

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In honor of the centennial of the United States' Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the State of Arkansas joins with millions of people around the world to celebrate 2018 as the Year of the Bird; and

WHEREAS: Each winter, Arkansas is home to North America's largest wintering area for Mallards, where we host an average of 306,000 birds, and thousands of other waterfowl along both the White River and the Cache River; and

WHEREAS: The Mallard migration to Arkansas brings in over one million dollars per day to the local economy during duck season; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to eight Important Bird Areas, including the Cache River and the Lower White River watershed, which are recognized as globally significant; and

WHEREAS: From the mountains in the Ozarks to the Mississippi River Valley and the western deciduous forests of the Ouachita National Forest to the rolling hills of Crowley's Ridge and everywhere in between, Arkansas's rich natural resources provide habitat for forty-two Watch Listed bird species and forty-six species of Conservation Interest; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas plays a critical role on an international scale for migratory birds that have no boundaries or borders;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE BIRD DAY IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to celebrate birds and recognize our responsibility to take care of the land, air, and water we all share.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State