

## *Township of Grosse Ile Year of the Bird 2018 Proclamation*

WHEREAS, birds are present in every environment urban or rural, wetland or prairie, and are an ever-present reminder of beauty of nature all around us.

WHEREAS, 2018 is the centennial year of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which protects over 1000 bird species including birds in our backyards, and those that nest and/or migrate through our township on their international journeys, using our abundant woods, fields, river banks, and wetlands in our township owned open areas, the Gibraltar Bay unit of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, and Westcroft Gardens.

WHEREAS ON MAY 22, 2017 Detroit was designated the 29<sup>th</sup> Urban Bird Treaty City by the US Fish and Wildlife Service because of the Detroit area's amazing diversity of birds, bird habitats, and that the region has adopted a plan (Detroit Urban Bird Treaty Action Strategy) to protect and enhance that diversity.

WHEREAS THE DETROIT RIVER WHICH SURROUND OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN IMPORTANT BIRD AREA by National Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and Birdlife International.

WHEREAS, each year, more than 250 migrating bird species grace us with reminders of their fortitude and persistence to make long journeys from Central and South America to or through Southeast Michigan, Wayne County, and Detroit.

WHEREAS, in February 2018 Wayne County environmentalists, naturalists, and birders of Detroit Audubon reported local sightings of 510 individual birds of 115 species during the Michigan Great Backyard Bird Count, and Detroit Audubon has documented over 350 species of bird species in Southeast Michigan.

WHEREAS Grosse Ile is an important site for two of these counts, the Rockwood Christmas Bird Count and the February international waterfowl survey.

WHEREAS, local agencies play critical roles in monitoring, studying, counting, feeding, enhancing habitat, and assisting injured birds including Detroit Audubon, Metro-Detroit Nature Network, Detroit Zoo, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the Friends of the Detroit River, the River Raisin Institute, Washtenaw Bird Center, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Authority.

WHEREAS, our local area includes a significant migratory and wintering assemblage of Canvasback Ducks totaling 10% of the world's population and the Western Lake Erie Basin serves as a stop-over for thousands of raptors and migratory water fowl.

WHEREAS, human actions present the number one threat to birds; including change in the climate, destruction of habitat, planting of non-native and invasive plants that reduce natural food sources, collisions with buildings, introduction of invasive animal species, and overuse of chemicals in yards and fields creating toxic runoff in waterways. All of which can be mitigated or prevented through common sense best practices.

THEREFORE, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim 2018 to be **Year of the Bird on Grosse Ile** and urge businesses and citizens to promote the conservation of our environment, the planting of native trees, and the protection of birds that live in and travel through our township, the Detroit River Watershed, and the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways which converge here.