

Lights Out Heartland & BirdSafeSTL



Saving Birds - Saving Energy - Saving Money

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

How does Lights Out work?

Lights Out Heartland offers a voluntary program for building owners, managers, and tenants to work together to ensure that unnecessary lighting is turned off from midnight to dawn during May for spring migration and September for fall migration.



Blue-headed vireos are one of 325 birds that migrate in both spring and fall and benefit from Lights Out!

Enroll Your Building in the Lights Out Heartland Program

LightsOutHeartland.org/Enroll



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St. Louis: A dangerous city for birds

The St. Louis region is part of the Mississippi Flyway, a major migration highway used by 60% of North American songbirds (over 325 species) as they fly north and south at night during migration periods. Scientists at Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently ranked St. Louis as the 5th most dangerous city during the spring migration and the 6th most dangerous city in the fall. Lighted structures along their routes can cause birds to become disoriented and often die either by exhaustion or collisions with buildings. An estimated 600 million birds die each year in the United States in window collisions.



Here's what businesses CAN DO to reduce light pollution and save birds. Lights Out Heartland recognizes that not all actions may be possible for a specific building due to safety, security, or other constraints. Cumulatively these actions will minimize light pollution from enrolled buildings and help to provide safe passage for migratory birds.

1. Turn off exterior decorative lighting, leaving security lighting on as needed.
2. Turn off lights or draw shades to block interior lighting that can be seen from the outside, especially on upper floors.
3. Dim or reduce lobby or atrium lighting, especially after business hours.
4. Moderate necessary indoor or exterior lighting on timers or motion sensors so those areas are lit only as needed.
5. Limit exterior lighting to the ground level, through down shielding or moderating lighting controls.

Making the St. Louis Region a Safer Place for Birds

stlouis.audubon.org/birdsafestl

