

**As Introduced**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**S. R. No. 287**

**Senator Gardner**

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

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**RESOLUTION**

To designate the second Saturday of May 2014 as Bird 1  
Ohio Day in order to recognize the importance of 2  
bird and bird habitat stewardship and 3  
conservation. 4

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

WHEREAS, Ohio has played a major role in the development of 5  
bird studies and research since the 1890s. It provides stopover 6  
habitat for millions of birds as they pass through the state 7  
during their migration northward each spring and also is home to 8  
numerous species that reside in the state year-round. For example, 9  
the bald eagle, a recognized symbol of our nation, has a 10  
significant population in Ohio with a major percentage located in 11  
Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie Counties, comprising the most 12  
concentrated breeding population in the continental United States. 13  
Ottawa County and the Oak Harbor area have adopted the name 14  
"Warbler Capital of the World" to recognize the importance of the 15  
spring migration and to attract visitors to the area; and 16

WHEREAS, Numerous agencies and organizations that recognize 17  
the importance of bird and bird habitat education, research, and 18  
conservation are located in Ohio, including, but not limited to, 19  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Destination Toledo, Lake Erie Shores 20

and Islands, Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center, Metroparks of 21  
the Toledo Area, Erie Metroparks, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland 22  
Museum of Natural History, Columbus Audubon Society, Ohio 23  
Ornithological Society, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio 24  
zoos, and Ohio park districts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 25  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio park districts, and 26  
other public agencies and private organizations have protected 27  
thousands of acres of high-quality bird habitat across the state; 28  
and 29

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

WHEREAS, Nature conservation, including protection of bird 42  
habitats, has many aesthetic and economic values, including 43  
increasing the value of real estate located near conserved lands 44  
such as nature preserves and properties protected by conservation 45  
easements; and 46

WHEREAS, Public awareness and concern are crucial components 47  
of conserving natural areas as well as the birds and other 48  
wildlife that live in those areas. Citizens who are enthusiastic 49  
about birds and nature, informed about threats to the natural 50  
world, and empowered to become involved in addressing those 51  
threats can make a tremendous contribution to maintaining healthy 52

bird populations and protecting bird habitats; and 53

WHEREAS, Interest in bird and bird habitat stewardship and 54  
conservation can grow by providing more bird watching and nature 55  
education activities involving people of all ages. Many 56  
educational materials are available to schools, educational 57  
organizations, parents, and other citizens to foster public 58  
awareness about the importance of bird and bird habitat 59  
conservation; now therefore be it 60

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 130th 61  
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this 62  
resolution, designate the second Saturday of May 2014 as Bird Ohio 63  
Day in order to recognize the importance of bird and bird habitat 64  
stewardship and conservation; and be it further 65

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 130th 66  
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage school districts, 67  
schools, teachers, and nature educators in Ohio to offer lessons 68  
and activities to teach students and other citizens about birds, 69  
bird habitat, and bird conservation and also encourage citizens of 70  
and visitors to Ohio to spend time outdoors enjoying the sights 71  
and sounds of birds and engage in stewardship of the wildlife 72  
habitat on which migratory and resident birds depend for their 73  
survival; and be it further 74

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 75  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of Ohio. 76