

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
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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.

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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

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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,

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Metroparks of the Toledo Area, Erie Metroparks, Cleveland 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

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