

RESOLUTION NO. 22-37

DECLARATION OF THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY AS WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AND AUTHORIZATION FOR OZAUKEE COUNTY TO APPLY TO RETAIN ITS “BIRD CITY WISCONSIN” RECOGNITION STATUS

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin has a long history of supporting actions that support migratory birds and bird habitat through the protection, preservation and management of parks, natural areas, trail corridors and open space; effective community forestry management including the management of invasive species and tree planting; limiting or removing hazards to birds; the sale of bird houses, installation of cavity nest boxes and creation of bluebird trails; the development of educational information on migratory birds and their habitat; and recognition and celebration of World Migratory Bird Day (formerly known as International Migratory Bird Day); and

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County first received “Bird City Wisconsin” status in 2010, the first County in Wisconsin, based on its effort to protect birds and their habitat, then Ozaukee County received “High Flyer” status in 2011, the first County in Wisconsin and just one of 32 communities to receive this prestigious recognition, which has been awarded to Ozaukee County each year from 2012 - 2022 and is now one of 96 “Bird City Wisconsin” communities in the State of Wisconsin including three communities in Ozaukee County; and

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that enhance our community and quality of life as well as our citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring and enjoy all the opportunities they have to engage in recreational endeavors such as bird-watching and nature photography; and

WHEREAS, these migrant bird species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests and generating revenue related to bird watching activities and tourism; and

WHEREAS, a September 2019 study published in the scientific journal *Science* found that there are almost 3 billion fewer birds in North America today than there were in 1970 and migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, they are facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in their summer and winter homes; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is a crucial component of migratory bird conservation and citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy bird populations; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2008 the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted A *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035* (Resolution 07-72) and enacted ordinance 07-8 as Chapter 13 in the County Code of Ordinances and this plan identifies a number of programs to preserve and protect natural habitat; and

WHEREAS, an inventory of Important Bird Areas in Ozaukee County was developed and specific recommendations for the preservation of this wildlife habitat was included as part of the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County* and the *Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County*; and

WHEREAS, The Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors, acting on the recommendation of the Ozaukee County Natural Resources Committee, adopted Resolution 11-14 on June 1, 2011 and this resolution adopted the *Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County*, which includes a comprehensive analysis and recommendations for the Open Space Preservation Element from the *Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* for Ozaukee County, and the Outdoor Recreation Element; whereby, the plan recommends the protection of environmental corridors and natural areas, protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and public access; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors is concerned about the current trend of declining populations of migratory birds and the decrease in their natural habitat through the infringement upon natural areas and environmental corridors in Ozaukee County as identified in the *Ozaukee County Strategic Plan, Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County* and the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035*; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in Ozaukee County and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and the southern United States and thousands of people will observe WMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun; and

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County continued its annual celebration and recognition of WMBD on Saturday, May 21, 2022, by hosting a guided bird hike at Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve and by bringing awareness to the importance of bird conservation through website and social media outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County has declared it will continue its annual celebration and recognition of WMBD on a Saturday or Sunday, in May, 2023 with its partners using virtual and social distanced options depending on the COVID-19 situation at that time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ozaukee County declares the second Saturday in May as World Migratory Bird Day having recognized and celebrated this day on May 21, 2022 and having plans to celebrate again on a Saturday or Sunday in May 2023 and that Ozaukee County supports efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our County; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, Ozaukee County, through the Planning and Parks Department, authorizes the Director of Planning and Parks to submit an application and application fee to Bird City Wisconsin and implement the criteria established by Bird City Wisconsin, so that Ozaukee County can retain its "Bird City" and "High Flyer" designations that will further enhance the County's reputation for leadership in protecting its natural environment including bird habitats as well as recognize the interest of many of its citizens in bird conservation.

Dated at Port Washington, Wisconsin, this 1st day of February, 2023.

SUMMARY: Ozaukee County supports efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats and declares the second Saturday in May as World Migratory Bird Day having recognized this day on May 21, 2022 and having plans to celebrate again in 2023 and intends to submit an application and application fee to Bird City Wisconsin and implement the criteria established by Bird City Wisconsin, so that Ozaukee County can retain its "Bird City Wisconsin" designation and "High Flyer" status that will further enhance the County's reputation for

leadership in protecting its natural environment including bird habitats as well as recognize the interest of many of its citizens in bird conservation.

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: T. Matera, Supervisor District 7

SECONDER: K. Schoessow, Supervisor District 23

AYES: R. Holyoke, B. Jobs, T. Matera, K. Schoessow

EXCUSED: B. Ross

RES. 22-37

Declaration of the Second Saturday in May as World Migratory Bird Day and Authorization for Ozaukee County to Apply to Retain Its "Bird City Wisconsin" Recognition Status

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

Winker		YES
Haas		YES
Jobs		YES
Schlenvogt		YES
Clark		YES
Nelson		YES
Matera		YES
Larson		YES
Grabow		YES
Melotik		YES
Wolf		YES
Richart		YES
Hagen		EXCUSED

Rishel		YES
Maguire		YES
Whitworth		YES
Irish		YES
Stelter		YES
Ross		YES
Godden		YES
Strom		YES
Holyoke	S	YES
Schoessow	M	YES
Krane		EXCUSED
Watts		YES
Foy		YES