



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

NATIVE HABITAT MONTH

WHEREAS: Georgia's native landscapes and habitats are among our state's most important natural resources and provide critical habitats for birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS: A diversity of birds is indicative of a healthy ecosystem that provides a full array of ecosystem services to Georgia residents including biological control of pests, carrion regulation, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling; and

WHEREAS: Many Georgia residents enjoy watching, feeding, and listening to a wide variety of birds in habitats ranging from their backyards, to the state's coastal beaches, and to the mountains of North Georgia. 2.4 million residents and visitors annually participate in bird and wildlife watching in Georgia, spending \$1.8 billion annually pursuing these activities; and

WHEREAS: Plants that occur naturally in Georgia provide critical insects and other food sources that birds and other wildlife depend on. Georgians can benefit birds and other wildlife by being mindful of their native habitat when making landscaping decisions; and

WHEREAS: Georgia Audubon is committed to building places where birds and people thrive, and is partnering with Audubon chapters across the state and the Georgia Native Plant Society to bring awareness to the need to protect and create a network of habitats filled with native plants across Georgia; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as NATIVE HABITAT MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF