



Gary Richard Herbert
Governor

Declaration

Whereas, Utah's remarkable lands and water in both urban and rural areas provide habitat for more than 400 observed species of bird;

Whereas, Utah is home to 22 Important Bird Areas that have international or state significance for biodiversity and birds;

Whereas, the Great Salt Lake and its associated wetlands are recognized as hemispherically and globally important breeding, staging, and stopover habitat for millions of waterbirds, including shorebirds;

Whereas, bird watching and regulated, sustainable game bird hunting in Utah provide our state recreational, educational, and economic contributions;

Whereas, birds contribute to the well-being of Utahns by dispersing beneficial seeds, feeding on harmful insects and invasive fish, and otherwise helping to balance natural systems;

Whereas, benefits provided by birds were recognized by Utah pioneers in 1848, when flocks of California Gulls ate swarming masses of locusts that were destroying crops — leading to the California Gull's designation as Utah's state bird;

Whereas, the importance, beauty and wonderment of birds that live in and migrate through Utah are celebrated by people across the state and around the globe;

Whereas, a number of longstanding Great Salt Lake and bird-related events occur every May, including Global Big Day, International Migratory Bird Day, the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, and the biennial Great Salt Lake Issues Forum; and,

Whereas, 2018 marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the great State of Utah do hereby declare May 2018 as

The Month of the Bird in Utah

Gary R. Herbert

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Governor