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, carbon 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 plans 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 landcapers across the state to use native plans 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.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF