

COMMUNITY

Fall flight forecast similar to last year

BY ND GAME & FISH

Duck brood numbers were up 28% from 2024, but State Game and Fish Department migratory game bird biologists expect a fall flight of ducks similar to last year.

The fall flight forecast is based on data from the May breeding duck survey and the July duck brood survey, both conducted annually by Game and Fish biologists.

According to John Palarski, migratory game bird management biologist, the department’s 78th annual breeding duck survey conducted in May indicated the 2025 duck index was the 33rd highest on record, down 8.7% from 2024, but still 7% above the 1948–2024 average.

“Spring started off dry, with winter bringing below-average snowfall and above-average temperatures in March. Mallards and pintails were seen moving through North Dakota as early as mid-March, but the lack of meltwater in temporary ponds, coupled with frozen semipermanent wetlands meant that many early migrants simply passed through without stopping,” Palarski said. “This contributed to a lower May index this year, along with a declining midcontinent duck population. Fortunately, we received enough rain in parts of the state to boost production, resulting in a fall flight forecast similar to last year.”

The number of broods observed during the de-

partment’s July brood survey was up 28% from 2024, but down 2% from the 1965–2024 average. Blue-winged teal and mallards were the most common broods recorded, accounting for 31.7% and 21.4% of all broods tallied, respectively.

Palarski noted that not all species of waterfowl showed declines in the May index. Most diving duck species showed increases, with redheads up 23% — the highest count on record. The total diver index was the highest since 2020 and the second highest in the past two decades.

Game and Fish biologists will conduct a separate survey in mid-September to assess wetland conditions heading into the waterfowl hunting

season.

ANS Prevention Continues

While North Dakota has low numbers of aquatic nuisance species, ongoing efforts to protect state waters from the spread of ANS highlight the need for further education and regulation compliance among water recreationists.

Game and Fish Department staff have conducted 7,500 watercraft inspections thus far in 2025, leading to the draining and removal of

water and vegetation on watercraft. And, recently, department personnel intercepted three watercrafts with zebra mussels at Devils Lake.

Ben Holen, Game and Fish Department ANS coordinator, said it is critically important water recreationists review ANS regulations and take a few minutes at the boat ramp to do the right thing each and every time.

“We encourage anglers, pleasure boaters and others to clean, drain and dry all equipment after

every use,” Holen said.

Clean and remove all plants or animals from watercraft or equipment prior to leaving any recreational area. Drain and remove water from all equipment prior to exiting designated access points. Not draining water can be extremely hazardous and may cause negligent transportation of ANS to various locations. Afterward, verify that all equipment is dry before using again and consider pressure washing with hot water.

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LIDGERWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 7:00 AM		
Present: S Siemieniowski B Spellerberg E Wieber O Stenvold D Mitchell	C Bastian, Supt  J Arneson, Business Mgr A Berndt, LEA	
Siemieniowski called the meeting to order at 7:05 am. Pledge of allegiance was offered. Mitchell moved, Stenvold seconded to approve the minutes of the May meetings. All in favor. Spellerberg moved, Stenvold seconded to approve the agenda no additions. All in favor. Stenvold moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the May financial reports. All in favor. Mitchell moved, Wieber seconded to approve the bills as listed for the General \$64,950.58, Building \$6,349.27, Hot Lunch \$5,195.62 and Activity \$9,232.78 funds. All in favor.		
Mr. Bastian gave a report on the Warbird co-op committee meeting that was held on May 14. Homecoming week will be September 15. Volleyball vs TST will be on September 15. Football vs South Border will be September 19. Activity drivers' pay was discussed and it was decided to suggest raising the pay by .50/hour. It was decided that there was enough interest in cheerleading to move forward.		
Siemieniowski gave SRCTC report. All houses have been sold. A new counselor for Lidgerwood and Fairmount has been hired.		
Elementary principal report: Teachers from K-6 met on May 28 to discuss curriculum. Several topics were discussed and they hoped to have another meeting before school starts.		
Transportation report was read. Summer custodians have been working on cleaning the bus shops and busses. Driver's Ed is using the van. Bus 9 is back from Fargo. Repairs were covered by warranty. Bus 5 got new tires. I am currently looking for a used bus to replace number 7.		
Technology report: Dawn Nissen and Erin Bohnenstingl attended the Rough Rider Conference in Medora May 26-30. Costs were covered by a grant they received. Outstanding tech fees are at \$980.00		
Superintendent report: Bastian reports that our final count on enrollment was 174 students for the 2024-2025 school year. He expects 167 students starting in August. The School Board Election is June 10 from 11am to 7pm. Election canvassing meeting will be on June 23 at 7pm in the lounge. The roof of the small garage was re-shingled in May. The floor project in the bathrooms and custodian closets will start July 7. Still waiting on estimates for concrete at the bus shop. Staffing needs for the new school year are: two paras are needed, one in special ed and one in kindergarten/grade 1, and an assistant cook is needed.		
Teacher's contracts for the 2025-2026 school year were presented to the board for approval. Motion by Wieber, seconded by Spellerberg to approve the contracts as read. Roll Call Vote, all in favor.		
Noreen Anderson \$59,307.00 Nicole Berg \$48,845.00 Megan Saunders \$45,029.00 Lori Kuzel \$62,530.00 Ezel Eleutorio \$48,846.00 Aaron Bohnenstingl \$45,983.00 Alicia Berndt \$61,630.00 Shannon Score \$45,029.00 Kenneth Lindstrom \$45,506.00 Katie Kohoutek \$59,860.00 Cynthia Arndt \$56,730.00	Cameron Lenzen \$48,368.00 Kristine Askerooth \$93.76/day Ashley Vig \$46,006.00 Ana Queen Galam \$48,845.00 Erin Bohnenstingl \$55,012.00 Lindsey Stenson \$58,513.00 Tammy Oster \$62,530.00 Karla Sattler \$53,960.00 Carrol Bradshaw \$46,460.00 Marissa Motschenbacher \$50,966.00	
Administration contracts were presented to the board for approval. Motion by Stenvold, seconded by Mitchell to approve contracts as presented. Roll Call Vote, all in favor.		
Chris Bastian, Elementary Principal and Superintendent \$117,720.00 Eileen Larson, Secondary Principal and Athletic Director \$78,374.00		
Ancillary staff salary proposals were presented to the board. Spellerberg moved, Siemieniowski seconded to approve the following raises:		
Melissa McDaniel \$17.20/hr Ashley Lawrence \$16.79/hr	Angela Bohnenstingl \$15.55/hr Jerry Arneson, bus driver & transportation director \$25,918/year Wanda Haase \$19.98/hr Tami Kingan \$16.07/hr Tonia Schram \$17.25/hr Kevin Botchen \$28.53/hr Julie Botchen \$16.07/hr Dawn Nissen \$15.81/hr Lynn Orth \$22.74/hr Andrea Hardina \$16.07/hr	
Sheila Buschette \$16.48/hr Vicky Forster \$16.69/hr Tamara Johnson \$16.53/hr Jimmy Kingan \$20.60/hr Jessica Milbrandt \$16.79/hr Gina Heley \$20.22/hr Teresa Meyer \$19.98/hr Bill Anderson \$22.74/hr Jerry Arneson, Bus Mgr \$23.54/hr		

The Warbird Co-Op committee recommended raising the activity driver wage from \$18.00/hr to \$18.50/hr. Motion to approve the raise by Mitchell seconded by Stenvold, all in favor.	
The school board election canvassing meeting is June 23, at 7pm. The next regular school board meeting will be on July 8, 2025, at 7:00 am.	
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.	
Jerry Arneson Business Manager	Sadie Siemieniowski President
THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	

Amazon Capital Services	843.45
BALFOUR	29.31
BANK OF THE WEST	32.40
BIMBO BAKERIES USA	92.80
BOHNENSTINGL, ERIN	180.00
BYTESPEED, LLC	4,995.00
CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING OF FARGO	815.09
CENEX CREDIT CARD	66.17
CET MANAGEMENT	1,953.20
CHAHINKAPA ZOO	128.00
COLE PAPERS	148.80
CORPORATE TECHNOLOGIES LLC	9,550.00
COUNTY LINE FOODS	249.62
CROSSROADS ELECTRIC	2,324.81
DAILY NEWS	771.70
DAKOTA PLAINS AG	4,334.33
DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS	72.00
DOLLAR GENERAL	139.25
ECKROTH MUSIC CO	124.99
FAMILY FLORAL	210.00
GRIPPER SPORTS TROPHYS	240.00
HELEY, VICKY	1,914.59
HILLYARD FLOOR CARE SUPPLY	2,202.01
JAWASKI GLASS & REPAIR	1,335.00
JOE'S AG SUPPLY	50.00
KACZYNSKI, JERED	60.00
KBMW RADIO	150.00
KEMPS, LLC	207.45
KING, ROY	232.40
KUZEL, LORI	163.71
LENZEN, CAMERON	332.70
LIDGERWOOD LUMBER	2,032.00
LIDGERWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL	540.00
LOFFLER	227.29
MACHINE DESIGN, INC	90.13
MAT SUPPLIER GROUP	2,947.80
MCDANIEL, MELISSA	11.88
MOTSCHENBACHER, MARISSA	260.00
NAPAAUTO PARTS	798.85
ND PUBLIC HEALTH INS TRUST	22,466.86
ND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION	3,451.95
NISSEN, DAWN	180.00
OSBORN, NANCY	400.00
OSTER, TAMMY	130.00
OTTER TAIL POWER	5,842.20
POST'S HARDWARE HANK	18.48
QUAST, KIM	21.00
RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS	807.00
ROUGHRIDERS LODGE	989.88
SAMS CLUB	66.30
SANFORD CLINIC	400.00
SAUNDERS, MEGAN	2,692.57
SCHOLASTIC INC	1,438.88
SIEMIENIEWSKI, TYSON	175.00
STATE CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS	339.00
STORBAKKEN SANITATION, INC	488.00
THUNDER ROAD	221.00
TIM LARSON CONSTRUCTION	2,000.00
US FOODSERVICE	2,080.29
VERIZON WIRELESS, BELLEVUE	103.94
WALMART	80.17
WEST ACRES BOWL	182.00
WYNDMERE FFA	297.00

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