

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS



DECEMBER 2025 \$3.00

NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.

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Investigator: Blake Riewer, Grand Forks

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District Wardens: Jonathan Toffeland, Bottineau; Jonathan Peterson, Devils Lake; James Myhre, New Rockford; Alan Howard, Cando; Drew Johnson, Finley; Sam Feldmann, Rugby; Gage Muench, Grand Forks; Dale Skalicky, Langdon

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Upland Game Mgt. Biologist: Rodney Gross, Bismarck

Migratory Game Bird Mgt. Supvr: John Palarski, Bismarck

Migratory Game Bird Biologist: Mason Ryckman, Bismarck

Big Game Mgt. Supvr: Bruce Stillings, Dickinson

Big Game Mgt. Biologists: Brett Wiedmann, Dickinson; Jason Smith, Jamestown; Ben

Matykiewicz, Bismarck

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Wildlife Health Biologist: Vacant

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Bismarck

Wildlife Resource Mgt. Biologists: Randy Littlefield, Lonetree; Rodd Compson,

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Region, Bismarck

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Merchant, Dickinson; Zach Kjos, Riverdale

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NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

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The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

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In cooperation with North Dakota Wildlife Federation and North Dakota State Radio.



Ring-necked pheasant
Seth Owens, Grand Forks

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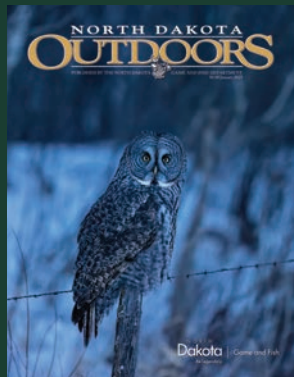
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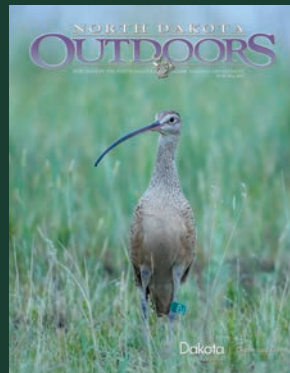
5303 Front St. W
Williston, ND 58801-8602
Phone: 701-774-4320

2025 FEATURES



JANUARY

- Year in Review
- 2024 Watchable Wildlife Photo Contest



MAY

- April 3
- Stopover State
- Thoughts on Fatheads
- 2025 Legislative Review



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- 2025 Hunting Season Outlook
- The Birds We Favor
- Working With Partners
- Licenses Increased Out West



FEBRUARY

- 2024 Deer Drawing
- 2024 Enforcement Division Review
- State's Hunting Heritage at Stake
- Lawmakers Address Outdoor Issues



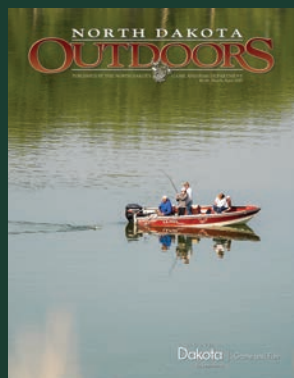
JUNE

- A Break From Mothering
- Answers About Elk
- Marked Fish, Multiple Waters
- A Different View



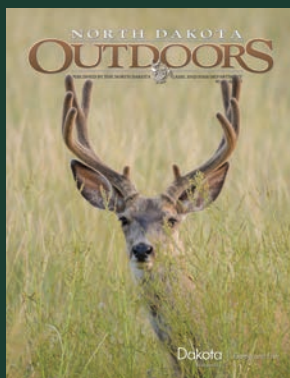
OCTOBER

- The Best Fishing Ever
- 50 Years Later
- Resting and Refueling in North Dakota
- Safety First
- The Cottonwoods Know Better Than GPS



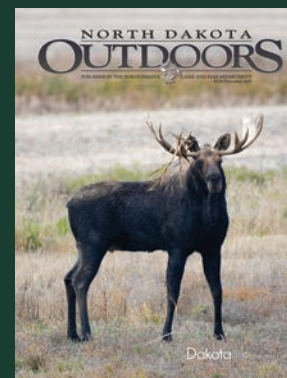
MARCH-APRIL

- Tale of Big Tails
- North Dakota Fishing Waters
- 2024 Fish Stocking Report
- Devils Lake Basin Boating Access
- Missouri River System Boating Access
- 2024 Top Whoppers



JULY

- His Door Was Always Open
- Anderson Named Deputy Director
- Rejuvenating Native Prairie
- E-stamp Needed to Hunt Waterfowl



NOVEMBER

- Ups and Downs in Deer Country
- Shallow Water Gathering
- The Fabric of North Dakota
- A Fall Look Into the Fishing Future



Bald eagle – photo by Tangula Unruh, Bismarck

JANUARY

FEBRUARY 2026

[illegible]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SR, SS – Sunrise and sunset at Bismarck, Central time. The sun rises and sets one minute later for each 12.5 miles straight west of Bismarck and one minute earlier for each 12.5 miles straight east of Bismarck. Mountain time is one hour earlier.				SR 8:26 SS 5:07 1	SR 8:26 SS 5:08 2	SR 8:26 SS 5:09 ◯ FULL MOON 3
SR 8:26 SS 5:10 4	SR 8:25 SS 5:11 5	SR 8:25 SS 5:12 6	SR 8:25 SS 5:13 7	NEW YEAR'S DAY SR 8:25 SS 5:14 8	SR 8:24 SS 5:15 9	SR 8:24 SS 5:17 10
SR 8:23 SS 5:18 11	SR 8:23 SS 5:19 12	SR 8:22 SS 5:20 13	SR 8:22 SS 5:22 14	SR 8:21 SS 5:23 15	SR 8:21 SS 5:24 16	SR 8:20 SS 5:26 17
SR 8:19 SS 5:27 ● NEW MOON 18	SR 8:18 SS 5:29 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	SR 8:18 SS 5:30 20	SR 8:17 SS 5:31 21	SR 8:16 SS 5:33 22	SR 8:15 SS 5:34 23	SR 8:14 SS 5:36 24
SR 8:13 SS 5:37 25	SR 8:12 SS 5:39 26	SR 8:11 SS 5:40 27	SR 8:10 SS 5:42 28	SR 8:08 SS 5:43 29	SR 8:07 SS 5:45 30	SR 8:06 SS 5:46 31



Northern pike – photo by Ashley Peterson, Bismarck

2026

MARCH 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SR 8:05 SS 5:48 ○ FULL MOON 1	SR 8:04 SS 5:49 2	SR 8:02 SS 5:51 3	SR 8:01 SS 5:52 4	SR 8:00 SS 5:54 5	SR 7:58 SS 5:55 6	SR 7:57 SS 5:57 7
SR 7:55 SS 5:58 8	SR 7:54 SS 6:00 9	SR 7:52 SS 6:01 10	SR 7:51 SS 6:03 11 SPRING TURKEY APPLICATION DEADLINE	SR 7:49 SS 6:04 12	SR 7:48 SS 6:06 13	SR 7:46 SS 6:07 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
SR 7:44 SS 6:09 15	SR 7:43 SS 6:10 16 PRESIDENTS DAY	SR 7:41 SS 6:12 ● NEW MOON 17	SR 7:40 SS 6:13 18 ASH WEDNESDAY	SR 7:38 SS 6:15 19	SR 7:36 SS 6:16 20	SR 7:34 SS 6:18 21
SR 7:33 SS 6:19 22	SR 7:31 SS 6:21 23	SR 7:29 SS 6:22 24	SR 7:27 SS 6:24 25	SR 7:25 SS 6:25 26	SR 7:24 SS 6:27 27	SR 7:22 SS 6:28 28



Sharp-tailed grouse – photo by Kevin Hice, Mooreland, Ind.

MARCH 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28

APRIL 2026

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SR 7:20 SS 6:301	SR 7:18 SS 6:312	SR 7:16 SS 6:333 ○ FULL MOON	SR 7:14 SS 6:344	SR 7:12 SS 6:365	SR 7:11 SS 6:376	SR 7:09 SS 6:387
SR 8:07 SS 7:408	SR 8:05 SS 7:419	SR 8:03 SS 7:4310	SR 8:01 SS 7:4411	SR 7:59 SS 7:4612	SR 7:57 SS 7:4713	SR 7:55 SS 7:4814
DST BEGINS CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR15	SR 7:51 SS 7:5116	SR 7:49 SS 7:5317	SR 7:47 SS 7:5418 ● NEW MOON	SR 7:45 SS 7:5519	SR 7:43 SS 7:5720	SR 7:41 SS 7:5821
SR 7:39 SS 8:0022	SR 7:37 SS 8:0123	ST. PATRICK'S DAY SR 7:35 SS 8:0224	SR 7:33 SS 8:0425	SR 7:31 SS 8:0526	SR 7:29 SS 8:0627	SR 7:27 SS 8:0828
SR 7:25 SS 8:0929	SR 7:23 SS 8:1130	SR 7:22 SS 8:1231	MOOSE, ELK, SHEEP APPLICATION DEADLINE			
PALM SUNDAY						



Canvasback– photo by Chad Olson, Minot

APRIL 2026

MARCH 2026

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

MAY 2026

1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
						1 SR 7:20 SS 8:13  FULL MOON 2026-27 FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED		2 SR 7:18 SS 8:15		3 SR 7:16 SS 8:16 GOOD FRIDAY		4 SR 7:14 SS 8:17	
5 SR 7:12 SS 8:19		6 SR 7:10 SS 8:20		7 SR 7:08 SS 8:21		8 SR 7:06 SS 8:23		9 SR 7:04 SS 8:24		10 SR 7:02 SS 8:26		11 SR 7:00 SS 8:27 SPRING TURKEY SEASON OPENS	
EASTER 12 SR 6:58 SS 8:28		13 SR 6:56 SS 8:30		14 SR 6:55 SS 8:31		15 SR 6:53 SS 8:32		16 SR 6:51 SS 8:34		17 SR 6:49 SS 8:35  NEW MOON		18 SR 6:47 SS 8:37	
19 SR 6:45 SS 8:38		20 SR 6:44 SS 8:39		21 SR 6:42 SS 8:41		22 SR 6:40 SS 8:42		23 SR 6:38 SS 8:43		24 SR 6:37 SS 8:45		25 SR 6:35 SS 8:46	
						EARTH DAY 29 SR 6:28 SS 8:52		30 SR 6:27 SS 8:53					
26 SR 6:33 SS 8:47 NORTH DAKOTA BIRD DAY		27 SR 6:32 SS 8:49		28 SR 6:30 SS 8:50									



Semipalmated sandpiper – photo by Mike Saunders, Fargo



Fawn – photo by Steve Oehlenschlager, Elk River, Minn.

JUNE 2026

MAY 2026

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							31

JULY 2026

						1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	SR 5:50 SS 9:31 1	SR 5:50 SS 9:32 2	SR 5:49 SS 9:33 3 DEER GUN AND MUZZLELOADER APPLICATION DEADLINE	SR 5:49 SS 9:34 4	SR 5:48 SS 9:34 5	SR 5:48 SS 9:35 6 FREE FISHING DAY
SR 5:47 SS 9:36 7 FREE FISHING DAY	SR 5:47 SS 9:37 8	SR 5:47 SS 9:37 9	SR 5:46 SS 9:38 10	SR 5:46 SS 9:38 11	SR 5:46 SS 9:39 12	SR 5:46 SS 9:40 13
SR 5:46 SS 9:40 NEW MOON 14 FLAG DAY	SR 5:46 SS 9:41 15	SR 5:46 SS 9:41 16	SR 5:46 SS 9:41 17	SR 5:46 SS 9:42 18	SR 5:46 SS 9:42 19	SR 5:46 SS 9:42 20
SR 5:47 SS 9:42 21 FATHER'S DAY SUMMER BEGINS	SR 5:47 SS 9:43 22	SR 5:47 SS 9:43 23	SR 5:47 SS 9:43 24	SR 5:48 SS 9:43 25	SR 5:48 SS 9:43 26	SR 5:49 SS 9:43 27
SR 5:49 SS 9:43 28	SR 5:50 SS 9:43 FULL MOON 29	SR 5:50 SS 9:43 30				



Mourning dove – photo by Bryan Lind, Epping

JULY 2026

JUNE 2026													AUGUST 2026												
	1	2	3	4	5	6																		1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13							2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							9	10	11	12	13	14	15						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27							16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
28	29	30											23	24	25	26	27	28	29						
													30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			SR 5:51 SS 9:421	SR 5:51 SS 9:422	SR 5:52 SS 9:423	SR 5:53 SS 9:414
SR 5:54 SS 9:415	SR 5:54 SS 9:416	SR 5:55 SS 9:407	SR 5:56 SS 9:408	SR 5:57 SS 9:399	SR 5:58 SS 9:3910	SR 5:58 SS 9:3811
SR 5:59 SS 9:3712	SR 6:00 SS 9:3713	SR 6:01 SS 9:36 ● NEW MOON14	SR 6:02 SS 9:3515	SR 6:03 SS 9:3416	SR 6:04 SS 9:3317	SR 6:05 SS 9:3318
SR 6:06 SS 9:3219	SR 6:07 SS 9:3120	SR 6:09 SS 9:3021	SR 6:10 SS 9:2922	SR 6:11 SS 9:2823	SR 6:12 SS 9:2624	SR 6:13 SS 9:2525
SR 6:14 SS 9:2426	SR 6:15 SS 9:2327	SR 6:17 SS 9:2228	SR 6:18 SS 9:20 ○ FULL MOON29	SR 6:19 SS 9:1930	SR 6:20 SS 9:1831	



Bull elk – photo by Leann Streifel, Bismarck

AUGUST 2026

JULY 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026						
		1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						SR 6:21 SS 9:16 1
SR 6:23 SS 9:15 2	SR 6:24 SS 9:14 3	SR 6:25 SS 9:12 4	SR 6:26 SS 9:11 5 PRONGHORN APPLICATION DEADLINE	SR 6:28 SS 9:09 6	SR 6:29 SS 9:08 7	SR 6:30 SS 9:06 8
SR 6:32 SS 9:05 9	SR 6:33 SS 9:03 10	SR 6:34 SS 9:02 11	SR 6:35 SS 9:00 12 ● NEW MOON	SR 6:37 SS 8:58 13	SR 6:38 SS 8:57 14	SR 6:39 SS 8:55 15
SR 6:41 SS 8:53 16	SR 6:42 SS 8:51 17	SR 6:43 SS 8:50 18	SR 6:44 SS 8:48 19 SWAN PERMIT APPLICATION DEADLINE	SR 6:46 SS 8:46 20	SR 6:47 SS 8:44 21	SR 6:48 SS 8:43 22
SR 6:50 SS 8:41 23	SR 6:51 SS 8:39 24	SR 6:52 SS 8:37 25	SR 6:54 SS 8:35 26 ○ FULL MOON	SR 6:55 SS 8:33 27	SR 6:56 SS 8:31 28	SR 6:57 SS 8:30 29
SR 6:59 SS 8:28 30	SR 7:00 SS 8:26 31					



Sharptail season – photo by Tanguela Unruh, Bismarck

SEPTEMBER 2026

OCTOBER 2026

[illegible]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		SR 7:01 SS 8:24 1 DOVE SEASON OPENS	SR 7:03 SS 8:22 2 FALL TURKEY APPLICATION DEADLINE	SR 7:04 SS 8:20 3	SR 7:05 SS 8:18 4 DEER, PRONGHORN BOW SEASONS OPEN MOUNTAIN LION SEASON OPENS	SR 7:06 SS 8:16 5
SR 7:08 SS 8:14 6	SR 7:09 SS 8:12 7 LABOR DAY	SR 7:10 SS 8:10 8	SR 7:12 SS 8:08 9	SR 7:13 SS 8:06 10 ● NEW MOON	SR 7:14 SS 8:04 11 PATRIOT DAY	SR 7:15 SS 8:02 12 SHARPTAIL, PARTRIDGE, RUFFED GROUSE, SQUIRREL SEASONS OPEN
SR 7:17 SS 8:00 13	SR 7:18 SS 7:58 14	SR 7:19 SS 7:56 15	SR 7:21 SS 7:54 16	SR 7:22 SS 7:52 17	SR 7:23 SS 7:50 18 YOUTH DEER SEASON OPENS	SR 7:25 SS 7:48 19 YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON OPENS
SR 7:26 SS 7:46 20	SR 7:27 SS 7:44 21	SR 7:28 SS 7:42 22 FALL BEGINS	SR 7:30 SS 7:40 23	SR 7:31 SS 7:38 24	SR 7:32 SS 7:36 25	SR 7:34 SS 7:34 26 ○ FULL MOON EARLY RESIDENT WATERFOWL SEASON OPENS
SR 7:35 SS 7:32 27	SR 7:36 SS 7:30 28	SR 7:38 SS 7:28 29	SR 7:39 SS 7:26 30			



Ring-necked pheasant – photo by Seth Owens, Grand Forks

OCTOBER 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

NOVEMBER 2026

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				SR 7:40 SS 7:241	SR 7:42 SS 7:222	SR 7:43 SS 7:203
					PRONGHORN GUN SEASON OPENS	REGULAR WATERFOWL, YOUTH PHEASANT SEASONS OPENS
SR 7:44 SS 7:184	SR 7:46 SS 7:165	SR 7:47 SS 7:146	SR 7:48 SS 7:127	SR 7:50 SS 7:108	SR 7:51 SS 7:099	SR 7:52 SS 7:0710 NEW MOON
						FALL TURKEY, PHEASANT SEASONS OPEN
SR 7:54 SS 7:0511	SR 7:55 SS 7:0312	SR 7:57 SS 7:0113	SR 7:58 SS 6:5914	SR 7:59 SS 6:5715	SR 8:01 SS 6:5516	SR 8:02 SS 6:5417
	COLUMBUS DAY					
SR 8:04 SS 6:5218	SR 8:05 SS 6:5019	SR 8:06 SS 6:4820	SR 8:08 SS 6:4721	SR 8:09 SS 6:4522	SR 8:11 SS 6:4323	SR 8:12 SS 6:4124
						MINK, MUSKRAT, WEASEL TRAPPING SEASONS OPEN
SR 8:14 SS 6:4025 FULL MOON	SR 8:15 SS 6:3826	SR 8:17 SS 6:3627	SR 8:18 SS 6:3528	SR 8:19 SS 6:3329	SR 8:21 SS 6:3230	SR 8:22 SS 6:3031 HALLOWEEN



Mule deer — photo by Michael Ranum, Bismarck

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 2026

				1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SR 7:24 SS 5:29 1 DST ENDS CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR	SR 7:25 SS 5:27 2	SR 7:27 SS 5:26 3 ELECTION DAY	SR 7:28 SS 5:24 4	SR 7:30 SS 5:23 5	SR 7:31 SS 5:21 6 DEER GUN SEASON OPENS	SR 7:33 SS 5:20 7
SR 7:34 SS 5:19 8	SR 7:35 SS 5:17 9 ● NEW MOON	SR 7:37 SS 5:16 10	SR 7:38 SS 5:15 11 VETERANS DAY	SR 7:40 SS 5:14 12	SR 7:41 SS 5:13 13	SR 7:43 SS 5:11 14
SR 7:44 SS 5:10 15	SR 7:46 SS 5:09 16	SR 7:47 SS 5:08 17	SR 7:48 SS 5:07 18	SR 7:50 SS 5:06 19	SR 7:51 SS 5:05 20	SR 7:53 SS 5:05 21
SR 7:54 SS 5:04 22	SR 7:55 SS 5:03 23	SR 7:57 SS 5:02 24 ○ FULL MOON	SR 7:58 SS 5:01 25	SR 7:59 SS 5:01 26 THANKSGIVING	SR 8:01 SS 5:00 27 DEER MUZZLELOADER SEASON OPENS	SR 8:02 SS 5:00 28
SR 8:03 SS 4:59 29	SR 8:04 SS 4:59 30					



Great gray owl – photo by Susan Anderson, Fargo

DECEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

JANUARY 2027

1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

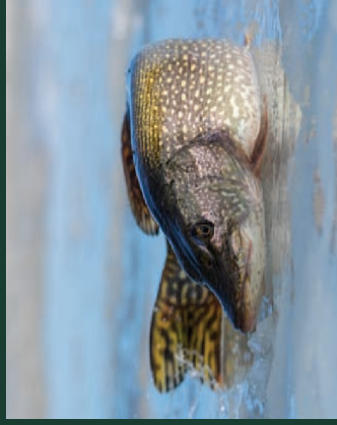
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		SR 8:05 SS 4:581	SR 8:07 SS 4:582	SR 8:08 SS 4:573	SR 8:09 SS 4:574	SR 8:10 SS 4:575
SR 8:11 SS 4:566	SR 8:12 SS 4:567	SR 8:13 SS 4:568 ● NEW MOON	SR 8:14 SS 4:569	SR 8:15 SS 4:5610	SR 8:16 SS 4:5611	SR 8:17 SS 4:5612
SR 8:18 SS 4:5613	SR 8:18 SS 4:5614	SR 8:19 SS 4:5715	SR 8:20 SS 4:5716	SR 8:21 SS 4:5717	SR 8:21 SS 4:5718	SR 8:22 SS 4:5819
SR 8:22 SS 4:5820	SR 8:23 SS 4:5921 WINTER BEGINS	SR 8:23 SS 4:5922	SR 8:24 SS 5:0023 ○ FULL MOON	SR 8:24 SS 5:0024 CHRISTMAS EVE	SR 8:25 SS 5:0125 CHRISTMAS DAY	SR 8:25 SS 5:0226 FREE FISHING DAY
SR 8:25 SS 5:0227 FREE FISHING DAY	SR 8:25 SS 5:0328	SR 8:26 SS 5:0429	SR 8:26 SS 5:0530	SR 8:26 SS 5:0631 NEW YEAR'S EVE		

2026 CALENDAR

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501



JANUARY Tangula Unruh, Bismarck



FEBRUARY Ashley Peterson, Bismarck



MARCH Kevin Hice, Mooreland, Ind.



APRIL Chad Olson, Minot



MAY Mike Saunders, Fargo



JUNE Steve Oehlenschlaeger, Elk River, Minn.



JULY Bryan Lind, Epping



AUGUST Leann Streifel, Bismarck



SEPTEMBER Tangula Unruh, Bismarck



OCTOBER Seth Owens, Grand Forks



NOVEMBER Michael Ranum, Bismarck



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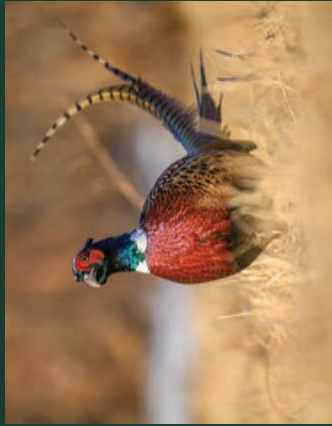
JULY Bryan Lind, Epping



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