



DETROIT AUDUBON

*Fostering appreciation and conservation of birds and
the environment we share*

STATEMENT REGARDING HR154, THE PROPOSAL TO ADD SANDHILL CRANES TO THE GAME SPECIES LIST

October 3, 2017

Detroit Audubon opposes the listing of Sandhill Cranes as a game species, therefore we urge the Michigan House Natural Resources committee to reject HR 154.

Sandhill Cranes are a favorite birdwatching attraction of many Michigan park visitors, and they're the focus of several annual viewing events during their spectacular fall migration. Allowing hunting of Sandhill Cranes would disrupt birders' ability to observe the Cranes where they congregate, and it would deny communities the benefits of popular ecotourism events related to the Cranes.

There are adequate provisions under current policy to deal with Sandhill Crane depredation of crops. A general hunting program would be ineffective in dealing with this issue.

Sandhill Cranes were hunted to the brink of extinction in Michigan a hundred years ago but their population rebounded due to strong and effective conservation efforts. This conservation success should be celebrated and extended, not undercut by allowing these majestic birds to be hunted. Please protect Michigan's Sandhill Cranes by voting No on HR 154.

James N. Bull, Ph.D., President

Diane Cheklich, Conservation Committee Chairperson

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