ( except for white cheeks and a bare reddish forehead. Bust feathers further add to a distinctive appearance. The inten in the bald forehead varies depending on behavioral stimu which controls skin capillaries by restricting or relaxing blo brighter red forehead is associated with stressful stimuli; c other hand, a less conspicuous forehead signals submissio Sandhills frequently preen with vegetation and mud staine oxide. Consequently, during most of the year they appear brown rather than gray. Only the hard to reach areas of th neck, underwings and head will lack the rusty coloration o process is completed. This unusual behavior aids to camou nesting birds. Immature Sandhills appear similar to adults that they are brown in color and the forehead remains feat until early winter.

The Sandhill Crane is often confused with the Great Blue H are large wading birds with pointed bills, long necks and le they do have some major differences. Herons fly with the l neck tucked back to their shoulders in an "S" while cranes their necks outstretched. The rapid upstroke of the wings i field mark for cranes in contrast to the slow steady flap of Great Blue Herons. Cranes n separately on the ground, while herons nest in large colonies in trees called rookeries. cranes have a loud trumpet-like call, while the Great Blue Heron utters low hoarse croa



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## Sandhill Crane



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### Voice

Sandhill Cranes have a variety of vocalizations, the most common of which is generally as a repeated series of trumpeting "garoo-a-a-a" calls that can be heard for over a mile. The reasons for this remarkably loud and penetrating call is an unusual windpipe. In most birds the trachea passes directly from the throat to the lungs, but in Sandhills it is elongated forming a single loop which fills a cavity in the sternum. It is not surprising that the lou

Population

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MichiganU.S.A.ContactInformation

more harmonic Whooping Crane has a longer trachea with a double loop.

Perhaps the most remarkable call of cranes is the unison call. It is typically uttered when they begin to pair. Unlike the single-noted calls, the unison call is a complex and extended series of calls uttered by a pair of the birds standing in a specific posture and spatial relationship to each other. They call in synchrony, but the calls and postures of the sexes differ. The female usually calls first and usually utters two notes for every one given by the male. With each call she elevates her bill about 45 degrees and then returns it to horizontal between calls, whereas the male raises his bill nearly to vertical while calling.

### Subspecies

Of the six recognized subspecies of Sandhill Crane, it is the Greater Sandhill Crane that is most common in Michigan. The Greater subspecies can also be found in the Far West. In between we have the Lesser and Canadian subspecies that winter in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California and migrate to their nesting grounds in central and western Canada, Alaska and even Siberia. Lessers nest in the arctic, while the Canadian subspecies breeds in the aspen parklands of Canada. These two subspecies comprise most of the Sandhill Cranes in North America.

The spectacular early spring migration of over one-half million Sandhill Cranes through the Platte River area of central Nebraska is comprised primarily of Lessers. The same birds are limited hunting opportunities for sportsmen in many western states and Canadian provinces as they return south each fall. The other three subspecies are all southern and non-migratory. The Florida subspecies occurs across southern Georgia and northern and central Florida. While the Florida subspecies occurs in good numbers, the other southern subspecies, the Mississippi Crane, and the Cuban, are both highly endangered. The Mississippi subspecies is restricted to only one county in that state, and the Cuban subspecies is now mostly restricted to the Isle of Pines. The future does not look bright for these two subspecies. However, the Greater Sandhill Crane population in the Great Lakes states is expanding in both numbers and range.

### Food Habits

Sandhill Cranes are opportunistic omnivores. Because they frequent marshes for protection, many people mistakenly believe that Sandhills feed on fish much like the herons. Although they will occasionally eat fish, their diet normally consists of a wide variety of both plants and animals. They readily take advantage of available food supplies. Early in spring, when food is scarce, they may scavenge waste grain in cattle pastures. Cranes do a great deal of digging with their bills, often penetrating several inches below the surface in search of a morsel. Animals such as crayfish, worms, mice, birds, frogs, snakes, and many kinds of insects are consumed. They also devour acorns, roots, various seeds and fruits, and browse vegetation. They are especially fond of harvested grain such as corn, wheat, and barley. Unfortunately for farmers, cranes can cause damage to newly planted corn and each year some localized severe crop damage is reported. However, cranes also benefit farming by consuming weed seeds, harmful insects, and waste grain left in a field, would compete with the next year's crop.

### Spring Arrival

The annual return of Sandhill Cranes is a sure sign of spring. The urge to migrate moves them from their warm winter quarters to the cold, snowy landscape of Michigan. Arriving in Michigan in February in southern Michigan and nearly a month later to northern Michigan, they are among the earliest migratory birds to return. Unlike Sandhills in many other areas, Michigan Sandhills seldom gather in large flocks during spring migration, but rather disperse to their nesting territories.

Sandhill Cranes mate for life and pairs return to the same nesting locations year after year. When a pair flies north they usually are accompanied by the one or two offspring from the previous year which the parents have so carefully protected. These youngsters are in for a rude awakening, however, since shortly after arrival on the nesting ground, the adults drive

out of the area. Sandhills are very territorial, not allowing other Sandhills near their ne not even their previous year's offspring. For the next several years these youngsters w rather unpredictably in loosely-knit flocks. Eventually they find partners and establish t of their own. Territories usually cover between 40 and 200 acres, but some 10 acres or size have been noted.

**Courtship Display**

Cranes are famous for their dance. The dancing display of cranes is often associated wi courtship. Young unpaired birds will also dance suggesting that it serves other function thwarting aggression, facilitating pair formation, and sexual synchronization. The dance of a series of bowing, jumping and stick-tossing movements. When it occurs in a flock, begins slowly with one bird, then increasing in tempo, the excitement of the dance soo to others until many are dancing at the same time. It certainly is one of the most inter animal behaviors to observe.

**Nesting**

Traditionally, cranes select remote inaccessible wetlands for nesting. Earlier in this century nesting occurred in large deep water marshes in southern Michigan and bogs in the northern part of the state. Cattails, bulrushes, and sedges commonly grow in southern marshes while the northern bogs contain leatherleaf and sphagnum. More recently, as the population has increased, Sandhills are using smaller wetlands, frequently within sight of human activities, and with a greater variety of vegetative cover types. In the past they would fly away at the first sign of human intruders. Now, they are more apt to stay and defend their nest.

Nesting begins early in April in southern Michigan and about one month later in the Upper Peninsula. Large nests are constructed of vegetation pulled from the nearby area to form a mound often surrounded by a moat, but some nests have been located on dry land. The average nest is two to three feet in diameter and rises three to five inches above the water. Sandhills typically lay two oval-shaped eggs about twice the size of a chicken's egg. They are either greenish or brownish with small dark brown spe are laid between 24 and 48 hours apart. Both parents share incubation duties and raise young. Although the female does most of the incubation while the male protects the ne intruders, they do periodically exchange duties. After about 30 days, the eggs hatch. S incubation begins as soon as the first egg is laid, hatching does not occur at the same l older chick often attacks the younger chick, resulting in only one offspring being raised It is common for young Sandhills to be away from the nest within 24 hours of hatching may return at night, allowing the female to brood them. The young grow rapidly, feedi variety of plant and animal life found both in wetlands and in surrounding uplands. Wit weeks they are ready to take their first flight.



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**Fall Staging**

Toward the end of summer, Sandhill Cranes begin a remarkable change in behavior. Si they have been very territorial, driving away any would-be intruders. Beginning in Aug Sandhill pairs become less antagonistic to other Sandhills and slowly become more soc begin by feeding together in the same field, then roosting in small flocks at night, and gathering in large flocks at staging areas. This loss of aggressive behavior enables pair benefit from the advantages of migrating and wintering in flocks.

At fall staging areas Sandhills provide excellent bird-watching opportunities. Staging ar wetlands usually within a day's flight of nesting marshes that offer food, social interact

protection prior to migration. Some of the smaller staging areas may attract a dozen or more. Baker Sanctuary attracts about 2,000 - 4,000 Sandhills as does Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary in Jackson County. Cranes spend the night roosting in shallow open water and in the morning, they fly out to feed and loaf in agricultural fields, returning late in the afternoon to roost. The sight of several hundred cranes flying low overhead, uttering their prehistoric calls as they wing their way back to roost, is one of the most aesthetic in all nature. Hundreds of bird watchers also "flock" to staging areas each fall to enjoy the spectacular gathering of cranes.

Although Sandhill Cranes are known to nest in over 50 counties in Michigan, they are scarce during the breeding season. The best viewing is in autumn at the larger and more accessible staging areas. The best time of day to see cranes is early morning and late afternoon. Michigan weather can be changeable in the fall, it is always advisable to bring foul weather clothing. A good course, binoculars and cameras are always a good idea.

The largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes in the Midwest occurs at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Game Area in Indiana. Located just west of Radioville on US 421, it is about 40 miles south of Michigan City. From October through November Sandhills from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario stop at Jasper-Pulaski during migration. More than 30,000 Sandhills are gathered there in early to mid November during the peak of migration.

Crane enthusiasts might also want to visit the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. During guided tours, visitors will see most of the species of cranes found in Michigan and learn of foundation-sponsored projects carried out around the world. Further information may be obtained by writing: International Crane Foundation, E-11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913.

### Fall Departure

In late autumn, Michigan's Sandhills begin an exodus to southeastern Georgia and Florida. Cranes usually take advantage of a northwest tail wind and wait until mid-morning when the wind causes warming thermals to rise, carrying them with the least amount of effort on their southward journey. Flying at speeds up to 50 miles per hour, they can cover nearly 500 miles in one day. Cranes often sail for prolonged periods on set wings, riding the thermals until they are out of view. The bulk of migration takes place nearly a mile above the ground, but there are records of them flying even higher. They usually land before dusk and resume their flight the next day.

### Michigan Population

Over the last four decades, the population of Sandhill Cranes in Michigan has made a dramatic comeback. In the mid-1800s, it is believed that cranes nested in almost every part of the state. However, loss of wetlands, uncontrolled market hunting, and an intolerance to increased human activity contributed to a decline in numbers. While cranes still persisted in fair numbers in the Upper Peninsula, a 1931 survey found only 17 pairs left in southern Michigan. By 1947, there were still only 27 known pairs in lower Michigan. During the 1950s crane numbers increased to about 50 pairs. In the 1970s and 1980s, Sandhill numbers rose dramatically. A two-year survey in 1986-87 funded by the Non-game Wildlife Fund found 630 pairs in the Lower Peninsula and another 175 pairs in the Upper Peninsula. Since cranes do not pair until they are three years old, a rapidly expanding population such as this will include a high number of immature, non-reproductive birds. Also, many pairs probably went unrecorded, especially in the Upper Peninsula. It is estimated that there are now over 8,000 Sandhill Cranes in Michigan.

Sandhill Cranes are an important part of Michigan's natural heritage. Once nearly lost from the state, their recovery is a wonderful success story. Unfortunately, many other species of wildlife have not fared as well. Cranes and many other species of wildlife need our support. Now, as it has for thousands of years, the unison call of a pair of Sandhill Cranes will announce the beginning of another nesting season. More importantly, this pronouncement declares that a crane marsh fit for not only Sandhills, but for hundreds of other members of the wetland community.

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community. Endangered plants, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl, wading many other plants and animals depend on wetlands. It is a call that challenges us to in the crane's stamp of approval will continue to be heard.

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Presented for the public record:  
For. Sen. Fairfield  
By: <sup>sen</sup> Joe Heitkamp  
Re: SB 2220 - 3/3/05  
Pg: 1 of 1

Mr Chairman,

Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, for the record, my name is April Fairfield and I am the Senator from Dist 29

I am here today to introduce SB 2220 on behalf of a constituent. I am providing, to the committee, a letter from that constituent.

The intent of the bill is to allow nonresident purchasers of a waterfowl licenses to make an additional purchase of a crane permit, without having to purchase a small game permit.

Currently, one may purchase a five dollar crane permit, only if an \$85 small game permit is purchased first. Crane permits may not be purchased with waterfowl permits. Therefore, if nonresidents, who have already paid the \$85 for a waterfowl permit, must spend an additional \$90 to hunt crane.

Not to be disrespectful to the majestic bird, but from what I have heard, they are barely worth the \$5 let alone \$90.

This bill would still allow a crane permit to be purchased with a small game permit, but it would also allow the permit to be purchased with a waterfowl permit.

So why is all this necessary? Because cranes do not have webbed feet.

That's right. Despite their penchant for water, because their feet are not webbed, they are not federally classified as waterfowl.

I have been told that a representative from ND Game and Fish is on hand to explain about the classification, and how this whole miscarriage of crane injustice occurred.

So, Mr. Chairman, admittedly, I am not a crane expert.

I will answer questions from all committee members except Senators Heitkamp and Every.

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2220**

**TESTIMONY OF BILL PFEIFER**

The bill sponsor concurred with the proposed amendment by advising that the intent of the bill was to permit a nonresident to hunt crane with either/or a valid nonresident waterfowl license or a valid nonresident upland small game license.

This first engrossment of Senate Bill 2220 was not printed as such.

This amendment would provide licensing consistency, i.e., a resident hunter may hunt crane with an upland small game license whereas this first engrossment would require a nonresident upland hunter to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license to hunt crane. There is no justification for a nonresident upland small game hunter to be required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license just to hunt crane.

Allowing nonresident hunters to hunt crane with either a valid nonresident waterfowl license or a valid nonresident upland small game license would not create any additional administrative or enforcement efforts by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

A federal waterfowl stamp is not required to hunt crane.

By: Bill Pfeifer  
Re: SB 2220 - 3/3/05  
Pg: 2 of 2

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**  
**AMENDMENT TO**  
**SENATE BILL NO. 2220**

Page 1, Section 1, Line 10, following the word waterfowl delete "and cranes"

Page 1, Section 2, Line 18, following the word license insert "cranes may be hunted after first obtaining a valid nonresident waterfowl license or a valid nonresident small game license."

Page 1, Section 2, Line 19, delete "and cranes"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 9, delete "and cranes"