Legislation Text

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Proclaiming May 21, 2016 to be International Migratory Bird Day in the City of Saint Paul.

WHEREAS, birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

WHEREAS, many citizens recognize and welcome migratory birds as symbolic harbingers of spring; and

WHEREAS, birds are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem as pollinators, seed dispersers, insect and rodent predators; and

WHEREAS, these bird species play an important economic role in our community by generating millions in tourism and recreational dollars statewide; and

WHEREAS, enjoying birds connects people, gets them outdoors and involved in the community, promoting good health and social connection; and

WHEREAS, birds and their habitats are declining and birds are facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter homes; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and concern are crucial components of bird conservation; and

WHEREAS, citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy populations of both resident birds and migrants; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people will observe IMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun, and

WHEREAS, IMBD is not only a day to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation, but also a call to action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Saint Paul will proclaim that the 21st of May, 2016 be named International Migratory Bird Day, and urge all citizens to celebrate this observance and to support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our community and the world at large.