

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING MARCH 16, 2009 THE "DAY OF THE ROADRUNNER" AT THE  
3 LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
4 ADOPTION OF THE ROADRUNNER AS NEW MEXICO'S STATE BIRD AND TO  
5 HONOR AND CELEBRATE THE ROADRUNNER.

6  
7 WHEREAS, the roadrunner, or chaparral, is New Mexico's  
8 state bird; and

9 WHEREAS, the roadrunner was adopted as the state bird on  
10 March 16, 1949; and

11 WHEREAS, the roadrunner darts, dashes and roams  
12 throughout the state with the exception of the Four Corners  
13 area; and

14 WHEREAS, the image of the roadrunner with its  
15 distinctive head crest, thick beak, long legs and exaggerated  
16 tail has become an icon for all New Mexicans; and

17 WHEREAS, the colors of the roadrunner are said to  
18 reflect the colors of the desert; and

19 WHEREAS, the land-loving bird can run at speeds of up to  
20 fifteen miles per hour and often sprints rather than flying;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is an opportunistic omnivore,  
23 living on insects; small reptiles, including lizards and  
24 snakes; rodents and small mammals; tarantulas; scorpions;  
25 centipedes; spiders; small birds, eggs and nestlings; and

1 fruits and seeds, such as prickly pear cactus and sumac; and

2 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is the only known predator of  
3 the tarantula hawk wasp; and

4 WHEREAS, the roadrunner, which may have a wingspan of up  
5 to three feet wide, lowers its body temperature during cold  
6 desert nights, going into a slight torpor to conserve energy;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the roadrunner warms itself during the day by  
9 exposing dark patches of skin on its back to the sun; and

10 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is a monogamous creature and may  
11 mate for life; and

12 WHEREAS, roadrunners may hold the same territory all  
13 year long; and

14 WHEREAS, some think the roadrunner sets a good example  
15 for human relationships, as both male and female care for  
16 their young, feeding hatchlings, warming the nest and  
17 ensuring that at least one parent stays with hatchlings in  
18 their first weeks of life;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the roadrunner, New Mexico's state  
21 bird, be honored by all New Mexicans; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that March 16, 2009, the sixtieth  
23 anniversary of naming the bird as a New Mexico icon, be  
24 declared the "Day of the Roadrunner" at the legislature. \_\_\_\_\_