

## NDG&F August 31st Newsletter

### Hunters Asked to Submit Wing Envelopes

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is once again asking grouse hunters for help with future bird management by simply collecting some feathers from harvested birds and sending in wing envelopes this fall.

Upland game biologist Aaron Robinson said hunters answered the call to return envelopes last year, and is hoping for the same participation again this year. "We typically struggle getting samples, but not last year," Robinson said. "I've said that we'll take as many as we can get because the more we have, the better the data."

Wing data allows biologists to monitor production, reconcile bird counts and get a better understanding of the harvest ratio of males to females, and juveniles to adults.

Instructions for submitting wing data are printed on the envelope.

Hunters interested in [receiving wing envelopes](#) should visit the Game and Fish website ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)) to order a supply of wing envelopes, or contact the department's main office in Bismarck by phone (701-328-6300) or email ([ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov)).

In addition, Game and Fish district offices have a supply of wing envelopes for distribution. District offices are located at Devils Lake, Jamestown, Riverdale, Dickinson, Williston and Lonetree Wildlife Management Area near Harvey.

### Contest to Determine PLOTS Cover

With several hunting seasons opening in the coming weeks, hunters are asked to look for the perfect photo opportunity that might just land on the cover of the 2016 Private Land Open To Sportsmen guide.

From end-of-day hunting shots, to scenic action or landscape shots, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department wants to feature hunter photos on the 2016 PLOTS cover and elsewhere that showcase North Dakota's strong hunting heritage.

The department's free [PLOTS guide](#), which highlights walk-in hunting areas across the state, was first published in the late 1990s.

The only real contest guideline is that photos should include a PLOTS sign, front-facing or silhouette.

The contest deadline is April 30, 2016. Log on to the Game and Fish Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), to learn more about contest prizes, rules and entry information.

Hunters who [purchase a license](#) through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department can easily get HIP certified. Otherwise, hunters must call 888-634-4798, or log on to the Game and Fish website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), and record the HIP number on their fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate.

Shooting hours for the youth waterfowl season are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. An adult of at least 18 years of age must accompany the resident youth hunter into the field, and a licensed adult is required to accompany a nonresident youth hunter. The two-day weekend hunt does not count against a nonresident adult hunter's 14-day regular season waterfowl dates.

### **Hunters Advised to Check Water Conditions**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department advises hunters to be cautious with their dogs around water this time of year, due to potential health hazards associated with [blue-green algae](#).

Dr. Dan Grove, wildlife veterinarian for the Game and Fish Department, said late summer and early fall offer prime conditions for blue-green algae growth in many state waters. Ingestion by a hunting dog while perhaps retrieving a bird during the early goose season, or just practicing retrieving, can lead to severe illness and potential death.

"Conditions are right this year for stagnant water to become contaminated," Grove said.

Potentially toxic algae blooms occur under conditions of hot, dry weather. Shallow, stagnant water with moderate to high nutrient content provides an optimum environment for algal growth. Water or wind movements often concentrate the algae, and eventually the bloom appears as a blue-green "scum" floating on the water's surface. The threat diminishes once the weather turns colder.

Hunting dogs shouldn't drink or swim in discolored water or where algal blooms are apparent," Grove said. "If dogs retrieve in these conditions, they should be rinsed off immediately and shouldn't be allowed to lick their coat."

For additional information about the effects of blue-green algae blooms on hunting dogs, contact the Animal Health Division, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, at 701-328-2655; or a local veterinarian.

[Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge Advisory](#)

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