

NDG&F October 10th Newsletter

Silver Carp Caught in James River

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has verified a recent catch of a silver carp by an angler fishing the James River near LaMoure. Silver carp, an exotic species, are well established in the lower Missouri River and in the James River in South Dakota. This is the first report of this aquatic nuisance species in North Dakota waters.

Lynn Schlueter, Game and Fish aquatic nuisance species coordinator, said department personnel are disappointed but not surprised that silver carp have entered the state.

“Record high flows in the James River this year have facilitated their movements upstream, causing them to move up the James River in South Dakota in recent years,” Schlueter said.

Game and Fish staff will conduct additional sampling in the specific location where the unwanted carp was caught, in addition to surrounding areas of the James River.

“Control measures for these species are largely ineffective,” Schlueter said. “Once established in a large river system they are virtually impossible to eliminate.”

Silver carp out-compete native and other game fish in large river systems. They eat phytoplankton, a food item used by zooplankton, which in turn are eaten by small game fish. They concentrate below dams and can drive out desirable fish. When frightened, they can jump several feet out of the water, thereby posing a danger to boaters and skiers.

NDGF Honors Theodore Roosevelt with Youth Award

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is promoting a Theodore Roosevelt award that recognizes North Dakota youth who have advanced outdoor skills and are active in Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or 4-H. Bill Jensen, the department’s coordinator for the award, said the award is inspired by Roosevelt’s spirit and writings. “Our agency developed the award in 2008 to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of this remarkable American,” he said. “Our goal is to promote the development of a healthy mind and body, good citizenship, a strong conservation ethic, an understanding of North Dakota’s natural history, and the ability to handle oneself while engaging in a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities.” Existing programs developed by Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H constitute more than 80 percent of the award requirements. The remaining criteria are composed of educational programs that the Game and Fish Department provides, such as hunter education, National Archery in the Schools and learning about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The Game and Fish Department believes a young adult who completes the selected requirements for their chosen youth organization will not only be a well-rounded and well-informed citizen, Jensen said, but also will have mastered skills needed to handle an active life outdoors.

In addition to training youth for a wide variety of outdoor adventures, this award program is intended to assist in the retention and involvement of North Dakota youth in 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Adult advisors wishing to obtain copies of the [Theodore Roosevelt Award Workbook](#) can download and print them off the education/outreach link at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov.

Additional questions can be directed to Jensen at (701) 220-5031, or email bjensen@nd.gov.

Motorists Warned to Watch for Deer on Roads

Motorists are reminded to watch for deer along roadways, especially this time of year, because juvenile animals are dispersing from their home ranges.

Late October through early December is the peak period for deer-vehicle accidents. Motorists are advised to slow down and exercise caution after dark to reduce the likelihood of encounters with deer along roadways. Most deer-vehicle accidents occur primarily at dawn and dusk when deer are most often moving around.

Deer-vehicle accidents are at times unavoidable. However, motorists should be aware of warning signs signaling deer are in the area. When you see one deer cross the road, look for a second or third deer to follow. Also, motorists are urged to pay attention on roadways posted with *Deer Crossing Area* caution signs.

If an accident does happen, a local law enforcement agency should be contacted. Also, a permit is required to take parts or the whole carcass of a road-killed deer. Permits are free and available from game wardens and local law enforcement offices.

A few precautions can minimize chances of injury or property damage in a deer-vehicle crash.

Always wear your seat belt.

Don't swerve or take the ditch to avoid hitting a deer. Try to brake as much as possible and stay on the roadway. Don't lose control of your vehicle or slam into something else to miss the deer. You risk less injury by hitting the deer.

If you spot deer ahead, slow down immediately and honk your horn.

No published research supports the effectiveness of deer whistles on vehicles.

Public Asked to Report Violations

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department encourages hunters, anglers and landowners who have witnessed a fish or wildlife violation to file a report with the Report All Poachers program.

RAP is a cooperative project between the Game and Fish Department, State Radio Communications and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. The RAP line offers rewards – from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and seriousness of the crime – for information that leads to conviction of fish and wildlife law violators. Reports can also go directly to game wardens or other law enforcement agencies. Callers can remain anonymous.

Witnesses should note vehicle description, including make, color, license plate number and state issued. Description of the violator should also be considered.

Witnesses should report a violation by calling the RAP telephone number at (800) 472-2121. RAP will then contact the local game warden immediately. If the witness gives the RAP operator a phone number, the witness will be contacted right away.