
As Amended by House Committee

(Corrected)

Session of 2006

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5034

By Committee on Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

1-26

11 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating Cheyenne Bottoms the
12 “Migratory Bird Capital of Kansas”.
13

14 WHEREAS, Cheyenne Bottoms is a 41,000 acre natural land sink in
15 ~~southwestern~~ **central** Kansas of which nearly 20,000 acres is ~~a state park~~
16 named the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. Mentioned in writings of
17 Zebulon Pike in 1806 as he explored the southern part of the recent
18 Louisiana purchase and discovered by surveyors of the Sante Fe Trail in
19 1825, the area was observed in 1860 by Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, later of civil war
20 fame, to be surrounded by myriads of buffalo. Although subject to alter-
21 nating periods of drought and flood, the area was frequented by prodig-
22 ious numbers of waterfowl and was the site of heavy market shooting
23 during the period from 1890 to 1905; and

24 WHEREAS, Federal legislation passed in 1937 placing an excise tax
25 on sporting arms and ammunition helped state wildlife agencies to ac-
26 quire wildlife habitat. The state of Kansas commenced acquiring land in
27 the bottoms in 1942 and by 1949 had completed purchasing the bulk of
28 the acreage making up the reserve. Several projects to build dams, dikes
29 and pump stations were then started and continued through 1990. Today
30 the Cheyenne Bottoms provides diverse marsh habitat for waterfowl and
31 shorebirds during the migrational seasons and insures needed food, water
32 and resting places; and

33 WHEREAS, The spring and fall migration periods provide the best
34 opportunities to view large numbers of different species at the bottoms.
35 Waterfowl and sand cranes begin arriving in February. Wading birds, such
36 as herons and egrets, arrive in April and May. Nesting and creation of
37 new families occurs in late May. The fall migration may begin as early as
38 July and is at its peak during September and October. Whooping cranes
39 may stop in the area in October and November and eagles are present
40 during the winter months: Now, therefore,

41 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
42 *the Senate concurring therein:* That this jewel of conservation which
43 sustains numberless amounts of wildlife and is the source of enjoyment

1 for many birders and sportsmen is properly designated as the “Migratory
2 Bird Capital of Kansas”; and
3 *Be it further resolved:* That the secretary of state provide an enrolled
4 copy of this resolution to the secretary of the Kansas department of wild-
5 life and parks.