

# SENATE BILL No. 1278

September 19, 2012, Introduced by Senator MOOLENAAR and referred to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.

A bill to provide for the designation of Iosco county as the birding capital of the state; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. The legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3           (a) That the national Audubon society has designated the  
4 following 3 areas within Iosco county as important bird areas:

5           (i) The scenic byway along the AuSable river for wintering  
6 trumpeter swans.

7           (ii) Management areas within the county for nesting Kirtland's  
8 warblers.

9           (iii) Tawas point, which provides critical habitat for the

1 spring migration of a variety of bird species.

2 (b) That Iosco county contains a large nesting population of  
3 the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

4 (c) That Iosco county contains a large population of nesting  
5 bald eagles.

6 (d) That Iosco county contains the only identified nesting  
7 populations of the endangered piping plover on the west side of  
8 Lake Huron.

9 (e) That Iosco county has held the annual meeting of the  
10 Michigan Audubon society.

11 (f) That the designation of areas in the state where  
12 significant numbers of rare birds and critical habitat for birds  
13 are found will promote tourism and economic development and the  
14 population of birds and bird habitat in the state.

15 Sec. 2. In acknowledgment of the legislature's findings and  
16 declarations under section 1, Iosco county is designated as the  
17 birding capital of the state.

18 Sec. 3. The department of natural resources and travel  
19 Michigan shall promote Iosco county as the birding capital of the  
20 state in their promotion of statewide natural resources and tourism  
21 opportunities.