

SCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/03/17
Action: Be adopted.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates Osprey as official state bird.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unique attributes of Osprey
- Osprey as asset to ecosystem
- Other states designating Western Meadowlark as state symbol

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Osprey is a diurnal, fish-eating bird of prey that has a population range spanning the United States and other various locations around the World. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was first documented in Oregon in 1855. Historically, Osprey populations were reported as robust, nesting in forested areas near water because they favored dead trees or trees with flat or dead tops. During the 1970's the Osprey population declined because of the utilization of a certain pesticide, but the Osprey rebounded and can currently be found nesting along the lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers. The USGS determined that the number of pairs nesting along the Willamette River, between Eugene and Portland, increased from 13 pairs in 1976 to 78 pairs in 1993, and increased to 234 pairs by 2001.

Ospreys are uniquely tolerant of human activities and have adapted by building nests on structures such as power poles, cellular towers, channel markers and other suitable structures near water with an abundant supply of fish. The Osprey can commonly be observed soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways and perched on their large stick nests. Currently, the Oregon state bird is the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). The Western Meadowlark was chosen as the state bird in 1927 by school children across the state in a poll sponsored by the Oregon Audubon Society. The Western Meadowlark is also the state bird of Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 designates the Osprey as the official state bird of Oregon.