

Fact Sheet about Bird-Building Collisions

Published scientific accounts of birds colliding with tall, lighted structures during night migration date back to 1880, when flocks of migrants were observed crashing into lighthouses.

- Allen, J.A. 1880. Destruction of birds by light-houses. *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 5:131–138.

The Empire State Building began turning off its decorative crown lights on overcast nights in the 1970s, after several migration disasters in which hundreds of migrating birds dropped on the sidewalks and streets in foggy weather.

- "New Lights-Out Policies Save the Lives of Migrating Birds." *The New York Times*, April 16, 1979.

Owners of Toronto's Metro Hall reported an estimated savings of \$200,000 per year in reduced electricity costs after enrolling in Toronto's Lights Out program.

- *Summary Report on the Bird Friendly Program: Effect of Light Reduction on Collision of Migratory Birds*. Lesley J. Evans Ogden, January 2002. http://flap.org/pdfs/ELRCMB_BFB.pdf

A two-year study of Chicago's McCormick Place found that turning off the lights resulted in 83% fewer bird deaths, with 1,297 birds crashing into lit windows compared to 192 at unlit windows. Since 1978, ornithologists from the Chicago Field Museum have found over 30,000 dead birds of 140 species at the squat, sprawling McCormick Place due to its lakeshore location, large expanses of glass, and lights left on at night.

- "Turning Off Building Lights Reduced Bird Window-Kill 83%; Field Museum Scientists Release Data from Two-Year Study." Field Museum Press Release, 2002.
<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Turning+Off+Building+Lights+Reduces+Bird+Window-Kill+83%25%3B+Field...-a085951886>

Significant light-reduction measures had been implemented at the World Trade Center, as well as netting stretched over ground-floor windows to prevent birds from crashing into reflections of trees and landscape planters, before the towers' demise on September 11, 2001.

- "Port Authority Takes Steps to Protect Migratory Birds Around World Trade Center." Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Press Release, November 8, 2000.
<http://cryptome.org/cartome/clear-flyway.htm>

An estimated 300 million to 1 billion birds die each year from collisions with glass on buildings, from skyscrapers to homes.

- American Bird Conservancy, <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/glass.html>