

Good afternoon Chairman Howell and Representatives of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee. Thank you for inviting me and my students from Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion to give testimony today on HB4589 to make the Eastern wild turkey Michigan's state game bird. Our participation here today is an incredible opportunity to bring these students' textbook to life and learn about how state government works. This is an experience that we will never forget, and I thank you.

Why do states have symbols? Some of Michigan's symbols represent things that are unique to the state, such as the Petoskey stone or Kalkaska sand. Other symbols represent the culture of the state such as the white pine that symbolizes Michigan's logging history. Michigan currently has a state game animal, the white-tailed deer, to represent Michigan's rich tradition of hunting and fishing. Hunting has been, and is currently, a big part of our state's culture and economy. It's time to add a game bird to that list of state symbols.

Why name a state game bird? Naming a state game bird would complement the white-tailed deer and celebrate the passion that many of our state's residents have for hunting and conservation. Michigan would join eight other states that currently recognize a game bird as one of their state symbols. The state game bird chosen should be the best representative of all the birds that can be legally pursued in Michigan. After careful consideration, we would like to nominate the Eastern wild turkey as Michigan's state game bird.

Why should the Eastern wild turkey be named the state game bird? There are many reasons. One of the most significant is the turkey's history as one of the biggest conservation success stories in Michigan, and the nation. Wild turkeys were extirpated from the state by 1900, but through the efforts of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the National Wild Turkey Federation, the wild turkey has made a remarkable comeback to the point that it is currently found in 76 of 83 counties in the state, with numbers topping 200,000 statewide. Al Stewart, the DNR's upland game bird specialist says that, "the restoration of the wild turkey is sort of the pinnacle of all that's been done for wildlife in this country." Such a success story would be recognized by making the wild turkey our state game bird.

The wild turkey also contributes to conservation and the state's economy through hunters' dollars. According to the DNR, over 100,000 hunters head to the woods each spring to hunt turkeys in Michigan. Since this is the only game that can be hunted in the spring, hunters must purchase their base license for \$11 and their turkey license for another \$15. That's \$2.6 million in license sales that goes to the state to manage all our wildlife, not just turkeys. That amount doesn't even factor in the additional Pittman-Robertson dollars that are multiplied and awarded to the state as a result of those turkey license sales. Add in the economic impact to the state from turkey hunters buying ammo and gear, staying in hotels and eating meals at restaurants during the six-week season and you begin to see why turkey hunting and the wild turkey is so important to the state of Michigan as a game bird. Because the wild turkey is responsible for bringing millions of dollars to our state's economy and conservation efforts, it should be named the state game bird.



As a game bird, the turkey is unmatched in Michigan. Over 30,000 of these native birds are harvested each year, but every turkey hunter will tell you that harvesting your bird is no guarantee. They are uniquely adapted to their environment with excellent sight and hearing, able to elude hunters with their fast running and flying. While turkey hunting takes skill, if one is lucky enough to harvest the largest game bird in North America, you can look forward to over eight pounds of free ranging, low cholesterol, hormone and chemical free meat. Try getting that from a woodcock, ruffed grouse or pheasant! The skill needed to harvest one, and the unique characteristics of this native bird are more reasons why the wild turkey would be the best representative for Michigan's state game bird.

Michigan has other game birds, but none of them can compare to the Eastern wild turkey as the best candidate to become the state game bird. The turkey is larger than any other game bird, and no other bird meets the criteria of being native to the state, a year-round resident, and found throughout the state. The wild turkey represents the epitome of upland bird and waterfowl hunting in Michigan.

For all of these reasons, I urge the committee to vote to pass HB4589 on to the next committee, with the hopes of seeing the Eastern wild turkey named Michigan's state game bird.

Jon Gray
8th grade science teacher
Waldon Middle School
Lake Orion, MI



Eastern Wild Turkey Should be the State Game Bird.

The management of the amount of turkeys hunted in Michigan is consistent and steady overall. Turkeys are a great symbol of Michigan. The eastern wild turkey should be Michigan state game bird. The turkey should be the Michigan state game bird because turkey hunting takes skill and is a very significant sport in Michigan. Also, because the National Wild Turkey Federation earns a very large amount of money each year for habitat and conservation.

Eastern wild turkey should be Michigan state game bird because hunting turkeys in Michigan is a significant sport. It is one of the most popularly hunted animal in Michigan. For example, on realtree.com it says that, "Michigan is truly a hunter friendly state. 763,618 folks enjoy our tradition (not only turkeys)." That is almost 10% of the population. If Michigan is truly a hunter friendly state, then why not have the state game bird be something that represents something that is highly hunted around Michigan. Also, Michigan has a high amount of people that hunt in Michigan, and what better way to represent the enjoyment that people have hunting in Michigan then to have one of the most popularly hunted birds be the state game bird.

Eastern wild turkey should be the Michigan state game bird because the NWFT receives over \$500,000 each year for habitat and conservation. The turkey is again one of most hunted animals in Michigan and the NWFT will be able to help conserve the turkey population and the habitat if something were happen to it if it were to become the state game bird, as it has done before.

In refute, some people think that state game bird should be grouse or pheasant, but those birds do not truly represent Michigan. Their hunting rate not being as high. The turkey is big and strong bird compared to pheasant or grouse. The eastern wild turkey is also a very colorful and more known bird, being known everywhere and not just Michigan. Anywhere from an infant drawing a hand turkey, to a grown man hunting his own turkey, turkeys are known by almost all, making it a great state game bird for Michigan.

In conclusion, Eastern Wild Turkey should be the state game bird because of the popular sport of hunting in Michigan and the NWFT receives \$500,000 each year for habitat and conservation. Michigan needs a symbol to represent the joy and the great amount of people that hunt in the state.



Why Should Eastern Wild Turkeys Be Michigan's State Game Bird?

By: Ashleigh Major

Dear Mr. Howell,

Almost every Michigander loves Michigan for its majestic animals and naturally beautiful scenery. Michigan like many other states is blessed to have a state tree, fossil, flower, and many other wonderful state symbols. Michigan is one of the few states that does not have a state game bird. Michigan should have a state game bird to add to the list of state symbols. Michigan's state game bird should be the magnificent Eastern wild turkey. The eastern wild turkey has one of the most distinctive calls that allows hunters to track down a turkey in almost a heartbeat. Furthermore, the eastern wild turkeys found in Michigan help raise revenue for wildlife conservation. We, the students of Mr. Gray's science class, believe the eastern wild turkeys should be honored by becoming Michigan's state game bird since many are hunted each year due to the birds easily recognizable call helping hunters, and these birds also help raise money for Michigan's wildlife conservation.

Eastern wild turkeys have one of the most unique bird noises in the nest. The bird's call help hunters determine whether a turkey is male or female. According to "Gobble, Gobble! 6 fun facts about turkeys" (par. 8) "Each gobbler has a unique call that he uses to attract females during breeding season. Female turkeys also make distinct noises, but they sound more like chirps and clucks." This information can help hunters determine whether a turkey is male or female not even by looking at the turkey itself. Most people in the United States prefer hens than toms on Thanksgiving, since hens tend to weigh less than toms and can be easier to cook. So, when hunters have the potential capability to settle if the turkey is male or female it can help them if they are set out to hunt a hen. Clearly eastern wild turkeys call not only benefit the turkey but can also benefit the hunters and the consumers. The eastern wild turkey is the best fit for Michigan's state game bird because of its benefits to hunters with its unique calls and diverse vocalization.

Eastern wild turkeys help raise revenue for Michigan wildlife conservation. The article "Michigan Spring Turkey Digest" (par. 12) writes "Your licenses provide nearly \$40 million a year to conserve wildlife." Out of those license sales almost 45% come from hunters that hunt eastern wild turkeys. As a result of the license sales turkeys' habitats have been restored and population of elk, deer, and other game species are now preserved for the fun of future hunters. These birds help hunters have not only a great meal, but also help restore habitats and population.

Other people may argue that the eastern wild turkey should not be Michigan's state game bird, but rather, the hen mallard duck should be Michigan's state game bird. "All about Michigan Mallards" (par. 5) states, "Mallards can live in almost any wetland habitat, natural or artificial." You can spot a hen mallard duck almost instantly in Michigan if you are near any lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers, as well as city and suburban parks and backyards. A hen mallard duck is easier to spot on a normal day to day basis in Michigan, which is why people may favor the duck as a potential state game bird. Although, a hen mallard duck is more common to see in Michigan than an eastern wild turkey, hen mallard ducks do migrate for the winter unlike turkeys. Adding on to that thought eastern wild turkeys stay in Michigan year-round unlike the mallard duck. People may think that the hen mallard duck should be Michigan's state game bird since it is more common to spot but, the eastern wild turkey remains in Michigan even throughout the brutal winters.

Let's recap what eastern wild turkeys bring to the table as Michigan's potential candidate for its state game bird. Eastern wild turkeys have one of the most incredible calls in all the animal kingdom. This factor allows hunters to determine if a turkey is male or female helping to hunt their preferred meat. Raising money for a good cause is something that everyone should try at least once. Eastern wild turkeys raise money almost every

day by hunters wanting to purchase a license this money then helps to restore Michigan's wildlife. Eastern wild turkeys are Michigan's best and strongest candidate for Michigan's state game bird because they provide hunters with their amazing calls helping them with their hunt, give back to Michigan's wildlife. Gary Howell, it would be much appreciated if you would consider the eastern wild turkey as Michigan's future state game bird.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Major

The Eastern Wild Turkey

Jillian Conrad

In today's day and age, all states have certified state birds, but most states do not have a game bird as one of its symbols. Therefore, I believe Michigan should adopt a game bird as one of its state symbols. Among the fifty states in the United States, eight of them have a game bird. The Eastern wild turkey should be a symbol of Michigan. The points emphasized are that at one time you could not find a wild turkey in Michigan by the 1900's further signifying its importance and these birds are hormone and chemical free.

First, it is worth considering that the Eastern wild turkey at one time was nowhere to be found in Michigan. For many people, these turkeys evoke thoughts of time spent with family, watching parades and football. This would be lost if the turkey hadn't made a comeback. For others, this could mean outdoor heritage and meals that has been served to families for generations. Detroit Free Press states that, "Thanks to a massive conservation effort over the last 50 years, there are now more than 200,000 of the birds found in every corner of the state, that's an amazing story." This portrays that the Eastern wild turkey was once almost all gone by the 1900's, but now has greatly restored their kind. The Eastern wild turkey striving after near-extinction is incredible, this is just one of the many exemplars that display reasons why we should make this turkey our state game bird.

Another reason why the Eastern wild turkey should be represented as our state game bird is because they are hormone and chemical free. This is critical because the meat is healthy and hearty. (Pennsylvania) PENN Live expresses that, "Wild turkey are smaller and have darker meat, richer, more intense flavor, and firmer texture than domestic turkey. It is known for its slight gaminess, slightly firm texture and its dark meat. Wild turkeys have a lot less breast meat than regular turkeys because their breasts are designed to help them fly and they have no hormones or special feed." This illustrates that this turkey is physically fit and would be considered more nutritious than the domestic turkey. Therefore, this turkey should prevail the title of Michigan's game bird.

Some may argue that other birds should be the state game bird symbol. The Ring neck Pheasant could be considered too. According to the Department of Natural Resources of Michigan, "About 23,351 Michigan hunters pursued pheasants statewide in 2011." This bird is also a popular game bird associated with grasslands and agricultural areas primarily in southern Michigan. However, the Eastern wild turkeys have greater lasting effects such as being restored to the state after being gone for long periods and would be a more desirable choice to be given the title as our state game bird.

In summation, the Eastern wild turkey should be represented as our state game bird. The elements asserted are meaningful to the overall goal of making this turkey the symbol and demonstrates that this turkey should be enforced as our state game bird. Mr. Howell, I hope you consider this and help this bill pass. If Michigan adds the Eastern turkey to their state symbols, other states will quite possibly want a state gamebird as well. If all fifty states had a state game bird, Michigan would be looked back upon making an impact on this movement.



Michigan's Game Bird

By: Nico Kalaj

In the state of Michigan there are a lot of significant things that represent the state. For example, Michigan's state stone is the Petoskey stone, the state bird is the American Robin. But one symbol that Michigan does not have is a state game bird. Michigan needs a game bird. And I believe it should be the Eastern wild turkey, because 89% of all wild turkeys are found in the United States and they have good winter survival.

One reason why Michigan's game bird should be the Eastern wild turkey is because 89% of all wild turkeys are found in the United States. For example, according to an article by The National Wild Turkey Federation, there are close to 225,000 plus wild turkeys in Michigan, which is a lot more than other states and countries. This proves how Michigan's game bird should be the Eastern wild turkey, because if there are a lot of wild turkeys found in Michigan than other states and countries, then it is obviously significant to the state and is important. Therefore, it should represent Michigan by becoming the state game bird.

Another reason why Michigan's game bird should be the Eastern wild turkey is because they have very good winter survival. For instance, according to another article by the National Wild Turkey Federation, Eastern wild turkeys are great at adapting to cold climate change, unlike any other bird which allows them to survive very long in cold climates. This connects to how the Eastern wild turkey should be the state game bird, because they will live very long in Michigan, since they can adapt to Michigan's very cold climate in the winter, while other birds may migrate south.

On the other hand, some people believe that the state game bird should be the duck. They believe this because there are a lot more ducks than turkeys in Michigan. For example, according to a "2016 waterfowl population survey" the number of ducks compared to the number of Eastern wild turkeys are almost doubled. However, according to Mallard Migration, ducks migrate to the south during the winter. This shows why ducks shouldn't be the Michigan game bird because wild turkeys stay during the winter and don't migrate, so they are obviously the better choice.

In conclusion, Michigan's state game bird should be the Eastern wild turkey because 89% of all wild turkeys are found in the United States and they have very good winter survival. It is completely clear that Eastern wild turkeys should be the Michigan game bird. Therefore, Gary Howell passing a bill that will make the Eastern wild turkey the Michigan game bird, will symbolize its importance to our state.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The records should be kept up-to-date and should be easily accessible to all relevant parties.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. These methods include interviews, surveys, and focus groups. Each method has its own strengths and weaknesses, and it is important to choose the most appropriate method for the specific research objectives.

3. The third part of the document describes the process of data analysis. This involves identifying patterns and trends in the data, and then interpreting these findings in the context of the research objectives. It is important to be objective and to avoid drawing conclusions that are not supported by the data.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of reporting the results of the research. This involves writing a clear and concise report that summarizes the findings and provides recommendations for future action. The report should be written in a way that is easy to understand and that is accessible to all relevant parties.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of ethical considerations in research. This involves ensuring that the research is conducted in a way that is respectful of the rights and privacy of all participants. It is important to obtain informed consent from all participants and to ensure that the data is kept confidential.

Representative Howell,

One of the many things that makes Michigan great is our wide variety of state symbols. Think of the Petoskey stone which is often found on our beaches and the apple blossom which shows its color each spring. But every year a large number of Michigan residents engage in an annual bird hunt which is weirdly unacknowledged on a governmental scale. Michigan should name an official state game bird in order to validate this tradition. When considering candidates for the role a certain gobbling fellow comes to mind. The eastern wild turkey should be Michigan's state game bird because its hunting seasons greatly benefit Michigan's economy and because it can provide a huge amount of nourishment when it is hunted.

The eastern wild turkey should be Michigan's state game bird because its hunting seasons greatly benefit Michigan's economy. Each year 30,000 turkeys are hunted in Michigan, with a 30% success rate among hunters. That equates to around 40,000 dollars a year spent on hunting licenses that allow people to hunt the bird, according to the 2018 Spring Turkey Digest published by the DNR. While these numbers are already huge there's nobody to say they won't swell even further if the species is named the state game bird of Michigan. Residents hearing the news may be encouraged to pay for their own licenses, the money then being used for the betterment of the species. Those with permission to hunt may encourage others to do the same. And all the money is used to make our state a better place.

Furthermore, the eastern wild turkey should be the official state game bird of Michigan because it provides a large amount of nourishment when it is hunted. Each bird, cooked correctly, can provide as much as eight pounds of meat when it is killed. That's more than any other game bird in Michigan, or in the United States for that matter (according to Forbes.com). It can literally keep more people alive than any other American game bird. It brings life in a weird way. A perfect symbol of our state which is full of wonders.

Despite this evidence there are some who may still think another of our feathered friends would be better suited for the role. Take the duck for example. According to Michigan.gov there are 10.4 million ducks in Michigan. That's *a lot* of ducks. But the duck has one downfall: it migrates away from Michigan late September-early February. It's only in Michigan eight months out of the year. It wouldn't make much sense therefore to elevate it to one of our state symbols.

In conclusion, the wild turkey should be the state game bird of Michigan because its hunting seasons bring large amounts of money and because it provides a lot when it is killed. Please consider this suggestion and help give the wild turkey the honor it deserves by making it one of the many symbols of our great state.

-Christian Bade

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2. The second part of the document outlines the procedures for handling cash and other assets. It is important to ensure that all cash receipts are properly recorded and that all disbursements are supported by valid documentation. Regular reconciliations should be performed to ensure that the books are in balance.

3. The third part of the document discusses the requirements for preparing financial statements. These statements should be prepared on a regular basis and should be reviewed by management before being distributed to the board of directors. The statements should be prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards.

4. The fourth part of the document outlines the procedures for handling payroll and other personnel matters. It is important to ensure that all payroll transactions are properly recorded and that all personnel records are maintained accurately. Regular audits should be performed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the requirements for handling taxes. It is important to ensure that all tax obligations are properly calculated and paid on time. Regular reviews should be performed to ensure compliance with applicable tax laws and regulations.

6. The sixth part of the document outlines the procedures for handling investments and other financial instruments. It is important to ensure that all investments are properly recorded and that all financial instruments are valued accurately. Regular reviews should be performed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the requirements for handling other financial matters. It is important to ensure that all financial transactions are properly recorded and that all financial statements are prepared accurately. Regular audits should be performed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

A game bird is a bird hunted for sport or for food. Eight states have State Game Birds. Michigan does not. Michigan's state game bird should be the Eastern wild turkey because they have an amazing recovery story, and turkey hunting is a tradition in Michigan.

First of all, the Eastern wild turkey should be Michigan's state game bird because it has one of the best wildlife conservation stories in America's history. According to the DNR, (Department of Natural Resources) 100 years ago, there wasn't a single wild turkey in the entire state of Michigan. They were wiped out by habitat destruction, and unregulated hunting. So, the Department of Conservation bought 50 turkeys from Pennsylvania and let them go at six sites in Allegan. Others were released at additional sites. Now, they are in every county in the lower peninsula, and most counties in the upper peninsula! It is a miracle we have a single wild turkey, none the less almost throughout the entire state! This proves that this bird can persevere and push through anything that gets in its way, even extinction. So, we'd never have to worry about the turkeys dying out!

Secondly, the Eastern wild turkey should be our state game bird because hunting turkeys in Michigan is a tradition. The DNR states that the first modern-day session for turkey hunting took place in the fall of 1965. Three years later, spring turkey hunting was established in many northern areas of the lower peninsula. Today, spring turkey hunting season is open in every county in Michigan, and alternate fall hunts are offered in areas where the turkey population is high enough to support an extra hunt. This illustrates that the wild turkey has a rich history in Michigan, and everyone wants a state game bird that has a history with our state!

Some say that the pheasant should be Michigan's state game bird. But according to the Michigan Country Lines magazine, Pheasants are native to China, and they were introduced into Michigan in 1895. This shows that the pheasants are not indigenous to Michigan. However, Wikipedia says that the wild turkey is native to North America. Also, the DNR states that only 22,620 pheasants were harvested in Michigan in 2011, while Michigan Radio says there are over 200,000 turkeys in Michigan! This is significant because we want a state game bird that has been in Michigan since the beginning, and one that has a large population.

In conclusion, the Eastern wild turkey should be Michigan's state game bird because it has a miraculous recovery story, and one of the Michigan traditions is turkey hunting. Now that you know a little bit more about the wild turkey's rich and interesting history, please support our bill to make the Eastern wild turkey our official state game bird.



The True Game Bird

Dear Representative Howell,

Symbols. Objects that represent our wonderful state of Michigan. From gemstones to songs, Michigan is represented by many things, all of which representing an important part of our state. Michigan takes great pride in its hunting, including everything from birds to deer. This should be represented by a state game bird. Many different birds could fit this extravagant role. However, the best bird to carry this burden is the Eastern Wild Turkey.

One reason the Eastern Wild Turkey should be the state game bird is because it is used traditionally by Native Americans. For instance, Native Michiganders would use turkeys for meat and used their decorative feathers to make headdresses and jewelry. Tradition runs through the veins of the wild turkey and feeds the heart of Michigan. This tradition should be honored. Since the Native American time turkeys were hunted, and that tradition has been passed down through generations is continued today. Thus, to uphold tradition, the Eastern Wild Turkey should be named state game bird.

In addition, the Eastern Wild Turkey is the most hunted bird in Michigan. To illustrate, according to the Game and Fish Magazine, in the Spring 2017 season, 30,386 turkeys were harvested by hunters. Turkeys are hunted more than any other bird in Michigan. The state game bird represents the bird of hunting. What better fit to hold this role than the most hunted bird in the state. Hence, the Eastern Wild Turkey is the best fit to be Michigan's state game bird.

Others may believe that other birds, such as the sharp-tailed grouse, should be the state game bird instead of the turkey. However, the sharp-tailed grouse is not well known. Tell a kindergartener learning about the Michigan state symbols that the sharp-tailed grouse is the state game bird. She will look at you and say, "What's that?" Tell her it's a bird that people hunt, and she will say, "What's a spiky gourd?" Tell her the state game bird is a turkey, she will say, "Oh I like turkeys. They taste good!" The utter confusion that exotic birds create when being told to a young audience is disturbing. The ease of knowledge when referring to the turkey enforces that they are an important part of Michigan. Thus, no other birds fit the standards to be the state bird. Ensuring that the Eastern Wild Turkey should be Michigan's state game bird.

To conclude, the Eastern Wild Turkey should be Michigan's state game bird because it is traditional and the most harvested bird in Michigan. The reasons are clear and the path of action easy to follow. By introducing this bill, you are helping us maximize Michigan's potential and bring our state to its fullness of prosperity. Take action to change our state forever.

Sincerely,
Alexia Kalush

