

# NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

# The Over Looked and Under Appreciated Sandhill Crane

*By Doug Leier /  
North Dakota Game  
and Fish Department*

Have you ever been sandhill crane hunting? Not just a chance opportunity when a few sandhills drifted through while goose or duck hunting. If you haven't I'd suggest it might be a new or different way to enjoy North Dakota outdoors this fall. Here's a little more information about these overlooked and under appreciated migrants.

## About Sandhill Cranes

John Palarski, North Dakota Game and Fish Department migratory game bird biologist explains: "There are four populations of sandhill cranes that migrate through the United States — Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River, Eastern and Mid-continent."

The latter population of birds are those that color North Dakota's skies gray in spring and fall, and to the pedestrian looking for, say, color or size differences between one group to the next, there's not much to



***Doug Leier***

distinguish one population  
of sandhills from the others.

Most are differentiated just by where they are breeding and where their migratory paths take them.

“What’s interesting about the Mid-continent population of sandhill cranes is that they have four main breeding affiliations or areas where they’re breeding,” Palarski said. “Some of those birds go up to western Alaska and eastern Siberia to nest, while some go into eastern Alaska and western Canada. Another group goes to far northern Canada, and the fourth breeding affiliation is kind of in that northwestern Minnesota

area and eastern and central Canada as well.”

North Dakota is an incredibly important stopover site for cranes making long-haul migrations to breeding grounds.

“What the cranes are looking for in North Dakota are our shallow wetlands where they can rest and refuel,” Palarski said.

“Considering that some of these birds are migrating a couple thousand miles to places like Siberia, Alaska and northern Canada, North Dakota plays a key role during their migration.”

The menu to refuel for the long flight north is diverse for these birds.

“Sandhill cranes are technically omnivorous. While we think of them eating a lot of grains, wetland seeds, vegetation, wetland plant tubers ... they’re also known to eat amphibians, reptiles and small mammals as well,” Palarski said.

Cranes mate for life, biologists tell us, and hang with their dancing partner year-round.

“Typically, their clutch size is two. The chicks will leave the nest and begin foraging right after hatching,” Palarski said. “But it takes around 65 to 75 days for them to actually fledge and be able to fly.”

While North Dakota and its Central Flyway location plays a key role in helping shuttle cranes from wintering to breeding grounds in spring, the list of sandhills reportedly nesting in North Dakota over time is not long. Much of that has to do with an absence of large, shallow marshes, or bogs, in North Dakota that the cranes prefer for nesting.

“North Dakota has an affiliation with birds breeding in northwestern Minnesota, so we’ll still have birds that occasionally drift over into North Dakota to nest,” Palarski said.

# Crane Hunting 101

Sandhill crane hunting is an often-overlooked option in North Dakota. These underappreciated visitors through North Dakota are very unique. Not just in

ingredient lists a few miles long, but did you know that the leading brand of original almondmilk has calcium carbonate, vitamin E acetate, vitamin A palmitate, vitamin D2, gellan gum, ascorbic acid, and natural flavors in it too? Not to mention, it also contains sugar

size, sight and taste.

Their early September migration from Canada into North Dakota provides a different option between early Canada goose and regular waterfowl for hunters. The few thousand hunters each fall are part of a niche group. While small in numbers the draw for sandhill crane hunting can be less competition and congestion.

While the “flyings sticks” look like an easy target, crane hunters are all too familiar with the long necks and keen eyesight flaring many a flock. Most hunters choose a heavy load and magnum option to help balance the odds for efficient, clean kills taken from longer distances.

These birds are notorious for roosting and feeding in different locations. Just because you scout a field in the evening doesn't mean they'll use the same feed for a morning decoy hunt.

Space won't permit the full disclosure on cleaning, preparing and eating. I'll say that I've made



NDGF

There are four populations of sandhill cranes that migrate through the United States — Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River, Eastern and Mid-continent

and eaten crane stir fry and  
jerky with a few other cu-  
linary experiments, all of  
which were better table fare  
than “roast crane.”

## A Look At Crane Hunting In North Dakota

1984 — 3,189 hunters,  
4,367 cranes harvested  
1994 — 2,497 hunters,  
6,235 cranes harvested  
2004 — 2,491 hunters,  
3,967 cranes harvested  
2014 — 1,743 hunters,  
2,924 cranes harvested  
2023 — 3,029 hunters,  
5,419 cranes harvested  
<https://gf.nd.gov/magazine/2025/may/stopover-state>

store- and it makes grocery shopping even more fun with kids. When they can't pronounce the ingredient, it might be worth taking a second look at to determine if it is, in fact, a UPF. Then you can decide- is it welcome in your family's cart, or not?

# ULTRA

*From 1*

## Can you pick out the UPFs from that list?

The only UPFs that can be found in that list are numbers 5, 6, and 8. For the most part, every bread and crack-

<p><b>LEGALS</b></p> <p>BARNES COUNTY PLANNING &amp; ZONING September 9, 2025 6:00 P.M. Barnes County Courthouse 2nd Floor Commission Chambers</p> <p><b>AGENDA</b> 6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER MINUTES HEARING Tim Richman Drain Tile Setback Variance of less than 75' but out of road right of way of Township roads 38th St SE &amp; 132nd Ave SE, SE1/4, 12-139-56, Springvale Twp BUILDING PERMIT REVIEW</p> <p>Terry Langdahl Garage/shop Lt 10 Blk1 Homestead Sub, 13-143-58, Sibley Trail Twp; James Schroeder 3-Hopper Bins/replaced after June storm) SW1/4 NW1/4, 05-140-57, Alta Twp; Todd Wendel Pole Barn(rebuild from June storm) Lot 2 less south 1/36.50' Lakeview 2nd Sub, 16-142-58, Ashtabula Twp; Cathy Kangas Storage container Lot 2 Blk 2 Jewett's Beach 2nd Sub, 22-142-58, Ashtabula Twp; Sid Schmidt Garage Lot 18 Veterans Sub NE1/4, 13-143-58, Sibley Trail Twp; Trygve &amp; DeeAnn Skolness Storage building (rebuild from June storm) Lot 7 Blk 2 Ashtabula Lookout Sub, 32-142-58, Ashtabula Twp; Rodney Rood Modular home (rebuild from June storm) 3.58 acres of NE1/4, 16-139-58, Marsh Twp; Jeff Gilbertson garage Lot 1 Blk 3 Mielke Sub, 35-143-58, Sibley Trail Twp; Matt Powers Grain Bin (rebuild from June storm) NW1/4, 36-142-57, Grand Prairie Twp; Conservation Development Coop Grain Bin(rebuild from June storm) NW1/4, 23-141-56, Weimer Twp; Richard Jorissen ? storage building (rebuild from June storm) SW1/4, 22-143-59, Dazey Twp; Wes &amp; Pat Lime-sand Livestock building(rebuild from June storm) Aud Lt 1 of NE1/4, 02-139-59, Green Twp; Wes &amp; Pat Lime-sand Machine shed (rebuild from June storm) Aud Lt 1 of NE1/4, 02-139-59, Green Twp; Kristin &amp; Nicholas Boll shop(rebuild from June storm) Lot 13 Lakeview 2nd Sub, 15&amp;16-142-58, Ashtabula Twp; Aaron Koebornick Pole Barn(rebuild from June storm) NW1/4, 22-142-60, Edna Twp; Brian Roehrich Ag Storage Addition NE1/4, 23-143-58, Sibley Trail Twp; Brad &amp; Angela Cruff Screen Porch 2 acres in SW1/4, 33-142-58, Ashtabula Twp</p> <p><b>OTHER BUSINESS</b> <b>ADJOURNMENT</b> Barnes County will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide: an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access County programs and information. Appropriate provisions will be considered when the County is notified at least 10 days prior to the meeting date or the date the written material translation is needed. To request accommodations, contact Beth Didier at (701-845-6666) or (bldidir@barnescountytty.us). TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-5888.</p> <p>(September 5, 2025)</p> <p>Barnes County Water Resource District PO Box 306 Valley City, ND 58072 701-845-8508</p> <p>Monday September 8th, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.Barnes County Highway Department, Conference Room. Members of the public unable to attend may participate in the Teams meeting:Call: +1 323-457-5870. Phone Conference ID: 559 865 586#.</p> <p><b>Agenda</b> Call to Order Public Comment August Minutes Rills</p>	<p><b>LEGALS</b></p> <p><b>Old Business:</b> VC Little Dam Ten Mile Lake Thordenskjold Drain Clausen Springs Dam Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study Svea Drain Hobart Lake Sanborn Lake Outlet Dam Inventory Water-Related Complaint Oriska Township LaMoure County WRD Proposed Joint Project Spring Creek Rodney Latt Drainage Complaint David Richman; <b>NEW BUSINESS:</b> NDDOT Request for Drainage Dustin Theurer Engineer Report Legal Report <b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>(September 5, 2025)</p> <p>In District Court, Barnes County, North Dakota In The Matter Of The Petition For Name Change Of Carson James Abrahamson. <b>Notice Of petition For Name Change</b> 1. Please take notice that a petition will be filed with the above-entitled court requesting an Order changing the Petitioner's name of, Carson James Abrahamson (current full, legal name) to Carson James Faul (requested full, legal name). 2. Notice is Further Given that thirty days after publication the Petitioner intends t file a Petition re-questing entry of the Court's Order changing the Petitioner's name. Any objection to granting this name change must be given in writing to the address listed below within 30 days of the date of this publication. The written objection must also be filed with the Court. If no objections are given, the Court may respond to the Petitiob without futher hearing. Dated 8-26-25 Carson Abrahamson (Petitioner Signature) Carson Abrahamson (Printed Name) 2312 123 RD Ave SE (Address) Valley City, ND 58072 (City, State &amp; Zip Code)</p> <p>(August 29, Septemebr 5 &amp; 12, 2025)</p> <p>Bennett A. Lystad (#09425) blystad@vogellaw.com VOGEL LAW FIRM PO Box 1077 Moorhead, MN 56561-1077 Telephone: 218.236.6462 Court File No. 02-2025-PR-00046 Attorneys for Personal Representative IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BARNES COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA In the Matter of the Estate of Carol Janine Elston a/k/a Carol J. Elston a/k/a Carol Elston, Deceased. <b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the under signed has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said Decedent are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Bennett A. Lystad, Vogel Law Firm, PO Box 1077, Moorhead, MN 56561-1077, Curtis L. Elston, 352 134<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Hope, ND 58046, as Personal Representative of the Estate, or filed with the Court. Dated this 16th day of August, 2025. Curtis L. Elston, Personal Representative</p> <p>(August 22, 29 &amp; September 5, 2025)</p>	<p><b>LEGALS</b></p> <p>IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF BARNES IN THE DISTRICT COURT, SOUTH-EAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT Rocket Mortgage, LLC t/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, Plaintiff, v. all persons unknown, claiming any estate or interest in, or lien or encumbrance upon the real estate described in the complaint and Aqua Finance, Inc. and Leonard E. Beeson and Rocky E Burchill a/k/a Rocky L. Burchill and Heirs &amp; devisees of the Estate of Leonard E. Beeson and Rocky L. Burchill, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Leonard E. Beeson a/k/a Leonard Eugene Beeson, and any person in possession, Defendants. <b>NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE</b> CIVIL NUMBER: 02-2025-CV-00008 1. Judgment in the amount of \$129,869.98, having been entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, which Judgment was filed with the Clerk of Courts of Barnes County, North Dakota, on June 16, 2025, for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage. 2. Notice is hereby given pursuant to said Judgment that the real property described as: Lot 10, and the East Half (E1/2) of Lot 11, in Block 21, of the Original Plat of the City of Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, according to the certified plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for said County and State. Real Property address :359 3rd St NW, Valley City, ND 58072 The above real property is the subject of the Mortgage dated June 22, 2021, which Mortagors, Leonard E. Beeson, Rocky Burchill, executed and delivered to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns and recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Barnes County, North Dakota, on June 28, 2021, Instrument Number 294806, which is subject to the entered Judgment. Said Mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff, its successors or assigns, by Assignment of Mortgage recorded July 10, 2024, Instrument Number 301098. 3. In order to realize the amount of \$129,869.98, as of June 16, 2025, plus interest accruing thereafter on said amount as awarded by the court, together with the costs and expenses of sale, will be sold subject to redemption as provided by law as one parcel of land at public auction, subject to the lien for unpaid real estate taxes and assessments of Barnes County, North Dakota, and easements and restrictions of record, to the highest bidder for cash under the direction of the Sheriff of Barnes County, North Dakota, at the main entrance of the Barnes County Courthouse located at 230 4th Street NW, Valley City, North Dakota 58072-0774, on October 1, 2025 ("Sale Date"), at 10:00 AM. 4. If the sale is set aside for reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. DATED this 12th day of August, 2025. SHERIFF OF BARNES COUNTY Sheriff Randy McClaflin Sheriff / Deputy Sheriff of Barnes Halliday, Watkins &amp; Mann, P.C. By: s/ Tyler S. Wirick Tyler S. Wirick, ND Bar: 10014 Attorneys for Plaintiff 376 East 400 South, Suite 300 Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Tel: 801-355-2886 Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com</p> <p>(August 22, 29 &amp; September 5, 2025)</p>	<p><b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b> Notice is hereby given that the Barnes County Planning and Zoning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Room of the Barnes County Courthouse, 230 4th Street NW, Valley City, North Dakota, to consider a request from Tim Richman for a Drain Tile Setback Variance of less than 75? but out of the right of way from the center of Township road 38th St SE &amp; 132nd Ave SE, SE1/4, 12-139-56, Springvale Township. The public may comment by attending the meeting or in writing to the Barnes County Planning &amp; Zoning Board, 230 4th St NW Rm. 202, Valley City, ND 58072</p> <p>(August 29 &amp; September 5, 2025)</p> <p>Valley City Public School District #2 School Board RetreatTuesday, August5, 2025 Valley City Eagles Club (Basement Meeting Room) The VPCS School Board held their annual retreat at Valley City Eagles Club, Valley City, ND, on TuesdayAugust 5, 2025, at 6:00PM. Present for the retreat were: School Board President Sherri Horsager, SchoolBoard Vice President Darin Anderson, Directors - Ryan Mathias, Phil Hatcher, and Tommy Bergan. Alsoattending the meeting - Supt. Joshua Johnson and Business Manager Jackie Cordie.1. School District Facility Project 20282. School District Financials3. Continuous School Improvement Plans4. Strategic Plan - 2023-2028b. Student Outcome Goals - 2023-2028c. School District AccreditationAdjournment:- Time: Horsager declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Signatures: President Sherri Horsager Business Manager Jackie Cordie Date 08/21/25</p> <p>(September 5, 2025)</p> <p>Valley City Public School District #2 Special School Board Meeting MinutesTuesday, July 22, 2025 Call to Order:President Sherri Horsager called the special school board meeting of the Valley City Public SchoolDistrict #2 to order at 5:31PM on Thursday, June 12, 2025.Attendees:-Board Members Present: Darin Anderson, Ryan Mathias, Phil Hatcher-Zoom: Tommy BerganOthers Attending: Superintendent Joshua Johnson, Business Manager Jackie Cordie, CourtneyFick, and Paul McDonald.Amend/Adopt School District Board Policies:-Motion: Hatcher moved to amend and adopt the listed policies and board regulations on thefirst reading and waive the second reading to expedite the policy adoption process per boardpolicy BOA. The policy amendment date is July 22, 2025.-Second: Anderson seconded the motion-Vote: Upon poll, all present agreed, motion carriedAmend:1. ABEA - Wellness- (Required)2. GACB - Student Voting and the Pledge of Allegiance- (Required)3. FFK and FFK-BR - Suspension and Expulsion- (Required)4. FF - Juvenile Court- (Required)5. FGA and FGA-E8 - Data Sharing Agreements- (Required)6. FFE - Student Misconduct and Participation in Activities- (Required)7. BCAA - Public Comment at Board Meetings- (Required)8. BCBA - Public Participation at Board Meetings- (Required)9. DDBD - Military Leave- (Recommended)10. ABBDA - Political Activates (Recommended)11. ABCA - Copyrighted Material and Intellectual Property (Recommended)12. ABCB -Sportsmanship (Recommended) Adopt:13. FFI - Student Use of Technology- (Required)14. ACCB - Student Victims of Abuse- (Required)15. GABE - Human Trafficking- (Required)16.</p>
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