

STATE *of* MINNESOTA

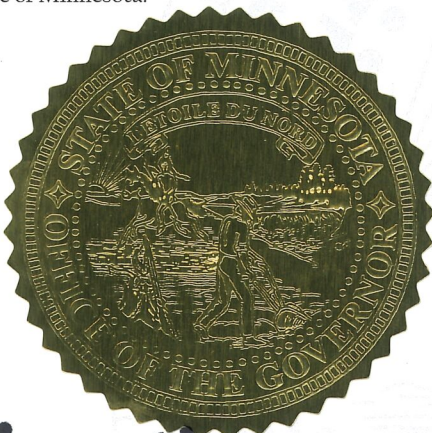
Proclamation

- 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 tallgrass 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.



Steve Pinn

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.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR