

**SCR 18 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Williamson

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Action Date:** 07/03/17

**Action:** Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Barreto, Holvey, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

**Exc:** 2 - Hack, Kennemer

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Designates osprey as official state raptor of Oregon. Designates western meadowlark as official state songbird of Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of amendment

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18-A designates the osprey as the official state raptor of Oregon and the western meadowlark as the official state songbird of Oregon.

The western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) was first 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 a colorful member of the blackbird family with a vibrant yellow breast crossed by a distinctive black, V-shaped band. However, an individual is more likely to hear, than to see a western meadowlark, as they are known for their distinctive flute-like singing. Oregon shares recognition of the western meadowlark with Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota. However, with the adoption of SCR 18-A, Oregon is distinct in identifying it as Oregon's official state songbird.

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 1970s, 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.