



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, studies show that 35 percent of Americans age 16 or older participate in birding activities, with almost 82 million participants averaging 100 days per year; and

WHEREAS, bird watchers in the U.S. spend more than \$36 billion annually, creating an \$82 billion total industry output each year and supporting 671,000 jobs in the U.S. with an average salary of \$41,000 generating over \$6 billion in state tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is very important to migrating and resident birds by providing abundant food, shelter and places where many species raise their young, while providing people of all ages endless opportunities to enjoy this annual spectacle of nature; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, extinction of the wood duck seemed imminent, but due to Missouri and nationwide conservation actions, by 1941, there was a harvestable population again, and between 1966 and 2007, the Breeding Bird Survey indicated the wood duck population had increased by an annual average of 3.5 percent, a true success story for wetlands and bird conservation actions; and

WHEREAS, from 1966 to 2007, the range-wide population of prothonotary warblers (locally called swampcandles) decreased by an annual average of 1.1 percent, elevating concerns that these brilliantly-colored song birds of riparian areas and forested wetlands of Missouri could be imperiled; and

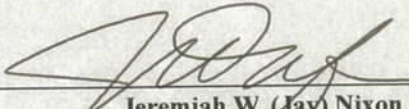
WHEREAS, the 60 partner organizations of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative are a diverse group of conservation-minded bird watchers, hunters, business owners, academicians, state and federal professionals, and citizens committed to working together to sustain healthy habitats for the benefit of migrating and resident birds in Missouri, and for the enjoyment and economic benefit of Missouri citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2011, to be

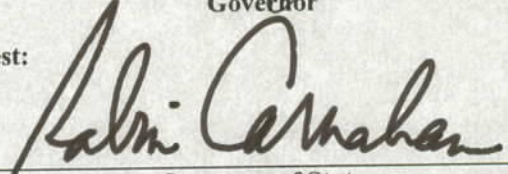
BIRD CONSERVATION DAY IN MISSOURI

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, this 19th day of April, 2011.




Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State