



## STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Migration is one of the most amazing feats in the natural world. Twice each year, millions of birds take to the skies, dodging predators, burning fat stores, and enduring the ever-changing weather as they press towards breeding grounds in the spring and winter havens in the fall. Migrating primarily at night, the birds use our setting sun and stars as their guide, making occasional rest stops along the way to rest and refuel. The journey is long and difficult, and, in recent years, a new threat has emerged—buildings.



*Atlanta at night from the International Space Station*

## THE PROBLEM

Current research estimates that between 350 million and 1 billion birds die each year from building collisions in the U.S. alone! Bright, nighttime lights can disorient migrating birds, causing them to crash into structures or trapping them in beams of light where they die of exhaustion. During daylight hours, birds collide with reflective surfaces when they stop to feed or rest. Shiny glass exteriors, internal plants near windows, glass corners, and greenery close to buildings can all be deadly as birds are unable to determine reflection from open flyway.

## LIGHTS OUT ATLANTA

A simple and effective way to make our city safer for birds is to turn out the lights! Lights Out Atlanta is modeled after other successful programs in Toronto, New York City, and Minneapolis. We work with building owners, managers, employees and tenants, as well as local government to reduce light pollution by extinguishing exterior architectural and unnecessary nighttime building lighting during migration periods. This simple action has the potential to reduce dramatically the number of bird fatalities caused by nighttime lights.



## WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Minimize unnecessary bird deaths
- Save money by reducing energy usage
- Satisfy your building's sustainability goals
- Receive recognition for sustainable, bird-friendly practices
- Be recognized as a regional and national leader in sustainability and bird conservation

## WHAT TO DO?

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish spot and flood-lights
- Substitute strobe lighting where possible
- Reduce lobby and atrium lighting where possible
- Turn off interior lighting, especially on upper floors
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late
- Down-shield exterior lighting or limit to ground level



***While all unnecessary lighting should be reduced, exterior decorative lights and lighted upper stories should be prioritized as they are most harmful to migrating birds.***

## WHEN TO REDUCE LIGHTS

While permanently reducing light has far-reaching benefits for birds and humans, studies have shown that bird collisions are dramatically higher during migratory periods. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, lights should be minimized or extinguished during these time frames:

- Spring Migration (March 15 – May 31)
- Fall Migration (August 15 – November 15)
- Midnight until dawn



To read more about making metro Atlanta a more bird-friendly community or to sign the Lights Out Atlanta pledge, please visit [atlantaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta](http://atlantaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta). For more information contact Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation at Atlanta Audubon Society, at [adam@atlantaudubon.org](mailto:adam@atlantaudubon.org).