



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Georgia's native landscapes and ecosystems are among the state's most critical natural resources that provide vital habitats for bird populations and other wildlife; and
- WHEREAS: A diverse bird population is indicative of a healthy ecosystem that offers a variety of natural services including pest control, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling; and
- WHEREAS: Many Georgia residents enjoy the recreational activities associated with birds, including watching, feeding, and listening to birds in their natural habitats, including backyards, beaches, and the Blue Ridge Mountains; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 2.4 million individuals participate in bird and wildlife watching in Georgia each year, generating roughly \$1.8 billion of economic impact annually; and
- WHEREAS: Plants that occur naturally in Georgia provide critical insects and other food sources for birds and other wildlife. Homeowners, landscapers, and local policymakers can benefit birds and other wildlife by choosing native plants when making landscaping decisions; and
- WHEREAS: Increasing urbanization and other development in Georgia has damaged ecosystems, reduced native plant life biodiversity, and removed habitats of birds and other wildlife; and
- WHEREAS: During Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, Georgia gardeners and landscapers across the state are encouraged to grow native plant life in order to benefit the birds, wildlife, and citizens of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: In partnership with Albany Audubon Society, Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society, Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, Columbus Audubon Society, Ocmulgee Audubon Society, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, Ogeechee Audubon Society, and the Georgia Native Plant Society, the Atlanta Audubon Society is working to create a statewide network of habitats consisting of plants native to Georgia; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF