



Presented by: **State Representative James A. Lower**

HOUSE RESOLUTION 154:

Introduced by Representative James Lower

A resolution to encourage the Natural Resources Commission to add Sandhill Cranes to the game species list and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish a Sandhill Crane hunting season

THE SANDHILL CRANE

- A large species of cranes found in North America that are mostly migratory
- They have a grayish plumage, notable red crown, and grow to be about 4 feet tall with a wingspan of 6 feet. They weigh an average of 10 pounds
- They breed in fields, wetlands, and prairies and migrate in large flocks- sometimes in groups numbering in the thousands
- Known as “opportunistic feeders”, their varied diet is heavy in seeds and cultivated foods, such as corn and wheat



DAMAGE CAUSED BY SANDHILL CRANES



Flocks of cranes, as pictured, are a nuisance to farmers as they damage their crops, often by removing planted seeds and seedlings.

LOOKING TO OTHER STATES

- At this time, there are sixteen states that have established Sandhill crane hunting seasons
- The states are Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Idaho, Minnesota, Arizona, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alaska, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota
- These hunting seasons are strictly monitored and regulated by the Mississippi Flyway Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NUISANCE PERMITS

- Currently, the only legal way, in Michigan, to remove Sandhill Cranes that are damaging crops is through nuisance permits that are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to farmers
- In 2006, only 13 permits were issued in Michigan. That number has increased to 85 in 2013, but only half of the 2,002 cranes authorized to be killed were taken
- Despite the increase in number of permits, the Sandhill Crane population in Michigan continues to grow an average of 9.4% annually
- In 2015, an estimated population of 23,082 Sandhill Cranes was reported

NUISANCE PERMITS (CONTINUED)

- As a result of being protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916, cranes killed under nuisance permits cannot be consumed and thus, their meat becomes a wasted resource
- Their meat is known as the “ribeye of the sky” and is a red meat that tastes like a cross between duck and beef

There are many delicious recipes for preparing Sandhill Cranes
Here is an example:

Sandhill Crane Au Poivre

One crane breast

2 tablespoons roughly cracked peppercorns

1 small shallot minced

1 clove garlic minced

6 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/2 cup beef stock

1/4 cup bourbon

