

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota's lakes, parks, and natural spaces are vital ecosystems, and home to a great diversity of plants

and animals; and

WHEREAS: Migratory birds rely on Minnesota's treasured state areas, such as the Minnesota National Wildlife

Refuge, Superior National Forest, and Blufflands—Root River, as well as all fifty-seven officially

recognized bird areas in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota has four important eco-regions for birds, including hardwood forest, prairie hardwood

transition, prairie, and in the northwestern part of the state, the unique tall grass aspen parklands; and

WHEREAS: Each spring, sixty percent of America's birds use the Mississippi Flyway – an aerial highway supported

by the mighty Mississippi River - with Minnesota serving as an important stopover for a wide range of

bird species; and

WHEREAS: Each year, 1.4 million Minnesotans participate in birdwatching activities and contribute to the

Minnesota tourism economy. Birding activities like viewing Snowy Owls, Great Grey Owls, and endangered Tundra Swans bring people from across the region and the country to Minnesota, even

during harsh winters; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to the largest population of its state bird, the common loon, in the continental

United States. An estimated 4,600 pairs (or fifty-two percent) of the breeding population is found in more than 600 lakes located in Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Becker, and Itasca and other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS: Climate change is the number-one threat to birds, and conservation efforts are more critical now than

ever before. Birds depend on human efforts to restore natural habitats, manage water quality, and protect

nature parks that many call home; and

WHEREAS: This year, our nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

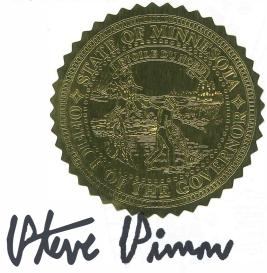
Passed in 1918, the law is credited with saving many beloved species from extinction, including the Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, and Black-Capped Chickadee, which can be found in the backyards of

many Minnesotans across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim 2018 as the:

YEAR OF THE BIRD

in the State of Minnesota.



SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 17th day of September.

GOVERNOR