



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Georgia's native landscapes and habitats are among our state's most important natural resources; 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 backyards to coastal beaches and mountains; and
- WHEREAS:** Annually, 2.3 million residents and visitors participate in bird and wildlife watching in Georgia, spending \$1.8 billion in the pursuit of these activities each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Plants that occur naturally in Georgia provide critical insects and other food sources for birds and other wildlife that non-native plants do not; and
- WHEREAS:** Landscaping choices have meaningful effects on the native insects that bird populations need to survive; and
- WHEREAS:** By making informed choices, our state can grow in harmony with the functional habitat that our birds and wildlife depend on; and
- WHEREAS:** Atlanta Audubon Society is committed to building places that allow birds and people to thrive through conservation, education, and advocacy; and
- WHEREAS:** In partnership with the Georgia Native Plant Society, Atlanta Audubon Society works to create a network of habitats filled with native plants across our state; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2019 as GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH in Georgia and encourage gardeners and landscapers across the state to use native plants in the landscape for the benefit of the birds, wildlife, and people of Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF