



Lights Out

Save Birds • Save Energy • Save Money

Lights Out Saves Birds

Over 250 species of birds migrate through Minnesota each spring and fall. Many birds migrate at night and can be drawn off course by lighted structures in their flight path and are often killed or injured in collisions with buildings.

Lights Out can reduce these collisions! A study by the Field Museum in Chicago found that turning off the lights at one downtown high-rise reduced migratory bird deaths by 83%.

Lights Out Saves Energy and Money

Turning off building lights at night is good for birds *and* people and the planet! By saving electricity, it cuts off the cost of doing business, and by reducing energy use, helps to lower carbon pollution.

How Does Lights Out Work?

Lights Out is a voluntary program where building owners, managers, and tenants work together to ensure that unnecessary lighting is turned off from midnight until dawn during Lights Out dates:

- March 15 to May 31 for spring migration
- August 15 to October 31 for fall migration

What Can Building Owners and Managers Do?

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting (leave security lights on as needed for safety)
- Dim lobby and atrium lighting
- Turn off interior lights – especially upper floors

What Can Employees and Tenants Do?

- If you need to work at night, use task lighting rather than overhead lighting, or, close the blinds or drapes.
- Talk with your employer and co-workers about Lights Out

Save birds, energy, and money by turning off unnecessary lights. If your building would like to be involved in Lights Out, just turn out some lights and let us know! Email us at mnaudubon@audubon.org.



American Redstarts are one of more than 250 bird species that migrate through Minnesota and benefit from Lights Out.

Photo by Rebecca Field