

**Office of the Governor
State of Missouri
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Missouri's citizens value the conservation of our natural environment as one of their most important concerns for current and future generations; and, more than three-quarters (79 percent) of Missourians agree that our rare and endangered species should be conserved, as well as the rare and endangered plants that make up the natural communities in which they live,

WHEREAS, the 42 partner organizations of Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MOBCI) are a diverse group of conservation-minded professionals, hunters, bird watchers, businesses, academia and citizens; people committed to working together to restore and conserve habitat for birds, and

WHEREAS, the Bald Eagle was federally listed endangered in 1978, and, no Bald Eagles were known to nest in Missouri from 1965 to 1982, and,

WHEREAS, between 1982 and 1990, seventy-five Bald Eagles were raised and released in Missouri in an effort to restore a viable, resident, nesting population, and, after a first nesting attempt in 1983, and a 2007 Bald Eagle population estimated over 120 nesting pairs statewide, with a two-fold increase since 2001,

WHEREAS, as a result of successful conservation efforts by Missouri and other states, the Bald Eagle's federal status was reduced from endangered to threatened in 1995, and, in 2007 is being proposed for removal from the federal endangered species list,

WHEREAS, the second Saturday in May has been established as an international celebration of birds and bird conservation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATT BLUNT, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim the second Saturday in May to be:

BIRD CONSERVATION DAY

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, on this 9th day of May, 2007.

Governor

Attest:

Secretary of State