

**THIS IS A DRAFT AND WILL BE REPLACED BY THE FINAL, SIGNED
ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL.**

RESOLUTION

**RECOGNIZING WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AND LOCAL
EFFORTS TO PURSUE THE BIRD CITY TEXAS DESIGNATION BY
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE.**

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WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

WHEREAS, most citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring and fall; and

WHEREAS, bird migration is interconnected with delicate local ecosystems, serving to control insect pest populations, support pollination, and foster seed dispersal; and

WHEREAS, migratory birds face the challenges of diminishing migratory habitats in the Americas and increased dangers on their migration routes; and

WHEREAS, our City and community have a proud of history of conservation efforts and the City of San Antonio's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan prioritizes biodiversity and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, protecting vulnerable species through active conservation efforts is a fundamental strategy for urban resilience and natural resource regeneration; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio's location at the confluence of the Post Oak Savannah, South Texas Plains, Blackland Prairie, and Edwards Plateau ecoregions enables important nesting habitat for migratory birds, including two highly endangered species: the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler; and

WHEREAS, one of the North American migratory flyways cuts through San Antonio, providing special opportunities for residents and tourists alike to witness and appreciate bird migration, the varied bird species it brings through our community, and the value of conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center created World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in 1993 as an educational campaign to emphasize migratory bird conservation and raise public awareness of the nearly 350 species that travel between habitats throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S.; and

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WHEREAS, educational campaigns and public awareness for migratory birds are essential elements of migratory bird conservation, and it would be impactful for San Antonio to add its voice to the global conversation surrounding this celebration of and urgent need for migratory bird conservation; and

WHEREAS, migratory bird conservation efforts help protect the birdwatching industry in our community and across the U.S., which generates millions in recreational dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, a resolution recognizing WMBD will assist local community organizations such as Bird City Texas – San Antonio and the Bexar Audubon Society in acquiring a Bird City Texas Designation for San Antonio, elevating our profile for conservation and birdwatching and catalyzing birding tourism; and

WHEREAS, while WMBD officially is held each year on the second Saturday in May, its observance is not limited to a single day, and community planners are encouraged to schedule activities on the dates best suited to the presence of both migrants and celebrants; and

WHEREAS, WMBD is not only a day to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation, but also it is a call to action for the community to understand, recognize, and care for our migratory bird life; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City of San Antonio recognizes World Migratory Bird Day annually.

SECTION 2. The City of San Antonio supports local organizations in their efforts to leverage this resolution recognizing World Migratory Bird Day toward acquiring a Bird City Texas designation from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of December, 2020.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tina J. Flores, City Clerk

Andrew Segovia, City Attorney