



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: March 9, 2009  
RESUBMITTED: April 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION

Subject: Crow Regulations  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2009

<u>A P P R O V E D</u>
_____ /
20 _____
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
_____
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Recent interest has been expressed to expand Michigan crow hunting opportunities. Michigan's crow season was last changed in 1996.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides the framework for the harvest of any migratory species. Four limitations placed on crow hunting by the USFWS are:

- Crows shall not be hunted from aircraft.
- Crow hunting season or seasons shall not exceed a total of 124 days during a calendar year.
- Hunting shall not be permitted during the peak crow nesting period within a state.
- Crows may only be taken by firearms, bow and arrow, and falconry.

The current crow season runs August 1 through September 30 statewide, and February 1 through March 31 in Zones 2 and 3. The closure of crow hunting in the Upper Peninsula (UP) during February and March was to protect ravens.

Data submitted to the Second Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas shows ravens can be found breeding throughout the UP and Northern Lower Peninsula. This data also shows crows can be found breeding statewide. The timing of breeding in these species is similar with evidence of breeding found across much of Michigan starting in May, with scattered reports during January through April. Many states with resident raven populations allow hunting of crows while ravens are present, during non-breeding time frames.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) • (517) 373-2329

**Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!**

Crow Regulations  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2009  
Page 2  
April 6, 2009

Estimates of the number of hunters who have harvested crows in Michigan ranged from a low of 13,379, to a high of 19,021 during 2004-2007. Estimates of harvest during this same time period ranged from 72,325 birds to 109,066 birds during a single season. Harvests in the UP never exceeded 7,500 birds during this period.

This proposal recommends making the crow hunting season the same in the both the Upper and Lower Peninsula. This change provides an additional 63 days of crow hunting opportunity in the UP and is not expected to generate significant impacts to the state's crow population. Crow hunting opportunities will continue to occur when few other seasons are open, which continues to be a benefit of hunting crows.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on April 2, 2009 at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's March 23, 2009 calendar and may be eligible for approval on May 7, 2009.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 8 of 2009**

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective May 8, 2009 the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **Chapter III -- Species Regulations**

#### **3.423 Taking crows, open seasons; exceptions.**

Sec. 3.423. (1) The open season for taking crows shall be August 1 to September 30 and February 1 to March 31.

(2) Crows may be taken outside the open season without a permit when committing or about to commit depredations or when concentrated as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance.

(3) Crows shall not be taken in state parks and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.

Issued this 7th day of May, 2009.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director