

Proclamation

WHEREAS, birds are present in every environment – urban or rural, wetland or prairie – and they are an ever-present reminder that nature is all around us; and

WHEREAS, twice each year, billions of birds embark on strenuous migrations between wintering and breeding grounds that are many thousands of miles apart. In North America, 70 percent of bird species migrate and, of those, 80 percent migrate at night, using the night sky to help them navigate; and

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks among the top ten states with the biggest bird lists, with more than 400 species of birds calling it home and 450 migrating through the Central Migration Flyway, including the Centennial State; and

WHEREAS, each spring and fall, Colorado witnesses the movements of millions of birds, like the Burrowing Owl navigating through the star-lit skies of the eastern grasslands, and the Bullock's Oriole steer past the windows and lights of the Front Range; and

WHEREAS, most native songbirds live in grassland or forested habitats that are light-free at night. During nocturnal migration, intense artificial lights can cause birds to collide with windows or walls, or cause them to circle in confusion, leaving them weak and vulnerable during their arduous journeys; and

WHEREAS, birds contribute major ecosystem services such as pollination, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, and pest control; for example the Clark's Nutcracker is estimated to contribute billions of ecosystem services to montane habitats; and

WHEREAS, Coloradoans enjoy and value exposure to nature, such as standing beneath a dark and awe inspiring Colorado night sky; and

WHEREAS, from Durango to Sterling, the Dinosaur National Monument to the Comanche National Grassland; across the state and everywhere in between, Colorado's famous natural heritage depends upon, and is supported by, a wide variety of bird species; and

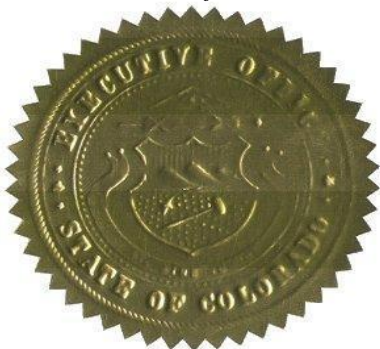
WHEREAS, as light pollution in the United States continues to grow each year, more communities across Colorado are impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Lights Out Colorado program is voluntary and encourages businesses and community members to turn off all non-essential exterior lights to reduce light pollution so as to provide safer, natural migration routes for birds;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as

LIGHTS OFF FOR BIRD MIGRATION MONTH

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of April, 2022

Jared Polis
Governor