

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS35129-LG-72 (03/13)

Short Title: Adopt Osprey as Official State Raptor. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Cook (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE OSPREY AS THE OFFICIAL RAPTOR OF THE STATE OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, ospreys are raptors that can stand from 21 to 24 inches tall and have wing  
5 spans that can measure up to six feet; and

6 Whereas, ospreys have dark upper plumage, while their under plumage is mostly  
7 white; and

8 Whereas, ospreys can be recognized during flight by the M-shape of their wings;  
9 and

10 Whereas, ospreys build large nests of sticks in dead trees and stumps, but are also  
11 known to build nests on man-made structures; and

12 Whereas, ospreys are the only raptors that plunge into water feet first and can dive  
13 30 miles per hour or greater to grasp fish with their talons; and

14 Whereas, ospreys can be found in North Carolina mostly during the spring and  
15 summer near water sources containing plenty of fish, such as estuaries, lakes, and rivers of the  
16 Coastal Plain, but may also nest near lakes and rivers in other parts of the State; and

17 Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official State raptor; Now,  
18 therefore,

19 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

20 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
21 section to read:

22 "**§ 145-48. State raptor.**

23 The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*) is adopted as the official raptor of the State of  
24 North Carolina."

25 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

