

## As Adopted by the Senate

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**S. R. No. 75**

**Senator Gardner**

**Cosponsors: Senators Cafaro, Hughes, Eklund, LaRose, Manning, Hite, Brown**

---

### **A R E S O L U T I O N**

To designate the second Saturday of May 2015 as Bird  
Ohio Day in order to recognize the importance of  
bird and bird habitat stewardship and  
conservation.

1  
2  
3  
4

#### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, Ohio has played a major role in the development of  
bird studies and research since the 1890s. It provides stopover  
habitat for millions of birds as they pass through the state  
during their migration northward each spring and also is home to  
numerous species that reside in the state year-round. For  
example, the bald eagle, a recognized symbol of our nation, has  
a significant population in Ohio with a major percentage located  
in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie counties, comprising the  
most concentrated breeding population in the continental United  
States. Ottawa County and the Oak Harbor area have adopted the  
name "Warbler Capital of the World" to recognize the importance  
of the spring migration and to attract visitors to the area; and

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

WHEREAS, Numerous agencies and organizations that recognize  
the importance of bird and bird habitat education, research, and  
conservation are located in Ohio, including, but not limited to,  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Destination Toledo, Lake Erie  
Shores and Islands, Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center,  
Metroparks of the Toledo Area, Erie Metroparks, Cleveland

17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Columbus 23  
Audubon Society, Ohio Ornithological Society, Ohio Department 24  
of Natural Resources, Ohio zoos, and Ohio park districts. The 25  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Department of Natural 26  
Resources, Ohio park districts, and other public agencies and 27  
private organizations have protected thousands of acres of 28  
high-quality bird habitat across the state; and 29

WHEREAS, Bird watching has become one of the most 30  
popular and economically significant forms of outdoor 31  
recreation in Ohio and throughout the United States. Birding 32  
tourism contributes significantly to economic development in 33  
northwest Ohio. Thousands of birdwatchers from across the 34  
country and around the world visit northwest Ohio and the 35  
southwest shore of Lake Erie each spring to witness the 36  
spectacle of bird migration and to participate in the Biggest 37  
Week in American Birding Festival organized by the Black 38  
Swamp Bird Observatory of Oak Harbor, Ohio. Studies conducted 39  
by the Observatory and Bowling Green State University show 40  
that visiting birdwatchers spend more than \$30 million in 41  
northern Ohio each spring; and 42

WHEREAS, Nature conservation, including protection of 43  
bird habitats, has many aesthetic and economic values, 44  
including increasing the value of real estate located near 45  
conserved lands such as nature preserves and properties 46  
protected by conservation easements; and 47

WHEREAS, Public awareness and concern are crucial 48  
components of conserving natural areas as well as the birds 49  
and other wildlife that live in those areas. Citizens who are 50  
enthusiastic about birds and nature, informed about threats 51  
to the natural world, and empowered to become involved in 52  
addressing those threats can make a tremendous contribution 53  
to maintaining healthy bird populations and protecting bird 54  
habitats; and 55

WHEREAS, Interest in bird and bird habitat stewardship 56  
and conservation can grow by providing more bird watching and 57  
nature education activities involving people of all ages. 58  
Many educational materials are available to schools, 59  
educational organizations, parents, and other citizens to 60  
foster public awareness about the importance of bird and bird 61  
habitat conservation; now therefore be it 62

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 63  
131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this 64  
resolution, designate the second Saturday of May 2015 as Bird 65  
Ohio Day in order to recognize the importance of bird and 66  
bird habitat stewardship and conservation; and be it further 67

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 68  
131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage school 69  
districts, schools, teachers, and nature educators in Ohio to 70  
offer lessons and activities to teach students and other 71  
citizens about birds, bird habitat, and bird conservation and 72  
also encourage citizens of and visitors to Ohio to spend time 73  
outdoors enjoying the sights and sounds of birds and engage 74  
in stewardship of the wildlife habitat on which migratory and 75  
resident birds depend for their survival; and be it further 76

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 77  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of 78  
Ohio. 79